

Clearfield County Planning Commission 2009 Annual Report

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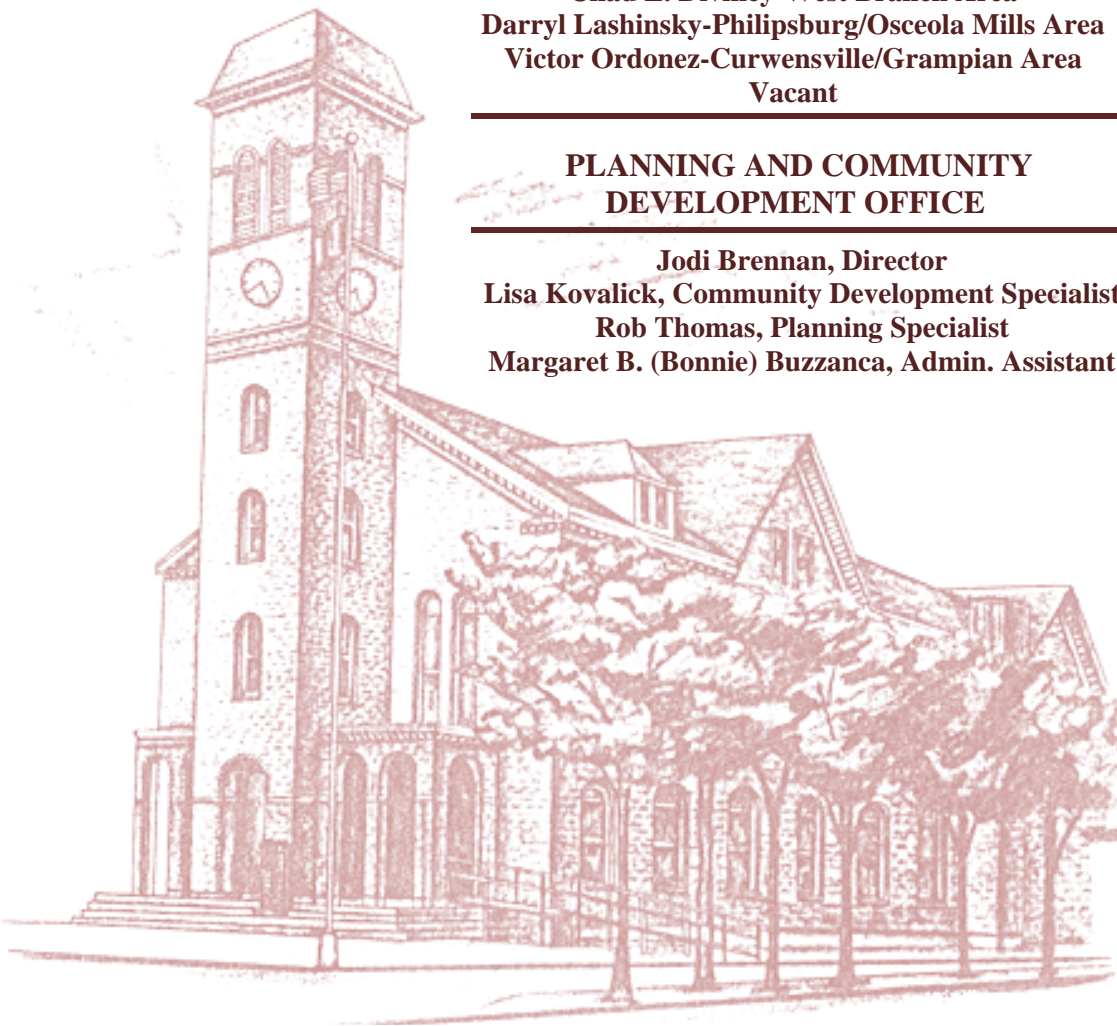
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Jodi Brennan, Director

Lisa Kovalick, Community Development Specialist

Rob Thomas, Planning Specialist

Margaret B. (Bonnie) Buzzanca, Admin. Assistant



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Mission Statement:

To provide appropriate planning services and to develop leadership so that all Clearfield County municipalities can begin to plan for their future.

Housing Initiatives

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

In 2009, Clearfield County received \$714,318 in Neighborhood Stabilization funds from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. This funding will assist with the County helping municipalities stabilize neighborhoods and the housing market that has been affected by foreclosure and abandonment.

The NSP program being administered by CCPCD, will be utilized to address the effects of the housing crisis that has been occurring over the past five years due to sub prime mortgage lending which, nationally, resulted in significant numbers of homeowners entering foreclosure and neighborhoods becoming vacant or abandoned.

NSP funds will be used to help stabilize neighborhoods by addressing foreclosure and abandoned properties in Clearfield Borough and the City of DuBois, Clearfield County.

Activities are to purchase vacant bank and tax foreclosed properties, demolish, rehabilitate, and/or reconstruct deteriorated housing units, and the mitigation of blighted/slum areas to stabilize neighborhoods by implementing community development and home ownership initiatives. These funds must be used for activities that benefit low-moderate and middle income households. This includes 120% of the adjusted median income or below.

Since being awarded the funding the Community Development Specialist has been working with the City of DuBois

Redevelopment Authority's Attorney in acquiring the properties. Within Clearfield, properties are being identified and research on the properties is occurring.

For additional information, contact Lisa Kovalick, Community Development Specialist, Clearfield County Planning and Community Development Office.

