

## MAJOR STEP FORWARD ON AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT PLANS

WAYNESBURG — Greene County commissioners are expected to take a major step forward with plans to develop a small business park at the county airport. At their meeting today (4/7/2011), commissioners will consider a proposal from Pennoni Associates of Philadelphia to design a new entrance, prepare construction documents and take the process through the permit phase with the state Department of Transportation, Franklin Township, the state Department of Environmental Protection and the county conservation district.

Commissioner Pam Snyder said Pennoni will be paid \$161,000 from a \$175,000 Business in Our Sites grant.

County leaders want to free space along Route 21 by demolishing the older hangars there and building new ones elsewhere on the airport property. Earlier plans called for relocating all of the hangars to an area north of the runway and constructing a road off Progress Drive to access that area.

County planners are now looking into demolishing the World War II-era hangars in the western part of the airport and expanding the newer hangar area to the east. A new entrance to the airport also will be built. Relocating the hangars is supposed to free space along Route 21 for the possible development of various retail and aviation-related businesses.

Plans to replace the aging hangars have been discussed in some form for several years. Five years ago, the county received its first wave of grants in the form of \$200,000 in federal transportation funding. The county has obtained roughly \$600,000 from state and federal sources for airport development. Some of that money was used to resurface the runway, which was completed last fall, and make other improvements.

"We hope this will speed up the process so we can get this project moving," Snyder said. "We would like to begin the project this summer (2011)."