

Clearfield County Planning Commission 2011 Annual Report

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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.

Source Water Protection/ Storm Water Management



Source Water Protection Plans – In 2011, work continued on developing source water protection plans for our county water suppliers. In January, Westover Borough held a meeting to begin work on a source water protection plan for its water source. In February, DEP representative, Mark Stephens, reported that the Department approved Houtzdale Municipal Authority's Source Water Protection Plan. In September, the following four water systems had their plans approved: BCI Municipal Authority, Clearfield Municipal Authority, CKG Municipal Authority, and Irvona Municipal Authority. The following two systems had plans under development: Burnside Borough and the City of DuBois. These plans provide detailed delineation of their water protection areas, identify potential contaminates, and offer protection management methods and tools. In December, the DEP reported that the Pike Township Municipal Authority had signed a Source Water Protection Technical Assistance (SWPTAP) Work Plan. The project is now in the development stages by the Department's SWPTAP Contractor, Spotts, Stevens, and McCoy. According to the current schedule, the draft SWP plan is expected to be ready for review by either April or May 2012. With support and encouragement from our Centre County counterpart, Centre County Planning & Community Development Office, Cooper Township Municipal Authority may have changed their minds and are considering participating in the Source Water Protection Technical Assistance (SWPTAP) Program.

Source Water Protection Coalition – Our office together with the Centre County Planning & Community Development Office and the Clearfield County Conservation District, worked with DEP Hydrogeologist, Mark Stephens, to plan a meeting in the spring (tentative date: March 21, 2012) to present the idea and benefits of our water suppliers forming a coalition to cooperatively work towards implementation of their newly enacted

source water protection plans. Such coalitions have been created in Lycoming, Tioga, and Potter Counties. These coalitions meet as little as 3 times a year to monthly depending on the needs of the membership. Some coalitions include municipal officials which is important in creating good working relationships with one another. A mission statement is created, a chairperson appointed, and key priorities are identified. Mr. Stephens has indicated that he has seen results from formation of these coalitions. In December, we learned that a Clearfield County Water Suppliers Coalition meeting is currently in the organization stages under the leadership of Mike Savage, Rush Township Supervisor.

Source Water Protection Workshop – To assist County Planning personnel with understanding the purpose of PWS SWP Programs, the steps required for development and implementation of those strategies and the benefits to the community and planners, the Water Resource Education Network (WREN) and the DEP partnered to offer training. This 3.5 hour training session held June 22, 2011 provided planners and others interested in clean drinking water with the knowledge to understand past and present water quality challenges and how to plan for future impacts and protect new sources of supply. Staff attended this source water protection workshop. Two attorneys who spoke specifically on local regulations in light of the PA Oil & Gas Act agreed that the State Oil & Gas Act preempts all local regulation except those ordinances established under the PA Municipalities Planning Code (subdivision & zoning) and PA Floodplain Management Act, and then only those that do NOT govern the same purposes and/or features of the State Oil & Gas Act.

Any stand-alone local regulation would be challengeable if not tied to the MPC or Floodplain Act; and then, if it passed that test, it could also be challenged if it served the same purposes or regulates the same features of State Oil & Gas. Staff learned that current State setbacks for gas wells are 200 ft. from building/water well and 100 ft. from spring, stream, or body of water. Also, Department will allow less than that through a waiver process which was a concern of those who attended looking for

ways to protect their drinking water supplies. If property owner signs waiver, a smaller setback could be granted. Since not all lands containing recharge areas for drinking water supplies are publicly owned, there are concerns.

If water recharge/sources are not owned by the public suppliers, then the issue of protection is an issue and thus the reason for the workshop.

Source Water Monitoring Equipment – In late August, our office along with the County Commissioners supported the County Conservation District's application for a Growing Greener grant to fund water monitoring equipment. This equipment, if funded, will be used to monitor water quality on those water sources used by the water suppliers who have finalized or will soon finalize their water source protection plans. This includes monitoring of surface water, springs, and ground water. The District has enlisted help of the SRBC that will install the equipment. The equipment will run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Countywide Storm Water Management Plan – After months of back and forth discussions and revisions, the DEP gave their approval of Clearfield County's Phase 1 Storm Water Management Plan on July 26, 2011.

RECREATION, GREENWAYS & TOURISM PLANNING

West Branch Susquehanna Byways – In January, the Director attended a Byways meeting held by the County Recreation & Tourism Authority and learned that Sen. White's office is working on the legislation to create the Byways. One last effort was made to reach out to Burnside Township. It was the only municipality along the proposed route that was not signed on to support the Byways. Without its support, the Byways will have to start near McGees Mills rather than Cherry Tree. In June, Senate Bill 369 White, D - (PN 392) amends Title 74 (Transportation), in scenic highways, providing for the designation of portions of U.S. 219, S.R. 969, S.R. 879, S.R. 153, S.R. 453, S.R. 1001, Bilger's Rocks Road, and the Greenville Pike in Clearfield County as scenic byways was reported. In July, CCRTA Director, Holly Komonczki, reported the Byways designation was approved by the Governor as Act 63.