Homelessness Prevention and Rehabilitation Program

In 2009, Clearfield County received \$374,619 in Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) designed to facilitate an increase in existing programs that provide emergency rental assistance payments, case management, and related services to prevent homeless people who are not chronically homeless and have the greatest likelihood of becoming stabilized in 18 months. Increases in the availability of permanent, supportive housing should reduce client recidivism and lessen the demand for existing local homeless services funds in the future. The Clearfield County Planning and Community Development Office will administer the program. Clearfield County will enter into sub-recipient agreements for services with the Clearfield-Jefferson Mental Retardation Program, Central PA Community Action, and Mid-Penn Legal. Sub-recipients will provide direct services as well as supportive services for the success of this program. Direct services in the form of financial assistance include: rental assistance, utility assistance, rental and utility arrearages, security deposits, and moving/storage expenses. Housing relocation and

stabilization services consist of intake, assessment, case management, and legal representation. Data collection and evaluation will consist of data entry and compilation of the PA HMIS data collection system. Supportive services will be provided by the sub-recipients. These services will include, but are not limited to, additional case management, life skills, employment training, budget, housing, credit counseling, and case management.

Affordable Housing Trust

On 8/29/2009, Clearfield County Commissioners adopted an ordinance establishing an affordable housing fund. The adoption of Act 137 will have benefits to assist residents and housing organizations in Clearfield County. With the adoption of this ordinance, Clearfield County plans to enable housing thereby stimulating the economy in the County. More direct benefits include an increase of availability in safe quality housing, providing local matching funds for future housing grant requests, and providing housing counseling seminars for interested homebuyers. Programs and services will be created to assist individuals and families that rent or own homes and have income at or below the County Median Income. The Clearfield County Planning and Community Development Office is currently developing a request for proposals for a County-wide housing needs demands assessment. Once complete, this tool will provide us with assistance in determining the types of programs and services to make the best use of these trust funds.

Community Development

Community Development Block

Grant: CCPCD reviewed five applications for 2009 funding. The following projects were funded:

- **Cooper Township Municipal Authority:** \$37,290 for materials associated with replacing 3,200 feet of water line in Grassflat.
- **Karthus Township Sewer Lateral Assistance:** \$90,000 to assist low and moderate income homeowners with installation of laterals to the new sewage treatment facility.

- **Karthus Burnside Joint Authority:** \$100,000 to assist with the sewage treatment plant located in Karthus Township.

Community Development Block Grant Recovery:

- **Irvona Municipal Authority:** \$80,000 to replace a portion of water main line across Clearfield Creek and Witmer Run.

Technical Assistance:

Animal Welfare Council – On May 4, 2009, met w/ Beth Hallstrom regarding planning of animal rescue shelter and state of the art

animal health clinic

Bilgers Rocks Association – On March 27, 2009, met w/ Association representatives regarding planning & financial needs of the Association.

Met w/ Association members on April 1, 2009 to discuss County Promotional Grant.

Chester Hose Fire Co.- On July 15, 2009, provided research, budget and grant writing assistance for the Emergency Responders and Training Program through the Department of Community and Economic Development in the amount of \$10,000 to purchase a newer tank truck utilizing the tanker.

Community Development

Technical Assistance Continued:

Chester Hill Borough – Met w/ Don Enck, Borough Manager, on April 27, 2009 to provide technical assistance and planning for a new Borough garage.

Clearfield Borough – On July 17, 2009, Borough asked for assistance in finding grant funding to obtain a new vacuum. The funding sources found require ordinances, goals, and objectives that the Borough either already has, or is working toward, according to the Operations Manager. The Clearfield Borough Operations Manager wants to have a meeting with Solid Waste and Planning for guidance in bringing their recycling program into compliance. This course of action is necessary to be eligible to apply for the Act 101 Compost Infrastructure Development Grant.

On March 13, 2009, assisted Borough in the preparation of JAG grant for funding of new police patrol vehicles

Clearfield County Children & Youth Services – On June 15, 2009, assisted with the development of the County's Integrated Children's Service Plan.

On July 21, 2009, developed agenda and organized committee to work on Integrated Children's Service Plan.

On July 31, 2009, met with subcommittee regarding development of job description for new support position and addressed need for single intake process.

On August 14, 2009, drafted and submitted County's Integrated Children's Service Plan.

Clearfield County Collaboration & Prevention Board - Working with the Public Relations Committee and Training to help families become more familiar with the social service organizations and the services they offer. Discussed CAPA, an on line referral system, created for the entire State and Countywide data collection for human services.

Clearfield County Fair Board – Met w/ Dave Hallstrom of Fair Board to assist with grant application for discretionary tourism monies for marketing fair.

Clearfield County Homeless Prevention Taskforce-

On March 10, 2009, met w/ taskforce regarding re-entry grant application.

On March 26, 2009, worked on Right Turn grant application with MH/MR.

Met w/ County Jail Warden on March 30, 2009 to discuss his role in Right Turn grant program.

Met w/ judges, public defender, MH/MR, probation, and warden on April 2, 2009 to garner support for Right Turn Grant application.

Received contract for the HPRP grant. Received approximately \$3,700 additional dollars. Developing intake and assessment documents for the program.

Held meeting with subcontracting agencies for the grant. Created assessment tools for Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing components of the program.

Clearfield County Housing Taskforce – On June 10, 2009, sponsored first county housing taskforce meeting for county housing stakeholders.

On July 8, 2009, sponsored second housing taskforce meeting to discuss new housing grant opportunities and continued to build partnerships.

On August 12, 2009, sponsored third housing taskforce meeting. Worked on components of Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing grant.

On October 14, 2009, provided program updates.

Clearfield County Juvenile Probation Office – Spoke w/ Dan Bell regarding grant opportunity for Juvenile Prosecution and Defense Capacity Building.

