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**Oil Region Alliance Update Report
for the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance Meeting; April 28, 2015**

Oil Creek Memorial Landing - (trailhead for McClintock Trail and access area for Oil Creek). This project will utilize Transportation Alternative funds via the City of Oil City for construction as well as several other sources. The project was bid by PennDOT and the notice to proceed date is tentatively May 26, 2015. The first phase of the project includes components covered by the TA funding and comprised of drainage, grading, construction of the drive to access the area and parking areas, and installation of amenities. The second phase which is anticipated to occur as soon as Phase I is complete will be the construction of the small watercraft and pedestrian access to Oil Creek, signage, and the memorial wall. The project is expected to be completed in 2015.

Implementation of signage along the Trail Route Through Emlenton Borough –ORA assisted the Borough by preparing and submitting funding request for a Northwest Commission Greenways Grant and a Community Connections Grant through the Trail Town Program ®; both these requests were approved. Currently, the Borough is waiting for the agreement from the Northwest Commission to be executed and begin the project. The project is anticipated to be completed this year.

The Get on the Trail! Entrepreneurial Business Plan Contest for along the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail 2015

The Oil Region Alliance will once again be offering the “Get on the Trail!” Entrepreneurial Contest for Business Development and Expansion along the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail (EPT) that offers an opportunity to new and expanding businesses which submit solid business plans to provide vital goods and services to users of the EPT segment from the Hydetown area in eastern Crawford County to Foxburg Borough in Western Clarion County to be awarded cash prizes. This year, 2015, is the third consecutive year that the Oil Region Alliance has been able to offer this contest. Funding for 2015 is courtesy of Venango County Act 13 Marcellus Legacy Fund.

This year’s Kick-Off Event will be held Monday, May 4 from 5-6 p.m. at the Debence Antique Music World located at 1261 Liberty Street, Franklin, PA 16323. Call the ORA office at 814-677-3152 to reserve your spot.

Two educational forums are scheduled for the contest:

- May 14, 6 –8 p.m. “Constructing Your Business Profile for the Contest Entry”
- May 28, 6 –8 p.m. “Incorporating Social Media into your Marketing Campaign”

Both educational forums will be held at Venango College—Frame Hall, Room 208 - On West First Street, Oil City, PA

Contest Deadlines

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| Begin Application Acceptance | July 1, 2015 |
| Business Profiles Due | September 30, 2015 |
| Final Judging & Winners announced | Date to be determined, December 2015 |

For more information visit www.getonthetrail.org or contact Deb Lutz, at 814-677-3152, Ext. 115; or 800-483-6264

Questions - Contact Kim Harris, Project Manger, 814-677-3152, Ext. 120; or email kharris@oilregion.org.