North Central Greenways Implementation Grant Program – North Central Regional Planning & Development Commission received a \$150,000 grant from DCNR to implement recommendations from the NC Greenways Plan. In February, all counties met to discuss how to initiate an implementation grant funding program with the recently awarded DCNR funds. It was determined that the maximum award amount would be \$2,500 and a 50% match (in-kind or cash) would be required. Announcement for projects was made in March with an application deadline set in May. Seven applications were received requesting a total of \$155,000 in grant funds for a total projects cost of \$450,600. The review committee (a representative from each county) reviewed the applications and recommended that the Redbank Valley Trails Development request be funded. The remaining applicants will be given recommendations and urged to apply for the second round of funding that was announced in July with \$125,000 available. The review committee met in September and reviewed nine applications. Three applications were received from Clearfield County applicants. Those included Clearfield County as host for Headwaters Charitable Trust for an alternate trail feasibility study for the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails, Curwensville Lake Authority for an implementation project (dog park) from their

master site plan, and City of DuBois for a parking lot near Beaver Meadow Walkway. In December, the following two County-based projects received a notice of award for funding: Clearfield County Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Feasibility Study and Curwensville Lake Dog Park.

DCNR Grant Awards – In April, DCNR's C2P2 Community Recreation and Conservation grant program was accepting applications. Our office assisted some of our local organizations and communities to apply for these funds. Approved DCNR projects included:

Clearfield County obo the Curwensville Lake Authority: \$13,000 for rehabilitation at the Curwensville Lake to include installation of play equipment with required safety surfacing, ADA access, landscaping, and project sign.

Hilltop Howlers Snowmobile Club: \$136,000 for the purchase of a snowmobile trail groomer for maintenance of over 200 miles of trails in Moshannon State Forest.

Karthus Township: \$38,500 for further development of Karthus Park to include construction of a comfort station and a pedestrian walkway, installation of utilities, ADA access, landscaping, and project sign.

Lawrence Township: \$8,100 for rehabilitation and further development of recreational park to include installation of bleachers and ballfield safety screening, ADA access, landscaping, and project sign.

Westover Borough: \$30,000 for rehabilitation of Mosser Park to include construction of a pavilion, installation of electrical upgrades, ADA access, landscaping, and project sign.

Total DCNR funds awarded in Clearfield County were \$225,600.

PA Wilds Planning Team – Preserve America Community Designation: The team promoted and encouraged counties and communities to apply for a Preserve America Designation which would open up another funding source to those communities.

Business Signage Program: In May, regarding the recently announced round of funding for business signage, the team received 52 applications requesting

\$ 64,816.27 in grant funds with only \$ 30,000 available. A review committee met, reviewed, and recommend grant awards. Eleven applications came from Clearfield County businesses. A total of 25 signs were selected for funding in the amount of \$ 29,740.52, five of which were Clearfield County businesses. They included:

- The Alley Popper Restaurant & Banquet Facility
- Winkler Gallery of Fine Arts
- Wapiti Ridge Wine Cellars
- Latinos & Company Restaurant
- Brady Street Florist

Community Signage Program: The County Commissioners agreed to host a grant application obo the PA Wilds Planning Team for \$40,000 in DCED SMS funding to support ongoing design assistance and community signage programs. Clearfield County was awarded the full \$40,000. Community Signage Program to kick off in 2012.

Design Assistance Program: The PA Wilds Planning Team received funding from the National Park Service's Preserve America Program to promote use of the Pennsylvania Wilds Design Guide –A Guide for Community Character Stewardship. In addition, Clearfield County secured matching funds through a State SMS grant. The Design Guide is a voluntary planning document developed by the Planning Team as a resource for local leaders and developers. It highlights how communities in the Pennsylvania Wilds can protect or enhance their rural character as they grow. In the summer, the Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team announced the availability of mini design grants (approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000) to 5 to 7 projects across the region. The deadline for pre-applications was in August. Seventeen applications were received from the region of which four were submitted from Clearfield County and included applications from Clearfield County Economic Development Corp., Clearfield Revitalization Corp., Wapiti Ridge Wine Cellars, and Coalport Streetscape Committee.

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RECREATION, GREENWAYS & TOURISM PLANNING *continued*

Nine projects, totaling \$70,000, were selected to receive professional design services, of which two specific projects, Clearfield Borough and Coalport Borough, will receive entire portion of allocated \$20,000 DCED SMS funds while the remaining funding, \$50,000, will be provided with secured Preserve America Funds. The two Clearfield County projects proposed for funding are described below.

COALPORT BOROUGH: Coalport Borough has a historic business district that will be undergoing PennDOT-approved streetscape improvements (curbing, sidewalks, lights, trees) in the spring of 2012. Sidewalk improvements will extend to the front building façades. Funding is being sought to assist the property owners fronting this improvement area with market research and façade design concepts as many of these owners do not have the financial resources to pay for an architect. It is believed that if education and design assistance are available, several of the owners will undertake improvements to their buildings. It is also believed that a market research study will help owners to better understand service/business demand in Coalport to allow informed decision-making regarding the establishment of new businesses with long-term viability.

CLEARFIELD BOROUGH: Clearfield Borough is seeking professional design services for development of a Streetscape Design Guide for downtown Clearfield. The intent of the streetscape guidelines and standards is to guide streetscape projects in order to create a more vibrant and cohesive downtown environment while ensuring that various public and private elements work in harmony with each other. The standards and guidelines are also intended to encourage high quality designs, but still contain the flexibility necessary to meet individual needs while responding to existing conditions without compromising either historic value or community character.

