

CHAPTER 2: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION / VISIONING

BACKGROUND

When beginning the comprehensive plan development process, a municipality must first examine its planning problems, needs and resources. Once this open exercise is completed, these elements or factors must be quantified and then prioritized. Armed with a list of problems, essential needs, and crucial resources, the planning commission and governing body must decide what can be done within the realm of existing resources and capabilities.

Any successful comprehensive planning process demands citizen input from the very onset. Plans should not be made in a vacuum and it clearly violates the Sunshine Act to discuss public matters behind closed doors. Recognize that effective comprehensive planning is an expression of community-wide values. Input from the citizenry is needed to understand and document community interests. Use of municipal surveys can open up the planning process, access community-wide values, and document citizen interests.

Frequently, planning agencies utilize a visioning exercise to kick off a comprehensive planning effort. Visioning is a facilitated process by which citizens develop and articulate their preferences for the future of their community. A community vision should reflect the thoughts and concerns of the residents regarding environmental, social, and economic values, as well as consider future land uses, residents, and the corresponding desires and needs.

In addition to or along with a visioning program, it is a good idea to begin any planning program with a public meeting explaining what is going to be done, how it is going to be done, who is involved, what estimated costs are going to be, when surveys will be done, and the projected time frame for completion.

Once the planning team is selected, work on the plan starts. This planning team for the County Comprehensive Plan was referred to as the County's Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and consisted of around 20 members. Key municipal, community and business leaders representing various sectors of the County were personally invited by the County Commissioners to participate.

Clearfield County went to great lengths to be inclusive of the wants and needs of our local municipalities. The County Comprehensive Plan has incorporated the local municipal responses into the overall vision of the county's future.

RESIDENTIAL SURVEY

Introduction

As part of its comprehensive planning process, the Clearfield County Planning Department recently conducted a survey of county residents' values, attitudes, and suggestions for the future. This survey was in addition to other surveys given to municipal officials and wastewater treatment authorities in the county. (Water authorities were previously surveyed in 2004-2005 during work on the countywide Water Supply Plan so these entities were not surveyed again.)

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Chapter 2 Residential Survey

Methodology

The residential survey was conducted with a “paper and pencil” survey sent via U.S. mail and a copy of the survey is attached. This method was chosen for several reasons: 1) It was believed to be accessible to a wide swath of County residents, many of whom do not have telephones or internet access; 2) Respondents might be freer with their comments than if the survey were conducted face-to-face; and 3) Paper and pencil surveys would make the best use of limited Planning Department staff time. It was also believed that by conducting the survey in this way, respondents would constitute a more representative sample of County residents compared to if the Planning Department handed out the surveys at public meetings or events with limited appeal, or that might not be attended by residents with limited mobility.

The Clearfield County GIS Department randomly generated 1,078 addresses from its 911 addressing project database. The database includes all addressable residential structures in the county. This means that both homeowners and renters were equally likely to receive a survey. Survey recipients represented approximately 3% of the households in each municipality in Clearfield County.

Surveys were addressed to “Current Resident” in order to reduce the number of undeliverable surveys and to encourage participation through anonymity. Survey mailers included a letter from the Clearfield County Commissioners encouraging their participation and a self-addressed stamped envelope with which to return the completed survey.

Surveys were anonymous except for an identifying “control number” which was used primarily to track the municipality in which the respondent lived. This number was also used to enable the Planning Department to send reminder postcards to addressees who had not returned the survey within approximately 3 weeks of the initial mailing. These reminder postcards were believed to encourage higher response rates.

As of early November, 323 completed surveys have been returned to the Planning Department. This represents a 30% response rate, which is within accepted tolerances for a postal survey. This percentage does not include a net total of 39 surveys that were returned by the post office as undeliverable.

Survey Questions

The survey was three pages long and consisted of a combination of multiple choice and free-response questions. The first section asked questions about the respondent such as the respondent’s current age, how long the respondent has lived in the County, and household size. The rest of the survey consisted of five free-response questions and a total of 38 multiple choice questions divided into two sections. Free-response questions included asking respondents to discuss issues currently affecting them and to list their likes, dislikes, wants, and needs with regards to their community. The first set of 22 multiple-choice questions asked respondents about the level of importance they placed on certain items. The second set of 16 multiple choice questions asked respondents to rate their community on a five point scale in regards to certain items.

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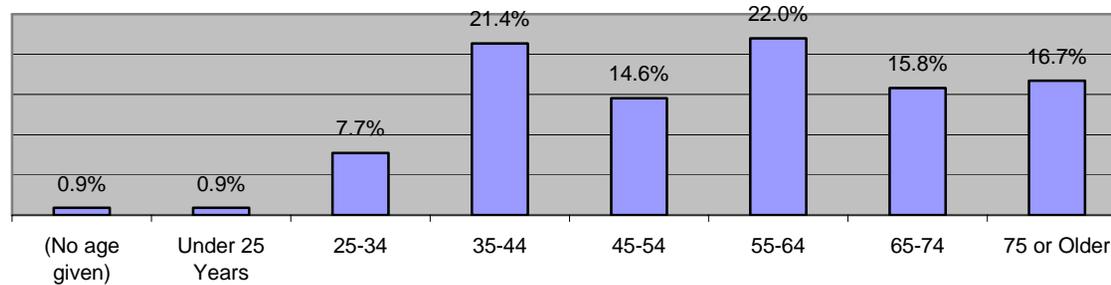
Chapter 2 Residential Survey

Preliminary Findings

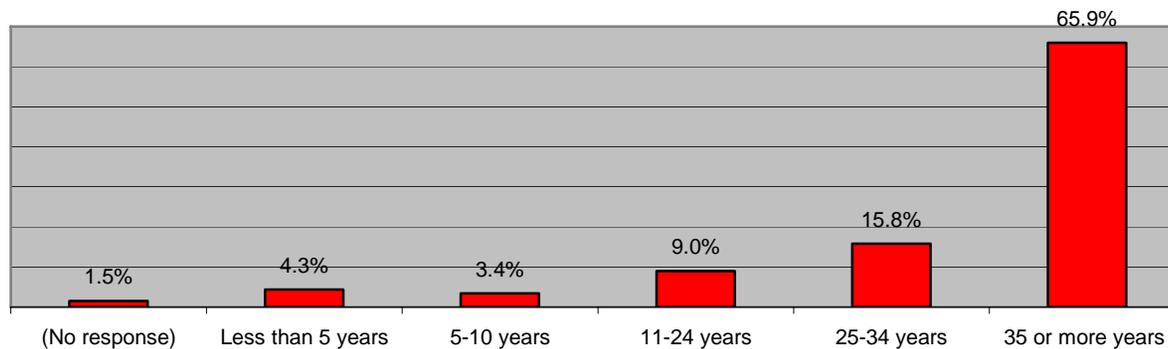
Demographics

Over 90% of the survey respondents were 35 years old or older. The age cohort for the most responses was between the ages of 55-64. Even more striking is the distribution of respondents according to how long they have lived in Clearfield County. Nearly two-thirds of all survey respondents have lived in the County 35 years or more.

Age Distribution of Survey Respondents



Length of Time Survey Respondents Have Lived in Clearfield County



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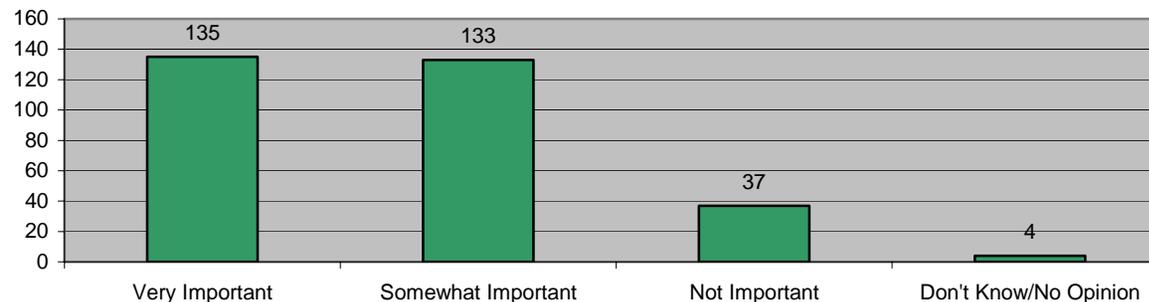
Values Questions

Residents were given a list of 22 items and asked to indicate how important they believed each item to be. (The instruction was phrased: "How important to you are each of the following items?") Answer choices included "Very Important," "Somewhat Important," "Not Important," and "Don't Know/No Opinion." Not all respondents answered all questions, so amounts presented in the graphs below may not sum to 323; percentages may not sum to 100%. Refer to the attached copy of the survey for the complete list of items, which can be found in the appendices.

Perhaps somewhat to be expected based on these choices, most respondents selected "Very Important" or "Somewhat Important" for most questions. For example, quality education, affordable housing opportunities, cleaning up polluted water & land, increased job opportunities, better paying jobs, and good quality, conveniently located healthcare were all heavily weighted toward "Very Important," with 85% or more of respondents selecting this answer choice for each of these items.

Other questions had more interesting answer distributions. Despite a strong regional disaffection for government regulation, survey respondents overwhelmingly support better enforcement of local property maintenance codes. Large numbers of residents also indicated that they support increased controls on development and more local regulation to limit the negative impacts associated with certain types of development.

Enforcement of local property maintenance codes



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Ratings Questions

The survey concluded by asking residents to rate how they felt about certain aspects of their communities. Specifically, residents were asked: “How would you rate your community in regards to each of the following?” Residents were given a 5 point rating scale from which to select an answer. “1” represented “Excellent”, and “5” represented “Poor.” Not all respondents answered all questions, so amounts presented in the graphs below may not sum to 323; percentages may not total to 100%.

Overall, residents generally agree that their communities are safe places to raise a family. They also indicate that their communities have average or better drinking water, air quality, and schools.

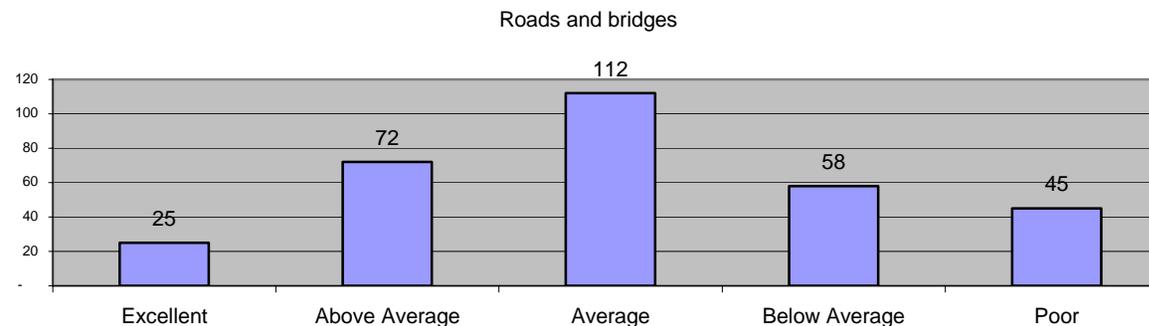
Residents had mixed feelings about the current state of emergency services in their communities.

Only 48.6% of residents felt police services were “Excellent” or “Above Average”; 22.0% believed they were “Average”; while 25.4% believed that services were “Below Average” or “Poor.”

Residents are generally happier with the fire protection and emergency services provided in their communities. 74.7% of residents believe fire protection and emergency services are “Excellent” or “Above Average”; 16.3% believe they are “Average”; and only 6.6% believe they are “Below Average” or “Poor.”

When it comes to rating their elected officials, residents have significantly more displeasure. Only 27.6% of respondents felt their elected officials were providing “Excellent” or “Above Average” leadership; 66.6% felt their leaders were “Average” or worse.

Residents are also not very happy with the current state of transportation in their communities.



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When asked about the state of existing recreational opportunities in their communities, 69% of respondents said their current recreational opportunities were at least average or better. However, despite this apparent abundance of quality recreational opportunities, 81.7% of respondents indicated that increasing recreational opportunities was still “Very Important” or “Somewhat Important”.

Free-Response Questions

Residents were asked a total of five free-response questions. This was to give residents a chance to express opinions that might not otherwise be obtained via the multiple-choice sections of the survey. Because there was no simple way to quantify these unique responses, the following method was used:

Planning Department staff reviewed the completed surveys and compiled a list of all the topics provided in response to each free-response question. Some topics or issues appeared more than once. Staff then tallied the number of times each topic appeared.

Listed below are each of the free-response questions from the survey. Underneath each question is a list of the responses that were the most prevalent. Since many similar answers were worded differently, staff paraphrased or combined topics (when appropriate) for this listing.

What are 3 things that you would WANT to change about your community?

- Vacant houses/blighted properties
- Police protection/enforcement
- Activities for young people
- Excessive brush along highways and intersections
- Barking dogs and stricter laws
- More convenient recycling and recycling for appliances
- Curfew for youth and noise
- Designate someone to pickup road kill ASAP
- Hoods over traffic signals so they're more visible when the sun is out

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What are 3 things that you would NOT WANT to change about your community?

- Small town community/atmosphere
- State/local parks
- Open space/green space/forest
- Local fire department/ambulance
- Schools
- Church
- Rails-to-Trails
- Being able to keep my wood burner
- Mayor's responsibility
- Scenic views of the Susquehanna River
- Clearfield Book Mobile

What do you think are the top 3 issues, problems or concerns facing you, your family, or your community?

- Jobs/job opportunities
- Street drugs/crime
- Health care/prescription drugs
- High cost of sewer, water, and taxes
- Care for elderly (housing, healthcare, transportation)
- Young people leaving the area due to inadequate jobs
- Speeding Vehicles
- Public transportation to surrounding areas
- Include small towns in overall planning
- Think about rebuilding Moose Creek Dam
- Not enough classes at Lock Haven Clearfield Campus

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Please list up to 3 types of development you would LIKE TO SEE in Clearfield County:

- Jobs/retail, industrial, trucking warehouses, manufacturing, technical etc.
- Parks: ATV, snowmobile, skateboard, roller blade, horse riding, theme park, amusement park, fenced-in dog park
- Family restaurants (no fast food)
- Quality shopping (no Wal-Mart, Dollar Stores, Ollie's, etc.)
- Motels, hotels, bed & breakfast
- Hunting/fishing lodges
- Mass transit: Countywide bus service, public transportation (taxi)
- Sports complexes: Ice rink, indoor sports
- Other sources to produce electricity (windmills)
- A zoo
- Entertainment: the arts, dinner theaters, cultural events
- Trauma center for dealing with several types of injuries
- Utilize I-80
- High-speed communication

Please list up to 3 types of development you would NOT LIKE TO SEE in Clearfield County:

- Landfills
- Timber harvesting
- Mining
- Multi family housing/low income housing
- Prisons
- Adult entertainment, book & video stores
- Concentrated animal feeding operations
- Hotel, bars, restaurants
- Gambling
- Methadone clinic
- Pig/chicken farms
- Wal-Mart
- Beef barns
- Golf courses

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Chapter 2 Municipal Survey

MUNICIPAL SURVEY

Municipal Survey Methodology and Results

Another avenue used by the County to gather public input included a municipal officials' survey, which was sent to all 51 municipalities within Clearfield County. The municipal survey, like the residential survey, asked if municipal officials were encouraged to solicit their residents' input when completing the survey. It was anticipated that mini-visioning sessions would be held at the local municipal level and the survey would reflect the consensus of the community.

