

PREBLE COUNTY OFFICIALS EYE FUTURE FOR GOOSE CREEK CROSSINGS



David Wesler, Governor Kasich, Chris Day, Bob Stonecash

Thursday, June 23rd, all three Preble County Commissioners and the County's Economic Development Director traveled to Columbus to bring Representative Buchy, Senator Faber, Department of Development, and Governor Kasich up to speed on the happenings in Preble.

Most importantly they presented the [Goose Creek Crossing](#) project in the hopes to gain support for the upcoming Job Ready Sites grant program. "One thing we learned from prior JRS rounds was that we needed political support, they need to know what we expect out of this site" said Commissioner Wesler.

Governor Kasich was very inquisitive about the site and asked if it was the right move for Preble – it was almost as if he wanted to hear first-hand that we have connected the dots. It was a perfect opportunity to tell him that "Yes it is – knowing [Agri-business is Ohio's #1 industry](#), we see this as a tremendous opportunity to take advantage of agricultural strengths, our high skilled, technical manufacturing base and use it to our advantage."

Combs goes on to say that when asked what the focus is for the site "we told the group that the primary focus is to take who we are as a community and make it part of the solution. We want to target Ag related research & development, manufacturing, and technology – industry that will not only grow and retain our local economic base but also attract the education providers who offer nutria-sciences, and food/crop technology programs."

http://www.preblecountyregion.com/Videos/ODA-Kasich_Zehring_4ws.wmv

"Having [Miami University](#) and [Sinclair](#) in our backyard went a long way in gaining the Governors support, as well as the long standing relationship with Jim Zeringher, Director of [Ohio Dept. of Ag](#). It was great to tell this group of leaders that so many of their suggestions were already in motion - We informed the group that we know Ohio gets more prospecting for food grade facilities than nearly any other industry, which certainly works in our favor" Combs said.

When asked about infrastructure Commissioner Day shared the County's commitment to implementing the water and waste water infrastructure with the assistance of an OPWC grant that will become available in July 2010. "Without infrastructure we have nothing to offer and being the first and last site traveling on I-70 through Ohio, we need to get them coming and going!" said Day.

Commissioner Stonecash expressed the \$250,000 [Dayton Development Coalition](#) grant Preble received in 2009 was instrumental in getting the site engineered for the JRS application process. "This grant was instrumental in many ways – not only did it fund the engineering work, it clearly shows support from the region's development leaders for the [Goose Creek project](#)."

Later that same day the Commissioners and Mrs. Combs met with Beth Vanerkooi, Director of State Policy for the [Ohio Farm Bureau](#) to discuss how Preble can work more closely with the organization to build on the desired scope of job creation at Goose Creek. "We want to tap into that market from an economic development perspective and we want to work with the pros in the industry to get it done!" said Mrs. Combs.

"The meeting was more successful than originally expected" said Commissioner Wesler, giving the impression that the goal of gaining support for Preble was achieved and many relationships are being built to move Preble in the new economy while embracing what the County is known for.