

# Clearfield County Planning Commission 2012 Annual Report

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### *Inside this Issue:*

<i>Recreation, Source Water Protection, Greenways &amp; Tourism</i>	2-3
<i>Community Development</i>	3-4
<i>Transportation</i>	4
<i>S.A.L.D.O. Administration</i>	5-6
<i>Housing Initiatives</i>	7
<i>Natural Gas Development</i>	8
<i>Education, Outreach, &amp; Technical Assistance</i>	9

### ***Mission Statement:***

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

## RECREATION, SOURCE WATER PROTECTION, GREENWAYS & TOURISM PLANNING

**Central PA Source Water Alliance for Protection** – Our office actively participates with the CP SWAP Alliance by attending monthly meetings, leading committees and supporting the development of projects and outreach initiatives that support source water protection plans. Accomplishments for 2012 include designing a brochure, planning youth education events and creating a SWP Committee. The SWP Committee will help to support the needs of county municipalities and water suppliers to implementation of their source water protection plans.

**Geocaching Along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River Water Trail** – (Lycoming, Clinton, Clearfield, and Cambria Counties). The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership planned, developed, and implemented a geocaching trail along the West Branch Water Trail that guided visitors to 24 different interpretive caches (averages one cache every 9.5 miles). Self-paced and self-guided, this low-impact form of healthy outdoor recreation encouraged exploration of this National Recreation Trail as well as interpretation of the unique cultural, historic, and natural features of the Susquehanna Greenway within the Lumber Heritage Region. Funding provided by Lumber Heritage Mini-Grant Program.

**West Branch Susquehanna Byways and Corridor Management Plan** – After five years of planning and work, the Visit Clearfield County tourism authority board (formerly Clearfield County Recreation and Tourism Authority) learned that the West Branch of the Susquehanna Byway has been approved by the State Department of Transportation. An unveiling ceremony of the newly designated West Branch Byway took place May 24. The new scenic byway runs along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River from the McGees Mills covered bridge to the Clearfield County line in Karthaus. The 72-mile byway traverses a large section of Clearfield County, passing through eleven townships and five boroughs.

**North Central PA Greenways Implementation Grant Program (NCPGIGP)** – Round C was held with 5 applications being submitted for funding: Clarion River Water Trail Map (Elk County), Beaver Meadow Walkway Trailhead (Clearfield County), Beaver Meadow Walkway Signage (Clearfield County), Shawmut Trail Development Phase II (McKean County), and Tuna Valley Trail Improvement (McKean

County). A committee meeting was held on April 19 to rank and approve projects. The project in Clearfield County for the Beaver Meadow Walkway was among those funded.

**Snow Shoe Rail Trail** – During 2012 RJ Corman was granted approval for rail reactivation which effectively cuts out a 9.3 mile segment of the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails. And severs the legal right to utilize the 9.3 mile segment of the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails has been vacated by the Surface Transportation Board. Also in 2012 the Trust transferred ownership of the Trail to the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Association (SSRTA). This popular recreational multi-use public trail allows ATV, UTV, and snowmobile usage by registered members generating significant economic benefits for the region encompassing more than five states with over 3,000 members. The Trail is also open to non-motorized users such as walkers, cyclists, equestrians, and skiers. Since the railroad has no immediate plans to reactivate the line the Rails Association is in the process of requesting a temporary license from the Railroad to utilize the 9.3 mile segment.

**Bilger's Rock Association** – Identified in the North Central Greenways as a Hub, Bilger's Rocks is an asset to the County's natural heritage, history, conservation and tourism. We have assisted the Association with completing a Wal-Mart Community Cares Grant and USDA Forestry Management request.

**Headwaters RC&D Council & Trust** – The Headwaters Conservation Partnership recently announced the distribution of a total of \$14,875 in funding for six conservation projects located in five counties in the Headwaters region. The Headwaters Conservation Partnership accepts corporate, small business, and individual partners in the Headwaters eight-county region (Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, Potter, and McKean). Partners designate which county or counties they wish to put their funding to work for conservation and community development projects. The RC&D has three board members from each county representing the County Commissioners, Planning Commissions, and Conservation Districts. Those members provide recommendations on how to allocate the funds available to projects in their county. Companies also have the opportunity to choose specific projects to provide funding for.