More details on one of the local awardees, Coalport Streetscape Committee, are available. A contract in the amount of \$15,500 was just sent to them to fund the following activities. This work will be funded by the SMS grant that the Director secured on behalf of the Team.

1.1 A socio-economic study will be

prepared, informed by background research, a detailed field reconnaissance of Coalport's business district, and interviews with up to 12 local businesses. The socio-economic study will use publicly available and proprietary data sources to examine socio-economic trends for Coalport and provide insight into how Coalport's business district might leverage additional consumer patronage.

1.2 An educational session will be presented geared towards an audience of Coalport's historic downtown property owners. The workshop-format session will teach them about building rehabilitation and federal credits available for rehabilitation of income-producing historic buildings.

1.3 Conceptual architectural façade design services will be provided for three businesses or two businesses and the sign designs of multiple businesses. Participating property owners will meet with a Pennsylvania-certified architect to discuss needs, ideas, maintenance issues, and budgets related to their buildings. The building façade will be measured and photographed and the architect will access possible solutions to any building code requirements. A to-scale rendering will be prepared to illustrate proposed changes to the street.

Snow Shoe Rails To Trails –

Rail Reactivation: In March, the Surface Transportation Board issued a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Pennsylvania Lines Inc.'s (RJCP) proposed construction, operation, and reactivation of a 20-mile railroad line between Wallaceton and Gorton, in Clearfield and Centre Counties, Pennsylvania.

The SDEIS was to address changes in the project that have developed since the preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Specifically, the SDEIS addresses the following issues: (1) the potential environmental impacts associated with RJCP's proposed transport of ethanol over the rail line, (2) the change in the preliminary plan approval status of the No-Build Alternative - Local Road System Upgrade (Black Rock Road), and (3) the results of the 2010 summer field survey for Branching Bur-reed (*Sparganium androcladum*), a Pennsylvania Endangered

Species.

In November, our office received a copy of the Office of Environmental Analysis's (OEA) final environmental impact statement regarding R. J. Corman's petition for rail reactivation request. As a refresher, the proposed rail line would extend about 20 miles from Wallaceton to Gorton. R. J. Corman indicated it would serve a new waste to ethanol facility and quarry an industrial park being developed by Resources Recovery, LLC (a/k/a landfill). There were four alternatives considered. A modified version is being recommended by the OEA which is to use the existing line from Wallaceton to a point near Philipsburg in Decatur Twp. where a new 4,000 ft. connection would be built to tie into another 5.8 mile abandoned rail line leading northeast to Munson. Located entirely within Morris Twp., this 5.8 mile section of Conrail's former Philipsburg Industrial Track would parallel the Moshannon Creek as it winds to Munson. This route would pass the Villages of Troy and Hawk Run. From Hawk Run, the remaining portion of this route would pass adjacent to an undeveloped former coal mining area. At Munson, the line would parallel the Moshannon Creek winding through Cooper Twp. to Winburne where it then crosses the Moshannon into Rush Twp.

According to the cover letter, the next step will be for the Surface Transportation Board to make a decision. However, they must first publish the final environmental impact statement notice in the Federal Bulletin which was scheduled for November 25, 2011. The Surface Transportation Board cannot make a decision until 30 days after the Federal Bulletin ad is published. We anticipate a final ruling on reactivation sometime next year.

Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Feasibility Study: In August, the Clearfield County Commissioners agreed to be a host for a grant application obo the Headwaters Charitable Trust since they were an ineligible applicant. The request includes funds for a feasibility study to look at an alternate trail to reconnect the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails if a 9.3 mile segment is reactivated. In December, Clearfield County was provided notice that funding would be awarded for the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Feasibility Study.

Community Development

Community Development Block Grant: applications by utilizing 2011 allocation of CCPCD reviewed six applications for 2011. funds, as well as reallocating unspent funds The County was able to provide funding for from previous fiscal years. all six

2011 Community Development Block Grant Applications			
Applicant	Project Description	Requested Amount	Amount Funded
Cooper Township Municipal Authority	Replacing leaking waterlines in Munson & Allport	\$57,530	\$57,530
Burnside Borough	Construct water storage tank	\$100,000	\$67,771
Covington-Karthus-Girard Area Authority	Waterline extension on Buck Run Road	\$100,000	\$100,000
*Goshen Township	Water lateral assistance	\$27,060	\$27,060

**Indicates funding for project will come from FFY 2008 Modification*

Technical Assistance:

Coalport Application Region Commission-

The environmental review of flood project continues to be held up by DEP with regards to BCI's Plans. A letter will be sent out to Coalport Borough Council making them aware of the situation and the possibility of losing funding for the flood project if clearances cannot be obtained. BCI has spoken with its engineers and will have the plans to DEP by 2/28/2011. On 3/1/11, our office received plans from DEP for the flood levee. Environmental Review was resubmitted to DCED, SHPO staff for environmental approval of the ARC grant. Lisa informed Coalport Borough that they cannot spend down any ARC funding until clearances from DCED have been obtained. In June, conditional approval was received and the ER is continuing. In August, a certification from DCED was received allowing the release of funds to Coalport Borough and the responsibilities of keeping our office informed. Lisa is continuing to work with Coalport Borough on the administration of the ARC grant.

