

# Local projects vying for Appalachian Regional Commission funding

by Renée Shreve  
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — Six local projects are vying for fiscal year 2019 Appalachian Regional Commission funding.

Representatives provided an overview of their initiatives for the Garrett County commissioners during a recent public meeting.

"There are some really good projects here," Commissioner Jim Hinebaugh said.

Cindy Sharon, Garrett County Department of Economic Development project manager, said grants would be awarded in two categories:

area development projects and local access roads.

About \$1.5 million in ARC grants is available in the development category for Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties.

"Area development projects require a one-to-one match," Sharon said.

For access road projects, \$3 million is available for the tri-county region. Matching funding is not required in this category.

Hinebaugh stressed that not all of the local projects will receive grants. Garrett County's share will depend upon Allegany and Washington

counties' projects and which county may have received the lion's share of funding last fiscal year.

"We're going to get maybe \$500,000 or \$600,000," Hinebaugh said. "Maybe we'll get \$700,000."

The commissioners will rank the projects and list them in order of priority. The list will then be submitted to the Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, which will select certain projects from the local region and invite their sponsors to submit final grant applications to ARC.

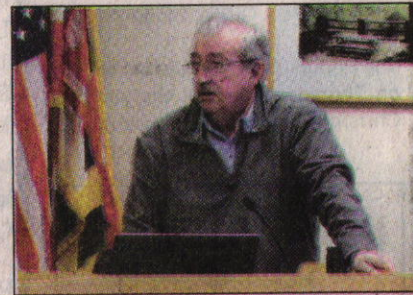
Sharon said ARC has five basic goals for its funding:

economic opportunities, ready workforce, critical infrastructure, natural and cultural assets, and leadership and community capacity.

Garrett College is seeking \$3.785 million through the U.S. Economic Development Administration for the proposed Community Education and Performing Arts Center.

"If EDA does not provide consideration of funding for that project, they (the college) want to be able to access ARC area development funding for a portion of that project," Sharon said.

**See FUNDING, A4**



Staff photo by Renée Shreve

**Community Action Committee President Duane Yoder provides an overview of the Chautauqua Park West workforce housing project during a recent Garrett County Board of Commissioners meeting. Yoder is seeking \$183,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission funding.**

## FUNDING

(Continued from Page A1)

The amount of this request would be \$500,000, with an additional \$200,000 to be requested in a subsequent year.

The three-phase CEPAC project involves renovation of an existing 11,000 square-foot building and construction of a 15,000 square-foot addition.

"We're in the very beginning stages," said Kathy Meagher, GC's facilities director. "We're about to embark on finding an architect for the project."

Sharon noted the state has committed \$11 million toward the \$15.470 million center.

The county commissioners are seeking \$220,000 for "Do the Loop," a Garrett Trails initiative. It involves construction of Otto Lane (16,020 linear feet), which would connect to

the New Germany Road trail segment of the Eastern Continental Divide Loop Trail.

"We've put a lot of effort into this idea of the Eastern Continental Divide," said Mike Dreisbach, Garrett Trails president. "When it's finished, it'll be 150 miles of hiking, biking and paddling."

Sharon said no match funding will be expected from the county. The match would come from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and the National Recreation Trails.

Garrett County Community Action is seeking \$183,000 for the Chautauqua Park West.

"What that will accomplish, we think, is allow us to proceed with a 77-unit workforce housing development [project] located in Loch Lynn, Mountain Lake Park, and Oakland," said Duane Yoder, Community Action president.

The initiative is to be a mix of income restricted and unrestricted units. Twenty-one of them would be new construction in Oakland. Fifty-six existing units in Loch Lynn and Mountain Lake Park would receive major upgrades.

"We're getting a lot of feedback from businesses, employers, and economic development people about the importance of providing workforce housing that isn't necessarily income restricted," Yoder said.

He noted Community Action will probably request ARC funding in FY 2020 and 2021 for the project.

Engage Mountain Maryland Inc. is seeking \$25,000 for the Adventure Capital Welcome Conference. The Adventure Capital initiative encourages companies to relocate employees from a division or new startup to Garrett County, and recruit new employees through Garrett College.

"Using modern technology and broadband service, businesses can easily put down roots on the mountaintop," EMM president Mark Stutzman said.

CEOs and other leaders would be invited to the conference, which would feature keynote speakers, local presenters, and adventure tours.

"The idea is to get them to fall in love with Garrett County," Stutzman said about the business owners.

In the local access road category, the Garrett County commissioners are seeking funding for two projects: Keyser's Ridge Business Park Local Access Road Phase 3, \$580,000, and Glendale Local Access Road Phase 2 Safety Improvements, \$420,000.

The commissioners' next public session is scheduled for 4 p.m. May 7, in their meeting room at the courthouse.