The purpose of the survey was to assess the values, attitudes, long-range visions, and future land use desires of individual municipalities. In order to be as inclusive as possible, the County provided this unique opportunity for municipalities to convey their wishes and desire for growth in their communities as well as identify their short term and long-term capital improvement projects.

These surveys also included two customized municipal maps outlining the current land uses within the municipality. One copy was for their municipal planning purposes and the other was for County planning purposes. They were asked to "mark up" this map by identifying areas within their neighborhoods, scenic drives, etc. Areas suggested for future development included areas where infrastructure already existed and areas already identified for future infrastructure expansions.

Surveys were sent out to the municipal officials in October of 2005. After several reminders for municipalities to complete surveys, only 43% (22) of the County's 51 municipalities responded as of the end of January 2006.

Survey Questions

The survey was four pages long and consisted of a combination of multiple choice and free response questions. The first section asked questions about who was completing the survey, whether or not all township supervisors or Borough council members participated in the completion of the survey and whether or public input was gathered at a municipal public meeting. The remainder of the survey asked respondents to discuss issues currently affecting them and to list their likes, dislikes, wants and needs with regards to their municipality. Multiple-choice questions asked them to rank the level of importance placed upon certain items as well as rank their community on a five-point scale.

Preliminary Findings

Exactly 50%, or 11, of municipal respondents indicated that the survey was compiled, or at least discussed at a public meeting. This appeared to have little effect on the responses given. This may indicate that municipal officials are tuned in to the wants and needs of their residents. It must also be

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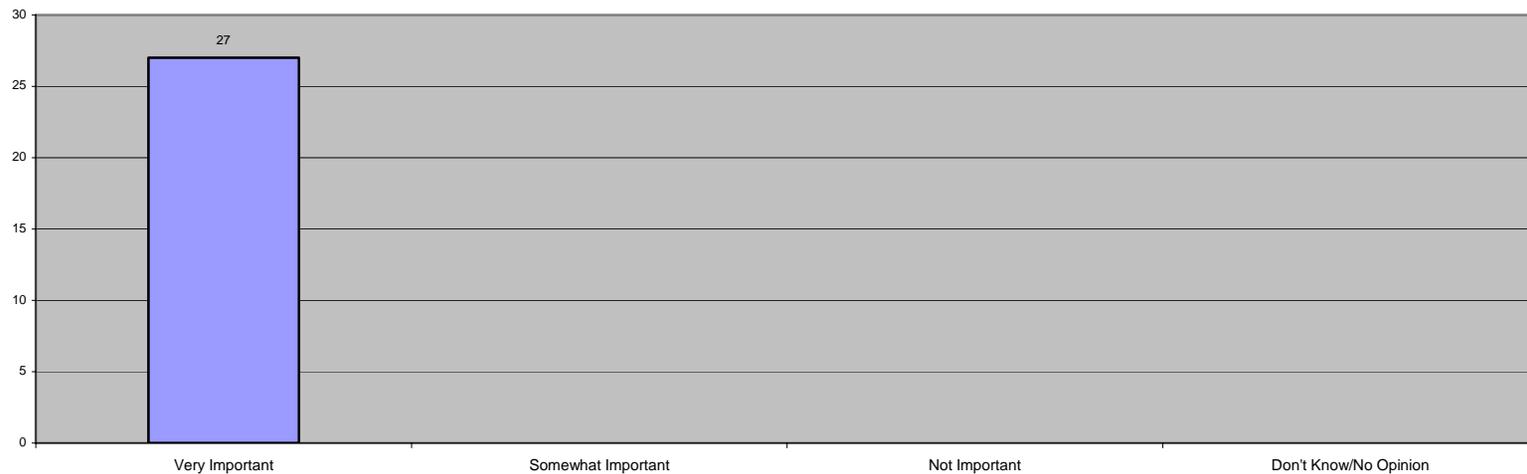
mentioned that some people may not feel comfortable expressing their true opinions in a public setting. The free response questions will be examined more closely in the next section. All of the graphs below are based on a sample size of 22 municipal respondents. However, amounts may not sum to 22 and/or percentages may not add up to 100% because not all respondents answered all questions.

Value Questions

Municipalities were given a list of 25 items and asked to indicate how important they believed each item to be. Answer choices included “Very Important”, “Somewhat Important”, “Not Important”, and “Don’t Know/No Opinion.” Not all respondents answered all questions, so amounts presented in the graphs below may not sum 22; percentages may not sum 100%.

As with the residential survey most municipal respondents selected “Very Important” or “Somewhat Important” for most questions. Again, quality education, affordable housing opportunities, cleaning up polluted water & land, increased job opportunities, better paying jobs, and good quality, conveniently located healthcare were all heavily weighted toward “Very Important.” In fact, every respondent listed quality education as “Very Important”

Quality Education



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Increased controls on development were also favorable, although at a lower percentage than that of residential respondents. Surprisingly, municipal respondents indicated that they were very much in favor of increased local regulation to limit negative impacts of certain developments.

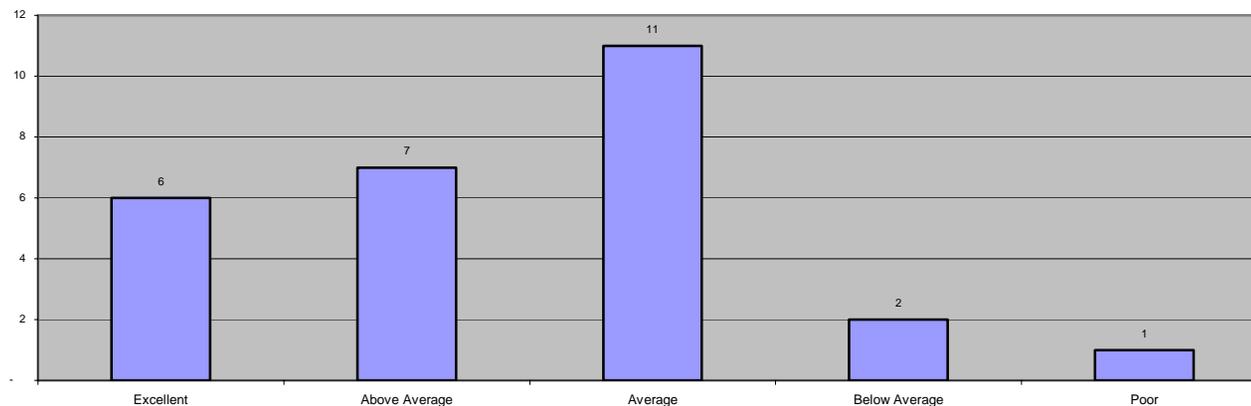
In the State of Pennsylvania, municipalities are given the power to do just that through land use controls, *i.e.* zoning. This is the exact opposite of the atmosphere that exists in Clearfield County today. As of the date of this publication, only 12% of Clearfield County municipalities have enacted zoning regulations. Recent events in the County may have inspired local officials to reexamine the issue and some may choose enact zoning regulations to protect themselves from unwanted development.

Ratings Questions

The survey concluded by asking municipalities to rate how they felt about certain aspects of their communities. Specifically, residents were asked: “How would you rate your community in regards to each of the following?” Municipalities were given a 5 point rating scale from which to select an answer, “1” represented “Excellent”, and “5” represented “Poor.” Not all respondents answered all questions, so amounts presented in the graphs below may not sum to 323; percentages may not total to 100%.

Municipal officials generally agree that their communities are safe places to raise a family with 86.3% reporting “Above Average” or higher. They also indicate that their communities have average or better drinking water, air quality, and schools. There is some concern about safe and efficient sewage disposal with 54.6% of municipal respondents reporting “Average” or below.

Safe and efficient sewage disposal

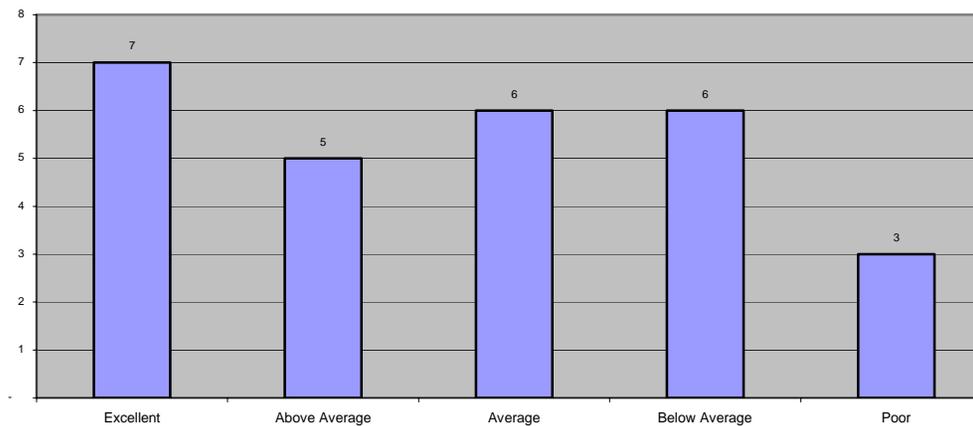


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Municipal officials had mixed feelings about the current state of emergency services in their communities. Only 36.4% of respondents felt police services were “Excellent” or “Above Average”; 22.7% believed they were “Average”; while 40.9% believed that services were “Below Average” or “Poor.”

Police protection



Other items receiving a majority of average or below average responses included recreational opportunities, conditions of roads & bridges, overall appearance of community, community spirit, community facilities and activities, public transportation, housing conditions, and protection from flooding.

In contrast, respondents are generally happier with the fire protection and emergency services provided in their communities with 81.8% of respondents rating fire protection and emergency services as “Excellent” or “Above Average” and 18.2% believe they are “Average.”

Municipal officials give themselves high marks for their leadership in the community with 90.9% rating themselves as “Excellent” or “Above Average” with 4.5% selecting “Average.” The remaining 9.1% abstained.

Municipal officials generally rated roads and bridges in their communities as being in good condition with 72.7% choosing “Average” or “Above Average.” Public transportation responses were very negative with 63.6% of municipal respondents selecting “Below Average” or “Poor.” Housing Conditions were seen as favorable with 90.9% of municipal respondents reporting, “Average” or better.

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Free-Response Questions

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Planning Department staff reviewed the completed surveys and compiled a list of all the topics provided in response to each free-response question. Some topics or issues appeared more than once. Staff then tallied the number of times each topic appeared.

Listed below are each of the free-response questions from the survey. Underneath each question is a list of the responses that were the most prevalent. Since many similar answers were worded differently, staff paraphrased or combined topics (when appropriate) for this listing.

Things you Want to change about your community:

- Improved roads (especially 879 from Shawville to Clearfield and Borough Streets)
- Environmental improvements: appearance at dumpsites;
- Properties with junk / junk cars; County enforced junk car ordinance
- Dilapidated / abandoned buildings;
- Water quality
- Economic Development – an increase in jobs with salaries to sustain families
- Police protection
- Extend water and sewage infrastructure where feasible
- More open space (public hunting)
- Improve Twp. facilities and equipment through which services are provided
- Prevent illegal dumping. We still have dumps to clean up, but we have made great strides in this area
- Less garbage dumped along twp. / state roads and regulate number of unlicensed vehicles
- DEP's attitude and involvement concerning waste disposal
- Remove some power from DEP. We can't breathe without their permission
- Clean up neighborhoods
- Something for the youth, more parks or recreation
- More county monies made available for the recreational park
- More recreational opportunities
- Community knowledge on how a community works finally and others

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Things you Want to change about your community (Continued):

- Increase social activities for youth and adults within the community
- Grant monies and help to start up a youth program in government programs
- Educational opportunities
- Younger generations level of community involvement
- Need a senior center
- Improve medical services: elderly care, local ambulance service, and emergency operations
- Ideas and help with getting more community involvement for Chester Hill Borough
- Decrease illegal drug and alcohol use for all ages in the community
- Speed increase Thompsonstown Road, Black Elk
- Warning light at US Rt. 219 / State Route 36 intersection
- Better financial aid for roads
- Heavy haulers' accountability for road damage
- Paved road for the township
- Improve traffic flow on both state and local roads
- I would like to see something done with railroad crossing
- We have two bridges in bad shape, but can't get help to replace them
- PennDOT's rules and regulations on road matters
- Infrastructure improvements – rail lines, highways, airport
- Too much mining in open spaces; less strip mining
- Unattended old unreclaimed mine sites
- Increase small business and jobs within township and County
- Improve central business district
- Get some of empty businesses working again
- A new tax assessment (we feel many improvements are not being taxed)
- Poorly maintained private properties (ex. unmowed grass)
- Improve housing stock
- Laws regulating outdoor furnaces
- Need county zoning
- A recycling center
- Animal control (skunks, dogs, wild cats, and other animals)
- Outdoor recreational opportunities

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Things you Want to change about your community (Continued):

- More preservation of streams
- Less public owned land (state, city, etc.) tax exempt
- Storm water collection system replacement and flood control issues
- Help with flood control projects such as the one started in 1976, but never completed
- More funding for volunteer fire companies
- Fire Company

Things you would NOT Want to change about your community:

- Preservation of farm lands, continue to see an increase (Ag security area)
- Rural setting – close relationship with neighbors
- Small town atmosphere
- Country living – we don't want the bigger towns to close in on us
- Natural beauty
- Keep open spaces, green spaces, (less no trespassing signs) public hunting / fishing preserved
- No tax increase of any type, including personal, property, county, or school
- We don't want public sewage
- Quiet
- Recreational opportunities
- Fire protection
- Hunting and fishing opportunities
- Peace and tranquility
- Area is very small
- Type of government
- We would not want to become over developed
- No mergers with any other boroughs, townships, municipalities
- Citizens' involvement in township
- Park / Memorial parks
- School
- Interstate access
- Do not want to change landowners' ability to use his land as he sees fit
- Don't want the County coming in telling us what we can and can't do in our community

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Things you would NOT want to change about your community (Continued):

- Services provided by local retail establishments
- Safe area for children; low crime rate
- Positive business promotion
- Non - commercialized property
- Public library and functions
- Commercial businesses
- Historic buildings
- Water quality
- We do not want to lose the CHB Volunteer Fire Company. They need more money
- Local school
- Access to municipal leaders
- Emergency services
- Space for recreation
- Restaurants
- Businesses related to timber
- Protection on streams as exceptional value and clean air quality maintained
- No changes made to the current ordinances that are in effect at this time
- We do not want our citizens to foot the bill for any more new schools
- Medical center
- No new laws – regulations that would cause increase costs to business / farmers
- We do not have out of state landfills
- Access to higher education
- Churches

