



Regional Economic Development

Corey D. O'Brien
Lackawanna County Commissioner



Understanding Our Past



With an understanding of our past, we can build a better future.

The Berlin Wall Meets the Brain Drain



- Insular mentalities persisted.
- No coordination of economic development activities.
- Government resistance; fragmented government efforts.
- Brain Drain.



Regional Efforts to Date



Regional efforts have come with mixed results.

Regional Players



Present Challenges

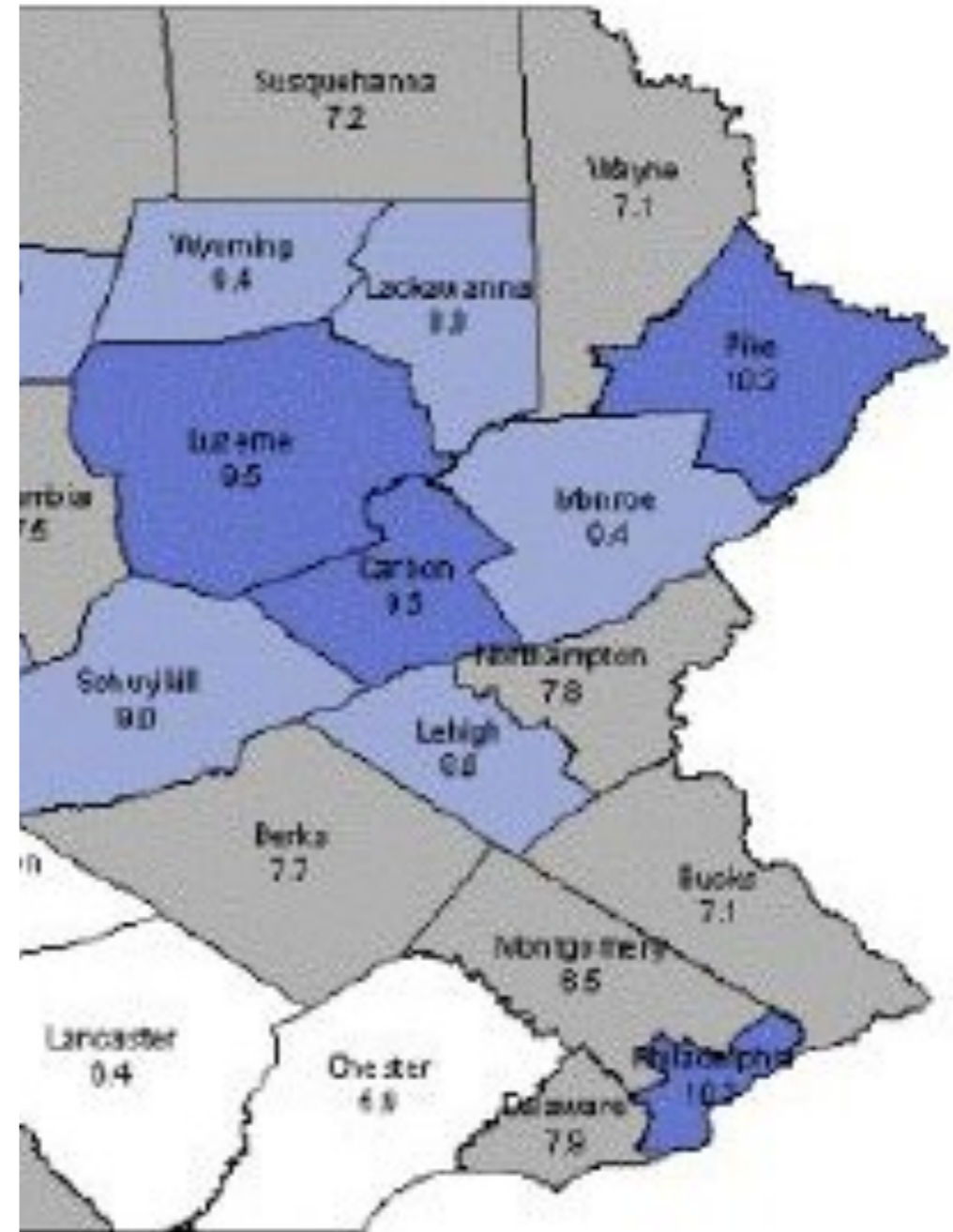


Although progress has been made, significant regional challenges persist.

High Unemployment



- Luzerne County - 9.5%
- Monroe County - 9.4%
- Lackawanna County - 8.8%
- Pennsylvania - 7.6%
- United States - 7.5%



Disconnect



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- Lack of seniority means less dollars flowing to the region.
 - Localized resistance to KOZ and ZOEZ programs.
 - Difficult for elected leaders to find every available program and work to bring dollars home.
 - Budget shortfalls have forced many governments to cut funding levels or eliminate programs all together.

High-Paying JOBS



- Lack of high-paying jobs or the impression that high-paying jobs do not exist.
- Students are not given opportunities while in school to find the job locally that they want to pursue professionally.