Clearfield County League on Social Services – On January 14, 2009, met w/ Nancy Lombardo and Susan McLaughlin of Crossroads to discuss grant program for domestic family violence.

Clearfield County Public Water Providers On August 19, 2009, co-sponsored a Water source Protection Technical Assistance workshop with Conservation District to unveil free technical assistance available through the DEP and PA Rural Water Association for preparation of water source protection plans. Workshop has resulted in seven water providers interested in proceeding with preparation of such plan, those being Houtzdale, Irvona, Cooper, Westover, BCI, Burnside, and Clearfield.

Clearfield County Recreation & Tourism Authority- Participated on CCRTA's Regional Advisory Committee board for way finding on March 27, 2009.

Clearfield Drive-In- met w/ small business owners to assist in the preparation of a grant application for the CCRTA Tourism Promotion Grant program.

Clearfield Hospital – On April 27, 2009, met w/ Amy Duke to provide grant writing assistance from a federal grant to assist Hospital with its electronic record keeping system.

Coalport Recreation Committee- On May 7, 2009, met w/ committee secretary to discuss funding opportunities for redeveloping donated factory into gym for area youth.

Coalport Streetscape Committee – Attended a meeting in Coalport on October 30, 2009, regarding funding opportunities associated with implementing the streetscape projects recently identified in Borough feasibility study.

Covington-Karthus-Girard Area Authority- Discussed submission of an H2O grant application with Engineer Wilson Fisher regarding possible water line extension.

On August 24, 2009, attended CKG Area Authority meeting to review H2O funding application.

Curwensville Lake Authority – Attended Authority's March 25, 2009, meeting to discuss funding opportunities.

On August 6, 2009 prepared and submitted grant application obo Authority for CCRTA Marketing funds for development of master site plan.

Ferguson Township-

On April 29, 2009, met w/ supervisor Don Sheeder regarding applying for ARRA green reserve funding for Dirt & Gravel project.

On August 10, 2009 attended Pennvest ARRA Green reserve funding training in Williamsport w/ township officials.

On August 18, 2009, participated in Pennvest conference call regarding ARRA Green Reserve grant. Agreed to administer on behalf of Township.

Continued on Page 4

Community Development

Technical Assistance Continued:

Ferguson Township Continued-

On August 19, 2009, prepared invitation for bid.

Between August 19-24, 2009, prepared bid specifications for ARRA Green Reserve project.

August 24-September 2, 2009, addressed issues obo Township regarding State requirements for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and bid specifications.

On September 11, 2009, uploaded required documentation to Pennvest web site obo Township.

September 14, 2009, attended bid openings and reviewed bids for compliance with bid specifications. Also met w. PennVest representative, Dave Henning regarding grant requirements.

September 15, 2009, participated in the second PennVest conference call obo Township.

September 16, 2009, addressed Davis-Bacon wage requirements obo Township.

September 21– October 9, 2009, completed required documents on website for PennVest closing. Reviewed contract documents and notice to proceed documents for the grant. Discussed outstanding document with PennVest and Ann Wood required for the closing of October 8th, 2009.

October 9th, 2009, received closing documents from PennVest.

November 9, 2009-completed DBE report and submitted to DEP.

Karthaus Park Committee -

On March 2, 2009, met w/ committee regarding preparation of grant application for playground equipment.

On April 17, 2009, submitted grant application for \$25,000 to DCNR on behalf of committee.

Lawrence Township-On March 13, 2009, assisted Township in the preparation of JAG grant for funding of new police patrol vehicles.

On September 10, 2009, met w/ Township Secretary to provide technical assistance with PA Fish & Boat Commission grant application for Hyde boat launch.

Mahaffey Borough – On March 12, 2009, met with mayor Tom Bell and Alice Trowbridge of North Central Conservancy along with a member of the National Wildlife & Fish Office regarding alternative ways to bring project costs down on proposed canoe launch.

On April 8, 2009, submitted grant application in the amount of \$34,000 to DCNR obo Borough for boat launch.

Moshannon Valley Council of Governments – On August 5, 2008, met w/ Barry Mayes regarding grant opportunities for COG.

On July 22, 2009, met with COG secretary to assist w/ the development of a shared municipal services grant application for sign compliance.

Osceola Mills Recreational Committee – January 2009, assisted committee with Redevelopment grant through Sen. Wozniaks office for assistance to modify the pool drain system.

February 2009, worked with committee on master site plan.

On April 22, 2009, provided grant writing technical assistance to Committee for DCNR grant application.

Burnside Borough -Received safe water appropriation amendment agreement for signature, prepared for Commissioners' signatures, and returned to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Wallaceton Borough -provided sample mandatory tap ordinance for future interconnect of public water.

Grants Submitted:

February 6, 2009– submitted the Clearfield County Neighborhood Stabilization Program in the amount of \$1,500,000 to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for housing initiatives including acquisitions, demolition, rehabilitation, new construction, and resale of foreclosed and vacant housing in Clearfield County.
AWARDED-\$714,318

February 20, 2009– submitted the Clearfield County SAVE Program application in the amount of \$399,866 to the Office of Justice, OVW, obo the Clearfield County District Attorney's Office and Clearfield County

League on Social Services. This grant will assist the families of domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking with the Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program in Clearfield County. **DENIED**

February 20, 2009-submitted a Local Law Enforcement Grant Program Application in the amount of \$34,540.37 to the PA Gaming Control Board. This request will assist the Clearfield County District Attorney's Office to create a new task force team. **PENDING**