1/4/2011 – Lisa assisted Ellie Fenton with Central Pennsylvania Community Action with the PIT survey methods and ideas on conducting an unsheltered count.

1/5/2011 – Lisa held a second Safe Haven meeting at CCCIS with Crossroads, PASSAGES, Inc., Victim Witness, CYFS, and Judge Cherry's staff. Planning for the grant continues.

1/8/2011 – Lisa met with council members of Wallaceton Borough to discuss the LMI survey process and identify service area for

its CDBG application.

1/10/2011 – Lisa assisted Holly of CCRTA with restructure of the CCRTA grant application.

1/12/2011 – Lisa met with EADS engineers to discuss the Burnside Borough water improvements project. They will develop new plans and forward them to Lisa.

1/25/2011 – Lisa met with Victim Witness Coordinator to discuss the VOCA grant, assisting with completing the budget.

1/25/2011 – Lisa met with HPRP vendors to inform them of non-compliance issues, answered questions from Sue Ann regarding HPRP program.

1/28/2011 – Lisa assisted Chester Hill Borough officials with their CDBG low income survey.

2/16/2011 – Lisa researched funding for BCI Authority to purchase leak detection device, provided a paper to BCI that addressed several funding options.

3/11/2011 – Lisa held a Safe Havens consulting committee meeting for the development of the grant and memorandum of understanding.

3/3/2011 – Lisa attended the Irvona Borough meeting to discuss tools for addressing blighted properties and the acquisition of additional park property via a DCNR grant.

3/3/2011 – The Director met with Grampian Borough officials, Amy Kessler from North Central, and several PennDOT staff to discuss solutions to an ongoing issue in Grampian wherein trucks have been routinely damaging the light poles at the intersection of

879 & 219. PennDOT offered some short-term solutions, but encouraged Borough officials to submit a project for consideration during formation of next TIP. The Director provided the Borough with the form that will need to be completed for submission of a project.

3/7/2011 – Lisa assisted John Farr of Habitat for Humanity with NSP invoicing.

3/7/2011 – Lisa attended the Karthus Park & Recreation Committee meeting to discuss the DCNR C2P2 grant application for a restroom at the park. This application will be submitted by the Township.

3/16/2011 – Lisa spoke with Bill Shaw, Jr. regarding PCCD Forensic Science Improvements grant. After review of the grant guidelines and directives, they concluded this grant request would not work and will keep looking for funding to assist with the need for police departments to transport evidence to crime labs in a timely manner.

3/29/2011 – Lisa attended final inspection for NSP project in the City of DuBois. Followed up with Jodi's message on behalf of Solid Waste Authority to the developer and contractor regarding the proper removal and disposal of waste from the demolition site.

4/11/2011 – Lisa participated in a conference call with the Controller's office and their software consultant to address tracking, report, and maintaining grants for the County.

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Community Development *continued*

Technical Assistance Continued:

4/11/2011 – Lisa met with Susan Reed of the Curwensville Lake Authority to present the grant request, budget, and approve the in-kind match.

4/14/2011 – Lisa met our new DCNR representative, Adam Mattis, and toured the County to identify recreational parks requesting funding.

4/26/2011 – Lisa assisted Lori Rowles of the Moshannon Valley Council of Governments with developing a formula for the sign grant and shared subcontract agreements with her for use with their shared municipality grant.

5/11/2011 – Lisa assisted a nonprofit, God's Clearview Ministries, with grant writing techniques and searches.

5/27/2011 – Lisa was asked by DCED to participate in a workgroup designed to analyze return on investment of grant dollars distributed by DCED. The new administration is looking closely at how grant funding generates ROI on a community measures report.

6/3, 6/8, and 6/10/2011 – Lisa held CJAB re-entry Planning Committee for Second Chance Act grant application with officials from MH/MR, D & A, Probation, Jail, and service providers.

6/24/2011 – Lisa assisted Curwensville Municipal Authority with random selection, survey forms, and cover letter for customers for an Income Survey.

6/29/2011 – Lisa met with Don Herres for YMCA environmental review, prepared all documents, and timeline for HUD funding.

7/5/2011 – Lisa completed final certifications to DCED for environmental review on Coalport Borough ARC grant.

7/8/2011 – Lisa assisted John Farr with NSP invoices.

7/12/2011 – Lisa assisted CenClear with budget and report to DPW for the ICSP grant.

8/16 to 8/26/2011 – Lisa provided grant assistance and narrative to Kelly Williams of Clearfield County Conservation District with the Growing Greener application to DEP. They applied for \$210,668 to monitor source water for protection of both source and non-point source pollution. This project will monitor drinking water for County residents of eleven municipalities that have undertaken

the process of source water protection plans.

8/26/2011 – Lisa met with HRG engineers and Woodward Township SWA official to discuss their sewer extension and CDBG rules and regulations.

9/1/2011 – Lisa met with Terry O'Connor of Bilger's Rocks to assist with USDA application for a managed forestry plan.

9/12/2011 – Lisa met with Terry O'Connor of Bilger's Rocks to assist with USDA application for a managed forestry plan.

9/16/2011 – Lisa held a final public hearing for the 2011 CDBG grant applications.

9/2011 – The Director has been asked to address Bradford Township's Planning Commission on September 26. They had a number of questions regarding their SALDO and asked for suggestions on improvements to a few items wanting to know how County addresses such items in our SALDO.