Top Issues, problems or concerns facing your community:

- Job opportunities; loss of good paying jobs
- Affordable on lot sewage and / or expanded water / sewage infrastructure
- Maintaining roads on limited funds
- The population of senior citizens goes up while the number of wage earners and better paying jobs decline affecting earned income tax revenue
- The fear of a landfill moving in
- Law enforcement issues with speeding, vandals, and child safety

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Top Issues, problems or concerns facing your community (Continued):

- Roads
- Lack of local government having a solid voice at state and federal government
- Current conditions of PennDOT owned streets, highways, and bridges
- Unfunded regulatory mandates with responsibilities and costs for enforcement trickling to local governments
- Revenue to undertake necessary infrastructure building
- Small township, poor funding
- Township not getting enough money in liquid fuels from State
- UCC codes
- Grant money applications need to be easier to obtain and understand
- Finding a practicable balance for adopting local axes and local regulations versus what services can reasonably be provided
- Consolidation of services
- Cost of fuel
- Income; Low wages for residents
- High taxes
- Health insurance
- Cost of medical and other public services places a burden on wage earners and those with low retirement incomes
- Good drinking water
- Public transportation
- Urban sprawl
- Housing
- Youth are leaving the area
- Lack of volunteers
- Upkeep of existing recreation facilities
- Youth recreation opportunities
- Uncontrolled expansion of our school districts (example: too many new schools)
- Education
- School tax increases
- Better working relations with DEP
- Landfills' improper regulation causing harm to streams, air quality, and environment
- Development of industry or businesses that are harmful to the environment

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Top Issues, problems or concerns facing your community (Continued):

- DEP sewage issues
- Lack of local and county government being able to run, operate, and control the use of our own landfills
- Illegal dumping – we are doing better, but it must stop
- Individual on-lot sewage failures, currently no on-lot pumping ordinance, residents not permitting building / sewage
- Sewage, storm drainage, and flooding issues due to the wetlands between Chester Hill Borough and Decatur Township
- Storm water and flood control
- Sewage
- Protecting family farms; keeping a balance of farmland
- Animal control enforcement for habitual offenders
- Junkyards, unlicensed vehicles in excess on individual property owners
- Spot areas with trash and junk accumulations
- Funding for volunteer fire company
- Emergency services – fire, police (fire company)
- Outdoor furnaces

Development you would like To See in your municipality:

- Tourism promotion – family camping / housing with bed & breakfast, small lodges, hunting, fishing, etc.
- Recreation facilities – positive one, snowmobile / ATV, horseback riding, fishing, hunting
- Industrial development
- Medical related
- Agriculture (family farming)
- Commercial businesses such as powdered metals, industrial park, post office, and college
- Technology related industry
- Manufacturing
- More businesses – jobs
- Retail business (such as mini malls)
- Family restaurants (no fast food)
- Wood products and related industries
- A bank
- A pharmacy

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Development you would like To See in your municipality (Continued):

- Small businesses – positive family environment – gas station, restaurants, farms
- Small hotel with restaurants
- Large business in certain areas
- Public transportation
- Family homes
- Public housing
- Housing / Residential
- Affordable housing development
- Single family homes in certain areas
- Elderly housing
- Rails to trails could be developed
- County tourism people promote the Susquehanna River for fishing and canoeing
- Tourism / recreation – gateway to “PA Wilds”
- Recreation center for the young and elderly residents to enjoy
- Sewage
- Water and sewage extensions
- Medical treatment
- Better Internet or cable access
- Service establishments
- Energy fields – ethanol, bio-diesel, wind, solar
- Energy sources increased – windmills, bio-diesel heating oil, vehicles, natural gas wells, select cutting of wood products
- Communication Tours – Personal cell towers and emergency towers increased

Development you would Not Like To See in your municipality:

- Landfills – municipal or residual waste generated
- Adult video store / peep show or pornographic establishments
- Mining of any kind
- Timber harvesting
- Factory Farms
- Low income housing units
- Dumps

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Development you would NOT like To See in your municipality (Continued):

- Out of state waste landfills
- Strip developments
- Big business farming
- Large animal farming businesses that are over 10,000 in confined quarters
- Concentrated animal feeding
- Commercial farming (hog farms, etc.)
- Car dealership
- Trucking warehouse facilities
- No mobile home parks
- Anymore multi-family housing developments
- High cost housing developments
- Huge housing increase
- Businesses that are environmentally harmful to water quality / air quality
- Spreading of sludge (DEP permits this and we can't stop it)
- No development that would have an impact on private water sources
- Nuclear waste producing plants
- Junkyards
- Power generation
- Large industry
- Bars or beer distributor (keep dry township ordinance)
- Drug rehab
- Gambling
- Snowmobile or ATV parks

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Chapter 2 Municipal vs. Residential Survey

MUNICIPAL SURVEY RESULTS VS. RESIDENTIAL SURVEY RESULTS

When comparing both the random residential survey results with the municipal officials survey results, responses were comparatively similar. It is apparent that the municipal officials are clearly in tune with the values and opinions of their residents. In fact, strong sentiment on certain topics were observed in both sets of survey results.

A strong sense of what is important and valued by both the residents and municipal officials was made crystal clear. In some cases, 100% of the respondents indicated that certain topics were very important to them. For all questions asked in this value question section of the survey, each received a 70% or higher rating of “somewhat” to “very” important.

In fact, the following table shows the overwhelming consensus of what is important to both our elected municipal officials and residents. Issues such as quality education, funding for local projects, job opportunities, quality healthcare, elderly care, and cleaning up polluted waterways and land received the highest rankings.

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**Chapter 2
Municipal vs. Residential Survey**

Value Question Results Comparison

(VERY IMPORTANT)	Municipal Official Responses (Percent %)	Residential Responses (Percent %)
Quality Education	100%	86.2
Receiving State Funding	100%	Not Applicable*
More Job Opportunities	95.5%	92.3%
Receiving Federal Funding	90.9%	Not Applicable*
Quality Health Care Close to Home	86.4%	85%
Care of Elderly	86.4%	77.9%
Cleaning Up Polluted Water & Land	81.8%	70.9%
More affordable on-lot sewage systems	100%	82.8%
Preserving Parks and Forest	100%	91.7%
Receiving county funding	100%	Not Applicable*
Conserving Natural Resources	95.5%	91.8%
Preserving Ecologically Sensitive Habitats	95.5%	84.9%
More Adult Education Opportunities	95.4%	82.2%
Increasing Recreational Opportunities	90.9%	81.3%
Affordable Housing Opportunities	90.9%	88.6%
Enforcement of Property Maint. Codes	90.9%	82.8%
Preserving Farm Land	90.9%	92.0%
Preserving Recreational Space	90.9%	88.6%
Preserving Historic & Cultural Resources	81.8%	80.7%
Quality Day Care	81.8%	83.4%

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

**Chapter 2
Municipal vs. Residential Survey**

Value Question Results Comparison (Continued)

(SOMEWHAT TO VERY IMPORTANT)	Municipal Official Responses (Percent %)	Residential Responses (Percent %)
Regulation to Control Development	81.8%	76.7%
Promotion of Tourism	77.3%	70.5%
Support Development In Brownfields	77.3%	89.0%

* Questions not asked of residents

Ranking Question Results Comparison

When it came to ranking certain aspects of their communities, most responses between the residents and the elected official were consistent, with a few exceptions, most notably, the ranking of “leadership of elected officials”. While 86.3% of elected officials ranked their leadership as above average to excellent, only 28.1% of the residents agreed. When asked to rank whether they had safe and efficient sewage disposal, the majority of municipal officials ranked it average or below while the residents ranked it as above average to excellent. Municipal officials ranked police protection and flood protection as average or below, however, the residents were pretty much equally divided.

(ABOVE AVERAGE TO EXCELLENT)	Municipal Official Responses (Percent %)	Residential Responses (Percent %)
Air Quality	95.5%	79.5%
Safe Environment for Raising Family	86.3%	71.4%
Leadership of Elected Officials	86.3%	28.1%
Fire Protection/Emergency Services	81.8%	74.5%
Quality of Drinking Water	77.3%	62.2%
Schools	77.3%	61.6%

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/ VISIONING

**Chapter 2
Municipal vs. Residential Survey**

Ranking Question Results Comparison (Continued)

(AVERAGE TO POOR)	Municipal Official Responses (Percent %)	Residential Responses (Percent %)
Public Transportation	77.2%	64.7%
Roads and Bridges	68.2%	66.6%
Community Buildings/Activities	68.1%	64.2%
Police Protection	63.6%	47.2%*
Protection from Flooding	59.1%	45.6%*
Community Spirit	59.1%	53.4%
Housing Conditions	54.6%	61.6%
Recreational Opportunities	54.5%	56.4%
Safe and Efficient Sewage Disposal	54.5%	35.9%
Overall Appearance	54.5%	51.8%

*Neither “above average to excellent “ nor “average to poor” received 50% since a small percentage had not response

PUBLIC MEETINGS

There were five public meetings held throughout the county in the following geographic areas: DuBois, Clearfield, Philipsburg, Mahaffey, and Coalport. While Philipsburg is technically in Centre County, it geographically serves as the closet “commercial hub” for that area of the County. Meetings were held in the evenings between September 22, 2005 and October 6, 2005. Although meetings were heavily publicized, only a handful of residents attended these sessions. At each meeting the attendees were given an overview of the purpose for the meeting and were asked a series of questions that would be used to create the County’s vision for the future.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

In this section we have provided both a summary of those meetings as a whole as well as summary by geographic area.

Summary Results

An "X" denotes that this issue came up at the public meeting held at the site indicated; boxes that are highlighted indicate these topics came up at more than one meeting.

	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Q#1: Top Issues						
Jobs/Higher Wages/Lack of Businesses	X	X	X	X	X	5
Stuck in the past/ Apathy/ Lack of Public Participation		X	X	X	X	4
Healthcare (costs)	X			X	X	3
Water Quantity & Quality (Pollution/AMD)	X	X	X			3
Rising Costs (Fuel/Taxes)/ Fuel Production	X	X			X	3
Storm Water Management/ Flooding		X		X	X	3
Communication/Cooperation	X		X			2
Land Use Planning /Controls	X	X				2
EMS/Police/Fire Protection	X		X			2
Low Education Levels/Education of Elected Officials		X	X			2
Open Space/Forest Management	X					1
Mass Transit	X					1
Tourism	X					1
Library Services	X					1
Sewage Issues	X					1
Advocacy for Rural Areas	X					1
Lack of Amenities to Attract or Keep Residents		X				1
Frivolous Litigation				X		1
Better Roads/Bridges				X		1

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

An "X" denotes that this issue came up at the public meeting held at the site indicated; boxes that are highlighted indicate these topics came up at more than one meeting.

Q#2a: Types of Desired Development	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
More Infrastructure (water, sewer, parking)		X		X	X	3
Housing/Residential			X		X	2
Senior Citizen Center/Community Building				X		1
Re-Mining of Abandoned Coal Strippings			X			1
Prison (low-moderate)					X	1
Family Oriented Businesses		X				1
Taxable Development		X				1
Specialty Shops		X				1
More Developments w/ Curb Appeal		X				1
Industry	X					1
Wood Products/Manufacturing	X					1
Spin off Powdered Metals	X					1
Renewable Energy Production	X					1
Research & Development	X					1
Shopping	X					1
Youth Activity Centers	X					1

Q#2b: Types of Undesired Development	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG*	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Landfills	X	X			X	3
Adult Businesses	X			X		2
Gambling	X			X		2
NIMBY-ism (Not in my backyard)				X		1
Prisons		X				1
Tax free Development		X				1
More Roads	X					1

* No comment at Philipsburg meeting

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

**Chapter 2
Public Meetings**

An "X" denotes that this issue came up at the public meeting held at the site indicated; boxes that are highlighted indicate these topics came up at more than one meeting.

Q#3a: What You Would Change...?	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Acid Mine Drainage (AMD)/ Better Water Quality	X	X	X			3
Cleaning up Old Strip Mines		X	X	X		3
Community Appearance-need more code enforce.					X	1
Regulations Preventing Debris Removal					X	1
Relocate County Seat				X		1
Old Money Controlling Growth				X		1
Dumping Ground for Other State's Trash				X		1
Amount of People on Welfare				X		1
Lack of Promoting our County			X			1
Increase Recycling Program			X			1
Increase Municipal Cooperation		X				1
More Focus on Tourism		X				1
Attitudes	X					1
Average per Capita	X					1
Literacy Rate	X					1
Teen Pregnancy	X					1
Drugs & Alcohol Abuse	X					1
Management of Resources	X					1
Public Health Issues	X					1
Q#3b: What Wouldn't You Change?	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Natural Resources/Beauty		X	X	X		3
I-80/Location	X		X			2
Rural Character	X					1
Recycling Program					X	1

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

**Chapter 2
Public Meetings**

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Q#4: Suggestions to Improve Housing	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Incentives to fix up homes/Fixed Income Tax Relief	X	X	X	X		4
Maintenance of Existing Housing	X			X	X	3
Affordable Family Housing	X	X				2
Education on Building Code				X		1
Building Codes NA for Rural Areas				X		1
Too Many Absentee Landlords				X		1
Infrastructure (water/sewer/roads)					X	1
Lack of Property Ordinances and/or Enforcement				X		1
Lease to Purchase Programs		X				1
Alternatives for Moderate-Upper Income Retirees		X				1
Poor Land Use (more cluster/density develop.)	X					1

Q#5: Suggestions to Improve Social Services	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Better Transportation/More Use of ATA		X	X			2
Ownership of Problems/Generations on Welfare		X		X		2
Regulatory Changes to Improve Care		X		X		2
Better Outreach/Isolation Issues		X		X		2
More Senior/Youth Centers				X	X	2
Eliminate Inefficiencies/Streamline Processes	X	X				2
More Faith Based Services/Grassroots Solutions	X	X				2

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

**Chapter 2
Public Meetings**

An "X" denotes that this issue came up at the public meeting held at the site indicated; boxes that are highlighted indicate these topics came up at more than one meeting.