Game Changers



Real estate development efforts, major health care investments, new local economic development incentives and infrastructure improvements are game changers for the region.



Game Changers

Regional Collaboration



Regional collaboration will be key to long-term success.



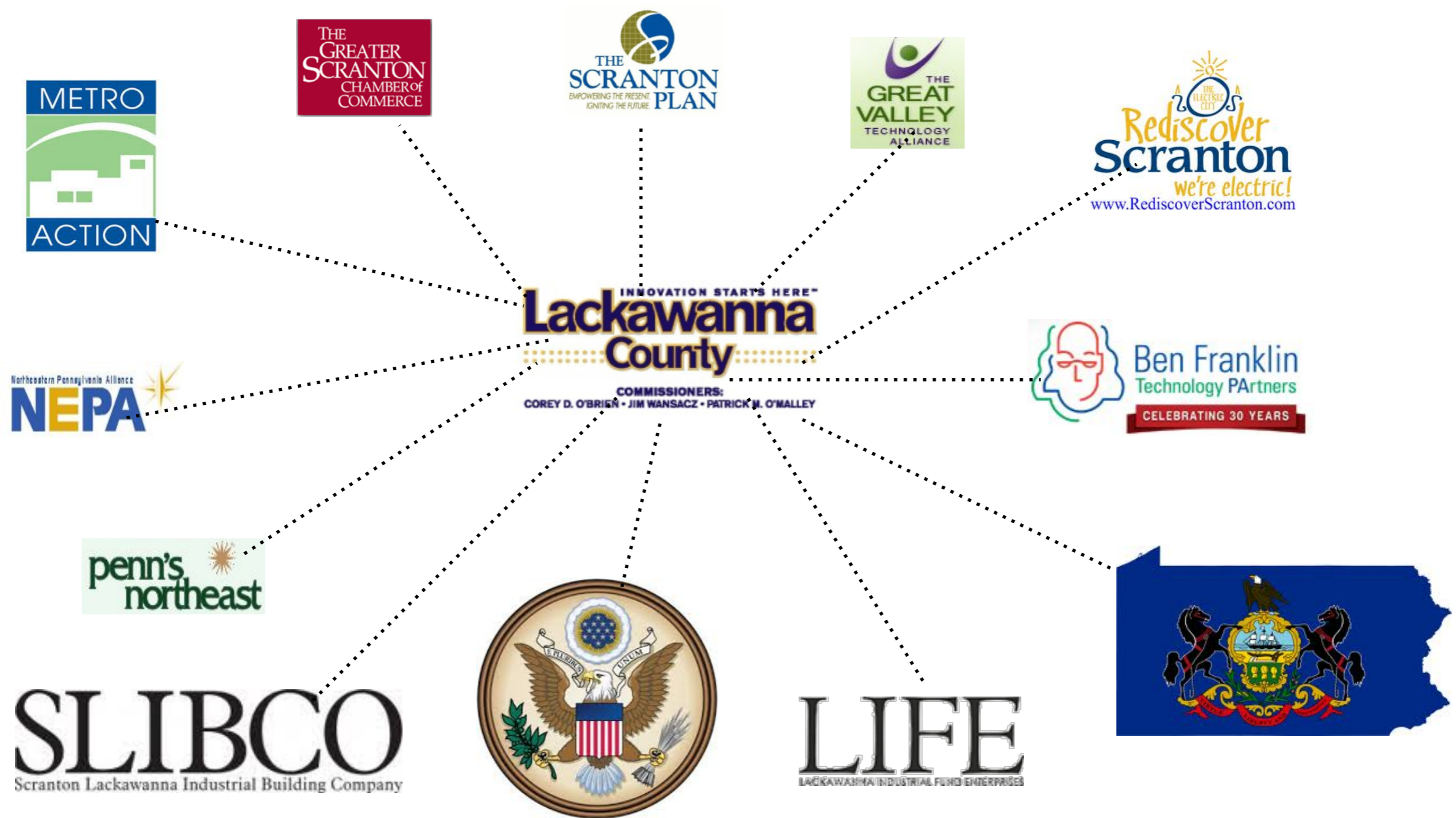
Regional Collaboration in Programs

Public-Private Partnerships



Neither the public sector nor the private sector can not drive economic development alone.

Connecting the Dots



Future is Bright



This region has a great quality of life, excellent technology and transportation infrastructure and an economic development toolbox expanding, we are on the cusp of progress ... carpe diem ...