10/4/2011 – Lisa met with Terry O'Connor of Bilger's Rocks to assist with USDA application for a managed forestry plan.

10/2011 – The Director met w/Bradford Township's Planning Commission on September 26 at their request. Their Planning Commission asked some procedural questions in regards to subdivision & land development regulations. They are seeking additional input as to minimizing expenses for minor subdivisions. The Director will be assisting them in establishing criteria for defining minor subdivisions that they can review internally with a checklist.

10/17/2011 – The Director received a letter of concern regarding a proposed disposal injection well for gas-related waste fluids in Brady Township from the Brady Township Supervisors. In their letter, they ask several questions regarding the proposed well and cited several concerns. Since EPA is the major permitting entity, the Director contacted Karen D. Johnson, Chief of Ground Water & Enforcement Branch, at EPA for answers. Ms. Johnson indicated that they have not received a permit application for any new wells in Clearfield County. She confirmed that there are two existing wells in Clearfield County that have been operating, one since 1988 and the other since 2005. If they do receive a permit application, they would then be able to discuss specifics about construction, location, etc. Since there are so many general questions regarding these

wells, she suggested the Director invite Brady Township officials in to join us for a conference call to further discuss. The Director submitted this request to Brady Township for their consideration which the Supervisors declined since no official application has yet been received.

12/7/2011 – Lisa provided technical and NSP assistance to DuBois Redevelopment Authority for housing project on Long Ave.

12/12/2011 – Lisa attended planning meeting for NSP Long Ave. project with HANDS. They worked on an agreement for the co-developers and owners, and developed a plan and timeline to move forward with development.

Grants Submitted:

- March 14, 2011 submitted a grant request in the amount of \$400,00 to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, for the Safe Haven: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program. This request for funding will assist the Clearfield County League on Social Services in offering victims of domestic violence, dating violence, child abuse, sexual assault, or stalking safe visitation exchanges and supervised visitation.
- March 14, 2011 submitted a grant request in the amount of \$59,600 to PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation for Acquisition, of approximately 11 acres adjacent to Elderberry Park. This grant will border the recreation park in Irvona Borough.
- March 21, 2011 submitted a grant on behalf of PA Wilds Planning Team for \$40,000 in DCED SMS funding to support ongoing design assistance and community signage programs.
- April 20, 2011 submitted a grant request on behalf of Karthaus Township for \$54,429.88 to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation, for the development of a restroom facility at Karthaus Park.

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Community Development (Continued)

Grants Submitted Continued:

- April 20, 2011 submitted a grant request on behalf of Hilltop Howlers Snowmobile Club, for local volunteer group for equipment to maintain 208 miles of snowmobile trails located in the Moshannon State Forest.
- April 21, 2011 submitted a grant request on behalf of Clearfield County for \$25,613.88 to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation, for the development and rehabilitation of a playground at Curwensville Lake.
- May 27, 2011 submitted a grant request on behalf on Curwensville Lake Authority, for \$15,000 to PA Fish and Boat Commission. This grant will assist the Authority with renovation of the restroom in the Marina area at the Lake.
- July 22, 2011 submitted a grant request in the amount of \$496,031 to the Department of Justice, Second Chance Act Re-entry Grant, for adults with co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders. This grant will assist inmates with their re-entry back to their communities and help prevent re-incarceration.
- August 15, 2011 submitted a grant request that includes funds for a feasibility study to look at an alternate trail to reconnect the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails if a 9.3 mile segment is reactivated.
- August 29, 2011 submitted a grant request in the amount of \$49,065 to North Central Regional Planning Commission, Greenways Implementation Grant, for the development of a dog park at Curwensville Lake. This grant will allow the Curwensville Lake Authority to implement the first phase of their Master Site Plan.
- September 30, 2011 submitted the Clearfield County CDBG Entitlement Grant to DCED in the amount of \$274,757. This grant will help with water system improvements by assisting the following municipalities: CKGAA in Girard Township (\$100,000), Cooper MA-Allport Munson (\$57,530), Burnside Borough (\$67,771), and Clearfield County Administration (\$49,456).
- October 13, 2011 submitted the Clearfield & Jefferson County ICSP Plan and grant request for \$71,653. The grant request will assist at risk youth and the County Categorical Agencies by employing a Personal Life Support Coordinator to work with youth.

Education & Outreach

Planner Newsletter (Special Edition-Natural Gas)

– With some relevant training opportunities and expressed interest growing in regards to regulating natural gas development, our office put together a special edition newsletter.

North Central Regional Communities Conference

– "The Second Annual North Central Communities Conference." The Conference was held at Penn State DuBois on Wednesday, May 18, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A great networking opportunity with local, state, and federal officials, and consultants, and informative concurrent workshops designed to meet the needs of local communities. The workshops were organized into four tracks: Improving Communities, Developing Workforce, Municipal Training, & GIS/Computer Training.

DuBois Downtown Workshop – On February 28, the Director participated per request of the Main Street Manager, Karen Vanderhoff. This workshop included presentations on the PA Wilds Design Guide and upcoming business and community funding opportunities, tax credits opportunities for historic properties, enforcement/code issues, and the upcoming mini façade grants available through the

Downtown Revitalization Corp.