April 15, 2009-submitted a Clearfield County Recreation Tourism Promotion Grant to CCTRA for Bilger's Rocks Assoc. in the amount of \$5,000 to assist with signage in the park. **AWARDED \$4,000**

April 17, 2009– submitted the Karthaus Park C2P2 development application in the amount of \$30,000 to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This grant will help the Karthaus Park Association with playground equipment and an ADA accessible walkway in the park. **PENDING**

April 18, 2009-submitted the Mahaffey Borough C2P2 development application in the amount of \$34,000 to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This grant will help Mahaffey Borough with its funding gap from the PA Fish & Boat grant sent last fall. **PENDING**

April 18, 2009– submitted the Clearfield County C2P2 planning application in the amount of \$50,000 to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This grant will assist the new Curwensville Lake Authority with a master site plan for Curwensville. **PENDING**

April 22, 2009-submitted the Irvona C2P2 development application in the amount of \$17,069 to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This grant will help Irvona Park Association with resurfacing of a tennis court and basketball court. **PENDING**

Continued on Page 5

Community Development

Grants Submitted Continued:

May 13, 2009-submitted the Clearfield County BJA Recovery Act JAG Program grant in the amount \$60,224. This funding will assist Clearfield Borough, the City of DuBois, and Lawrence Township police departments with purchasing of police patrol vehicles. **AWARDED \$60,224**

May 18, 2009-submitted Ferguson Township's ARRA Green Project Reserve grant application in the amount of \$142,380 to PENNVEST. This recovery act grant will assist the Township to apply DSA to Township Routes 420, 438, and 426. **AWARDED \$142,380**

May 28, 2009- submitted CDBG R application obo Clearfield County in the amount of \$80,320 to the Department of Community and Economic Development. This CDBG grant is part of the ARRA Act. We will assist the Irvona Municipal authority with water system improvements as noted in the Comprehensive Plan. **AWARDED \$80,320**

June 4, 2009-submitted CDBG application obo Clearfield County in the amount of \$302,957 to the Department of Community and Economic Development. This CDBG entitlement grant includes funding for the following: \$110,568 Karthaus Burnside Joint Authority to assist with construction of sewage treatment facility, \$90,000 Karthaus township for low-income lateral assistance

program, \$47,857 Cooper Township Municipal Authority to assist with water line replacement in the Village of Grassflat, and \$54,532 Clearfield County Administration. **AWARDED \$302,957**

June 12, 2009-submitted a Revolving Loan Fund for infrastructure improvement in the amount \$15,00 to the Clearfield County Industrial Development Authority. This application is for the Coalport Streetscape Committee to assist with costs associated with the replacement of sidewalks and curbs on Main Street. **PENDING**

July 30, 2009-submitted Clearfield County Homelessness Prevention Rapid Re-housing application obo Clearfield County in the amount of \$374,619 to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. This grant will assist residents of Clearfield County facing homelessness with priority on those facing housing dilemmas for the first time due to the economic recession. **AWARDED \$374,619**

August 6, 2009- submitted the Curwensville Lake Authority's CCRTA marketing grant application in the amount of \$15,000 for match funding required for the development of a master site plan at Curwensville Lake. This funding will be matched for the DCNR application submitted in April 2009. **PENDING**

August 14, 2009- submitted the Clearfield County integrated Children's Service Plan to the Department of Public Welfare. This plan

was developed for the Clearfield County ICSP planning team as required by DPW. The plan requested \$61,048 in DPW ICSP funding for Clearfield County. **AWARDED**

October 17, 2009-submitted an application for Super 322 Drive In requesting \$5,000 to CCRTA Marketing and Promotional grant for marketing. **AWARDED**

October 22, 2009-Mahaffey Borough, submitted a \$128,261 request to the PA Fish & Boat Commission Facility Grant Program for the Mahaffey Borough Boat Launch. The total cost is \$171,065. **PENDING**

October 26, 2009-Young People Who Care obo Karthaus Park submitted a \$4,000 grant to the Clearfield Community Charitable Foundation. The total project is \$10,300. **PENDING**

Comprehensive Planning

Northwest Clearfield County Region Comprehensive Plan

In 2009, five adjacent municipalities consisting of Brady Township, the City of DuBois, Falls Creek Borough, Huston Township, and Sandy Township finalized and adopted a multi-municipal comprehensive plan entitled "the Northwest Clearfield County Region Comprehensive Plan". This plan addresses the regions needs in relation to land use, transportation, infrastructure, housing, historic preservation, natural resources, agriculture, economic development, and includes a regional capital budget. This plan is available on line at <http://www.sandytownship.org/NW%20COMP%20PLAN%204-27-09.pdf>

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Our office participated in the updating of the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan which is administered by the County's Emergency Management Agency. This mitigation plan is essentially a long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The plan serves to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from natural hazards such as floods, winter storms, tornados, and pandemics to manmade hazards such as hazardous waste spills, dam failures, and acts of terrorism. The plan update

process is mandated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) every five years. In order to qualify for federal aid for technical assistance and post-disaster funding, local municipalities must have such a plan in effect.

SALDO ADMINISTRATION



Clearfield County’s Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) now has jurisdiction over 32 of our 51 municipalities. Part way through the year, Decatur Township adopted its own Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. In 2009, the Planning Commission reviewed 53 plans for compliance with the County’s Ordinance.

that occurred in administering the County’s Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance in 2009.