Q#5: Suggestions to Improve Social Services (Continued)	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Help for Middles Class Working Folks		X		X		2
Attitude (Prevention)	X					1
Resources	X					1
Clearinghouse of Programs	X					1
Address Family Issues	X					1
Mandated Funding	X					1
Reduce Barriers to Service		X				1
Tighter Controls on Drug Rehab. Programs				X		1

Q#6: Suggestions to Improve Healthcare	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
More Competition/Costs	X		X	X		3
Malpractice Climate	X			X	X	3
Regulatory Changes		X		X		2
Keep Practitioner Here & in Profession		X	X			2
Lack of Volunteers for EMS				X	X	2
Availability of Practitioners	X				X	2
Tort Reform	X					1
Transportation to & from Hospital	X					1
Abuse of System	X					1
Education	X					1
Dental Care for Low Income	X					1
Not Enough Access Card Providers	X					1
Balancing Cost & Care	X					1
People Need to Look Out of Neighbors		X				1
Scholarship for Students to Serve Here		X				1
Higher Wages for Health Care Workers		X				1
Bring Service to People		X				1

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

**Chapter 2
Public Meetings**

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Q#7: Suggestions to Improve Economic Dev.	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Promote Tourism Related Businesses		X			X	2
Need innovators		X		X		2
Focus on smaller businesses so loss is not as great					X	1
Develop North-South Highway				X		1
Balance Develop. & Quality of Life				X		1
Improve Infrastructure				X		1
Promote Tourism (Develop Plan)				X		1
Purchasing Power/Regulation to Attract Business				X		1
Stop Over Regulation				X		1
More Focus By Development Officials on Entire County			X			1
Mirror Successful Programs of Other Counties			X			1
Invest in Coal Loading Facilities			X			1
Need Outside Investment		X				1
Promote Natural resource Assets		X				1
Find Balance Between Local and Regional	X					1
Better Understanding of Urban Economics	X					1
Use Expertise of Local Econ. Develop. Officials	X					1
Education on Coordinated Economic Development	X					1
Less Territorial	X					1
Tax Reform/Tax Fairness	X					1

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

**Chapter 2
Public Meetings**

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Q#8: Suggestions to Improve Transportation	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Need North-South Access	X		X	X	X	4
Improve Local & State Roads / Bridges	X			X	X	3
Use More Mass Transit	X	X		X		3
More Attention to Local Air Service	X	X	X			3
Use More Rail/Possible Expansion	X		X			2
Management of Cost vs. Benefits	X					1
Use smaller fuel efficient Vehicles	X					1
Need Taxi Service		X				1
Keep Gas Tax Local			X			1
Rails to Trails					X	1

Q#9: Suggestions to Improve Education	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Provide Adult Education Opportunities	X	X			X	3
More Equitable Funding	X	X				2
More Discipline in Schools	X				X	3
Encourage Parent Involvement/Educate Parents	X			X		2
Change tax base	X					1
Every Parent Pay Tuition	X					1
More Public Voices/Taxpayers Should Have a Say	X					1
Increase Salaries to Keep Quality Teachers		X				1
Solve Root Problems of Low Education		X				1
Form Consortium Between Schools and Employers		X				1
Consolidation of Schools			X			1
Smaller Classes			X			1

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

**Chapter 2
Public Meetings**

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Q#9: Suggestions to Improve Education (Continued)	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Uniform Architecture Design for Schools (save \$)			X			1
More Structured Vacation Time for Students			X			1
Improve Math, Science, & Writing Skills				X		1
Better Classes for Gifted/Special Needs				X		1
Provide Real Life Skills to Students				X		1
Utilize Vo-Techs					X	1
Teacher Accountability					X	1
Loss of Educated Youth (Brain Drain)					X	1

Q#10: Suggestions about How to Utilize Natural Resources	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Protect our Water	X		X		X	3
Protect Timber/ Promote Sustainable Forestry	X			X	X	3
Protect & Conserve Land	X			X		2
Better Enforcement against pollution		X	X			2
Educate Public on Need to Protect Resources	X	X				2
Clean up Acid Mine Drainage					X	1
Safer Cleaner extraction of Coal				X		1
Encourage Farming				X		1
Need to Keep Natural Gas here				X		1
Use Natural Gas Resource to Attract Business				X		1
Increase Recreation on River			X			1
No Landfills or Illegal Dumps		X				1

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

**Chapter 2
Public Meetings**

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Q#10: Suggestions about How to Utilize Natural Resources (Cont.)	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Improve Recycling & Composting Opportunities/Bottle Bill		X				1
Use Science not Emotion	X					1

Q#11: Suggestions About How to Preserve Historical/Cultural Resources	DUBOIS	CLEARFIELD	PHILIPSBURG	MAHAFFEY	COALPORT	TOTALS
Fund Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings	X				X	2
Need More Volunteers		X			X	2
Better Education on Local History/Encourage Public & Youth Interest		X		X		2
Develop & Promote Historical Tours			X	X		2
Promote our Assets	X		X			2
Preserve Local Cultures & Traditions					X	1
Capture Local Native American History			X			1
More Public Access/Hours to Historical Societies		X				1
Better Organize Historic Groups to Promote Historical Sites		X				1
Build Upon our Rich Wood Industry	X					1
Commission Historic Districts	X					1
Manage I-80 Corridor for recreation & Tourism	X					1
Smart Development	X					1
Educate Home Owners of Historic Structures	X					1

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

RESULTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

DuBois Area Public Meeting

Top Issues Facing Your Family or Business:

- Healthcare
- Gas Prices
- Energy Production
- Jobs
- Communication / Cooperation
- Open (working) Spaces
- Mass Transit
- Forest Management
- Municipality Cooperation on Land Use
- EMS
- Tourism
- Drinking Water Quality and Quantity
- Library Services
- Police / Fire Protection
- Sewage Issues
- Advocacy for Rural Areas

Types of Development you want or not want for your communities:

Want

- Industry
- Wood Products / MFG
- Spin off Powder Metals
- Renewable Energy Production
- Support Research for development of alternative energy
- Research and Development
- Shopping
- Youth Activity Program / Center

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

DuBois Area Public Meeting

Types of Development you want or not want for your communities:

Do not Want

- Landfills
- Gambling related businesses
- Adult Entertainment
- More Roads

What would you or wouldn't you change about Clearfield County:

Would:

- Change Attitude
- Average Per Capita
- Literacy Rate
- Teen Pregnancy
- Drugs and Alcohol
- How we manage our resources
- Improve Water Quality and AMD
- Public Issues of Accurate Health

Would Not:

- Rural area / Character
- I – 80

Views on how to Improve our Housing Infrastructure:

- Revitalize Urban Housing
- Resources to Revitalize Housing
- Self interest affecting unique revitalization efforts
- Poor Land use Planning
- Affordable Quality Livable desirable Housing
- More cluster / density development
- More affordable housing for young people / Families

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

DuBois Area Public Meeting

Views on how to Improve Social Service Programs:

- Attitude (Pro Active Prevention)
- Resources
- Clearing house of Social Services Programs
- Eliminate duplication of services / efficiencies
- Addressing Family Issues
- Mandated Funding
- Churches / Salvation Army / Red Cross etc: Utilize more Faith Base Services

Views on how to Improve our Healthcare System:

- More competition
- Tort Reform
- Transportation to and from Hospital
- Abuse of system
- Overall education of Healthcare
- Availability of Practitioners
- Dental Care for Low Income
- Not enough (Access Card) Service Providers
- Malpractice Climate
- Balancing Care and Cost

Views on how to improve our Economic Development efforts:

- Be as regional as possible/Be as local as possible
- Finding a balance between regional / local
- Better understanding Urban Economic
- Take advantage of the expertise and experience of local economic development leaders
- Education that coordinated economic development is good for everyone
- Less territorial
- Tax reform in PA (Tax fairness)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

DuBois Area Public Meeting

Views on how to improve our Transportation Network:

- Poor local and state roads
- Management of Cost vs. Benefits
- Use of more R.R. (efficient)
- More use of mass transit (efficient)
- Lack of North / South Access
- More European attitude about vehicles (smaller more fuel efficient)
- Loss of air services (more awareness and promotion)
- Balance pros and cons of new roads and air services

Views on how to improve our Education System:

- Knowledgeable county people should take charge and show more voice
- More equity funding for education (distribution of school taxes) a % goes into salaries
- More discipline allowed in schools / Longer school year (more efficient school year)
- Current Public School system's lack academic rigor
- Encourage Parental involvement in education
- Adult education opportunities within existing school facilities (24-7)
- Change tax base (not gambling – look elsewhere)
- Every parent pay tuition

Views on how to best utilize, sustain or remediate / prevent deterioration of our Natural Resources:

- Science not Emotion
- Sustainability over Extraction
- Practical Education
- Academic Education
- Conservation
- Water Resource management
- Education on the value of our natural resources

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

DuBois Area Public Meeting

Views on how to best preserve and enhance our Historical / Cultural Resources:

- [WWW.Victorian](http://WWW.VictorianRegion.com) Region.com
- Build on wood industry (understand our history)
- Commission Historic Districts
- Promote area better (not like the PA Wilds)
- Manage I-80 corridor for tourism and recreation
- Smart development and infrastructure of the industry
- Recognizing or educating owners of the historical structures as to their economic benefits
- Develop funding for preservation of privately owned historical structures
- Maintain our historical structures without impeding progress

Clearfield Area Public Meeting

Top Issues Facing your Family or Business:

- Rising cost of living (fuel, taxes, etc...)
- Need for manufacturing businesses (higher wage jobs)
- Stuck in the past – need to think outside the box (new ideas, new technologies, looking at larger area needed for our future success)
- Uncontrolled growth
- Clean up our water supplies, streams, etc.
- Low education levels (especially science and math)
- Storm water run off problems
- Looking ahead of immediate problems / solutions to future issues
- Lack of amenities to attract people/ keep them here

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Clearfield Area Public Meeting

Types of development you would or would NOT want for your communities:

Would Want:

- Refurbishing existing structures
- Family oriented businesses (small towns)
- Taxable development
- Specialty shops
- More “Curb appeal”
- More parking

Would NOT Want:

- Landfills
- Prisons
- Tax – free development

What would you change or NOT change about Clearfield County:

Would Change:

- Enhance area’s beauty (Clean up strip mines, etc.)
- More municipal cooperation (recognize that borders aren’t as relevant today)
- More focus on tourism
- Better water quality and quantity

Would NOT Change:

- Beauty

Views on how to improve our Housing infrastructure:

- Affordable single – family homes
- Incentives to refurbish older homes in need or repair
- County should take lead
- Upkeep assistance for seniors

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Clearfield Area Public Meeting

Views on how to improve our Housing infrastructure (Continued):

- Property tax relief for seniors / those with fixed incomes
- Alternatives for moderate – to – upper income retirees
- Lease to purchase programs for homes (help build equity)

Views on how to improve Social Service programs:

- Better Transportation
- Agencies need to reduce barriers to service (better explanations, easier to find info, etc.)
- Need to get back to local grass roots solutions (too much bureaucracy)
- Need to take ownership of problems instead of relying on bureaucracy to solve them
- Regulatory changes needed to improve care
- Streamline processes
- Better outreach (lots of isolation that leads to people not getting help)
- Help for middle working class folks

Views on how to improve our Healthcare system:

- Regulatory changes needed to improve care
- Rural healthcare requires different focus needs to flow both ways (bring service to people)
- People need to look out for their neighbors (especially elderly or infirmed)
- Participate in regional / national initiatives to keep providers here
- Scholarships for students in exchanged for agreeing to serve here
- Higher wages for healthcare providers
- Need to find ways to keep people in profession

Views on how to improve our Economic Development efforts:

- Promote Tourism
- Need outside private investment
- Need to be open minded regarding development

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Clearfield Area Public Meeting

Views on how to improve our Economic Development efforts (Continued):

- Promote natural resource assets
- Need more things to do for all ages (tourism – related businesses for all)
- Attract cross – sectional audiences
- Broad marketing (50 million people within 3hr drive)
- Think outside the box

Views on how to improve our Transportation network:

- Improve Clearfield municipal airport to accommodate larger plans
- Need taxi services
- Encourage greater use of public transit network
- Develop trolley service in downtowns

Views on how to improve our Education system:

- Rising wages for educators to keep quality teachers here
- Need Vo-tech school / community college for adult education
- Reduce disparities in school funding
- Need to find solutions to root problems that lead folks to have low education levels
- (Form consortium between schools and employers – educate next generation of workers, set expectations)

Views on how to best utilize, sustain or remediate/prevent deterioration of our Natural Resources:

- Vote “No” on dump
- Educate about need to protect our natural resources
- Need to protect and remediate areas where timbering has occurred (more controls needed, especially to prevent erosion)
- Eliminate illegal dumps
- Advocate statewide bottle deposit bill
- More accessible recycling program material
- Improve marketability of recycle materials
- Encourage composting of organic waste (source of income selling compost)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Clearfield Area Public Meeting

Views on how to best preserve and enhance our Historical / Cultural Resources:

- Improve hours of historical societies (more public access)
- Seek ways to support volunteer system
- Better organize historic groups to better promote our sites
- Encourage public interest
- Better educate about local history
- Need to pass the torch to younger generation

Philipsburg Area Public Meeting

What are the top issues facing your family or business:

- Employment
- AMD
- Centralized Police Force
- Consolidation of EMS
- Educate Public officials
- Public participation
- Lack of communication

What types of development would you want or NOT want for your communities:

Would Change:

- Bedroom Community
- Coal mining (now)

Would NOT:

- No comments

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Philipsburg Area Public Meeting

What would you change or NOT change about Clearfield County:

Would Change:

- Lack of advertising our County
- AMD
- Change abandoned Strip mine (Our image)
- Bigger program for recycling

Would NOT Change:

- Location
- Resources

Views on how to improve our Housing infrastructure:

- More incentives for Home Improvement

Views on how to improve our Social Service Programs:

- More use of ATA services
- More education of ATA services

Views on how to improve our Healthcare system:

- Costs
- Lack of activities / Shopping for Physician wives

Views on how to improve our Economic Development efforts:

- More focus on entire county by economic development officials
- Have our county economic official mirror successful programs in other counties
- Invest in coal loading facilities

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Philipsburg Area Public Meeting

Views on how to improve our Transportation network:

- Corridor O
- Better access to airport off 322 or Rt. 53
- Accessing future rail needs
- Keep gas tax local
- Fixing deteriorating bridges

Views on how to improve our Education system:

- Consolidation of school districts
- More one on one – Teacher / Student (smaller class rooms)
- One basic plan for schools to save money on architecture
- Tax payers need more say (they need to stand up and attend meetings)
- More structured vacation time for students

Views on how to best utilize, sustain or remediate/prevent deterioration of our Natural Resources:

- Protect our water supply / River
- Increase more activities on river
- Better enforcement against pollution all over
- Post violators names in newspaper
- Junk cars, garbage (more enforcement)

Views on how to best preserve and enhance our Historical/Cultural Resources:

- Advertise more of our assets
- Web based driving tours
- Capture more Native American Culture

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Mahaffey Area Public Meeting

Top Issues Facing your Family or Business:

- Economic opportunity
- Family sustaining income
- Affordable healthcare
- More competition in healthcare
- High insurance costs for physicians (driving them out of the field)
- Better prescription drug plans
- Frivolous litigation
- Better roads / bridges
- Lack of community participation
- Flooding due to debris (Kratzer Run creek in Grampian Boro) red tape makes it difficult to fix

Types of development you would want or NOT want in your communities:

Want

- More sewer capacity for development
- Jobs
- Changes in attitudes
- Senior citizen center / community building
- Activities for seniors and youth
- Better parking (especially downtown Clearfield)
- Infrastructure

Not Want

- Adult businesses
- Gambling
- NIMBY – ISM (not in my back yard)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Mahaffey Area Public Meeting

What would you change or NOT change about Clearfield County:

Would change

- Relocate location of county seat
- “KGB of Clearfield “ (need to get others involved who won’t stop growth)
- Reclaim old strip mines more quickly
- Don’t want to be a dumping ground for other states trash
- Too many people on welfare

Would NOT change

- Natural resources (need to be sustainably used) e.g. Timber

Views on how to improve our Housing infrastructure:

- Update and reuse older structures before they get too bad (more cost effective than building new)
- Better public education about statewide building code
- One size fits all doesn’t work everywhere (i.e. building code) too much red tape
- No incentives exist to fix up homes
- Too many absentee landlords
- High attorney costs > hard for municipalities to adopt new ordinances
- No enforcement of municipal ordinances

Views on how to improve our Social Service Programs:

- Senior centers needed
- Programs / activities for youth
- Tighter controls on drug rehabilitation programs
- Better information to public on social services (what’s available where located, etc...)
- Methadone clinics merely replace one drug additions with another
- Accidents due to methadone clinic clients
- No help available for some folks because they earn too much, but not enough to provide for themselves
- Generation after generation on welfare
- Programs we have were created by political pressure

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Mahaffey Area Public Meeting

Views on how to improve our Healthcare System:

- High cost of insurance (especially for self employed)
- High prescription drug costs
- Frivolous lawsuits > need to put pressure on legislators to address this problem
- HIPPA laws unnecessarily complicated
- Will facilities / doctors remain adequate?
- Lack of volunteers for fire companies, EMS, etc.