The following projects were approved for funding:

- Driftwood Branch Nature Trail, Cameron County, \$1,237.50
- Haz-Mat Absorbent Materials, Jefferson County, \$562.50
- Monthly Calibration of Water Monitoring Equipment, Elk County, \$1,600
- American Chestnut Tree Reforestation at Bennett's Branch, Elk County, \$4,500
- Education Materials and Envirothon Support, McKean County, \$1,912.50
- Karthaus Park Restroom Facility, Clearfield County, \$562.50

**PA Wilds Planning Team**–In 2006, county leaders in the region signed a groundbreaking Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement, vowing to work together with the Commonwealth and other partners to grow the region's nature and heritage tourism industry to create jobs, inspire stewardship, and improve quality of life. This cooperative resulted in the formation of the PA Wilds Planning team which consists of county planners, regional economic development and heritage organizations, local government associations and other stakeholders, whom meet regularly. 2012 achievements include:

### Design Assistance Program

The Design Assistance Initiative is a pilot project of the PA Wilds Planning Team that demonstrates how good design can make a positive impact on communities and businesses, that attracts visitors to the Pennsylvania Wilds.

*Continued on page 3*

**RECREATION, SOURCE WATER PROTECTION, GREENWAYS & TOURISM PLANNING** *continued*

The Pennsylvania Wilds Design Guide: A Design Guide for Community Character Stewardship is an award-winning planning document that highlights how communities in the region can preserve their rural character as they grow. Voluntary application of the principles and guidelines presented in the Design Guide allows public agencies, businesses, and property owners to achieve the benefits of change and growth while protecting their communities' uniqueness and character.

In 2012, using a mix of federal and state funds secured by the Team, eight (8) Pilot Projects were selected to receive grants as part of the Pennsylvania Wilds Design Assistance Initiative (DAI) to demonstrate successful application of the Design Guide's recommendations. Funding awarded specific to Clearfield County included:

*Coalport Borough- Coalport's Streetscape Committee was awarded DAI funds which allowed for the hiring of an architect specializing in historic buildings to conduct a public workshop about the advantages of using tax credits to offset costs of historic building rehabilitation. The architect also worked with five building owners to develop*

*improvement concepts for their buildings. Of equal importance, the community hired an economist to prepare a market study and develop an action plan to draw more investment to Coalport.*

Community Signage Grants

The popular mini-grant program that helps communities in the Pennsylvania Wilds region pay for new welcome signage re-opened and awards were made just this summer.

The PA Wilds Community Signage Grant Program is designed to encourage a cohesive, welcoming spirit across the region by helping communities design and construct new welcome signage that incorporates suggestions set forth in the Pennsylvania Wilds Design Guide: A Design Guide for

Community Character Stewardship. Specific community signage grants awarded in Clearfield County include:

*Irvona Borough**Glen Hope Borough  
Karthaus Township***COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT****Grants Submitted by the Community Development Specialist:**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012** – Submitted a grant request in the amount of \$235,100 to the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency for improvement and equipment to establish a booking center at the County Jail. \$45,000 Awarded.

**March 24, 2012**– Submitted a grant request in the amount of \$399,292.58 to the US Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women for Safe Haven; Safe Visitation and Exchanges for Victims of Domestic Violence, sexual assault, dating violence, child abuse, or stalking during non-custodial supervised visits and exchanges in Clearfield & Jefferson Counties. Denied.

**April 2, 2012** – Submitted a grant request in the amount of \$ 1,017,475 to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, C2P2 Grant for the Clearfield Pool Association. The Pool Association will

rehabilitate the swimming pool and complex to meet ADA and code requirements. Awarded.

**June 21, 2012** – Submitted a grant request in the amount of \$3,500 to the PA Wilds Community Signage Grant to have 3 welcome signs made and installed for Curwensville Borough. Denied.