Unconventional Gas Education

Collaboration – At the request of Paul McCloskey, Jodi attended the July 26 Moshannon Valley Council of Governments meeting in Madera to discuss Marcellus shale gas development. Jodi provided an overview of related activities in the County, discussed their concerns regarding impacts, provided overview of regulatory authority, and encouraged them to attend gas industry meet & greet that Paul is setting up for Fall Township Convention. One supervisor expressed his concern regarding County 911 addressing of gas well sites. He claims that this limits their ability to require companies to bond their roads since the companies are claiming all deliveries are local deliveries (exempt from weight limit requirements) since they have an address for the site. The County Commissioners conferred with their Solicitor, Kim C. Kesner, Esquire, and in his opinion, the addressing of gas wells for emergency management purposes creates no issue regarding excess hauling requirements. Under Section 189.3 of Title 67, "local traffic" may not exceed the posted weight limits where "the posting authority determines that an over-posted-weight vehicle or vehicles being driven to or from a

particular destination or destinations are likely to damage the highway."

As a follow up to a previously attended COG meeting, Paul McCloskey from the CCEDC offered to set up guest speakers for the COG to discuss how municipal officials can prepare themselves for increased development of the unconventional gas industry. Paul has secured two guest speakers: Jerry Walls, retired Lycoming County Planning Director, now a private planning consultant, as well as Jim Weaver, Tioga County Planning Director. Director will also be in attendance for this meeting which is scheduled for October 26.

On October 26, the Moshannon Valley COG, through the efforts of Paul McCloskey, CCEDC sponsored a guest speaker to talk about community impacts from Marcellus shale development. Guest Speaker was Jim Weaver, Tioga County Planning Director. Jim's presentation was informative and generated some thoughtful dialogue among those in attendance. Subjects regarding road impacts, noise, and water contamination were prevalent. Since the meeting, Jodi has been contacted by Goshen Township Supervisor for sample regulations related to subdivision and land development and noise in relation to Marcellus shale development.

SALDO ADMINISTRATION

Clearfield County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) currently has jurisdiction over 30 of our

51 municipalities. In 2011, the Planning Commission reviewed 41 plans for compliance with the County's Ordinance.

The following chart outlines the activity that occurred in administering the County's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance in 2011. The following municipalities did not have any activity for the year: Bigler Township, Brisbin Borough, Chester Hill Borough, Covington Township, Falls Creek Borough, Ferguson Township, Girard Township, Irvona Borough,

Karthaus Township, Lumber City Borough, Mahaffey Borough, Newburg Borough, Pine Township, Ramey Borough, Troutville Borough, Wallaceton Borough, and Westover Borough.

2011 County's S.A.L.D.O.

Municipality	Total Acres	Subdivisions	Land Development	Lots Created	Proposed Buildings
Beccaria Twp.	322.61	3	0	10	6
Bell Twp.	105.856	2	0	4	0
Bloom Twp.	68.07	2	0	2	0
Brady Twp.	34.116	1	1	0	1
Brisbin Boro.	2.375	1	0	2	1
Burnside Boro.	2.375	1	0	2	0
Burnside Twp.	12.43	3	0	4	0
Chest Twp.	171.944	2	0	4	1
Glen Hope Boro.	0.412	1	0	2	0
Grampian Boro.	8.054	1	0	2	0
Greenwood Twp.	82.209	2	0	4	1
Gulich Twp.	172.22	4	0	6	1
Houtzdale Boro.	0.516	1	0	3	2
Huston Twp.	298.093	3	0	6	1
Jordon Twp.	108.133	3	0	2	2
Knox Twp.	31.66	1	0	2	0
New Washington Boro.	3.134	1	0	3	1
Osceola Mills Boro.	2.978	1	0	2	0
Pike Twp.	451.756	7	0	14	5
TOTAL	1878.941	40	1	78	22

SALDO ADMINISTRATION Continued

In addition, the County Planning Department reviewed and provided comments on 86 plans from those 21 municipalities that administer their own SALDO. Of those 86 plans, 15 were land development plans and 71 were subdivision plans. The adjacent table reflects the activity:

In addition to S.A.L.D.O. reviews, our office reviewed several other permit and project notices throughout the year. The type and quantity of those reviews are listed below. Our office also provided support letters for community based projects:

Act 14 Notifications (Municipal Notification of DEP Permit Applications) – 103

Act 67 & 68 Reviews (Land Use Consistency Reviews) – 73

Act 95 Reviews (Municipal Notification of Federal Funding Requests) – 7

Act 537 Reviews (Sewage Facilities Planning) – 7

Air Quality – 6

Blasting Notices – 1

Bond Releases – 38

Correspondence – 34

Environmental Assessments/Reviews – 9

General Permits – 6

Municipalities with their own S.A.L.D.O. 2011					
Municipality	Total Acres	Subdivisions	Land Development	Lots Created	Proposed Buildings
Boggs Twp.	69.2809	4	0	3	1
Bradford Twp.	156.22	7	2	4	2
Clearfield Boro.	0.89	1	0	0	0
Cooper Twp.	28.11	3	0	3	1
Curwensville Boro.	0.05	1	0	1	0
Decatur Twp.	175.807	5	0	4	3
City of DuBois	20.265	6	3	5	4
Goshen Twp.	131.469	6	0	6	1
Graham Twp.	304.118	3	0	4	0
Lawrence Twp.	559.906	12	7	17	8
Morris Twp.	105.646	6	0	6	1
Penn Twp.	1.64	1	0	1	0
Sandy Twp.	468.4158	13	2	6	8
Union Twp.	2.69	1	0	1	0
Woodward Twp.	3.259	2	0	1	0
Total	2057.7627	71	15	62	29

