

PLATEAU PARTNERSHIP FORUM

A forum was held on the Plateau Partnership Industrial Park on February 15, 2011 at Roane State. There were approximately 90 people in attendance.

Roane County Executive, **Ron Woody**, presented a 19-slide power point presentation.

Former Cumberland County Executive, **Brock Hill**, presented a power point.

Comments and Questions were then entertained:

Chairman of the Plateau Partnership Industrial Board, **V.J. Dodson**, commented that we had to move forward and rely on grants for the future funding.

Brock Hill stated that the park currently was being looked at by two prospects, but because of confidentiality he could not name nor discuss them.

Morgan County Mayor, **Don Edwards**, asked if anyone knew what the infrastructure costs estimates were now since the last we had was in 2008?

Ron Berry of the Roane County Commission and also the Manager of Rockwood Water and Gas, stated the customer needs would govern the gas costs. He further stated that if the customer needs for water were low, then Crab Orchard would probably supply, but if high need, then Rockwood would be the supplier.

Ron Woody then asked "If Roane County was prepared to handle the sewer?" Is Roane County and the Partnership agreeable with the wastewater restrictions, volumes, influent, plant reserve, and restrictions on types of waste that we receive"? How much capacity does Roane County's wastewater plant have, how much is needed for a large industry? Have any of these questions been addressed?

Woody challenged the Roane County Public Utility Board to address these questions of capacity, waste type restrictions and potential cost to upgrade the plant.

Rockwood Mayor, **James Watts**, stated that if only one industry needed electricity, it was there. If more was needed, a substation would need to be built.

V.J. Dodson stated that we had to be positive and move forward.

Don Edwards stated that we seemed to be in a "Catch-22". Grant funding would need to wait on a bird in the hand, but industry might want a 12-month turn around and construction timeline would be longer with grant funding.

Ron Woody then asked “Would the counties be willing to borrow more money?”

Cumberland County Commissioner, **Carmin Lynch**, stated that we could lose industries if we have a longer than 12-month infrastructure construction time.

Lou Newberry , a Board member from Morgan County, added that if we shorten the construction time, it could add more funding on the front end.

Ron Berry stated that we should lay sewer lines in critical areas, so that construction time for sewer would be shortened.

Lou Newberry added that if that were done, more money was needed.

Ron Woody asked if Commissions would consider additional funding at this time?

Don Edwards stated that he believed counties would be more likely to fund match money for a grant than additional development money.

Carmin Lynch then stated that he believed the Partnership Board should make the decision on the use of the current money and then come to the Commissions with future requests. They are the controlling players in the development of the park and the Commissions should make decisions based on their input.

Ron Woody thanked everyone for attending.