VIEW FROM BEHIND HOME PLATE | 07.10.2012

Infrastructure Improvements



Lackawanna County Initiatives



- New Department of Economic Development
 - SBA-Fee Waiver Program
 - Wireless Technology Infrastructure Program
 - Job Fairs
 - Internship Pilot Program
 - Bioscience Commitment Fund
 - Community Reinvest Fund
 - Technology Sandbox
 - Transportation Infrastructure Improvement Fund
 - Facade Revitalization Grant Program



Quality of Life



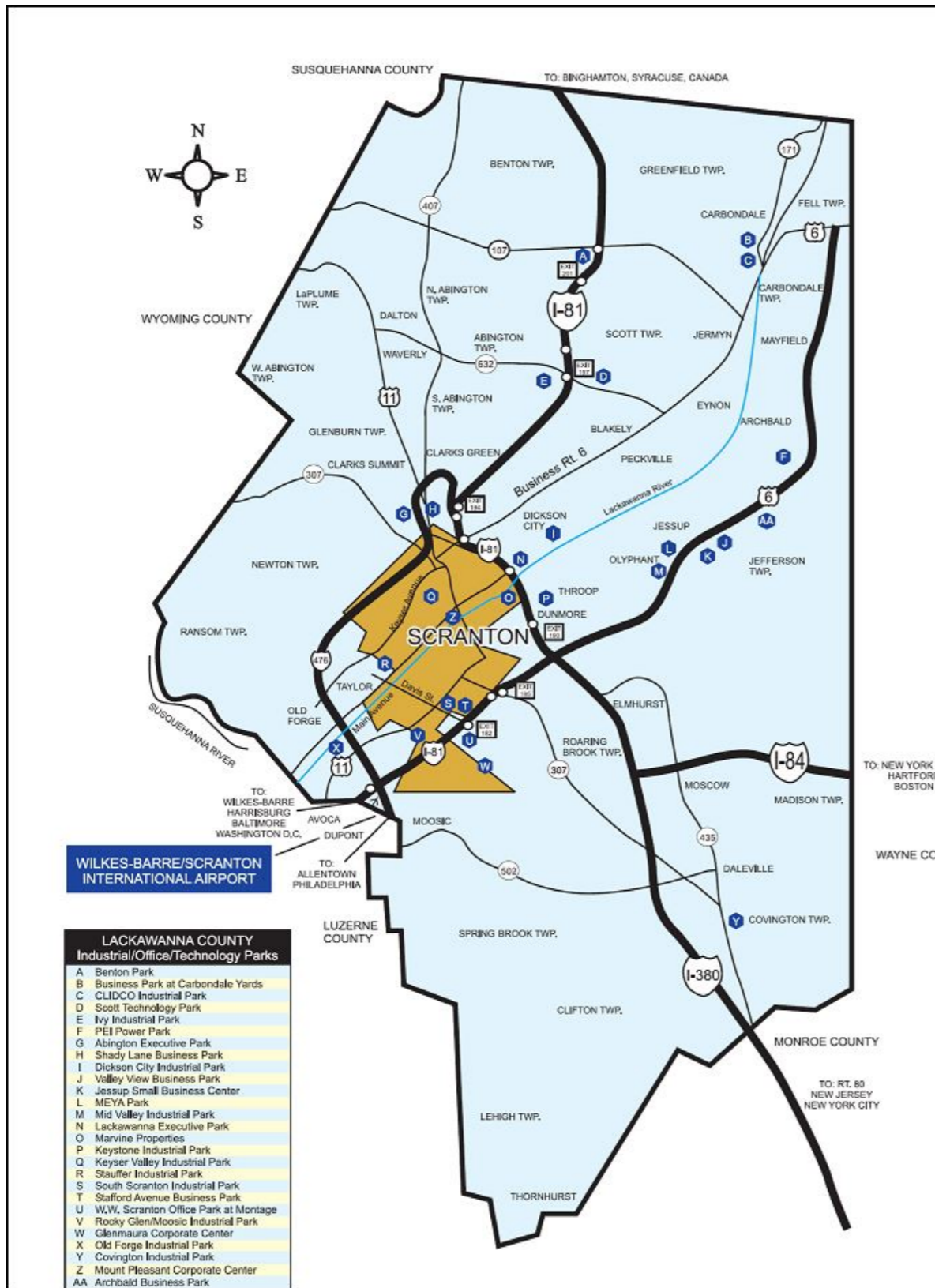
- Extensive Parks and Recreational opportunities from swimming, skiing, biking, hiking, sports, fishing, kids camps, etc.
- Developed arts and cultural programs and facilities.
- Entertainment venues - PNC Field, Toyota Pavilion, Montage Ski & Water Park Resort, Mohegan Sun, Mohegan Sun Arena, etc.



Expanding Economic Development Toolbox



- Low-Interest loans through banks, SBA-fee waiver program & MetroAction.
- Grant Funds through KOZ, KOEZ, county governments.
- 26 industrial parks with several industrial parks having shovel-ready sites.
- Technology and Transportation infrastructure.
- Workforce Training dollars.
- Internships.
- Tax Abatement programs.
- And, yes, there are more tools ...



Pennsylvania
CareerLink
LACKAWANNA COUNTY



Tools in the Toolbox

We Want You



- We cannot overcome the challenges that we face without your active participation in the solution.
- Be an ambassador for our area - every time you see someone be positive about the region and its future, boast about our education system and quality of life. Be a proud, unapologetic ambassador.
- Bring new business leads to our attention.
- Share with us your thoughts on how we can improve the region.
- Be willing to speak with businesses about locating here in NEPA!



WE WANT YOU!



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