The following chart outlines the activity

S.A.L.D.O. Data (Municipalities Not Found In Table Have Their Own S.A.L.D.O. or Had No Activity For 2007)	Beccaria Twp.	Bell Twp.	Bigler Twp.	Bloom Twp.	Brady Twp.	Burnside Twp.	Chester Hill Boro.	Clearfield Boro.	Decatur Twp.	Gramplan Boro.	Greenwood Twp.	Huston Twp.	Iryona Boro.	Knox Twp.	Mahaffey Boro.	Pike Twp.	TOTAL
Subdivision Plans	8	1	3	2	5	3	1	4	7	2	1	7	1	1	1	7	53
Acres Subdivided	928	55	402	64	337	274	4	3,075	96	15	37	624	.495	7.8	26	1129	4,002
Lots Created	22	2	8	4	12	10	2	5	13	13	2	12	2	2	2	14	135
Land Dev. Plans								1	1			2				1	5
Proposed Buildings	9		3		1	5		1	5	11		2	1	1		1	40

In addition, the County Planning Department reviewed and provided comments on 95 plans from those 19 municipalities that administer their own SALDO. Other reviews completed were conducted/done by the Planning Commission, year to date:

- Act 2 Compliance – 0
- Act 14 Notifications – 23
- Act 67 & 68 Reviews – 73
- A-95 Reviews – 10
- A-537 Reviews – 4
- Air Quality – 8
- Blasting Notices – 2
- Bond Releases – 48
- CDBG Reviews – 4
- Correspondence – 44
- Environmental Assessments/Reviews – 5
- General Permits – 8
- Land Use Changes – 12
- Miscellaneous – 13

- NPDES – 11
- Penn Vest Reviews – 3
- Public Notices – 0
- Public Utility Commission – 7
- Sewage Component Reviews/Planning Modules – 76
- SRBC Permits – 15
- Support Letters – 27
- Surface/Underground Mining – 5
- Water Quality – 2
- Watersheds – 1
- Zoning Ordinance Amendment Reviews – 4
- Permit Application For Drilling or Altering a Well – 1
- Water Management Plan – 1

development is located along Township Route 700 in Morris Township.

With the national recession that occurred this year, the only major development that occurred within the County in 2009 was a residential subdivision created in Morris Township. Known as the Oak Meadow Subdivision, this 15 lot

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

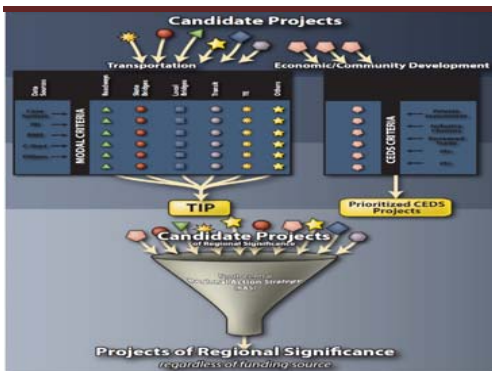


Countywide Storm Water Management Plan:

Our staff spent significant time working with the County's consultant, Scott Brown, of Pennoni & Associates and the Department of Environmental Protection to finalize the County's Phase 1 Stormwater Management Plan. Upon reaching some resolution with the Department in regards to content, our efforts were halted with the passage of

the State's 2009-2010 budget, which eliminated all related storm water management planning funding. Although Act 167 provides for 75% State reimbursement of such planning related costs, the State's 2009-2010 contained no such funds. The County also being significantly impacted by the recession, chose to put development of Phase 2 on hold until State funding has been restored.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING



Regional Project Prioritization Committee :

One of the most significant activities to occur in 2009 in relation to transportation planning was the creation of a Regional Project Prioritization Committee of which our office participated. This committee's primary function is to develop and maintain project selection

criteria. The committee met throughout the year to develop weighted criteria. The use of these weighted criteria will ultimately improve the region's decision-making as it relates to future transportation, community, and economic development projects. An MS Access database was also created that will score and maintain candidate projects within their respective funding programs. Also as part of this effort, a Regional Core System map was created that identifies the highest-priority investment areas throughout the north central region. This prioritization system will be used for the rankings of candidate projects during the development of future Transportation Improvement Plans.

Local Bridge Inventory:

Another project that got underway in 2009 was a local bridge inventory. North Central, in collaboration with PennDOT Municipal Services and active municipalities involved with the LTAP bridge courses, established a strategic database framework for the identification, assessment, and management of locally owned bridges, with a concentrated effort on those bridges under twenty feet in length. North Central's GIS department built a compatible database to help identify and capture more accurate locally-owned bridge locations, especially bridges less than 20 feet where Federal regulations do not currently require routine inspections.

WATER SOURCE PROTECTION



The Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program (SWPTAP) was created by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to help community water systems protect their

drinking water. It is a voluntary program that will benefit water systems with ground water wells, springs, reservoirs, river intakes, or any combination of these water sources. All types of community water systems are eligible to participate in SWPTAP including municipal authority water associations, and investor-owned (private) systems throughout the Commonwealth. Cost for technical assistance items will be borne directly by the Commonwealth. DEP has contracted with Spotts, Stevens, and McCoy to assist water systems in developing source water protection plans. With options that are best tailored to each community needs. Some of the benefits communities will see from the

protection plan are public health protection, reduced treatment costs, economic benefits, and environmental stewardship. In August, CCPCD and the County Conservation District partnered in hosting a meeting to introduce the SWPTAP to water providers within the County. In October, arrangements were made with the Clearfield County Association of Township Officials to allow the SWPTAP to be presented during the Township Convention. Since then several water providers within the County have signed up with the program.