Views on how to improve our Economic Development efforts:

- Continental One (US 219); consider alternate routes for it (e.g. Slightly east might be better)
- Need major North – South route for county
- Need innovators, need to think outside the box
- Balance between development and quality of life
- Improve existing roads and bridges
- Promote local tourism assets
- Public water, sewer needed
- Increase tourism (need countywide plan)
- Think of people's purchasing power (it's limited here) and regulation where attracting new businesses
- Need to do something about over regulation

Views on how to improve our Transportation network:

- Better roads and bridges
- Improve public transit (let people decide if it's needed, especially with rising fuel costs)
- Continental One could reduce accidents on 219

Views on how to improve our Education system:

- Improve math and science education/Better writing skills
- Provide better classes for gifted and talented students with special needs
- Need to provide students with real world skills
- Educate parents to break cycle of poverty
- Better testing for kids with special needs (don't want to pigeonhole them)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Mahaffey Area Public Meeting

Views on how to best utilize sustain or remediate / prevent deterioration of our Natural Resources:

- Sustainable timber industry; select cuts (opportunities with hardwoods)
- Safer, cleaner extraction of coal
- Protect the land for its aesthetic value as well as for resource extraction
- Encourage farming
- Need to keep natural gas here instead of shipping it out (need adequate infrastructure to provide service in our area)... But drilling of natural gas wells is causing environmental harm
- Take advantage of available ability of natural gas to attract powdered metal industry

Views on how to best preserve and enhance our Historical / Cultural Resources:

- Better education about local history
- Develop and promote historical tours (walking trails driving tours, etc.)
- Extended rails to trails

Coalport Area Public Meeting

Top Issues facing your family or business:

- Fuel Costs
- Address Flooding issues
- Health care costs (availability of physicians)
- Lack of volunteers (harder to find)
- Membership Participation
- Lack of family restaurants (Lounge / Restaurant)
- Lack of community businesses (bedroom community)
- Lack of local employment with good pay

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Coalport Area Public Meeting

Types of development would you want or NOT want for your communities:

Want

- More infrastructure (mid – low)
- Housing / Residential (mid – low income)
- Develop on Heverly Road / Dillon Road (prison > low to moderate)
- Regional police

Would Not

- Landfill

What would you change or NOT change about Clearfield County:

Change

- Community appearance (junk cars, garbage, etc.)
- Provide more code enforcement
- Regulations preventing cleaning debris out of streams

Not Change

- Recycle Program

Views on how to improve our Housing Infrastructure:

- Water / Sewer
- Lack of maintenance of existing housing
- Roads

Views on How to improve our Social Service Programs:

- More involvement / attendance to senior citizen programs
- Lack of youth activities

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Public Meetings

Coalport Area Public Meeting

Views on how to improve Healthcare system:

- Malpractice Insurance
- More staff (Competent Physicians)
- Longer hours (more for Physicians)
- More EMS staff and volunteer Fire department etc.

Views on how to improve our Economic Development efforts:

- 10 men operations that pay a good wage
- Promote tourism (Rock Run / Prince Gallitzin / Coalport Coal Museum)

Views on how to improve our Transportation network:

- Rails to Trails
- Rural Routes (SR routes)
- Route 53 > Boro (drainage)
- North / South Route
- Completion of 219 from Caroltown to Dubois
- Take advantage of Coalport location

Views on how to improve our Education system:

- Bring discipline back to schools
- Opportunity to utilize other vo-techs in areas
- Continued education class opportunities (more computer technology classes for adults)
- Teacher accountability
- Loss of educated youth (Brain Drain)

Views on how to best utilize, sustain or remediate / prevent deterioration o four Natural Resources:

- Protecting our water
- Protect our timber (select cut) reforestation
- AMD > Blaine Run / Turner Run
- Coal refuse piles (flooding)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Coalport Area Public Meeting

Views on how to best preserve and enhance our Historical / Cultural Resources:

- Sokol (origination of Eastern European)
- SOI (Sons of Italy)
- Funding for rehabilitation of Historical buildings
- Volunteers

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Natural Resources

Eighteen stakeholders representing various aspects of the natural resources sector were in attendance at the first roundtable held on September 8, 2005. The purpose of the roundtable was to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the natural resources of Clearfield County. Followed by development of a set of goals and/or objectives, which were voted upon by participants. Each participant voted for the top five goals or objectives that they felt were of the most importance to Clearfield County.

Following is a summary of the results from that first roundtable meeting

Strengths:

- Variety of wildlife
- Headwaters of West Branch Susquehanna, Chesapeake Bay
- Undeveloped river corridors
- Natural gas fields in county, two distribution companies
- Many coal reserves
- Availability of building stone
- Forest resources (e.g. lumber)
- Idle agriculture lands
- Available land for development
- Quehanna Wild area and other unspoiled lands, state forests, etc.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Natural Resources

Strengths (Continued):

- Wetlands, water sheds
- Water supply quality
- Natural Heritage Inventory exists
- Eco-tourism potential
- Abundant hunting/fishing opportunities
- Variety of lake types, different fish types, activities provided
- AMD cleanup progress
- Watershed Associations
- Air quality (not as many problems as in other areas)
- Lots of youth: potential future stewards of land
- Good educational opportunities (PSU, Lock Haven)
- Senior volunteers

Weaknesses

- Not allowing youth to provide input
- AMD, bad water
- Lack of land use management
- Lack resource protection
- Legacy of past resource extraction, (mining, timbering) etc. leads to high walls, dumping
- Aging farmers, not many younger people in farming
- Attitudes of citizenry
- Bureaucracy (leads businesses to leave)
- Noise of traffic (disrupts natural environment) smells, etc.
- No hunting / no trespassing signs
- Inaction by citizens when problems arise
- Lack of wastewater treatment in many areas
- Loss of prime farmland soils

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Natural Resources

Weaknesses (Continued)

- Inadequate infrastructure (roads, gas lines, public sewer and H₂O)
- Lack of education
- Lack of potable water
- Inability to handle increased tourism (restrooms, hunting grounds, trails crowded, etc.)
- Abandoned mine areas attractive to landfill companies
- Lack of stewardship of forest resources (particularly in southern parts of county)
- Lack of statewide strategies for managing natural resources

Opportunities:

- Use AMD water for other purposes (abandoned mine pools for water supply)
- Local agriculture for ethanol plant (Plant derivatives instead of trucked in corn)
- Alternative energy
- Nutrient trading
- Opportunity to use public lands for recreation and forest resources
- Low use – high yield recreation and tourism plan
- Clearfield Creek, Moshannon Creek, Bennetts' Branch, other creeks and tributaries could be cleaned up (tourism, fishing, other recreational uses)
- Dark skies: Need to educate and have better management to make skies darker, reduce light pollution (can increase tourism)
- Can be proactive rather than reactive when preserving natural resources due to current low population / development
- Programs promoting continuation of farming
- Development of ag. Security areas
- Positive development of abandoned mine sites, vacant lands, brownfields (ATV parks, etc.)
- Have plan for vision for protection of forest, agriculture lands
- Education
- County located along western gateway of PA Wilds

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Natural Resources

Threats:

- Erosion from improper land use
- ATV's (why so much land is posted)
- Habitat loss
- Pollution
- Urban sprawl
- Lack of land use planning controls (i.e., zoning, other ordinances)
- Light pollution
- Impacts of development on wetlands, open spaces
- Large amount of open space (can lead to unwanted development)
- Loss of natural resources (many used outside our area) e.g. natural gas, hardwoods, etc.
- Attitude of "econ. Development at any cost"
- Eco-tourism (bringing in people can lead to resource habitat degradation), especially if poorly managed
- Apathy
- Landfills
- Uneducated / irresponsible tourism
- Raise pressure on open lands (like as hunting grounds)
- Lack of cohesive message on natural resources issues

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants)

1. Develop county plan with incentives to attract environmentally – friendly economic development (like using Brownfields, low-impact development, best management practices, previously strip-mined areas, etc. (8 votes)
2. Restore key streams to point of fish recovery (7 votes)
3. Countywide zoning (6 votes)
3. Encourage businesses that are willing to clean up AMD (6 votes)
4. Cohesive message (5 votes)
4. Reduce AMD in county (5 votes)
4. Protect forestlands, farmlands, streams (5 votes)
5. Preserve agriculture Lands for future use / needs (agriculture Security areas) (4 votes)
6. Direct new development towards Brownfields, infill (use existing structures) (3 votes)
6. Increase natural resource conservation (and knowledge of it) (3 votes)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Natural Resources

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants)-Continued

7. Develop countywide standards for responsible tourism development and encourage their use (3 votes)
8. Manage urban development (2 votes)
9. Address current environmental issues like wastewater treatments, flooding, mowing too close to stream banks) may require infrastructure investment, regulations enforcement, education (2 votes)
9. Track and develop alternative energy sources (2 votes)
10. Increase environmental education, develop stewardship opportunities (1 vote)
10. Enhance quality of life (1 vote)
10. Maintain or improve upon state of natural resources in county (prevent further degradation, increase land protection practices) etc. (1 vote)
10. Getting infrastructure out to rural areas (sewer, water), include possibilities for alternative methods (1 vote)
11. Maintain or reduce current light pollution levels (don't get worse) (0 votes)
12. Instill sense of accountability in people (0 votes)
13. Hold businesses accountable for pollution, product life cycle (0 votes)

Participants were invited back to a second roundtable on October 11, 2005 to develop a plan of action on how to implement the top five goals identified at the first roundtable. The second roundtable was not as well attended as the first with only twelve stakeholders participating.

Following is a summary of the results from that second roundtable meeting.

Participants indicated that Goal #4-“Encourage businesses that are willing to clean-up acid mine drainage” really should be an implementation strategy for Goal #1-“ Develop county plan to attract environmentally friendly economic development.” Therefore goal #4 was eliminated and added as an implementation item under goal #1.

1. Goal: County Plan for Environmentally Friendly development “ Businesses that promote a healthy community”

- Develop an inventory of county’s natural resources data
- Work with CCEDC, other agencies to compile data

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Natural Resources

1. Goal: County Plan for Environmentally Friendly development “ Businesses that promote a healthy community” (Continued)

- Identify kinds of jobs / industries county wants to attract (what is “environmentally – friendly”?) low impact, high yield industries
- Focus on eco – tourism
- Need to educate IDA and EDC about viability to tourism industry (need to change leaders mindsets)
- Need to have storm water management plans in place to protect from opportunistic development
- Define incentives that work with state (DEP, etc.) and local agencies (i.e. EDC etc.)
- Work with existing programs that help small businesses
- State (DEP, etc) and local agencies consider requiring businesses to provide matching funds for AMD clean up in exchanged for other incentives

2. Goal: Restore Key Streams

- Identify key streams
 - Get priority lists from watershed groups
 - Apply for funding from state, federal and grant programs
- Work with BAMR on larger cleanups
- Perform assessment projects (first step to receiving grants for clean ups)
- Consider various methods for restoration
- Use existing inventory of key acid mine drainage sites
- Perform smaller clean up projects to show successes and provide sense of hope
- Encourage increased community involvement through education and outreach
- Acknowledge / reward volunteer efforts > remember to use existing programs (e.g. Earth Day, Make a Difference Day, etc.)
- Encourage businesses that are willing to clean up AMD

3. Goal: Countywide Land Use Planning

- Continue efforts to encourage municipal zoning and other land use planning tools (e.g. SALDOs, etc.)
- Compile list of “best use” areas (i.e. places where certain development is wanted / not wanted) based on municipal input
- County to update county land use mapping
- Educate municipalities citizenry about benefits of land use planning, need to be proactive
- Provide example ordinances
- Utilize land choice program through DCNR to educate youth about land and use issues

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Natural Resources

4. Goal: Cohesive Message

- Start with school children and work up
- Need to decide what the county is going to be: develop identity based on municipal and citizen input (others?)

Education/Workforce Development

Fifteen stakeholders representing various aspects of the education/ workforce development sector were in attendance at the first roundtable held on September 1, 2005. The purpose of the roundtable was to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to education and workforce development within Clearfield County. Followed by development of a set of goals and/or objectives, which were voted upon by participants. Each participant voted for the top five goals or objectives that they felt were of the most importance to Clearfield County.

Following is a summary of the results from that first roundtable meeting.