**June 26, 2012** – Submitted a grant request for \$11,060 to the US Department of Justice, Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant, to assist the Sheriff and Domestic Relations Offices with new equipment. Awarded.

**September 26, 2012** –Submitted a grant for \$500,000 to PA Department of Community and Economic Development for the competitive Community Development Block Grant for a water line extension on Buck Run Road in Girard Township. Awarded.

**October 12, 2012** – Submitted a grant for \$9,000 to Visit Clearfield County for tourism and signage initiatives in Curwensville

Borough. Awarded.

**November 5, 2012** – Submitted a grant for \$562.50 to Headwaters Charitable Trust for Karthaus Township Restroom Facility. The grant will assist with water conservation. Awarded.

**November 15, 2012** – Submitted a grant for \$5,000 to PCCD to assist with equipment at booking centers for Megan's Law. Awarded.

*Continued on page 4*

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** *continued*

**Appalachia Region Commission (ARC)** – The Planning Department is administering the ARC grant for Coalport Borough's Flood Project. The Flood Project has been held up by design plans leaving the ARC grant in question. Staff continues to work with North Central Regional Planning Commission,

DCED, Coalport Borough and DEP to extend the ARC grant dollars on behalf of Coalport Borough.

**Community Development Block Grant:** CCPCD reviewed six applications for 2012. The County has recommended all six projects for funding pending DCED approval by utilizing 2012 allocations of funds, as well as reallocating unspent funds from previous fiscal years. Shown Below.

2012 Community Development Block Grant Applications			
Applicant	Project Description	Requested Amount	Awarded Amount
Woodward Township	Housing Rehab Lateral Connections	\$222,000.00	\$100,000.00
Chester Hill Borough	Replacement of storm water drains	\$19,276.00	\$27,023.00
*Coalport Borough	Flood drain improvements curb and sidewalks	\$75,000.00	\$54,892.00
*Woodland Bigler Sewer Authority	Replace baffle in wastewater treatment lagoon	\$40,000.00	\$20,650.00
Osceola Mills Borough	Phase II storm water project	\$46,330.00	\$46,330.00
Bigler Township	Demolition of old school building	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00

*\*Indicates funding for project will come from FFY 2008/2009 Modification*

**TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

**Rural Transportation Committee** – In 2012 twenty-four freight-rail projects across Pennsylvania were awarded grants administered by PennDOT's Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways. Awards specific to Clearfield County include: Clearfield County: RES Coal, Inc. – \$505,848 to rehabilitate siding and construct new track.

A Local Bridge Task Force was formed to begin looking at the best way to address or maybe more importantly have a greater understanding of the overall condition of the local bridges throughout our region. The task force is made up of volunteers from the RPO who have an interest in improving local infrastructure as part of the overall transportation planning process. Rob has agreed to serve as our representative on this taskforce. Right now, the taskforce is only interested in ranking each county's top 10 local bridges over 20 feet. We will be asking our local municipalities for help in getting the information we need from their local bridges in order to prioritize them.

**Draft FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** – In early 2012 additional funding "Spike funding" for the FY 2013-2016 TIP was received. These funds have restored our "local retro reimbursement line item" (i.e. small local bridges/box culverts) - \$1,000,000. One retro candidate identified for Clearfield County is Woodward Township T-785 McCauley Ave. over Beaver Run.

The State Transportation Commission approved an update to Pennsylvania's 12-Year Transportation Program which anticipates \$41.6 billion being available over the next 12 years for improvements to roads, bridges, transit systems, airports and railroads.

The newly adopted 12-Year Program which takes effect October 1 anticipates just over \$9 billion being available for highway and bridge projects in the first four years. Public transit is in line for \$5.4 billion; aviation, \$360 million; and the State's rail-freight systems are expected to receive \$204 million.

For more information about the 12-Year Program, visit: <http://www.dot.state.pa.us/TYP/index.htm>

**Long Range Transportation Plan**

The North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission is worked in partnership with local community leaders from throughout the six county region of Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter Counties to conduct an update of their Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) documents.

