

# Clearfield County Planning Commission 2013 Annual Report

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Joan Robinson-McMillen-Chair  
John Sobel  
Mark McCracken

## PLANNING COMMISSION

John D. Kaskan, Chairman-Bradford Area  
William Yost, Vice Chairman-Clearfield Area  
Jack West, Secretary-Curwensville/Grampian Area  
William Clouser-Glendale/Harmony Area  
Chad L. Diviney-West Branch Area  
Diane MacTavish-Luthersburg/Penfield Area  
John F. Patterson-Moshannon Valley Area  
Brian S. Sekula-DuBois Area

## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY

Jodi Brennan, Director  
Lisa Kovalick, Community Development Specialist  
Rob Thomas, Planning Specialist  
Margaret B. (Bonnie) Buzzanca, Admin. Assistant

### *Inside this Issue:*

<i>Recreation, Source Water Protection, Greenways &amp; Tourism</i>	2-3
<i>Community Development</i>	4, 8 & 9
<i>Transportation</i>	4
<i>S.A.L.D.O. Administration</i>	5-6
<i>Housing Initiatives</i>	7
<i>Education, Grants, Outreach, &amp; Technical Assistance</i>	10

### **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

### DCNR FUNDED COMMUNITY

**RECREATION PROJECTS** – In January, Governor Corbett announced a \$26.5 million Investment to Improve Recreation, Community Revitalization Efforts Across Pennsylvania. The following projects were funded in Clearfield County:

Boggs Township, \$40,000 from Key 93, for the development of Boggs Township Community Park, to include construction of an access drive, parking area, pavilion, pedestrian bridge, and walkways; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements. Denise L. Dobo, 814-342-5243.

Clearfield Swimming Pool Association, Inc., \$500,000 from ESF, for the rehabilitation of Clearfield Community Pool, to include reconstruction of the main pool, wading pool, bathhouse; construction of splash pad; installation of water slide, perimeter fencing, filtration and recirculation systems; ADA access, project sign and other related site improvements. Brian K. Marshall, 814-592-1717.

DuBois City, \$200,000 from Key 93, for the rehabilitation of Showers Field, to include construction of baseball field, parking area, pedestrian walkways; installation of sideline fencing, backstop; ADA access, landscaping, project sign and other related site improvements. John Suplizio, 814-371-2000.

Lumber Heritage Region of PA, \$300,000 from ESF, to provide technical support to partner organizations throughout the Lumber Heritage Region; advance heritage and cultural resource development in the PA Wilds in 2013; and support the work of the PA Wilds Planning Team and the PA Wilds Ombudsman; conduct outreach meetings to strengthen the Lumber Heritage Region Civilian Conservation Corps. Legacy organization and fund the 2013 mini-grant program. Michael S. Wennin, 814-486-0213.

### WEST BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA

**RIVER SOJOURN** – The Susquehanna Greenways Partnership sponsored a sojourn on the West Branch in May. The sojourn was designed to explore 97 miles of the most remote and lovely sections of the Upper West Branch of the Susquehanna River during a 6-day educational canoe/kayak expedition, was held May 14-19 from

Mahaffey, PA, to Keating, PA. The sojourn stopped at Clearfield's Lower Witmer Park for lunch on May 16, at which time the Director gave a presentation on some community development efforts along the river including the new conservation partnership program through Headwaters.

### NORTH CENTRAL PA GREENWAYS IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROGRAM (NCPGIGP)

– The North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (North Central), in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), awarded 10 requests for funding. The following is a breakdown of requests that have been awarded in 2013:

Potter County - HD Youngblood Project (Stream Bank Stabilization), Chris Amidon Project (Stream Bank Stabilization), and Oswayo Creek Stabilization (Stream Bank Stabilization)

McKean County - Natural Resource Learning Center (Storm Water Best Management Practices) and McKean County Conservation District Riparian Buffer Project

Jefferson County - Brockway Borough Municipal Authority Source Water Protection Project

Elk County - Ridgeway Township Sandy Beach Pavilion (construction of pavilion)

Clearfield County - Korb Buffer Planting (planting of trees and shrubs on AMD project), DuBois Trail Surfacing (surfacing of Beaver Meadow Walkway/Sandy Lick Creek Trail) and DuBois Dog Park (construction of a dog park along Beaver Meadow Walkway)

### CENTRAL PA SOURCE WATER ALLIANCE FOR PROTECTION-

In 2013 source water protection plans that were in progress were Cooper Twp. Municipal Authority, Pike Twp. Municipal Authority, and the City of DuBois. Our GIS office assisted us by mapping the latest source water protection zones for our planning use as well as our 911 office to coordinate potential hazardous spills that could affect water supplies.

The Department of Environmental Protection approved source water protection plans for Pike Township Municipal Authority and Pennsylvania American Water.

