

304-465-5617

310 W. OYLER AVE . DAK HILL, WV 25901

NEWRIVERGORGECVB.COM

March 28, 2023

WV State Auditors' Office – lgs@wvsao.gov, Attn: Shellie Humphries

WV Joint Committee on Government & Finance – drew.ross@wvlegislature.gov,
steve.marsden@wvlegislature.gov and john.tice@wvlegislature.gov

WVACVB – jnuzum@bowlesrice.com

Dear WV State Auditor's Office, WV Joint Committee on Government & Finance, and WV Association of Convention & Visitor Bureaus,

As you are aware with the passing of Senate Bill 488 during the 2021 West Virginia Legislature's Regular Session several new requirements have been implemented on CVBs to qualify for distributions of Hotel Occupancy taxes by the county(s) and or the municipality(s) we serve.

In compliance with W.Va. Code §7-18-13a, CVBs are to now report to the WVSAO, the WV Joint Committee on Government & Finance, and the WVACVB 90 days following the end of the CVB's fiscal year the following:

- Balance sheet annually,
- Income statement annually, and
- Either an audit or a financial review triennially W.Va. Code § 7-18-14.

In addition, CVBs are to be accredited by an accrediting body such as the WV Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus (WVACVB) W.Va. Code §7-18-13a(b) which confirms compliance with the following industry standards as follows:

- Annual budget with allocation within the industry standard of 40%-40%-20%
- Marketing plan targeting markets outside of 50 miles of their destination,
- Full time executive director and physical office/ visitor center and website
- Annual reporting to all the CVBs funding entities.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the New River Gorge CVB, we respectfully submit the required information and confirm that New River Gorge CVB is in full compliance with all WV Code 7-18-13 requirements. If you have any questions, please contact either Becky Sullivan, Executive Director, at becky@newrivergorgecvb.com or (304) 465-5617 or Abbie Newell, Board Chair, at abigail.newell@fayettecountywv.gov or (304) 574-1111.

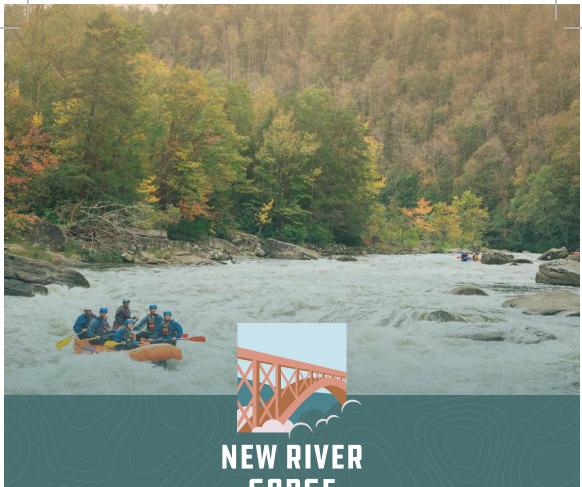
Sincerely,

Abbie Newell, Board Chair

Becky Sullivan, NRG CVB Executive Director

Attachments: Income statement (Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022), Balance sheet (Dec 31, 2022), Annual report

(2022), and Financial Review (2020).



NEW RIVER GORGE

WELCOMING VISITORS TO THE NEW RIVER GORGE IN FAYETTE COUNTY, WV

newrivergorgecvb.com

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



ABOUT THE NEW RIVER GORGE CVB 310 W Oyler Ave, Oak Hill

The New River Gorge Convention and Visitors Bureau is an independent, non-profit destination marketing organization. CVBs were created under state code and are funded by a percentage of the lodging tax collected in accordance with that code. We are frontline tourism professionals who are experts on the attractions, activities, and events that our area has to offer. We are an essential part of the overall effort to promote and encourage travel to WV.