The Long Range Transportation Plan serves as the official adopted plan for the north central Pennsylvania region and will be used by transportation officials and decision makers to guide the expenditure of transportation dollars for at least a twenty-year period. The long-range transportation plan will have a multi-modal focus including roadways, public transportation,

bicycle/pedestrian, freight, rail, and air facilities. The plan will also look at the effect transportation has on land use and economic development throughout the region.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Regional Strategy is intended to bring public and private sectors together to provide a baseline of information, set forth goals, and establish targeted strategies and performance measures for documenting successful economic and community development. This integration of coordinated economic development also provides for the sharing of talent and resources and provides the flexibility to adapt to regional economic conditions.

As part of the overall planning process, North Central will be asking citizens and transportation, land use, and economic development stakeholders what issues are important to them. The input provided will help identify a preferred future for the North Central region. The Plans will also strive to promote the development of a balanced transportation system while supporting communities throughout the region with sufficient commercial, industrial, residential, and open space land to meet the needs of existing and future residents.

Community participation will be extremely important to the overall success of both Plans. The Commission launched a public survey to gauge the needs and opinions of the public and key stakeholders from throughout the region. The survey ran through February 24, 2012.

**S.A.L.D.O. ADMINISTRATION**



Clearfield County’s Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) currently has jurisdiction over 31 of our 51 municipalities. In 2012, the Planning Commission reviewed 37 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 2012. The following municipalities did not have

any activity for the year: Brisbin Borough, Burnside Borough, Coalport Borough, Falls Creek Borough, Girard Township, Grampian Borough, Houtzdale Borough, Goshen Township, Jordan Township, Knox Township, Lumber City Borough, Newburg Borough, New Washington Borough, Osceola Mills Borough, Pine Township, Ramey Borough, Troutville Borough, Union Township, Wallacetown Borough, and Westover Borough.

2012 County’s S.A.L.D.O.					
Municipality	Total Acres	Subdivisions	Land Development	Lots Created	Proposed Buildings
Beccaria Twp.	145.249	4	0	8	2
Bell Twp.	118.012	2	0	4	0
Bigler Twp.	13.741	2	0	5	3
Bloom Twp.	195.046	4	0	12	1
Brady Twp.	102.35	3	0	7	4
Burnside Twp.	10.322	1	0	2	1
Chest Twp.	136.93	3	0	3	0
Chester Hill Boro.	16.919	1	2	0	2
Ferguson Twp.	287.951	2	0	2	0
Glen Hope Boro.	0.476	1	0	0	0
Greenwood Twp.	330	1	0	4	0
Gulich Twp.	149.494	3	0	6	4
Huston Twp.	30.0957	3	0	0	0
Irvona Boro.	3.689	2	0	4	0
Mahaffey Boro.	0.462	1	0	0	0
Pike Twp.	41.09	4	0	3	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,581.8267</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>17</b>

**SALDO ADMINISTRATION Continued**

In addition, the County Planning Department reviewed and provided comments on 85 plans from those 20 municipalities that administer their own SALDO. Of those 85 plans, 7 were land development plans and 78 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) – 79**