RECREATION, GREENWAYS & TOURISM PLANNING

North Central Regional Greenways and Open Space Plan:

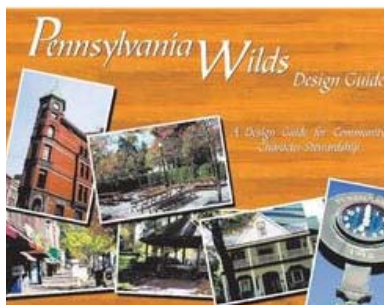
This regional plan will identify, protect, and develop a regional system of greenways, trails, and natural open spaces within the six counties: (Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter) served by the North Central Regional Planning & Development Commission (NCRPDC). Throughout the year, several regional meetings were held to discuss how the plan should be laid out and to discuss individual county aspects and key areas of interests.

PA Wilds Planning Team:

- PA Wilds Trail Workshop**
 On May 30, 2009, the PA Wilds Team, with support provided by DCNR, sponsored its first Trail Workshop in DuBois. This workshop brought together both businesses and organizations hoping to develop, support, and preserve our rich collection of trails.
- Transportation Workshop**
 On August 27, 2009, the team held a Transportation Workshop for the purpose of educating key transportation funding agencies to educate them on the priority of transportation corridors identified in the planning study so they would be considered for future funding.
- Pennsylvania Wilds Artisan Workgroup**
 This group, which was formed to develop a plan to increase the profitability of artisans in the PA Wilds region, established a network of more than two dozen retailers/galleries that sell locally-made artisan products and is producing a free PA Wilds Artisan Trail Map to help tourists find these shops. The newly-formed PA Wilds Artisan Trail passed the 100-person mark in 2009 for the number of artisans it joined into the trail, and also published some 50,000 copies of the first-ever artisan trail guide.

- New PA Wilds Resource Website**
 In February, a brand new web-based resource center was unveiled due to the effort of the new Small Business Ombudsman. Both businesses and community resources are available at this website.
www.pawildsresources.org

PA Wilds Design Guide: A Design for Community Character Stewardship:



A new Community Outreach Specialist was hired in 2009 who assisted in the development of a brand new signage grant program for businesses and communities aimed at promoting the design guide. More than 50 outreach and educational presentations to business and community groups around the 12 counties were also provided during the year. Specifically, Clearfield County was awarded 3 business sign grants and 1 community sign grant with a value of \$4,400. The business sign grants were awarded to Bells & Whistles \$1,000, St. Charles Café \$1,000, and Winkler Gallery \$600. The community sign grant was awarded to Coalport Borough, \$1,800.

West Branch Water Trail Stewardship Plan:

This project was to further the development and sustainability of the Susquehanna River Water Trail-West Branch by creating a facility maintenance plan identifying needs at existing access sites, and determining if additional access points are needed. A benchmark of existing conditions was created to serve as guidance for

identifying trail and facility needs. The Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy (NPC) gathered information and researched the Water Trail in a variety of ways. Face to face meetings were held with governmental agencies that own or manage land along the River to discuss their Water Trail needs, issues, and opportunities. This also allowed for their experiences on the West Branch and in other parts of the State to be discussed and used in developing this Plan.

Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Conservation Plan:

The Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Conservation Plan is a comprehensive study that compiles broad-based data about recreational, historical, socio-economic, and natural resources throughout the region.

Sinnemahoning Creek is the largest tributary to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. The headwaters begin in three tributary streams—Bennett Branch, Driftwood Branch, and First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek. It is located in north central Pennsylvania in Cameron, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, McKean, and Potter Counties.

In November 2009, the draft plan was presented to our office for final review and comment. Following the 30 day public review period and a series of public meetings, collected comments were reflected in the final plan which is available online at the Western PA Conservancy's website via the following link <http://www.waterlandlife.org/115/watershed-conservation-plans>.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Energy development was a hot topic in 2009 with the construction of the County's first ethanol plant winding down, the exploration of and drilling activities related to Marcellus Shale gas, and the proposal of the county's first wind energy project in the northwestern corner of the County. Due to these energy developments, the County Commissioners formed a County energy taskforce which met several times over the year learning about these developing energy industries.

Marcellus Shale Gas



For 2009, there has been 16 non-Marcellus shale wells and 27 Marcellus shale wells drilled in Clearfield County. Well locations can be obtained at

www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/oilgas/PermitDrilledmaps.htm

For a listing of companies that have operations within the County, go to www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/minres/oilgas/RIG09.htm.

The following County water sources have been approved for use in fracking wells by SRBC:

Chief Oil & Gas LLC

Public Water Suppliers

Beccaria Coalport Irvona Municipal Authority, Irvona Borough, Clearfield County, PA.

Docket Approvals

(20081202) Chief Oil & Gas LLC, Clearfield Creek, Boggs Township, Clearfield County, PA, Surface Water of up to 2.000 mgd, Duration of Approval: December 4, 2008 - December 4, 2012.

Energy Corporation of America

Public Water Suppliers

Clearfield Municipal Authority, Clearfield Borough, Clearfield County, PA.

EOG Resources, Inc.

Public Water Suppliers

City Of DuBois Water Department, DuBois

City, Clearfield County, PA.

EQT Production Company

Public Water Suppliers

Beccaria Coalport Irvona Municipal Authority, Irvona Borough, Clearfield County, PA.

Burnside Borough Water System, Burnside Borough, Centre County, PA.

EXCO-North Coast Energy, Inc.

Public Water Suppliers

Beccaria Coalport Irvona Municipal Authority, Irvona Borough, Clearfield County, PA.

Rex Energy Corporation

Public Water Suppliers

Clearfield Municipal Authority, Clearfield Borough, Clearfield County, PA.