MISSION STATEMENT

As a destination marketing organization, the mission of the New River Gorge CVB is to:

- Promote Fayette County as a visitor-friendly destination
- Provide tourism public relations
- Serve as a resource for tourism business development
- Assess tourism needs
- Promote seamless conversion of visitors to repeat business and visitation

PARTNERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- ▶ WV Hospitality and Travel Association
- ▶ WV Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus
- Southeast Tourism Society
- WV Association of Fairs and Festivals
- ▶ Visit Southern West Virginia
- West Virginia Department of Tourism

VISITOR CENTER DATA



The New River Gorge Convention and Visitors
Bureau represents the tourism segments
throughout Fayette County and lodging partners in
Fayette County, including the Town of Ansted, City
of Oak Hill and City of Montgomery.



In 2022, the Visitor Center welcomed **6,883 visitors** from 43 states and 8 countries, a 30% increase over 2021.



Top 3 experiences/activities overnighters in the New River Gorge are interested in:

- 1. Events & Accommodations
- 2. State & National Parks
- 3. The New River Gorge Bridge



Top states for visitation:

- **1.** WV
- UA VA
- 2. OH
- 5. NC
- 3. PA
- 6. FL



40,000 Visitor Guides were printed and distributed over the year. **4,906** Visitor Guides were requested and mailed from the CVB, a 64% increase over 2021.

TOURISM IN FAYETTE COUNTY

39,927

15,836 **A**

EHOLDS IN

POPULATION IN FAYETTE COUNTY

HOUSEHOLDS IN FAYETTE COUNTY

FULL RECOVERY

1.7 MILLION

FROM PRE-PANDEMIC LOSSES

VISITORS IN 2021 AND 2022, SURPASSING 1.2 MILLION PRE-PANDEMIC

ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM IN FAYETTE COUNTY:

\$99 MILLION

760 JOBS

\$367

TRAVEL-GENERATED SPENDING

SUPPORTED BY TOURISM PER-HOUSEHOLD
TAX RELIEF

BUDGET

2022 annual hotel occupancy tax collected:

\$479,581.15

MARKETING SPEND

In 2022, our marketing spend was **71%** of our overall budget of **\$488,828.66**. This includes promotions, brochures, postage and special events.

DIGITAL ADS

The CVB launched spring and summer digital campaigns focusing on the outdoor family and the young adventurer. The summer digital ads received over **1,000,000** impressions, and the fall digital ads received over **2,500,000** impressions. The new Bear Scavenger Hunt Campaign received over **2,500,000**. impressions.

BEAR SCAVENGER HUNT CAMPAIGN

\$6,247

2,859,705

6,641

0.23%

pressions

clicks

CTR Average





SUMMER CAMPAIGN

\$3,389

1,312,128

impressions

14,974 1.1

clicks

4 • 4 • 7 / U





Frame 1



START
PLANNING
Explore America's
Newest National Park.
GETYOUR GUIDE

rame 2



START
PLANNING
Explore America's
Newest National Park.
GET YOUR GUIDE

Frame 3

FALL CAMPAIGN

\$3,413 2,684,256

impressions

6,750

U.E370















WEBSITE

Year-Over-Year Comparison (2022 vs. 2021)

GUIDE REQUESTS

NEWSLETTER SIGN-UPS

UNIQUE USERS

158,353

BOUNCE RATE

(Down 1.02% from 57.99% in 2021) *normally we want things to trend up, when bounce rates go down that's a good thing!

CAMPAIGNS RUN:

PARTNER CLICKS: 112,218

PAGEVIEWS

412,348

SESSIONS

193,502

PAGES/SESSION

TOP PAGES

- 46,265 (+88.44%)
- 32,663 (+47.45%)
- /stay/cabins-and-vacation-rentals/ 32,055 (-47.97%)
- /plan/request-a-travel-guide/ 21,462 (+213.45%)
- /play/trails-and-hiking/ 16,249 (+160.07%)

EMAIL NEWSLETTERS



MAILCHIMP SUBSCRIBERS



Current travel & transportation industry standard for open rate: 34.9%

Current travel & transportation industry standard for click-thru rate: 5.4%

SOCIAL MEDIA

The New River Gorge CVB's social media following has continued to grow at a significant pace. Facebook interactions in 2022 are up 43.5%. Twitter retweets are up **163.5%**, and the hashtag **#GOGORGE** has been used 111,592 times by visitors eager to share their New River Gorge experience.