**Act 67 & 68 Reviews (Land Use Consistency Reviews) – 36**

**Act 95 Reviews (Municipal Notification of Federal Funding Requests) – 1**

**Act 537 Reviews (Sewage Facilities Planning) – 3**

**Air Quality – 4**

**Blasting Notices – 1**

**Bond Releases – 28**

**Correspondence – 55**

**Environmental Assessments/Reviews – 10**

**General Permits – 15**

**Land Use Changes – 5**

**Miscellaneous – 1**

**NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) – 4**

**Public Utility Commission – 14**

**Sewage Component Reviews/Planning Modules – 38**

**SRBC Permits (Susquehanna River Basin Commission) – 15**

**Support Letters – 6**

**Water Withdrawals – 4**

**Zoning Ordinance Amendment Reviews –**

2

<b>Municipalities with their own S.A.L.D.O. 2012</b>					
<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>Subdivisions</b>	<b>Land Development</b>	<b>Lots Created</b>	<b>Proposed Buildings</b>
<b>Boggs Twp.</b>	<b>130.108</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Bradford Twp.</b>	<b>80.715</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Clearfield Boro.</b>	<b>8.267</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cooper Twp.</b>	<b>105.921</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Covington Twp.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Curwensville Boro.</b>	<b>2.74</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Decatur Twp.</b>	<b>103.788</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>City of DuBois</b>	<b>4.575</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Graham Twp.</b>	<b>601.627</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Karthaus Twp.</b>	<b>39.741</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Lawrence Twp.</b>	<b>172.157</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Morris Twp.</b>	<b>10.1359</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Penn Twp.</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sandy Twp.</b>	<b>927.1992</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Woodward Twp.</b>	<b>15.942</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,252.9161</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>41</b>

## HOUSING INITIATIVES

### Housing Needs & Market Assessment-

October the Commissioners adopted the recently completed County Housing Needs & Market Assessment as an official amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan. This Assessment is a product of collaboration between the County's Housing Task Force and the County's Planning & Community Development Office. Contents of the assessment include statistical data, an inventory of housing initiatives, programs & resources, a housing stock analysis, a housing market analysis, data on home affordability & availability, a blighted structures inventory & toolkit, a code enforcement inventory & analysis, results of both a municipal official and a general public survey on housing, and a needs assessment which includes recommendations & possible funding mechanisms.

Some key findings from the assessment include:

- *There is a shortage in affordable and available rental units for lower income renters within Clearfield County.*
- *The number of work hours per week at minimum wage to afford the fair market rent of a two bedroom apartment is currently 62 hours a week.*
- *A householder between the ages of 15-24 or 65+ is more likely not to be able to afford a median valued home (\$80,000).*
- *Additional tools are needed to assist municipalities in addressing blighted properties owned by absentee property owners. Over 300 blighted structures were reported & inventoried by our municipal officials.*
- *In terms of homelessness, the results of the residential housing survey indicate that individuals and families are "doubling up" (living w/ others) in the County due to the inability to afford housing.*
- *Residents are reporting having more difficulties affording utilities and heating bills than paying their rent or mortgage.*

This assessment will be a useful tool for all housing agencies & advocates who rely on such data to support program funding requests as well as for the County when identifying priorities for County Affordable Housing Trust funds. In addition, this assessment will help the County meet the eligibility requirements in applying for housing related funds generated through the

Marcellus Shale impact fee legislation, Act 13 of 2012.

### County's Affordable Housing Trust Funds

-Last January, we held Clearfield County's first solicitation of applications for affordable housing activities to be funded by the Clearfield County Affordable Housing Fund. Looking for 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, were considered. Eligible projects included 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. The Clearfield County 2012 Affordable Housing Trust Funding assisted five different organizations with programs and projects that addressed housing:

- **Cen-Clear Child Services – (Specialized Housing Counseling Initiative)** Counselor to determine housing needs for low income families and individuals; providing counseling & training and linking them to the housing services they need. To serve 60 families over 12 month period. **\$15,000.00**
- **Central PA Community Action – (CHORE Service)** Improve housing stock by assisting low income families/ individuals with necessary repairs (health/safety) needed to keep them in their homes. **\$10,000.00**
- **City of DuBois Redevelopment Authority-** (Redevelop Blighted Properties) Funding to acquire strategic blighted properties in the City to rehabilitate for the purpose of getting those properties back into hands of responsible homeowners and back on tax rolls. **\$10,000.00**

- **Young People Who Care, Inc. - (Marian House Shelter)** New roof for homeless shelter. The Marian House Homeless Shelter for women and children was in need of a new roof. In 2011, it is estimated that the shelter assisted 81 individuals with a total of 1,867 days of shelter. The previous roof was leaking onto the second floor and posed health and safety risks for those staying at the shelter. **\$7,500.00**
- **Clearfield Presbyterian Church- (Presbyterian Hammers)** The Presbyterian Hammers is a group of members that provide emergency housing repairs for Clearfield County residents in need. This group serves residents with physical and/or mental disabilities who have limited income and no other support system to help them with emergency house repair. **\$7,500.00**

### Clearfield County Housing Task Force -

The Department provides the Task Force with planning and technical assistance at quarterly meetings. With members of the task force, we completed the Clearfield County Housing Needs and Market Assessment of 2011. Officially adopted by the County In 2012, the Assessment has proven to be a useful tool in the development of Affordable Housing Trust Fund programs and projects. Additional topics addressed at meetings over the year include elimination and prevention of blighted structures, conservatorship training, delinquent property taxes remaining on private tax sale list, fair housing training, moving forward with the assessment, and creation by-laws for the Task Force.

### Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) –

Our office has administered the NSP program for three year, housing accomplishments under NSP for 2012 consist of three affordable housing units being completed, with two of them purchased and occupied. Habitat for Humanity completed houses for two families at 410 E. Locust Street in Clearfield and 135 W. Weber Ave in DuBois. Central PA Development Corp, Inc. completed the rehabilitation of 127 W. Weber Ave in DuBois, and listed it for sale. Properties in Clearfield Borough were considered for purchase by Habitat for Humanity, However due to environmental issues, they opted not to pursue the sites.

**NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT**

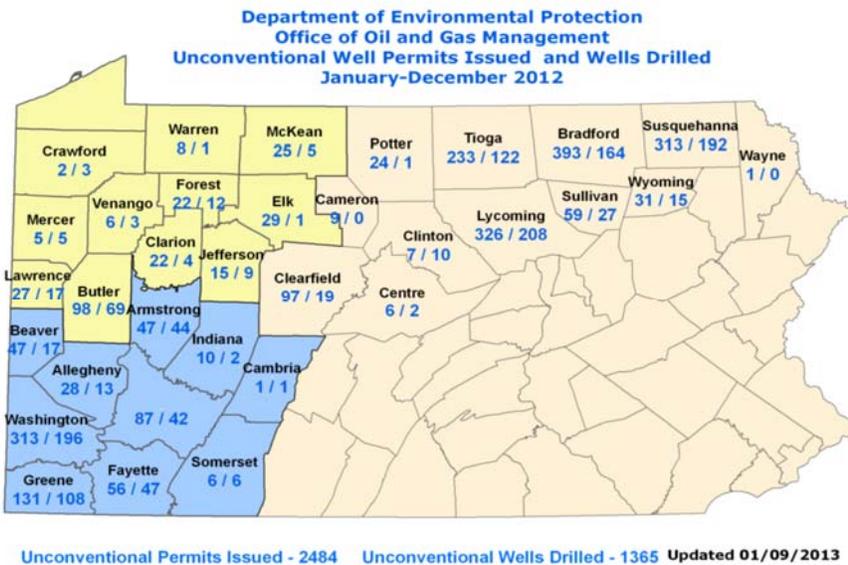
**Marcellus Shale Impact Fee** – On February 14, 2012, after three years of debate and months of intense negotiation, Governor Tom Corbett signed Act 13 of 2012 (HB1950) into law. The measure allows for a local impact fee on natural gas wells, imposing significant new environmental regulations on the industry, improving public safety standards, and clarifying how local governments may use zoning and land use regulations to regulate drilling operations. In April, 2012, A state judge ruled that existing local laws remain in effect until they are challenged and found invalid and has issued a preliminary injunction against Act 13 to the extent that it may be interpreted immediately to preempt local law. The Court also stayed the effective date of Act 13 for an additional 120 days to give municipalities time to amend local laws should they choose to do so. According to the PUC, as of April 19, 51 municipalities have adopted an ordinance making them eligible for impact fees. First payment of funds due municipalities was expected on 12/1/12. Our GIS Director and fellow planning Commission member, John Kaskan, has drafted a spreadsheet showing an estimated dollar amount expected to be generated per municipality. It is anticipated the amount will be decreasing due to a drop in natural gas prices.

evaluate a new science curriculum developed for adults in rural areas to learn science concepts and engage in science practices. Participants in the study explored the natural and social sciences from geology to economics by learning about the Marcellus Shale. They also engaged in data collection, analysis, and interpretation through hands-on activities and projects. The research study ran from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for 12 Mondays from June 4 through August 20.