Strengths

- Increasing # of residents earning GED's and/or obtaining higher education despite decreased resources
- More residents see need for additional education
- Large numbers of volunteers
- Training opportunities (higher education institutions, career schools, etc.)
- Early childhood training opportunities
- Large # of regional training centers, courses & opportunities
- Many youth do return after higher education
- Collaboration board (help with funding)
- Close proximity to education institutions
- Cooperation among school districts (rare elsewhere)
- Use of technology in education above average compared to elsewhere

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/ VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Education/Workforce Development

Strengths

- High level of commitment to education (community support)
- Proximity to Interstate 80
- National recognition for school programs
- Proximity to Penn State, a large research university

Weaknesses

- Some people still don't see need for education, but this is changing
- Lack of infrastructure prevents better opportunities (cell service, broadband/WiFi, etc.)
- Brain Drain (loss of educated youth)
- Narrow range of experiences for people creating closed mindedness
- Declining enrollment (affects school funding, expenses-can't always cut back to maximize resources- large schools cost a lot to operate & maintain)
- School funding decreasing as businesses leave area, tax abatements increasing
- High unemployment rate
- Higher paying jobs being replaced by lower paying ones
- Not many private funding sources
- Decreasing in state & federal funding

Opportunities

- Increase collaboration among education institutions
- Dual enrollment options
- Educate people about education opportunities that exist here
- Use weaknesses to obtain state, federal funding (making lemonade out of lemons)
- I-99 technology corridor- Clearfield County should take advantage of this
- Try to bring in additional higher education opportunities/ Take existing programs & expand them
- Increase conversations among education stakeholders (via Collaboration Board)
- Improve dialogue between county & education entities
- Use County elected officials influence to achieve education funding reform
- Show elected officials this area differs from rest of state- help improve understanding of our needs

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Education/Workforce Development

Threats

- Transportation cost increasing
- Increasing cost in general, increasing health care, increasing food, fuel and Their affects on families
- Availability of drugs in our area
- Declining enrollments (when schools die out, jobs are lost and communities often die)
- Not enough new families moving in (ties back to enrollment being down)
- Isolation / Apathy of schools from other development, certain population (seniors)
- Loss of services i.e. medical keep people from moving here
- Loss of good jobs with benefits, family – sustaining wages
- Poor or inadequate transportation infrastructure (affects access to schools, jobs)
- Loss of skilled workers who will replace them

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants)

1. Equalize education funding among our area and rest of state (i.e. rural schools seem to get less \$\$)- would equalize ed. opportunities and lessen local burden of funding schools (11 votes)
2. Bring back good jobs to end brain drain – need to get people to stay (7 votes)
2. Instill in youth, workforce leaders – everyone transferable skills like (7 votes)
 - Flexibility / adaptability
 - Networking / communications
 - Strong work ethic
 - Problem solving skillsNot just job specific skills
3. Get county elected officials to support education, represent our interests (ties into funding equalization) (6 votes)
3. Increase mass transit opportunities (6 votes)
4. Support infrastructure; sewer, water, broadband, etc. (5 votes)
5. Build closer relationship between schools and economic development (4 votes)
6. Look beyond county limits when setting standards (we can do better) (2 votes)
7. Utilize technology for global job opportunities i.e. telecommuting (1 vote)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Education/Workforce Development

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants) (Continued)

7. Increase career awareness at younger ages and among parents (1 vote)
8. Need more mid – level housing (affordable to teachers) to attract workers (0 votes)
9. Increase opportunities for work experience job shadowing (0 votes)

Participants were invited back to a second roundtable on October 5, 2005 to develop a plan of action on how to implement the top five goals identified at the first roundtable. The second roundtable was not as well attended as the first with only ten stakeholders participating.

Following is a summary of the results from that second roundtable meeting. Time was available so participants requested that a new goal , “Emphasis on Early Childhood Education” be expanded upon.

Goal #1 Equalize Education Funding:

- Establish foundation level of funding per student
- Less use of tax-free zones for businesses
- Lobby legislators to educate them about our needs and to get them to represent our interests
- Increase awareness of benefits of a public education (impact on everyone’s quality of life)
- Educate legislators about burden of unfounded mandates
- Develop consistent funding sources
- “Sin tax” on snuff, smokeless tobacco

Goal #2 Bring Good jobs to avoid Brain Drain:

- Less use of tax – free zones
- Improve 219 (with roads come jobs)
- Improve municipal infrastructure (including broadband capacity)
- Develop affordable housing options
- Promote our technology education programs to attract better – paying high – tech jobs
- Establish scholarships for students in computer related fields to attend local colleges
- Community service education programs / projects

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Education/Workforce Development

Goal #3 Instill Life Skills:

- Relate education to students lives (show them how it's relevant)
- Hold career fairs
- Job shadowing, cooperative programs
- Emphasize project – based learning
- Teach more critical thinking skills
- Buddy system: take younger students to school with older students to see what next level is like
- Instill life skills at higher levels (can't assume it's been taught)
- Parents need to be more responsible for their children's education
- Parent Education

Goal #4 Get Local Officials to Support Education:

- Need to have organized approach (present studies to back up demands)
- Hold forum with county and state officials (show them how education ties into their other interests / projects etc.) need to get public politicians and media involved in these meetings
- Hold workshops / meetings / teleconferences on certain education topics

Goal #5 Mass Transit:

- Work with ATA and Dufast to alter schedules based on needs
- Pursue additional funding sources for transportation for after school programs / activities and during school hours

Goal #6 Emphasis on Early Childhood Education:

- Educate community on how elderly child education affects everyone
- Pursue local, state and foundation funding sources
- Offer more in school programs including child care
- Raise professional development opportunities for early child education providers
- Improve transportation options for parents and providers
- Raise public officials awareness of problems related to early education

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Healthcare

Ten stakeholders representing various aspects of the healthcare sector were in attendance at the first roundtable held on September 21, 2005. The purpose of the roundtable was to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to healthcare within Clearfield County. Followed by development of a set of goals and/or objectives, which were voted upon by participants. Each participant voted for the top five goals or objectives that they felt were of the most importance to Clearfield County.

Following is a summary of the results from that first roundtable meeting.

Strengths:

- Several hospitals in county, adequate number of beds
- Adequate nursing facilities
- Susquehanna Rural Free Clinic & free clinic in DuBois
- Lot of people need jobs (health field pays well, good benefits, growth industry)
- Highly competent medical staff in area
- Health education programs in County (LHUP-Clearfield RN Association program, PSU-DuBois RN to BSN program, CCCTC- nurses aid & LPN programs)

Weaknesses:

- Transportation poor (out of county agencies providing service but no in-county providers) especially low income/ uninsured clients
- Inadequate funding for training programs
- Shortage of skilled workers
- Shortage of therapists (physical, occupational, etc.)
- Lack of one-on-one volunteer corps.
- Communication (all levels)
- High low income population, uninsured (lots of folks needing medical assistance) often in 45-64 age cohort, too much income to qualify for medical assistance but not enough to pay for care
- Over-obligated resources (especially disaster response), insufficient coordination (lots of individual plans but no overseer)
- Not well prepared for disaster (e.g. lots of facilities in close proximity)
- Rural location contributes to problems , inefficiencies, high costs
- Difficult to attract physicians to area- shortage of primary care providers

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Healthcare

Weaknesses (Continued):

- Reimbursements inadequate to cover full costs of care
- Low education levels in county (don't understand insurance regs./ benefits, not aware of preventative care, ways to stay healthy, etc.)
- Lack of affordable adequate housing for elderly
- Lots of people don't access healthcare until it's too late
- Insurance medical assistance systems confusing, too complicated for lots of people

Opportunities:

- Encourage legislators to adopt tort reform
- Patient assistance programs (help them fill out forms, make informed decisions, etc.) not a lot of people aware of them
- Become a model for good emergency management
- Capitalize on training, Medicare
- Health care a growth industry-jobs
- Better understand hospital situations and better coordinate services (networking)
- Collaboration at all levels /Work together to improve patient outcomes
- Streamline programs/ agencies to eliminate redundancy
- County's State Dept. of Health could serve as coordinator for health disaster response. (e.g. last year's flu vaccine shortage)
- Improve transportation for rural areas
- Availability of experts (county more fortunate than other rural areas)
- Attract & retain higher caliber of workforce
- Increase training opportunities

Threats:

- Public officials unaware how large a role healthcare plays in economic development
- Lack of plans for natural/man-made disasters
- Changes to Medicare & Medicaid
- Increasing costs, especially energy leads to isolation
- Increasing elderly population
- Lack of physicians accepting medical assistance
- Not enough people going into & staying in the healthcare field (lack of stability- who will replace the retirees?)
- Litigation- increasing costs drives some physicians out

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Healthcare

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants)

1. Better coordination of all healthcare providers (7 votes)
2. Empower county to coordinate EMS, hospitals, and other agencies for emergency response (6 votes)
3. Develop alternative programs, pilot / demonstration projects etc.- like adult day care- need to take some risks and think outside the box (5 votes)
4. Develop better transportation for clients in need of it (4 votes)
5. Provide assistance to access healthcare (transportation, assistance filling out medical forms, provide education etc.) (4 votes)
6. Increase pool of skilled health care workers (4 votes)
7. Increase political capital of healthcare industry (3 votes)
8. Develop booklet regarding information on healthcare resources (1 vote)
9. Educate and inform legislators about healthcare issues (0 votes)
10. Provided healthcare education especially those isolated individuals (0 votes)
11. Think globally (don't be constrained by county boundaries) (0 votes)

Participants were invited back to a second roundtable on October 19, 2005 to develop a plan of action on how to implement the top five goals identified at the first roundtable. The second roundtable was not as well attended as the first with only seven stakeholders participating.

Following is a summary of the results from that second roundtable meeting.

1. Goal: Better coordination of providers:

- Regular meetings to network, share ideas (i.e. roundtables) find out what others are planning, etc.
County or Department of Health could host ideas
Would need well – defined purpose to encourage attendance
- Develop team to examine issues common to providers
- Eliminate redundancy
- Smaller, regional meetings to identify issues then send reps to larger county wide meeting

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Healthcare

2. Goal: Empower county to coordinate emergency response:

- Commonwealth system of government doesn't really allow County to coordinate emergency response
- Improve communication among EMA's, hospitals, care facilities, etc.
- Need to obtain written agreements for services in an emergency
- Local EMAs' need to work better with county EMA (attend training, etc.)
- More money for local EMA coordinators
- Change in attitudes at local level to affect system changes at higher levels
- Develop accreditation system for local EMA's

3. Goal: Develop alternative Programs:

- Work with CCAAA to find what resources are available
- Need someone to identify funding opportunities
- Programs to educate family members, etc. about how to care for elderly, those with medical problems, etc. since money is not always available for care
- Cooperation between healthcare providers and social services agencies needed (work with county collaboration board, Health and Human Services Council)
- Get collaboration board to focus more on health issues

Participants were unable to discuss goals #4 & #5 due to lack of time, but were encouraged to forward any feedback to the County Planning Office.

Housing/Social Services

Twenty-four stakeholders representing various aspects of the housing/social service sector were in attendance at the first roundtable held on August 23, 2005. The purpose of the roundtable was to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to housing and social services within Clearfield County followed by development of a set of goals and/or objectives which were voted upon by participants. Each participant voted for the top five goals or objectives that they felt were of the most importance to Clearfield County.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Housing/ Social Services

Following is a summary of the results from that first roundtable meeting.

Strengths

- Computer database of (Info link) resource agencies
- 7 senior centers, education Programs
- 2 free medical clinics; DuBois & Frenchville
- Health & Human Services Council; Non profit
- Housing Loan Programs
- Clearfield county collaboration board
- Homeless shelters
- Housing task force
- Shelter & care grant program
- Child care programs, subsidies, mental health, for children
- Law enforcement co-operation
- Abundant senior housing choices
- Affordable housing, vouchers
- Abundance of social service programs
- Elderly transportation – Handicap

Weaknesses

- Lack of transportation for non elderly or handicapped high cost of transport
- Low cost housing / lots of services bring in problems from elsewhere
- Families requiring services locate here
- Large distances between people and services
- High gas prices make outreach difficult
- Tight budgets (need to do more with less)
- Lack of funding
- Lack of transitional mental health care
- Emergency funds for people who've exhausted other options

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Housing/ Social Services

Weaknesses (Continued)

- Lack of accessible housing for people with disabilities
- Increase in serious crimes (many drug – related)
- Low average incomes
- High poverty rates (especially children)
- High unemployment
- Lack of job opportunities (especially for disabled)
- Homeless, unsafe housing
- Difficulty accessing services

Opportunities

- Info link to become web-based (24/7 access)
- ATA currently underutilized
- Homeless survey to identify needs (September)
- Can involve county in collaboration efforts promotion
- Could better centralize information on services
- PSU – DuBois provides, pool of social workers
- LHUP – Clearfield, PSU – DuBois (opportunities for higher education)
- Information – sharing between agencies
- Furniture store – reuses old furniture, provides work skills for inmate labor, proceeds go to homeless shelter
- Payroll deductions for donations (i.e.; united way)
- Federal funding available (particularly for law enforcement)

Threats

- Funding cuts, decreased donations
- Need to keep higher – income people in county
- Rising healthcare costs
- Rising energy costs
- Increasing crime

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Housing/ Social Services

Threats (Continued)

- Drug use, trafficking, other issues
- Proximity to I-80 brings problems
- Youth peer pressure
- Loss of school resource officer funding

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants)

Note: Participants combined several goals together since it seemed that they were interconnected with one another.

1. a. Economic resources needed to raise opportunity
b. Find ways to keep people here / draw new people to county
c. Develop & promote county's amenities; low cost, low crime, recreation & tourism, quality of life etc.
d. Living wage jobs
e. Encourage development of variety of housing options (41 votes for a-e)
2. a. Bridge gap in services
b. Centralized intake (17 votes for a-b)
3. Identify & prevent root problems (13 votes)
4. Need to be inclusive of smaller communities (9 votes)
5. Educate public about need for variety of housing options (4 votes)
6. Promote & protect assets (2 votes)
7. Promote municipal cooperation (1 vote)
7. Need more low income, non-elderly housing (1 vote)
7. Inter – agency collaboration on grant applications (0 votes)

Participants were invited back to a second roundtable on September 26, 2005 to develop a plan of action on how to implement the top five goals identified at the first roundtable. The second roundtable was not as well attended as the first with only ten stakeholders participating.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Housing/ Social Services

Following is a summary of the results from that second roundtable meeting.

Goal #1 Economics

- Marketing plan to attract young retirees, but careful not to displace workforce (look to Centre County's experience)
- Develop plan to market our resources, amenities
- County needs to take more aggressive role in marketing PA Wilds with state
- Educate youth about career option in this area, need for skilled workers
- Encourage economic development agencies / organizations to recognize the viability of tourism industry in our area. Need a Plan to develop this industry
- Work with North Central and economic development agencies to do this (need more cooperation and to work together as a team)
- Work more with legislators
- Enhance and expand existing efforts to educate youth about career opportunities (need to involve PSU – Dubois, LHUP – Clearfield and local legislators)
- Need to improve our infrastructure before marketing anything
- Encourage inter – municipal / inter – agency cooperation on recreational grants opportunities / facilities, etc.