Docket Approvals

(20081221) Rex Energy Corporation, Lower Little Surveyor Run, Girard Township, Clearfield County, PA, Surface Water of up to 0.400 mgd. Duration of Approval: December 4, 2008 - December 4, 2012.

(20081220) Rex Energy Corporation, Upper Little Surveyor Run, Girard Township, Clearfield County, PA, Surface Water of up to 0.400 mgd. Duration of Approval: December 4, 2008 - December 4, 2012.

(20080944) Rex Energy Corporation, West Branch Susquehanna River, Goshen Township, Clearfield County, PA, Surface Water of up to 2.160 mgd. Duration of Approval: September 11, 2008 - September 11, 2012.

Bionol Ethanol Plant

This \$270 million dollar plant is the first ethanol plant to be built in the State and is the largest east of the Mississippi. The plant will run 24 hours, seven days a week, 353 days a year. Currently, there are 53 management and staff jobs at the plant and 41 of those have been hired directly from Clearfield County. The plant began receiving corn shipments on Dec. 11, 2009, when the first truckload arrived. The facility is equipped to take shipments by both train and truck. The plant is expected to use 40 million bushels of corn annually and to produce 110 million gallons of ethanol. The plant will produce corn-based ethanol which will be sold to Getty Petroleum. Bionol has a five-year agreement

with Getty to purchase the ethanol. A by-product of ethanol production is distillers grains, which are used as livestock feed and will be distributed via Land O'Lakes Purina Feed. Construction of the plant was completed in December, 2009 with the first shipment of corn being received shortly thereafter.

On September 18th, numerous Planning Board members and staff were given a tour by Roger Schmidt, plant manager. During the tour the process of making ethanol was explained.

Wind Energy

Iberdrola Renewable, an international wind energy developer, currently has a proposed wind energy project for the northwestern portion of the County. Phase 1 of its project includes Brady, Penn, Bloom, and Union Townships. Phase 2 includes Pike and possibly Pine Townships. Phase 1 consists of approximately 35 turbines, each turbine will produce approximately 2 mega watts. In Phase 2, an additional 25-60 turbines are anticipated with a possible third phase. The company confirmed that it's project would voluntarily comply with the guidelines for wind energy in the PA Wilds Design Guide. The company maintains a 550 ft. setback from property lines and a 1,000 ft. setback from residential structures. It plans to begin construction of Phase 1 in 2010 and be operational by the summer of 2011. In anticipation of possible wind energy development, some county municipalities started drafting wind energy regulations.

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY

- Elected to retain Chairman from 2008, Paul Winslow, for the current year 2009. Elected to retain Vice-Chairman from 2008, William Yost, for the current year 2009. Elected to retain Secretary from 2008, Rita D. Bass, for the current year 2009.
- Approval of 2009 Meeting Schedule to retain the third Monday of each month (with the exception of County holidays, whereby it will be moved to the fourth Monday of each month).
- Approved the December 15, 2008 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 2 minor subdivisions under the County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 1 minor subdivision under the County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed 1 subdivision for municipalities with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 2 Act 14 Notifications
 - ❖ 6 Act 67/68 Reviews
 - ❖ 2 Air Quality
 - ❖ 1 Blasting Notice
 - ❖ 2 Bond Releases
 - ❖ 3 Correspondence Items
 - ❖ 1 General Project/Assessment Review/Permit
 - ❖ 1 PennVest Review
 - ❖ 6 Sewage Component Reviews/Planning Modules
 - ❖ 1 SRBC Permit
 - ❖ 2 Support Letters
 - ❖ 1 Surface/Underground Mining

FEBRUARY

- Approved the January 19, 2009 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 5 minor subdivisions under the County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 1 minor subdivision under the County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed 7 subdivisions for municipalities with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 14 Act 67/68 Reviews
 - ❖ 1 Air Quality
 - ❖ 5 Bond Releases
 - ❖ 13 Correspondence Items
 - ❖ 1 General Project/Assessment Review/Permit
 - ❖ 1 Land Use Change
 - ❖ 3 Miscellaneous
 - ❖ 2 PennVest Review
 - ❖ 5 Sewage Component Reviews
 - ❖ 5 SRBC Permits
 - ❖ 1 Support Letter

MARCH

- Approved the February 23, 2009 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 1 minor subdivisions under the County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 4 minor subdivisions under the County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed 7 subdivisions for municipalities with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 14 Act 67/68 Reviews

- ❖ 1 Air Quality
- ❖ 4 Bond Releases
- ❖ 13 Correspondence Items
- ❖ 1 General Project/Assessment Review
- ❖ 1 Land Use Change
- ❖ 3 Miscellaneous
- ❖ 2 Penn Vest Reviews
- ❖ 5 Sewage Component Reviews
- ❖ 3 SRBC Permits
- ❖ 1 Support Letter

APRIL

- Approved the March 16, 2009 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 4 minor subdivisions under the County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 2 minor subdivisions under the County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and denied 1 subdivision.
- Reviewed 8 subdivisions for municipalities with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 1 Act 14 Notification
 - ❖ 12 Act 67/68 Reviews
 - ❖ 1 Air Quality
 - ❖ 4 Bond Releases
 - ❖ 4 Correspondence Items
 - ❖ 1 General Project/Assessment Review
 - ❖ 1 Land Use Change
 - ❖ 1 Miscellaneous
 - ❖ 1 PUC
 - ❖ 5 Sewage Component Reviews
 - ❖ 7 Support Letters
 - ❖ 1 Surface/Underground Mining
 - ❖ 1 Water Quality
 - ❖ 2 Zoning Changes/Reviews

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES (Continued)