A Clean Water Days event was held on April 18 & 19 at Black Moshannon State Park. The Community Development Specialist and Planning Specialist assisted in the day's event. Approximately 570 fifth-grade students or 26 classes participated from Moshannon Valley, Clearfield, Bald Eagle, West Branch, and Philipsburg Osceola School Districts. During the event, six stations were set up for the groups to participate in which followed the PA academic standards for 5th Grade environment and ecology, including explanation of the water cycle; identify physical, chemical, and biological factors that affect water quality; and explain the difference between point and non-point source pollution.

The Central PA SWAP had informational brochures printed for distribution. And acquired funding for signage in protection zone areas for water supplies with source water protection plans in place. Houtzdale MA will receive two signs and DEP assisted with approval from PennDOT. Clearfield Municipal Authority joined the group and requested two signs for water protection zone areas as noted in their source water protection plan.

*Continued on page 3*

**RECREATION, SOURCE WATER PROTECTION, GREENWAYS & TOURISM PLANNING** *continued***PA WILDS OIL & GAS DESIGN GUIDE SUPPLEMENT**

The PA Wilds Planning Teams Oil & Gas Committee spent the year developing a new Oil & Gas design guide supplement with the intent to minimize visual effects of drilling on the rural landscape. Stakeholders involved in growing the outdoors industry in the Pennsylvania Wilds region teamed up with oil and gas officials to create a set of voluntary design standards for communities interested in minimizing negative visual effects of drilling on their rural landscapes. Shell Appalachia, which has drilling interests in five Wilds counties, donated \$15,000 to help pay for the creation of the new Oil & Gas section of the Design Guide. T&B Planning, the firm that worked with county planners across the Wilds in 2006 to compile the first Design Guide, was hired to complete the new oil and gas section.

Completed in October this new, Oil and Gas Supplement, prepared with industry input, will provide government officials, landowners, industry representatives, and others with practical best management practices and rural resource management tools. The Supplement which also includes case studies that demonstrate successful application of best practices is now posted on the PA Wilds Resources Webpage [www.pawildsresources.org](http://www.pawildsresources.org) listed under "quick resources".

**PA WILDS OMBUDSMAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP & ARTISAN TRAIL INITIATIVES**

Starting in the Fall of 2013, the PA Wilds Small Ombudsman began offering a 1- hour entrepreneur outreach program for high school students in the PA Wilds. This inspiring multimedia program will use role playing exercises and real life stories of real life entrepreneurs in the region captured on film to get students thinking about key issues related to small business development in rural PA. Here is a link to the video being used in the classrooms to talk to high school students about entrepreneurship. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Br8g6Cp5CY&feature=youtu> The video runs about 25 minutes and captures the stories of four entrepreneurs from our region. After each story, we'll have a class discussion based on themes the business owner brought up.

Another Ombudsman activity in 2013 included technical assistance to supporting

the PA Wilds Artisan trail. A brand new website was developed to increase the program's communications capacity and improve customer service for members of the trail. Also, a new Artisan Trail Advisory Committee was appointed to help guide and shape the program going forward. The committee worked on guidelines to allow locally-made agricultural and food craft products – syrups, jellies, fudges, chocolates, wines, hand-made soaps, lip balms – to use the "Proudly Made in the Pennsylvania Wilds" brand.

**CHAMPION OF THE PA WILDS AWARDS**

At the PA Wilds Planning Team's annual briefing and awards dinner held May 2nd, thirteen residents, small business owners, and local organizations across the region were recognized for outstanding efforts in sustainable tourism development. Each year, the PA Wilds Planning Team, a guiding body in this effort, gives out a small number of "Champion of the Pennsylvania Wilds" awards to recognize outstanding efforts by local partners in this work. One of those awardees was from Clearfield County.

**Conservation Stewardship Award** was the Pennsylvania Wildlife Habitat Unlimited. Created in 1985 by a small group of outdoors men and women, Pennsylvania Wildlife Habitat Unlimited today has nearly 200 members. This dedicated group of volunteers has many active projects all year long that are helping protect and improve wildlife habitat for future generations in order to make the Pennsylvania Wilds a better place to live and visit. Some of their projects include: litter clean-up efforts, building splash dams for fish habitat, providing scholarships to young people studying wildlife conservation at Penn State DuBois, sending kids to the Potter County Junior Conservation School each year, and making sure local libraries have a subscription to PA Game News. The group is probably best known for its Clearfield County Youth Field Day event, where it takes 125 youth ages 8 to 14 through 9 stations including water safety, canoeing, wildlife identification, fishing, stream life, shooting, archery, and trapping.