Land Use Changes – 2

Miscellaneous – 5

NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) – 1

Public Notices – 9

Public Utility Commission – 11

Sewage Component Reviews/Planning Modules – 50

SRBC Permits (Susquehanna River Basin Commission) – 33

Support Letters – 17

Surface/Underground Mining – 1

Water Quality – 5

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**North Central Safety Corridor Analysis –**

The North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning & Development Commission initiated a Corridor Safety Analysis of the region's priority roadway system. A webpage was established at: <http://www.ncentral.com/index.php?page=safety-corridor-analysis> to share information and hear concerns from drivers, walkers, transit users, and bicyclists in Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter Counties. This study identified future transportation improvement projects that would enhance the overall safety of the key roads within the six-county region for motorists and non-motorists alike. The analysis considered existing roadway conditions that impact safety such as narrow lanes, sharp curves, and access to public transit stops. The first step of the study was to collect information from residents and business owners about their safety concerns by taking a survey.

Residents who live within the six-county region were given the opportunity to provide comments.

A public meeting to provide input on the North Central Region's Corridor Safety Analysis was held in May. At a public meeting held in June, much feedback was provided on the preliminary study findings that identified 24 safety improvement projects in the region.

In October, McCormick and Taylor, Project Consultant, reviewed the final corridor safety project findings. The final draft document is now posted on North Central's website at <http://www.ncentral.com/index.php?page=safety-corridor-analysis>.

Moshannon Valley Park & Ride Lot Study – The need to improve transportation service in the Moshannon Valley area has been a top-ranked priority for both the Centre County

MPO and the North Central RPO. Therefore, ATA and CATA are looking to coordinate their expansion of transit service to the Moshannon Valley. During the months of January and February, the consultant for this project, McCormick Taylor, collected and analyzed GIS and commuting data as they worked towards the first stakeholder workshop. The first stakeholder workshop was held in March and the second in June.

Stakeholders worked through the scoring process and developed a prioritized list of sites. Around 25 sites were previously identified for prioritization. In July, our office received a summary from the Second Stakeholder Workshop recently held along with the DRAFT preliminary scores for the various Potential Park & Ride sites funding consideration.

Continued on Page 12

Housing Initiatives

Neighborhood Stabilization Program – The Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds are intended to address the problems of abandoned and foreclosed homes and other residential properties while providing affordable rental and home ownership opportunities to households within the targeted areas in Clearfield Borough and the City of DuBois.

Clearfield Borough by Property:

405 East Locust Street: Demolition NSP costs to date: \$24,505.72

Habitat for Humanity has demolished the property with NSP funds. They are currently building a two-story home on the lot.

304 South 4th Street: Acquisition and demolition NSP costs to date: \$35,803.26 Habitat for Humanity purchased and demolished the vacant blighted house that was on the lot with NSP funding. They have recently advertised to find a family and begin building a new home for ownership.

507 Leavy Avenue: Acquisition and demolition NSP costs to date: \$38,383.57 Habitat for Humanity purchased and demolished the vacant blighted house that was on the lot with NSP funding. This lot does not conform with the Borough setbacks. Habitat may build a very small home within the footprint of the home that was there. However, at this time, they do not have any one single or two person households.

Lisa has been working with members of the staff at Clearfield Borough and Habitat for Humanity on three properties within our designated census tract BG for NSP. Clearfield Borough and Habitat for Humanity are currently working on acquiring two vacant blighted properties held by absent, out of town property owners. These homes will be demolished with the remaining \$44,060.45 NSP funds by June 2012.

City of DuBois by Property:

135 East Weber Avenue: Acquisition and demolition NSP costs to date: \$24,661.28 Habitat for Humanity acquired and demolished the property with NSP funds. They are currently building a two-story home on the lot.

149 West Long Avenue: Acquisition, demolition, land bank NSP Costs to date: \$108,057.18

Central PA Development Corporation,

CPDC, is the developer for the project. The City of DuBois Redevelopment Authority (RDA) holds the property in land bank. The property was acquired and demolished last summer with NSP funds. Currently, the County, RDA, and CPCA are working with H.A.N.D.S, a developer of Erie, PA, to build an 8-unit apartment building for veterans' housing.

127 East Weber Avenue: Acquisition and rehabilitation for resale NSP costs to date: \$56,997.31

Central PA Development Corporation, CPDC, is the developer for this project. They have acquired the property via short sale, the rehabilitation design has been completed, and they have entered into Phase One of the four-phase rehabilitation which includes lead abatement. The projected date for completion of the project is June 2012. CPDC has begun to advertise the property for sale and has many interested parties inquire.

Homelessness Prevention and Rehabilitation Program –

The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program is designed to facilitate an increase in existing programs that provide emergency rental assistance payments, case management, and related services to prevent homelessness. In February, Central Pennsylvania Community Action has met 60% of their goal in expenditures. In March, the overall expenditure rate for the program was at 38%.