46,478

average daily reach per page

347,272 reactions, comments & shares

32,495 link clicks



TWITTER

3,867

303 retweets

likes & @replies

146 new followers

64,343 impressions O' INSTAGRAM

15,203

2,597 new followers

1,001 comments

#GoGorge hashtag use



Since its designation as a national park, the New River Gorge has received increased attention from the media nationwide. The area has been featured in numerous travel and tourism articles, as well as social media posts, further increasing its visibility and popularity among travelers.

2022 BOARD MEMBERS

ABBIE NEWELL

Fayette County Trails Coalition

ANGEL DUNCAN

Fayette County Park

ANGELA TACKETT

City of Montgomery

ANNE CAVALIER

City of Smithers

CHRISTA HODGES

White Oak Rail Trail Expo

CHRISTY ULRICH

Ace Adventure Resort

DAVID PERRY

City of Oak Hill

ERIC PORIES

Escape-A-Torium

HEATHER ANTOLINI

Country Road Cabins

HEATHER JOHNSON

River Expeditions

JOE BAUGHMAN

Hawks Nest State Park

MARIAH HARRISON

Gaines Estate

MALIDA KISTI FE

Water Stone Outdoors

PJ STEVENSON

Adventure Res

SIOBHAN WILSON

Town of Ansted

2022 STAFF MEMBERS

BECKY SULLIVAN

Executive Director

TIM NAYLOR

Executive Assistant

MEGAN WEATHERFORD

Visitor Center and Event Coordinator

SHERRY COFFMAN

Weekend Travel Specialist

VISITOR CENTER SPECIALISTS:

Gene Worthington

Rose Anne Michaels

Lita Eskew

Jeannie Todaro

Dave Bounds

Thelma Walker



800.927.0263 NewRiverGorgeCVB.com #GoGorge

NEW RIVER GORGE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year Ended December 31, 2020

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HESS, STEWART & CAMPBELL, PLLC

JOHN G. HESS, CPA
ROBERT C. CAMPBELL, CPA
TOMI J. WEBER, CPA
CHARLES A. COOK, CPA
JEFFREY M. MOLLOMAN, CPA
ELIOTT R. WILSON, CPA, CPF, ABV, CVA
TODD A. ROBINSON, CPA
CHARLES "MATT" MORRIS, CPA

DARRELL D. TUCKER, CPA JASON S. KELLEY, CPA JASON S. KELLEY, CPA ANDREW G. REED, CPA, CPE KALIE M. ZAFERATOS, CPA CHASE T. CALDWELL, CPA RICK A. GALLOWAY, CPA WILLIAM L. HALL, CPA J. ROBERT LILLY, CPA SHUGUANG "SUSAN" QIAN, CPA DANIEL J. WARE, CPA LEANNET T. IMPERI. EA

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS 122 E. Main Street Beckley, WEST VIRGINIA 25801

(304) 255-1978 Fax (304) 255-1971

Email: hsc@hsc-cpa.com Web Site: hsc-cpa.com 940 FOURTH STREET SUITE 250, FREDERICK BLDG. P.O. BOX 1050 HUNTINGTON, WV 25713 (304) 523-4345 (304) 523-4395 FAX

915 JEFFERSON STREET N.

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

To the Board of Directors New River Gorge Convention and Visitors Bureau Oak Hill, West Virginia

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements New River Gorge Convention and Visitors Bureau (nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of assets, liabilities and net assets – modified cash basis as of December 31, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of company management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

Accountants' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

MEMBERS

Accountants' Conclusion

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting or the basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our conclusion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Beckley, West Virginia

fless, Stewart - Campbell, P.J. L. C.