**HEADWATERS - WATERSHED RESTORATION INITIATIVES**

Headwaters was formed in 1978 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and exists to coordinate public and private agencies for projects that address the needs of eight counties in the Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development area which includes Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter counties. Each of the eight counties within the Headwaters region are represented on the Council by appointees from each of the eight County Commissioners, County Conservation Districts, and the County Planning Departments.

Headwaters sponsors projects that address water, forest and agriculture resources, as well as community and economic development, environmental education, and recreational needs of the region.

In 2013, approximately \$1.2 million dollars in grants and donations were secured by Headwaters to advance watershed restoration projects within our region.

In February, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection awarded Headwaters a \$250,000 grant to be used for the construction of a passive treatment system to remediate the effects of acid rain on the Smith Run watershed and another \$104,000 for preparation of an Acid Rain Water Quality Assessment & Remediation Plan for the Clarion River Headwaters.

In June, the Trust received \$35,400 from the Stackpole-Hall Foundation and another \$25,000 from Shell to be used as matching funds on the Smith Run acid rain remediation project.

In addition, the following funding or donation requests, placed in 2013, were also approved.

- Pa DEP Growing Greener/ Mill Creek - \$274,641- approved
- CFA McKinley/Mill Creek Coalition- \$251,182 - approved
- CFA Bear Creek/ Elk County Freshwater Association - \$227,185- approved
- Northwest Savings Bank Foundation- \$12,000 (3 year commitment)- approved
- Domtar Paper Acid Rain Project - \$10,000- approved
- EQT Donation - \$2,500 received

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Community Development Block Grant:

CCPCD reviewed five applications for CDBG funding in 2013. The County has recommended two projects for funding using the County's 2013 CDBG allocation.

Projects to be funded are shown below.

*Continued on page 8*

2013 Community Development Block Grant Applications			
Applicant	Project Description	Requested Amount	Awarded Amount
Houtzdale Borough	Sewer Line Repair and Replacement	\$100,000	\$100,000
Woodward Township	Sewage Lateral Program	\$100,000	\$100,000

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

### TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

The North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (North Central) in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Penn DOT) announced the availability of the 2013-2014 Transportation Alternative Program for the North Central Rural Planning Organization (RPO). The TA program offers broad opportunities and federal funding for creative projects that integrate alternative modes of transportation into our communities and environment, and is open to projects located in Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean and Potter Counties. Of that 2013-14 money available, projects funded included the Redbank Trail (Jefferson County) at \$650,000 and the Davis/Elm Street project in Bradford for \$262,000.

### STATE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING INCREASES

In November Governor Tom Corbett signed into law House Bill 1060, Pennsylvania's most comprehensive piece of state transportation legislation in decades. The governor hailed the landmark legislation that will invest an additional \$2.3 to \$2.4 billion into the state's transportation system by the fifth year of the plan. By the fifth year of the plan, this legislation invests an additional: \$1.3 billion annually for state roads and bridges; \$480 million to \$495 million annually for public transportation; \$237 million annually for local roads and bridges; \$144 million annually in a multi-modal fund;

\$30 million annually for dirt, gravel and low-volume roadways; and \$86 million annually for Pennsylvania Turnpike expansion projects. Partial funding for the new transportation package is being derived from the elimination of the flat 12-cent gas tax and modernizing an outdated transportation financing structure through the uncapping of the wholesale, Oil Company Franchise Tax. Also, changes in vehicle and drivers' license fees will help to fund the plan. For Clearfield County and its local municipalities this equates to the following increases in liquid fuel allocations. FY 2013-2014 \$326,099, FY 2014-2015 \$820,629, FY 2015-2016 \$1.34 million, FY 2016-2017 \$1.7 million and FY 2017-2018 2.3 million

### NORTH CENTRAL COORDINATED HUMAN SERVICE

#### TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, in cooperation with the Area Transportation Authority, DuFAST Transit and other interested stakeholders throughout the region, began the process of updating the Region's Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan which is anticipated to take about 9 months to complete. Nearly all transportation providers (including public transit operators and human service agencies) are facing constrained resources while, at the same time the demand for transportation services has never been greater. The Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan will seek to identify the transportation needs of individuals with

disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes; provide strategies for meeting identified local needs; reduce duplication in service and fill service gaps; and prioritize transportation services for funding and implementation.

The steering committee meet several times in 2013 collecting data and engaging stakeholders for input needed for updating the plan.

### LOCAL BRIDGE INVENTORY

A subcommittee of the Rural Transportation Committee was formed and meet throughout the year to develop the criteria and process everyone would use to determine their counties' top 10 structures. Ultimately consensus on a process to rank the top 60 regional local structures, regardless of county, was developed. Counties reached out to their local municipalities for information related to local bridges. This information was used to complete LPN forms for each bridge. This information was then entered into a Penn DOT project-ranking program called "Decision lens" to prioritize all our local bridges. Criteria used to rank local bridges include items such as structural deficiency, posted w/ weight restrictions, average daily traffic, length of detour, impacts from closure to emergency services or to businesses/residences. This priority list of projects is now complete and will be used to approach the municipalities and have the conversation of identifying local matching scenarios to determine which projects are feasible.