MAY

- Approved the April 20, 2009 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 6 minor subdivisions under the County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 2 minor subdivisions under the County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed 11 subdivisions for municipalities with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 2 Act 67/68 Reviews
 - ❖ 1 Air Quality Permit
 - ❖ 3 Bond Releases
 - ❖ 1 Correspondence Item
 - ❖ 1 General Project Assessment/Review/Permit
 - ❖ 2 Miscellaneous
 - ❖ 3 NPDES Permits
 - ❖ 7 Sewage Component Reviews
 - ❖ 1 SRBC Permit
 - ❖ 8 Support Letters

JUNE

- Approved the May 18, 2009 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 2 subdivisions under the Clearfield County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 1 subdivision under the Clearfield County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed 8 subdivisions with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 6 Act 14 Notifications
 - ❖ 5 Act 67/68 Reviews

- ❖ 1 Act 95
- ❖ 1 Bond Releases
- ❖ 4 CDBG Projects/Reviews
- ❖ 5 Correspondence Items
- ❖ 3 NPDES
- ❖ 2 Public Utility Commission Applications
- ❖ 5 Sewage Component Reviews
- ❖ 2 SRBC Permits
- ❖ 2 Support Letters
- ❖ 1 Water Quality

JULY

- Approved the June 15, 2009 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 4 minor subdivisions.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 5 subdivisions under the Clearfield County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed 9 subdivisions with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 9 Act 14 Notifications
 - ❖ 5 Act 67/68 Reviews
 - ❖ 1 Air Quality
 - ❖ 4 Bond Releases
 - ❖ 1 Correspondence Item
 - ❖ 1 Environmental Assessment
 - ❖ 1 General Project/Assessment Review/Permit
 - ❖ 8 Land Use Changes
 - ❖ 4 Miscellaneous
 - ❖ 1 NPDES Permit
 - ❖ 1 PUC
 - ❖ 9 Sewage Component Reviews
 - ❖ 1 SRBC Permit
 - ❖ 2 Support Letters
 - ❖ 1 Watershed
 - ❖ 1 Water Management Plan

AUGUST

- Approved the July 20, 2009 Minutes as presented.
 - Reviewed and approved 1 minor subdivision under the County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
 - Reviewed and conditionally approved 1 subdivision under the Clearfield County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
 - Reviewed 15 subdivisions with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
 - Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 9 Act 14 Notifications
 - ❖ 8 Act 67/68 Reviews
 - ❖ 3 Act 95 Reviews
 - ❖ 1 Act 537 Review
 - ❖ 10 Bond Releases
 - ❖ 1 Correspondence Item
 - ❖ 1 Environmental Assessment/Review
 - ❖ 1 Land Use Change
 - ❖ 1 Miscellaneous
 - ❖ 11 Sewage Component Reviews/Planning Modules
 - ❖ 2 SRBC Permits
 - ❖ 1 Support Letter
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SUMMARY OF MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES (Continued)**SEPTEMBER**

- Approved the August 17, 2009 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 3 minor subdivisions under the County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 2 minor subdivisions under the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed 13 subdivisions with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 2 Act 14 Notifications
 - ❖ 1 Act 67/68 Reviews
 - ❖ 1 Act 537
 - ❖ 1 Air Quality
 - ❖ 3 Bond Releases
 - ❖ 2 Correspondence
 - ❖ 1 General Projects/ Assessment Reviews/ Permits
 - ❖ 1 Land Use Change
 - ❖ 1 Miscellaneous
 - ❖ 1 NPDES
 - ❖ 1 PUC
 - ❖ 8 Sewage Component Reviews/Planning Modules
 - ❖ 2 SRBC
 - ❖ 2 Surface/Underground Mining

OCTOBER

- Approved the September 21, 2009 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 1 subdivision under the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 2 subdivisions under the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed 4 subdivisions with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.

- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 2 Act 67/68 Reviews
 - ❖ 1 Act 95 Reviews
 - ❖ 1 Air Quality
 - ❖ 4 Bond Releases
 - ❖ 5 Correspondence Items
 - ❖ 1 General Project/ Assessment Review/Permit
 - ❖ 8 Sewage Component Reviews
 - ❖ 1 SRBC Permit
 - ❖ 1 Support Letter

NOVEMBER

- Approved the October 19, 2009 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 1 subdivision under the Clearfield County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 1 subdivision under the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed 5 subdivisions with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 6 Act 67/68 Reviews
 - ❖ 1 Act 537 Review
 - ❖ 2 Bond Releases
 - ❖ 4 Correspondence
 - ❖ 1 Environmental Assessment/Review
 - ❖ 1 General Project/ Assessment Review/Permit
 - ❖ 1 NPDES
 - ❖ 1 Public Utility Commission
 - ❖ 8 Sewage Component Reviews
 - ❖ 2 SRBC Permits

DECEMBER

- Approved the November 16, 2009 Minutes as presented.
- Reviewed and approved 2 subdivisions under the Clearfield County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved 1 subdivision under the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- Reviewed and denied 1 subdivision.
- Reviewed 7 subdivisions with their own subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Reviewed items submitted for information and/or comment:
 - ❖ 8 Act 67/68 Reviews
 - ❖ 4 Act 95 Reviews
 - ❖ 1 Act 537 Review
 - ❖ 1 Blasting Notice
 - ❖ 8 Bond Releases
 - ❖ 4 Correspondence Items
 - ❖ 1 Sewage Component Review
 - ❖ 3 Support Letters
 - ❖ 1 Surface/Underground Mining
 - ❖ 1 Zoning Change/ Review

For a more detailed description of the CCPC meeting minutes please visit us at our office.