Clearfield County Housing Task Force –

In January, a conference call was held between HDC, Veteran Affairs Director, DuBois Redevelopment Authority, Clearfield County Economic Development Corporation, and our office to discuss housing options for veterans in DuBois with utilizing the Neighborhood Stabilization Program's Long Ave. site for development, as well as other housing options for Clearfield County. In March, a housing needs and market assessment was started and a rough draft has been completed.

Housing Needs Assessment & Market Study –

Our office is working on a residential survey as part of the needs assessment. Residents' input is being requested to help Clearfield County assess housing and community development needs throughout the County over the next five

years. Part of the assessment entails allocating funds from sources including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to support the identified needs resulting from this survey. The residential survey was available until January 16, 2012. This survey is part of the housing needs assessment we are currently conducting in-house. It will assess housing and community development needs throughout the County over the next five years. Survey is posted on the Clearfield County Department of Planning & Community Development Office's Web site at <http://www.planning.clearfieldco.org/> and on Survey Monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3M38BLY>

Affordable Housing Trust Fund – Our office will be unveiling a press release announcing the availability of Housing trust funds for affordable housing projects. Clearfield County Commissioners announced in October the availability of affordable housing trust fund. Clearfield County is now soliciting applications for affordable housing activities to be funded by the Clearfield County Affordable Housing Fund. Projects which increase the availability of quality affordable housing, either through sales or rental, to any County resident whose annual income is less than the median income of County will be considered.

Types of projects that would be considered for funding include owner-occupied rehabilitation, rental rehabilitation, first-time home buyers programs, housing counseling programs, emergency repair programs, elderly, special needs, & disabled housing, veterans housing, new home construction, land banks, transitional housing, homeless shelters, community stabilization programs, foreclosure prevention, emergency rental assistance, and bridge loans for rental housing development. All applications are due back to the CCPCD by December 1, 2011 by 4:00 PM. Approximately \$ 50,000 is available in the 2012 funding round. There will be a cap of \$15,000 per project. Our office received four applications for consideration. Applications are currently under review and we anticipate awards in January.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING *continued*

Moshannon Valley Park & Ride Lot Study (continued) – During the remainder of the summer, the consultant conducted field investigations and developed cost estimates for the highest scoring 12-15 sites.

A final stakeholders' meeting was held in December. The purpose of the final gathering was to update all on the progress of the study and obtain comment and feedback for establishing the preferred park & ride lot package to be advanced forward. The top ten possible project sites were presented outlining the pros and cons of each site along with a rough cost estimate for development. Each attendee was asked to identify their top three choices.

Transportation Enhancements – The scoring committee, of which the Director is a member, met in January to rank seven projects from the region. More money was requested than what was available; however, at least 6 of the 7 projects should be funded. The full RPO committee voted on these projects in February. Four funded projects were from Clearfield County and are listed below:

Clearfield Revitalization: \$7,000
 Coalport Boro Streetscape: \$335,000
 Sandy Township - Dixon Ave.: \$27,600
 DuBois South Brady Street Streetscape: \$463,711

PA Community Transportation Initiative – \$24 million of federal and state transportation funds from the first two years of the 2011 Transportation Improvement Program were made available for projects under the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI). Two projects were submitted from Clearfield County. We learned in January that Coalport Borough would receive \$475,000 to improve the streetscape along Main Street in coordination with scheduled roadway improvements.

2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program – An RPO meeting was held in September to discuss the region's 2013-2016 TIP. PennDOT and North Central personnel conducted county planner meetings in October to discuss backlogged projects and any potential new projects. There has not been a formal solicitation for new projects due to the fact that there is a backlog of unfunded projects already identified.

As part of the TIP update process, a State Transportation Commission hearing was held in Altoona. North Central formed a partnership at the hearing with our counterparts SEDA-COG, Williamsport MPO, and Centre County MPO to present a joint "state of the region." The testimony identified an increase in infrastructure needs across all regions and not enough money to get ahead of the curve. Collectively, the planning regions are focusing their resources on maintenance first. While no formal solicitation for new projects was conducted because of the backlog of projects still incomplete, we did receive a request from Grampian Borough for intersection safety improvements at the intersection of 219, 879, & 729 which we forwarded to North Central/PennDOT for inclusion to Long Range Transportation Plan. Another request was also received for inclusion of a bridge in Houtzdale on Good Street. In addition, we learned that PennDOT received a request for help w/a local bridge on Hopkins Street over Whitmore Run in Irvona Borough. While there is no money available to add projects, we will accept requests for future consideration. A Rural Transportation Planning Committee meeting was held in December 13. Discussion included the 2013-2016 TIP Update.

PennDOT's Bridge Risk Assessment Tool was utilized to identify roughly the top 60 Structurally Deficient (SD) State-Owned Structures showing the greatest need or "Risk" from throughout the region. The Draft TIP is overwhelmingly made up of SD bridges. We are also continuing the practice of a line item for local bridge "Retro" projects (i.e. small, locally-owned bridges/box culverts). Municipal services are working to identify possible candidates. Planners asked that in addition to retro line item which is for smaller local bridges, that we consider swapping a few local structurally deficient bridges for some of the State owned bridges. Planners were then asked to identify one local bridge project for consideration. The RPO committee has been working through existing prioritized list of local bridges for possible candidates.