

Beaver County Times

Thursday April 15, 2010

Trail-building effort picks up steam

By: Michael Pound
Beaver County Times

MOON TWP. — The effort to build a trail from Coraopolis to East Liverpool gathered more momentum this week.

Representatives of the Ohio River Trail Council met in Moon Township on Wednesday to discuss the progress toward building the trail, the initial part of which would run from Monaca to Coraopolis and eventually connect with the Montour Trail. A second phase of the trail would cross the Ohio River to Rochester and then follow the north shore of the Ohio River to East Liverpool.

Vincent Troia, chief executive officer of the council, said the group has commitments from all the municipalities the first phase of the trail will travel through. He also said officials in Moon, which hosted Wednesday's meeting, were excited about being home to a portion of the trail, which could eventually be part of a trail that runs from Washington D.C. to Lake Erie near Ashtabula, Ohio.

"I'm continually very happy to see the reaction we get when we tell new people about the plans," Troia said. "The support is very gratifying, and in the case of the municipalities we've been working with, it's also necessary."

A feasibility study, paid for with grant money from the phase-one towns, is about half-way complete, Troia said. Next up will be engineering studies to plot the exact course of the trail and determine its cost.

Troia said the council is already working with several foundations to find possible funding sources; he said he also hopes the council can find some stimulus money to help cover the costs.

"Philadelphia just got \$23 million in stimulus money to help them repair and extend an existing trail system," Troia said. "I'm hoping some of that stimulus money will be left over for us."