**PennDOT Posting & Bonding Interview** – PennDOT's Bureau of Municipal Services conducted a study to identify county/municipal road posting and bonding-related issues associated with Marcellus Shale activity. As part of this effort, PennDOT worked with Parsons Brinckerhoff to survey county planning agencies by telephone and municipalities (by e-mail and telephone) to collect information. The Director was interviewed Thursday, February 16. Information learned will help PennDOT



**Marcellus Matters Research Study** – Penn State researchers recruited Clearfield County residents interested in science and energy to



identify the need for potential policy evaluation, further guidance, and educational resources related to posting and bonding.

**Underground Injection Control Well** – Windfall Oil & Gas, Inc. submitted an Underground Injection Control permit application to EPA back in April. The EPA just announced that they developed a draft final permit which is currently available for public comment. A public meeting was held December 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brady Township Community Center. Windfall plans to use a commercial injection well to dispose of fluids produced in association with oil and gas production. Injection will occur into the Huntersville Chert/Oriskany formation. The proposed injection well is located in Brady Township.

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**EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**


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**Conservatorship Presentation-** On September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, CCPCD office sponsored a presentation on the Conservatorship Act. The Butler County Redevelopment Authority conducted a 3-hour presentation on the PA Conservatorship Act, which included real life examples of how they have used it to redevelop once blighted properties in their communities. This was open to municipal leaders, non-profit corporations, and legal professionals wanting to learn more.

**Planner Newsletter (Special Edition: Housing)-**In September, CCPCD office released a Special Edition: Housing Newsletter, which included information on the County Housing Needs & Market Assessment, the Blight Survey Results, Conservatorship, and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

**River Towns Revitalization Workshop-** Our office organized in cooperation with the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership and Pennsylvania Environmental Council a River Towns Workshop on February 2 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Lock Haven University Clearfield Branch Campus in Room 214. The intent of the workshop was to identify ways to stimulate the economy, connect people to the River, and protect the environment. Most communities bordering Pennsylvania's rivers were founded as "river towns"-manufacturing, lumbering, and mining centers close to river transportation and supplemented by railroads. These communities share a past in which the River played an integral part. Communities have a new opportunity to embrace the River in a way that promotes healthy living and utilizes the River as an economic engine. Through this workshop, community leaders learned about the technical assistance they could receive to address potential economic opportunities that build on existing community assets and leverages regional relationships. A review of an assessment tool developed by the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership to aid community leaders in defining priority areas for enhancement was discussed. Initially, one community, Curwensville Borough, was selected to work with the Penn State Hamer Center for Community Design to prepare conceptual plans for improvement, identify resources,

and develop an action plan for implementing river town revitalization projects. Our Community Development Specialist has been an active participant on the Curwensville project.

**Clearfield County Criminal Justice Advisory Board** –In 2012 the CJAB requested our assistance with Grant initiatives. This year we completed grants for a Booking Center located at the County Jail, new equipment for probation to operate Megan's Law efficiently from two booking centers, Bullet Proof Vest Grant for Domestic Relations and Sherriff's Department. In July, 2012 we coordinated a strategic planning retreat for members of the board with the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

**PA North West Regional Homeless Advisory Board (NW RHAB) and North West Housing Consortium Committee (Consortium)** – As directed by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Office (HUD) the Commonwealth has 5 Continuum's of Care. Clearfield County is included in the NW RHAB, which is made up of 14 Counties. As an appointee by DCED, Lisa attends quarterly NW RHAB meetings and is Co-chair of the Consortium. In 2012, we held strategic planning conference to identify needs and establish goals and we organized a training session with the Altoona VA Medical Center, County VA Directors, human service organizations and housing providers to educate each other on the needs and housing opportunities for Veterans.

**Human Services Planning & Block Grant (HSBG)**

The Commissioners have appointed our office as the coordinator of the Human Services Plan and Block Grant. As such, we are leading a human services planning team with the County's Categorical offices and human services organizations. This collaboration among human services providers has assisted the office in completing the County Human Services Plan for 2012-2013.

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