Goal #2 Bridge Gap in Services/Centralized Intake

- Advocate for state to develop statewide 211 system for information and referral
- Lobby as a group to state and national legislators for increased funding

Goal #3 Identify & Prevent Root Problems

- Encourage and promote employers to participate in work – coop program
- Work with existing programs like the one at Career Link
- Educate employers about how to get involved, benefits of getting involved

Goal #4 Need to be Inclusive of Smaller Communities

- Encourage inter – municipal cooperation, like COG
- Initiate an education tool, training program for local officials

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Housing/ Social Services

Goal #5 Encourage & Educate on Need for Development of a Variety of Options:

- Utilize fair housing tool kit from PA Housing Alliance to educate people about fair housing needs, value of varied housing options
- Form an affordable housing coalition (use Centre County's as example)
- Establish a County wide redevelopment authority

Economic Development/Transportation

Eighteen stakeholders representing various aspects of the economic development/ transportation sector were in attendance at the first roundtable held on September 21, 2005. The purpose of the roundtable was to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to economic development and transportation within Clearfield County. Followed by development of a set of goals and/or objectives, which were voted upon by participants. Each participant voted for the top five goals or objectives that they felt were of the most importance to Clearfield County.

Following is a summary of the results from that first roundtable meeting.

Strengths

- Interstate 80 with 6 exits
- Airports (foreign trade zone)
- Existing Transportation Network
- Reliable & available workforce
- Two short rail lines
- Available land and natural resources
- Health & I.T. (DRMC/Lock Haven University/Penn State)
- Tourism & recreational activities (PA Wilds initiative)
- Attractive to retirees (tax friendly)
- Intermodal facilities
- Location (proximity to major markets)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Economic Development/Transportation

Weaknesses

- Lack of participation in educational activities by workforce
- Abandoned mine drainage
- Lack of articulation among educational facilities
- No community college
- No research & development facilities
- No good north-south highway
- Lack of infrastructure near developable areas
- Regulations (DEP/Federal)
- Limited land use planning
- Too many municipalities not working together (collaborative agreements)
- Need for waste disposal facilities (preferably waste to energy)
- Need for interconnectivity with rail lines
- Inconsistent land uses along rail corridors

Opportunities

- PA Wilds
- Growing Greener funds
- Take advantage of natural resources (coal)
- Opportunities for counties to participate in prioritization of transportation projects
- Alternative fuel development (including use of wastes from agriculture, forestry & mining industries)
- Production of remediation materials from waste to energy projects
- Limited opportunity of time for educators to come together to work cooperatively
- County to take more active role
- Tax breaks (KOZ/KIZ)
- Bring new residents into County (immigrants/diversity)
- Market our way of life
- Opportunity to attract retirees & retain existing ones

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Economic Development/Transportation

Threats

- Regulations holding up projects (State & Federal)
- Bridge infrastructure deteriorating (regulations affecting increase in costs)
- Price of energy
- Potential loss of commercial airline service
- Tolling interstates
- Funding not keeping up with inflation
- Taxes (archaic structure)
- Healthcare costs
- Continental Divide (affecting water supply/SRBC)

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants)

1. Connect B&P railroad with R.J. Corman Railroad (14 votes)
2. Develop better north-south highway (13 votes)
3. Increase participation in educational opportunities (12 votes)
4. Streamline infrastructure, smart infrastructure planning/identify growth areas (11 votes)
5. Develop ways for streamlining project delivery (8 votes)
6. Increase recreational/tourism opportunities (6 votes)
7. Develop recreation & tourism plan (3 votes)
8. Develop marketing plan for attracting retirees (2 votes)
9. Increase availability & affordability of broadband services (1 vote)
10. Increase cultural activities (0 votes)

Participants were invited back to a second roundtable on October 3, 2005 to develop a plan of action on how to implement the top five goals identified at the first roundtable. The second roundtable was not as well attended as the first with only seven stakeholders participating.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Economic Development/Transportation

Following is a summary of the results from that second roundtable meeting.

Goal #1 Connect B&P Railroad with R.J. Corman Railroad

- R.J. Corman and B&P Railroads to sit down at the table and lay out feasibility plan to connect both rail lines

Goal #2 Develop Better North-South Highway

- Support Projects that enhance 219 and other north-south routes

Goal #3 Increase Participation in Educational Opportunities

- Basic life skills need to be taught in High School such as work ethic, balancing a checkbook, socialization skills
- Bring career opportunity presentations to the classrooms at an early age

Goal #4 Streamline Infrastructure, Smart Infrastructure Planning/ Identify Growth Areas

- Develop economically competitive package, i.e. don't price yourself out of business

Goal #5 Develop Ways for Streamlining Project Delivery

- Support linking of transportation and NEPA
- Faster response time from review agencies
- Limited unnecessary paperwork
- Agency cooperation

Recreation & Tourism

Twenty stakeholders representing various aspects of the recreation and tourism sector were in attendance at the first roundtable held on September 21, 2005. The purpose of the roundtable was to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to recreation and tourism within Clearfield County. This was followed by development of a set of goals and/or objectives that were voted upon by participants. Each participant voted for the top five goals or objectives that they felt were of the most importance to Clearfield County.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Recreation & Tourism

Following is a summary of the results from that first roundtable meeting.

Strengths:

- I - 80 (5 exits in County) 30,000 cars / day
- Idle land
- Gateway to PA Wilds
- 4 State parks, 2 public recreational areas, State forest
- Game lands, numerous hunting seasons
- 4 seasons recreational activities for all seasons
- Susquehanna River, H2O resources
- 3 Large sporting goods, hunting retail stores (among largest in State)
- One of largest county fairs in State
- Hunting and fishing opportunities
- Long distance hiking trail and easy access to trail head
- Lodging (200 rooms, 800 campsites)
- Rails – to – trails
- More than 150 dining establishments
- 6 museums
- Elk herd, viewing opportunities
- Major transportation corridors
- Location near center of PA
- X-C skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing
- Railroads
- Accessible healthcare
- Diverse land uses, historic and cultural resources
- Best scenery in country, lots of back roads to get to it
- McGee's Mills, Bloody Knox, Knobs Tower, etc.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Recreation & Tourism

Strengths (Continued):

- S.B. Elliot historic district
- Friendly receptive people
- Variety of things to see and do
- Festivals, picnics
- Highest elevation East of Mississippi (I - 80)
- In top 5 of State for deer, bear hunting
- Bird watching opportunities
- Denny's Big Burger
- 130,000 plus acres open public lands
- County has own tourism – promotion entity
- Quehanna Wild Area
- Fall colors

Weaknesses:

- No public four wheeler trails
- Lots of abandoned mine lands which lead to unfishable streams
- Not enough boat launches along river
- Landfills
- Need better maps of County (hard for non – residents to find their way)
- Previous lack of planning
- Lots of people have never left County (some “backwoods mentality”)
- Low Incomes
- Low education levels, education about area
- Low self esteem
- Loss of businesses, jobs, industrial base
- Lack eco – tourism businesses, outfitters, etc.
- Lack of responsible stewards
- Heavy truck traffic which leads to bad roads, odor, and noise
- Cold weather

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Recreation & Tourism

Weaknesses (Continued):

- Lack of cooperation among various communities
- Stagnation (some don't want or fear change and problems that change could arise)
- County a target for landfills
- Fine line between good and bad tourism

Opportunities:

- Empty building (could be re used) many still newer or good condition
- Marketing through PA Wilds
- Rock Run: ATV park, equestrian, hiking trails, coming soon
- DCED small business grants for tourism
- Low – cost land for future development
- Continually identifying new, unique features
- Festivals, fairs could be promoted (almost continuous throughout year)
- Ability to develop and market assets on a regional level
- Could improve inter- county cooperation
- Need to better develop/manage hunting, parks, etc. (sportsmen spend a lot of \$, PSU football fans stay here for home games that lead to \$)
- 40 million people within 4 hour-drive of here
- Coordinate data from LHR, PA Wilds
- Bring in audubon groups

Threats:

- Landfills
- Not being a “vacation destination”
- Bureaucracy and politics (admin. changes could lose all)
- Competition with adjacent counties
- Selling our open areas for undesirable development

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Recreation & Tourism

Threats (Continued):

- More land being posted (losing hunting grounds)
- Invasive species (our natural assets are vulnerable – could lose their draw, business)
- Abuse of land by users
- Lack of education about natural resources
- Poor planning leads to overuse (need responsible development, tourism) “Tourism gone wild”
- Loss of dark skies (sky watchers have lots of \$ could lose them)
- Uncertain weather (some activities highly dependent on certain conditions)
- Lack of diverse activities to compensate for weather – dependent activities
- Poor attitudes towards resources by some deter other from coming here
- Some people don’t want growth, change
- Vandalism, crime
- Poor economy

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants)

1. Develop better information about area activities and alternative activities for tourists – develop guide (12 votes)
2. Build County tourist info/visitor center promote area activities (10 votes)
3. Foster public – private partnerships (9 votes)
3. Develop resource protection strategies to protect those things that attract people to our area (9 votes)
4. Develop programming geared towards drawing eco-tourists to County (i.e.: Audubon birding competition, stargazing party, geocaching, etc. (8 votes)
5. Educate tourism – related businesses about the importance of cooperation (“Find the Magic”!) (7 votes)
6. Foster cooperation among governmental agencies (need to have cohesive msg.) (6 votes)
7. Develop responsible eco – tourism businesses (4 votes)
7. Increase community pride (4 votes)
7. Set up mechanism to provide resources, training and tech. assistance to those developing events/attractions (4 votes)
8. Solicit youth input, develop leadership, participation of youth (3)
8. Work with municipal rec. groups to assist and coordinate resources (3)
9. Add educational components to area recreational activities (2 votes)
10. Develop personal guide service (1)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Recreation & Tourism

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants) (Continued)

10. Clean up AMD and protect and restore waters (will enhance recreation, fishing in southern parts of County) (1)
10. Develop marketing plan to educate about financial impact of natural resources (1 vote)
11. Restore Ag. Edu. natural resource programs in schools (0 votes)
12. Publicize industry-related tours (0 votes)

Participants were invited back to a second roundtable on October 14, 2005 to develop a plan of action on how to implement the top five goals identified at the first roundtable. The second roundtable was not as well attended as the first with only eight stakeholders participating.

Following is a summary of the results from that second roundtable meeting.

1. Goal: Develop Better Information:

- Educate event organizers attraction owners, etc. about need to provide good information in a timely fashion
 - Mail requests for information to municipalities
 - Include tear-off sheet in existing pubs to make it easier to submit information
- Enhance existing information available on CCRT web
- Source of funds: hotel tax and ad. revenue
- Include good map of area's roads

2. Goal: Build Visitor Center:

- See if visitor center at SB. Elliot is sufficient to meet area's needs before duplicating efforts
- Convention center might be more appropriate
 - Conduct feasibility study (CCEDC, Chamber of Commerce should be involved in conducting study)
 - Consider improving existing facilities to meet this need (e.g. fairgrounds)

3. Goal: Foster Public – Private Partnership

- Encourage businesses, private groups to foster public events/attractions (need to help each other)
- Tap into private foundation money

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Recreation & Tourism

3. Goal: Foster Public – Private Partnership (Continued)

- Identify potential partnership opportunities (e.g. lumber heritage, Pa. Wilds, education groups, outside advocacy groups, trail/watershed associations, etc.)
- Work with small business center at Clarion University to work with volunteer groups
 - Teach them skills to get the job done (business mentoring)
 - Work with SCORE

4. Goal: Develop Resource Protection Strategies

- Education about littering, pollution (instill respect for environment)
- Develop more high quality attractions
- Work with State resource management/protection plans (e.g. DCNR park plans, etc.)
- Use “Making Wise Choices” curriculum from DCNR for students
- Encourage local land use planning
 - Research and find models of good development vs. bad development “horror stories”
- DCNR offered training
- DCNR video

5. Goal: Develop Eco-Tourism

- Use recreational circuit–rider program
- Identify tourism opportunities to market County to these groups
- Carefully select the people reaching out on behalf of County (need to know the jargon to speak with certain groups)
- Explore attractions:
 - Unique bird areas – Audubon Society, Millersburg
 - Fossils, rocks, watershed groups, Native American experts, fireflies, glow worms, etc.
 - Geocaching
 - Others???
 - Moravian trail

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Historic & Cultural Resources

Thirteen stakeholders representing various aspects of the historic and cultural sector were in attendance at the first roundtable held on September 21, 2005. The purpose of the roundtable was to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to historic and cultural within Clearfield County. This was followed by development of a set of goals and/or objectives that were voted upon by participants. Each participant voted for the top five goals or objectives that they felt were of the most importance to Clearfield County.

Following is a summary of the results from that first roundtable meeting.

Strengths

- Hunting & fishing
- Bloody Knox (Civil War log cabin)
- Historic buildings open to the public
- Industry-specific (lumber, coal, etc.) heritage
- Access to cultural activities in higher education (PSU-DuBois, LHUP-Clearfield)
- Genealogical libraries
- McGee's Mills covered bridge (only one on Susquehanna)
- Community theatres
- Low cost of living, geographic features attract retirees & their knowledge & talents
- Local artisans, craftspeople
- I-80 (brings in people)
- Number of historical societies
- Having organized planning commission
- Outdoor recreational opportunities (bring people to related historic/cultural sites)
- Itineraries: CCC Route, Elk Scenic Drive, WWII Remembered, WB of Susquehanna Water Trail
- Concerned Citizens
- Work done for Bicentennial (improved signage, education, etc.)
- County's diversity
- New park, canoe launch near Cherry Tree
- West Branch of Susquehanna

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Historic & Cultural Resources

Weaknesses

- Some parts of County lack interested youth (no one to continue programs)
- Time & money issues lead to fewer volunteers
- Apathy
- “Inferiority complex” (many feel our area can’t compete w/places like State College)
- Lack of communication
- Lack of awareness of our assets
- Losing our storytellers
- Handicapped accessibility lacking in many places
- Few people know how to “play the game” finding funding difficult
- Brain drain
- Poor economy, low incomes, unemployment, people lack money to spend on us
- Lack of appreciation for value of the assets of the County (selling ourselves short)
- TV: distracts people from other activities
- Barriers created by bureaucracy
- Grant processes cumbersome (often “not worth it”)
- Many organizations don’t have 501(c)(3) status

Opportunities

- Tap into DCED funding for genealogical libraries
- Develop more opportunities related to covered bridge
- Make more use of hotel tax funds
- Encourage Eagle Scout/school projects related to history/culture
- Glendale Schools create/host free websites; make more use of this service
- Utilize youth/schools more
- Take advantage of media
- PHMC funding
- PA Humanities Council funding
- Find way to become 501(c)(3) organizations; benefits of being incorporated

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Historic & Cultural Resources

Opportunities (Continued)

- PennDOT signage (use more) funding programs for signs
- Include local history in school curriculum, field trips, etc.
- Leverage group assets, cooperation
- Lumber Heritage Region funding
- This region has the Governor's attention (money may now be available)
- SB Elliot (gateway to our area)

Threats

- Economic downturn lead to loss of funding
- Historic places deteriorating, not fireproof'
- Artifacts irreplaceable
- Many organizations don't own their office/museum spaces (ownership issues)
- Inter-organization cooperation feared to lead to loss of individual identity
- Undesirable economic development could erode area's value as destination
- Vandalism, burglaries
- Antique vs. historical value of items
- High maintenance costs
- Missing out on funding opportunities by not following through
- Storytellers dying before getting their stories

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants)

1.
 - a. Identify more funding sources
 - b. Increase funding
 - c. Leverage county funding expertise
 - d. Increase number of grant writers (County employee?) (total votes = 10 votes)
2. Get local history in schools (go to school boards to show them what we have to offer) & word out to public (7 votes)
3.
 - a. Increase communications among historical societies, museums, etc.
 - b. Communication, collaboration, cooperation, & coordination
 - c. Promote cooperative effort among historical societies (total votes = 5)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Historic & Cultural Resources

GOALS (in order of priority as voted on by roundtable participants) (Continued)

3. County award program – recognize restoration efforts, businesses, citizens involved in historical/cultural activities etc. (5 votes)
3. Countywide grant website (info. on public, private funding sources) (5 votes)
4. Identify signage needs & address this issue (4 votes)
5. Take advantage of regional opportunities (3 votes)
5. Identify & move forward on projects (3 votes)
6. Increase preservation of artifacts, digitizing documents, photos (2 votes)
6. Parking lot at Bloody Knox (2 votes)
6. Encourage asking questions, talking with our elders (great source of history) storytellers- collect info. (2 votes)
7. Identify & develop Native American heritage (1 vote)
7. Plan & exploit media better (1 vote)
8. Use banks & post offices for historical/cultural displays (0 votes)
9. Promote building security/safety (protect assets) (0 votes)
10. Increase attendance at historical/cultural facilities (0 votes)
11. Increase participation in historic/cultural activities (0 votes)
12. Make all County's museums ADA compliant (handicap accessible) (0 votes)
13. Come up with program to attract former residents back to area (0 votes)

Participants were invited back to a second roundtable on October 12, 2005 to develop a plan of action on how to implement the top five goals identified at the first roundtable. The second roundtable was not as well attended as the first with only six stakeholders participating.