March 29, 2022

NEW RIVER GORGE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS December 31, 2020

	2020
ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS Cash	\$ 318,210
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	318,210
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT Less accumulated depreciation	30,778 (26,675) 4,103
	\$ 322,313
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES Payroll and sales tax payable	<u>\$ 1,944</u> 1,944
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,744
LONG-TERM DEBT Notes payable, less current maturities	150,000
TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT	150,000
NET ASSETS, unrestricted	170,369
	\$ 322,313

NEW RIVER GORGE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU STATEMENTS OF REVENUE, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS Year Ended December 31, 2020

	2020
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT Hotel occupancy Fayette County partnership Promo income Ad Coops Special Events Miscellaneous	\$ 256,148 37,669 349 2,075 1,000 2
OPERATING EXPENSES Administrative salaries and benefits Advertising and promotion Depreciation Education expense Insurance Office supplies and expense Professional fees Rent SWVCVB contract Travel expense Other operating expenses	64,399 109,477 594 2,841 2,698 4,667 3,025 4,800 76,894 507 2,364
OPERATING INCOME	24,977
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE) Interest income Other Income	388 3,000 3,388
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	28,365
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	142,004
NET ASSETS, ENDING	\$ 170,369

NEW RIVER GORGE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS - MODIFIED CASH BASIS Year Ended December 31, 2020

	2020
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES Net income Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash	\$ 28,365
provided by operating activities: Depreciation Change in assets and liabilities: Increase in accounts receivable	594
Increase in payroll and sales tax payable	138
Net cash provided by operating activities	29,097
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES Proceeds from notes payable	150,000
Net cash provided by financing activities	150,000
NET DECREASE IN CASH	179,097
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	139,113
CASH, END OF YEAR	\$ 318,210

NEW RIVER GORGE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1. NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Date of Management's Review: The Organization has evaluated subsequent events through March 29, 2020, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

Nature of activities: The New River Gorge Convention and Visitors Bureau operates to increase, through advertising and other promotions, travel and tourism in Southern West Virginia. The Organization is supported primarily through appropriations of occupancy tax from the localities within the area.

Basis of accounting: The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under that basis, certain revenues and related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned and certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when obligations are incurred. Consequently, the Organization has not recognized receivables from tax localities for appropriations of occupancy tax. In addition, the Organization has not recognized payables to vendors in the accompanying financial statements.

Cash: For purposes of presenting cash flows, cash includes cash on hand, demand deposit accounts, temporary investments and deposit certificates having original maturities of ninety days or less.

Property and equipment: Property and equipment are carried at historical cost. Betterments and major renewals are charged to the appropriate property account. Maintenance, repairs and minor renewals are charged to expense in the year incurred. Gains and losses on dispositions of property and equipment are recognized currently, except gains on the trade-in of equipment, which reduces the basis of the new assets acquired.

Depreciation: Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

	<u>Y ears</u>
Office equipment and furniture	5-10
Leasehold improvements	10-15

Income taxes: The Organization is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from Federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(6). Management believes there is no unrelated business taxable income associated with the Organization.

Advertising costs: Advertising and marketing costs are expensed as incurred.

Use of estimates: The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

NEW RIVER GORGE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 2. CONCENTRATION

The Organization shares in hotel occupancy tax receipts from various communities in Southern West Virginia. For the year ended December 31, 2020, 86% of income was derived from occupancy taxes from Fayette County and the towns of Oak Hill and Ansted. Were it not for this funding, the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern would be questionable.

NOTE 3. DESCRIPTION OF LEASING ARRANGEMENT

The Organization has entered into an agreement with a local government to lease office space located in Oak Hill, West Virginia for a period of twenty-five years for \$1 per year. The Organization is responsible for all utilities. Management certifies that the Organization is in compliance with all covenants of this agreement, which expires in June 2030.

NOTE 4. PROPERY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consists of the following at December 31:

	 2020	
Equipment	\$ 30,778	
Accumulated Depreciation	 (26,675)	
•	\$ 4,103	

Depreciation expense totaled \$594 for the year ended December 31, 2020.