Following is a summary of the results from that second roundtable meeting.

1. Goal: Funding – Identify & Increase

- Solicit private donations > establish endowments (County could provide seed money for fund use), use centralized web site to promote
- County or Glendale Schools program could host website, links to local organizations, forms, funding opportunities, etc.
- County should hire grant writer/educator to help other apply for grants
- Need to tap businesses (e.g. Wal-Mart, etc.) as source of funds for projects

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Historic & Cultural Resources

2. Goal: Education / Outreach

- Start with superintendents: offer guest speakers, other classroom resources
- Promote local attractions hours for field trips for schools, scouts, churches, other organizations
- Centralized website to serve as clearinghouse for info., include links to local news
- Develop inventory for local historical/cultural sites/tours, etc. Could work with CCRTA to develop fund
- Improve signage of sites, advertising signs PennDOT provides some money for signs
- Work with colleges to promote recreational opportunities for students, but also ability to host outdoor education courses
- Investigate opportunities to promote our area in outside publications (at regional or national level) wider reach Hooked on the Outdoors, West Sylvania Magazine, Small Town Life, Pennsylvania Magazine, etc. Find national historical magazine to advertise in
- Encourage PA University system history departments to focus on classes/projects in our area
- National marketing (website would help)

3. Goal: Communication / Collaboration/ Cooperation/ Coordination

- Hold regular (yearly/bi-yearly, etc.) meetings of organizations to network, plan together include guest speakers, classes, dinner, etc.
- Develop cooperative “rack card” advertising area’s attractions
- Encourage historical societies, cultural organization to be more outward looking (not so internally–focused), increase number of cooperative ventures to get people to think more regionally
- Create Countywide historical cultural organization to act as umbrella organization for local groups
- Investigate existence of craft/artist guilds and inventory them

4. Goal: Recognition- award program

- Raise funds to give monetary awards (money better incentive/reward than plaque)
- County commitment to funding grants
- Work with Progress, other local media to focus on historic/cultural stories highlighting areas, attractions, organizations, industries, etc.
- Need leadership to help make things happen
- Investigate State “circuit–rider” programs that may be able to help

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Stakeholder Participation

Historic & Cultural Resources

5. Goal: Identify, Move forward on Projects

- Inventory historic sites, cultural organizations
- Investigate and inventory local crafts/artist guilds
- Work on pulling historical societies together to identify and to work on joint projects
- Funding library/clearinghouse/online or other
- Work with Lingle on Native American Museum information
- Identify signage needs, cost and funds to pay for it, get a newcomer to drive around and try to find things to identify signage needs
- Work with Quehanna Industrial Development Corp.
- Include projects previously identified in goals
- More boat launches on river

Youth Participation

Clearfield County public school districts were sent invitations on September 22, 2005 asking for their students' participation in developing the future vision for the County's Comprehensive Plan. The County Planning office offered to come to the schools and facilitate a session designed to solicit input from the youth. Only one of the school districts chose to participate—the DuBois Area School District. The District provided the class officers for grades 9-12 to participate for the duration of one school period, which lasted approximately one hour. Students were asked a series of seven questions and the results are summarized below.

The same concerns that we heard from the adults were also shared by the students. At the end of the session, students were asked if they planned on staying in the area after graduation. The majority did not plan to stay mainly because they felt that there were more opportunities for them elsewhere, though some commented that they would want to come back to raise a family.

What do you like or NOT like about living here:

LIKE

- Volunteer opportunities
- Feel safe here
- Snow
- Lots of places to eat

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Youth Participation

Youth Participation

What do you like or NOT like about living here:

LIKE (Continued)

- Lots of Dollar stores
- Not too urban, not too rural
- Close knit
- Biggest place between Erie and Pittsburgh

NOT LIKE

- Not enough things to do
- Poor publicity (kids don't know what's going on)
- Not enough news coverage of student events
- Low education levels
- Not enough industry
- No job opportunities
- Too cold
- Lack of ski area/other tourist attractions
- Too many Dollar stores

What are the issues affecting you, your classmates, or family?

- Jobs
- Gas prices
- Financial aid for college
- Hard for people with problems to find affordable help
- Drugs
- Lots of prejudiced people (not always black – white, but socio – economic too)

Do you want to stay here after graduating?

If so, why? If not, why?

STAY

- Family
- Safe environment

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Youth Participation

Youth Participation

Do you want to stay here after graduating?

If so, why? If not, why?

STAY (Continued)

- Good place to raise kids
- Hometown ties
- Hunting and fishing

NOT STAY

- Want to experience rest of world
- Better schools elsewhere (bigger, more opportunities)
- Too cold
- Few job opportunities
- Not enough money
- Too small
- Suburbs instead or rural
- Better paying jobs in cities, but can get rural like in suburbs
- Hard to succeed here

Are you being encouraged to stay or leave this area after graduating?

- Parents want what's best for us, this is often to leave
- Need to bring more people here that leads to better jobs, workers
- Willing to do whatever he/she wants me to do (whether stay or go)

What would you like adults to do, or what would you do if you were in our shoes to make your community a better place to live?

- More parental involvement
- Few places for kids NOT to get in trouble that leads to needing more activities
- Need more positive encouragement/influences for kids
- Hard for families to survive financially
- Start in high school: need to get folks to see bright future for themselves, need to not shelter kids so much

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Youth Participation

Youth Participation

What would you like adults to do, or what would you do if you were in our shoes to make your community a better place to live?

(Continued)

- Some parents push kids too much (sports, school, etc.) parents often live through kids
- More church involvement needed
- Parents need to be parents not always friends (more discipline) need more middle ground
- Some parents too overprotective (don't let kids experience life)
- Too many missed opportunities
- Because from small area, not always encouraged to pursue dreams

Do you feel like job opportunities are plentiful and interesting enough in the area or do you feel like you haven't been presented with enough information to know what's available:

- Lack of information on jobs available
- Need more alternatives: seems like teaching and health care are all you can do
- Too much over priced housing compared to what you earn
- Note getting to see enough at business/job fairs, other activities
- Lots of good jobs leaving

Do you feel youth (i.e., those under the age of 18) should be given more of a voice in local decisions or do you think it is sometimes best left to adults?

- Anything with schools (clubs, schedules, etc.)
- Kids do have a say in their schools
- Most kids probably don't want to get more involved

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Vision Statements

COUNTY VISION FOR FUTURE

Vision Statements

1. Clearfield County is recognized across the country for its abundant natural, recreational, and historical resources.
2. Clearfield County has learned to foster economic development that compliments these natural assets.
3. Clearfield County has learned from past mistakes and treasures its resources, protecting them from pollution and destruction; fostering industries that sustain such resources.
4. Clearfield County's youth are staying and are employed locally making family sustaining wages.
5. Local, County, Regional, and State governments and agencies are working together cooperatively, effectively, and efficiently.
6. Clearfield County, although growing and thriving, still maintains its unique rural character and small town atmosphere.
7. Downtowns are revitalized and abuzz with activities.
8. A high yield-low impact tourism industry is flourishing.
9. Affordable and abundant housing opportunities are widely available.
10. Streams once polluted by acid mine drainage are remediated and are now thriving habitats for fish, invertebrates, and plant species.
11. Recreational opportunities abound and residents are taking advantage of these assets and living healthier lifestyles.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Vision Statements

COUNTY VISION FOR FUTURE

Vision Statements (Continued)

12. Residents are walking and biking more and using more mass transit.
13. Local municipalities understand the benefits of protecting their assets and have sound land use planning documents and implementation ordinances in place.
14. Residents and businesses understand the importance of education and are utilizing local educational institutions on a regular basis.
15. Residents are living longer and healthier lives thanks to increased knowledge of how to prevent illnesses, easy access to affordable healthcare, along with the availability of affordable prescription plans.
16. Residents take great pride in the appearance of their communities and properties.
17. Industries, which are compatible to the vision of the County, thrive while unwanted incompatible ones are no longer a threat since provisions have been implemented by local governments to discourage them.
18. Youth are taught local history and carry this rich history forward to future generations.
19. Residents are more open-minded accepting of others regardless of race, religion, or socio-economic status.
20. Youth are raised to feel a sense of community support and encouragement to succeed academically.
21. Crime and substance abuse is at an all time low.
22. Renewable energy sources are both widely produced and utilized within the County.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Vision Statements

COUNTY VISION FOR FUTURE

Vision Statements (Continued)

23. County infrastructure such as water, sewer, roads, and bridges are in excellent shape and long-term maintenance plans are being utilized to maintain these conditions.
24. Municipal tax bases are strong due to the thriving economy, and municipalities can afford to provide above average services to their residents.
25. County residents have access to safe and adequate drinking water supplies.
26. Affordable and safe sewage facilities are available to every occupied structure in the County.
27. Residents and businesses, which recognize the value in maintaining historical structures, have restored many historical structures throughout the County.
28. Abandoned properties such as industrial brownfields are remediated and being beneficially reused.
29. Cultural resources and activities, which are valued by residents, are abundant.
30. Existing as well as newly created agricultural businesses are taking advantage of agri-tourism and value added related opportunities and have established businesses that produce family sustaining revenues.
31. Entrepreneurs are encouraged and opportunities are available for them to turn their dreams into job generating businesses.
32. Local higher education institutions allow dual enrollments thereby providing additional educational opportunities.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Vision Statements

COUNTY VISION FOR FUTURE

Vision Statements (Continued)

33. School districts, once suffering from declining enrollments, now have full classrooms providing for more financially stable programs.
34. In-migration rates are increasing while out-migration rates remain low due to the attractiveness of the County to young adults and active retirees.
35. Due to our centralized geographic location and many local inter-model opportunities, businesses are choosing to expand and locate in the County.

Desired Development

The following is a listing of the responses the County received when its residents and municipal officials were asked to list the types of development they desired for their communities. This list is meant to be used for informational purposes by local, county, state, & federal decision-makers. It represents the overall vision of the types of development desired by County residents and municipal officials. While this list reflects the overall desires for development, it should be noted that "one size does not fit all" and not all communities may agree on each and every item listed below. It should also be noted that some types of development appear on both the desired development list as well as the undesired development list.

- Tourism promotion – family camping/housing with bed & breakfast, small lodges, hunting, fishing, etc.
- Recreation facilities – positive one, snowmobile/ATV, horseback riding, fishing, hunting
- Industrial development
- Medical related
- Agriculture (family farming)
- Commercial businesses such as powdered metals, industrial park, post office, and college
- Technology related industry

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Desired vs. Undesired Development

Desired Development (Continued)

- Manufacturing
- More businesses – jobs
- Retail business/shopping (such as mini malls)
- Family restaurants
- Wood products and related industries
- A bank
- A pharmacy
- Small businesses – positive family environment – gas stations, restaurants, farms
- Small hotel with restaurants
- Large business in certain areas
- Public transportation
- Family homes
- Public housing
- Housing/residential
- Affordable housing development
- Single family homes in certain areas
- Elderly housing
- Rails to trails could be developed
- Recreation/community centers for the young and elderly residents to enjoy
- Infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, parking)
- Better Internet or cable access
- Service establishments
- Renewable energy (windmills, bio-diesel heating oil, vehicles, natural gas wells, select cutting of wood products)
- Communication towers – personal cell towers and emergency towers increased
- Re-mining of abandoned strip mines
- Prison (low-moderate)
- Taxable development
- Specialty shops
- Development w/curb appeal
- Wood products manufacturing
- Powdered metals spin-off industry

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Desired vs. Undesired Development

Undesired Development

The following is a listing of the responses the County received when its residents and municipal officials were asked to list the types of development they did NOT desire for their communities. This list is meant to be used for informational purposes by local, county, state, and federal decision-makers. It represents the overall vision of the types of development undesired by County residents and municipal officials. While this list reflects the overall types of undesired development, it should be noted that "one size does not fit all" and not all communities may agree on each and every item listed below. It should also be noted that some types of development appear on both the desired development list as well as the undesired development list.

- Landfills – municipal or residual waste generated/out of State trash
- Adult video store/peep show or pornographic establishments
- Mining of any kind
- Timber harvesting
- Factory farms/concentrated animal feeding
- Low income housing units
- Strip developments
- Big business farming
- Car dealerships
- Trucking warehouse facilities
- No mobile home parks
- Anymore multi-family housing developments
- High cost housing developments
- Huge housing increase
- Businesses that are environmentally harmful to water quality/air quality
- Spreading of sludge (DEP permits this and we can't stop it)
- No development that would have an impact of private water sources
- Nuclear waste producing plants
- Junkyards
- Power generation
- Large industry
- Bars or beer distributor (keep dry township ordinance)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/VISIONING

Chapter 2 Desired vs. Undesired Development

Undesired Development (Continued)

- Drug rehab
- Gambling
- Snowmobile or ATV parks
- Tax-free development
- Prisons
- More roads