NOTE 5. SBA ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN

The Organization received an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) from the U.S. Small Business Administration in the amount of \$150,000, bearing interest at the stated rate of 2.75%. The purpose of the loan is for working capital to alleviate economic injury caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Monthly installment payments of \$641 will begin twelve months from the date of the promissory note. The balance of principal and interest will be payable Thirty years from the date of the promissory note.

The Organization also receive an EIDL advance in the amount of \$3,000 which is included in other income on the Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets- Modified Cash Basis.

NOTE 6. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel strain of the coronavirus (COVID-19) a global pandemic and recommended containment and mitigation measures worldwide. Our office shut down in March 2020. Our offices were reopened to the public on May 31, 2020. As of March 29, 2022, our facilities are open and fully operational.

New River Gorge CVB Balance Sheet December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Current Assets		100 100 00		
FCNB Checking	\$	433,470.07		
Total Current Assets				433,470.07
Property and Equipment				
Accumulated Depreciation	-	(27,268.96)		
Total Property and Equipment				(27,268.96)
Other Assets				
Equipment		30,777.93		
Total Other Assets				30,777.93
Total Assets			\$	436,979.04
		LIABILITIES	SAND	CAPITAL
Current Liabilities				
FICA Payable	\$	1,267.00		
Federal W/H Payable		532.82		
State W/H Payable		368.00		
FUTA Payable		161.59		
SUTA Payable		77.63		
Total Current Liabilities				2,407.04
Long-Term Liabilities				
EIDL N/P		83,787.14		
Total Long-Term Liabilities				83,787.14
Total Liabilities				86,194.18
Capital				
Fund Balance		311,167.61		
Net Income	-	39,617.25		
Total Capital				350,784.86
Total Liabilities & Capital			\$	436,979.04
			-	

New River Gorge CVB Income Statement For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2022

		Current Month			Year to Date	
Revenues Hotel Occupancy	\$	58,627.38	90.80	\$	479,581.15	87.97
Miscellaneous	Ψ	80.76	0.13	Ψ	845.64	0.16
Fay Co Partnership		5,862.74	9.08		63,005.23	11.56
Promo Income		0.00	0.00		1,750.00	0.32
Total Revenues		64,570.88	100.00		545,182.02	100.00
Cost of Sales						
Total Cost of Sales		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
Gross Profit		64,570.88	100.00		545,182.02	100.00
Expenses						
Advertising		48,812.78	75.60		220,670.87	40.48
Dues:Membership		0.00	0.00		2,664.10	0.49
Insurance - Brickstreet		0.00	0.00		257.00	0.05
Insurance		580,00	0.90		2,320.00	0.43
Interest Expense		198.73	0.31		2,552.32	0.47
Lic, Fees, Permits		0.00	0.00		40.00	0.01
Promo/Travel Shows		0.00	0.00		6,419.97	1.18
New Equip/Upgrades		0.00	0.00		1,636.11	0.30
Postage		517.07	0.80		11,857.30	2.17
Office Supply Maintenance		163.18	0.25		6,329.44	1.16
Payroll Taxes: Employer		652.57	1.01		6,268.83	1.15
Office Space		400.00	0.62		4,800.00	0.88
Professional Fees: Acctng		825.00	1.28		6,375.00	1.17
Salaries		8,280.37	12.82		73,373.50	13.46
SWVCVB:H/M Tax		17,588.22	27.24		148,372.68	27.22
Special Events		0.00	0.00		1,823.54	0.33
Travel Expenses		576.13	0.89		3,454.37	0.63
Utilities:Telephone & Internet		0.00	0.00		187.31	0.03
Meeting Expense		2,840.13	4.40		4,237.43	0.78
Education Expenses		0.00	0.00		1,925.00	0.35
Total Expenses		81,434.18	126.12		505,564.77	92.73
Net Income	\$	(16,863.30)	(26.12)	\$	39,617.25	7.27
				-		