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



Clearfield County’s Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) currently has jurisdiction over 31 of our 51 municipalities. In 2013, the Planning Commission reviewed 39 plans for compliance with the County’s Ordinance. Of those, 2 were land

development plans for Dollar General Stores, one in Bell Township the other in Houtzdale Borough.

It was a very slow year for Marcellus Shale oil and gas activity with only 3 new wells being drilled for the year. The production of the existing wells totaled 27,716,841 Mcf.

The following chart outlines the activity that occurred in administering the County’s Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance in 2013. The following municipalities did not have any activity for the year: Beccaria Township, Brisbin Borough, Burnside Borough, Chester Hill Borough, Coalport Borough, Glen Hope Borough, Grampian Borough, Greenwood Township, Irvona

Borough, Jordon Township, Lumber City Borough, Mahaffey Borough, New Washington Borough, Osceola Mills Borough, and Westover Borough.

2013 County’s S.A.L.D.O.					
Municipality	Total Acres	Subdivisions	Land Development	Lots Created	Proposed Buildings
Bell Township	151.6	2	1	2	2
Bigler Township	1,017.4	1	0	5	0
Brady Township	151.673	3	0	2	2
Burnside Township	50.223	2	0	2	0
Chest Township	189.877	3	0	3	0
Ferguson Township	107.823	4	0	3	0
Gulich Township	49.48	3	0	2	1
Houtzdale Borough	1.16	0	1	0	1
Huston Township	20.051	2	0	2	0
Knox Township	111.799	2	0	2	0
Newburg Borough	0.2636	1	0	0	0
Pike Township	1,175.783	11	0	10	3
Ramey Borough	3.896	1	0	1	1
Troutville Borough	28	1	0	0	0
Wallaceton Borough	10.256	1	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,069.2846</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>11</b>

**SALDO ADMINISTRATION Continued**

In addition, the County Planning Department reviewed and provided comments on 57 plans from those 20 municipalities that administer their own SALDO. Of those 57 plans, 4 were land development plans and 57 were subdivision plans. Land Development Plans proposed the expansion of CNB bank main offices, and storage silos to PGP ethanol plan in Clearfield Borough.

Additions to the Clearfield Elementary School in Lawrence Township and DRMC new pharmacy building within the City of DuBois.

The adjacent table reflects the activity. The following municipalities either did not have any activities or were lot consolidation plans: Cooper Township, Curwensville Borough, Falls Creek Borough, Penn Township, and Pine Township.

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 – 47**

**Act 67 & 68 Reviews – 21**

**Act 95 Reviews – 5**

**Act 537 Reviews – 7**

**Air Quality – 7**

**Blasting Notices – 2**

**Bond Releases – 23**

**CDBG Reviews – 1**

**Correspondence – 28**

**Environmental Assessments/Reviews – 2**

**General Projects/Assessment Reviews/  
Permits – 16**

**Miscellaneous – 2**

**NPDES – 14**

**Penn Vest Reviews – 5**

**Public Utility Commission – 23**

**Sewage Component Reviews/Planning  
Modules – 34**

**SRBC Permits – 5**

**Support Letters – 6**

**Zoning Changes/Reviews – 3**

**Municipalities with their own S.A.L.D.O. 2013**

Municipality	Total Acres	Subdivisions	Land Development	Lots Created	Proposed Buildings
<b>Boggs Township</b>	<b>22.621</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Bradford Township</b>	<b>252.994</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Clearfield Borough</b>	<b>34.26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Covington Township</b>	<b>22.601</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Decatur Township</b>	<b>14.769</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>City of DuBois</b>	<b>4.426</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Girard Township</b>	<b>69.81</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Goshen Township</b>	<b>36.328</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Graham Township</b>	<b>149.442</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Karthaus Township</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Lawrence Township</b>	<b>235.017</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Morris Township</b>	<b>153.328</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sandy Township</b>	<b>333.061</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Union Township</b>	<b>152.294</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Woodward Township</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,521.551</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>27</b>

## HOUSING INITIATIVES

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

In January, Clearfield County solicited 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 were considered.

A total of four applications were received and reviewed by the County's Office of Planning & Community Development based on the program guidelines. Three projects were recommended for funding based on the reviews and approved by the Commissioners. Those projects include:

**Cen-Clear Child Services – (Specialized Housing Counseling Initiative)** Assist 60 low income families and individuals who are homeless or seeking housing assistance due to inadequate or substandard housing by helping them identify their housing needs, providing appropriate housing counseling & training and linking them to the housing services they need. \$15,000.00

**Central PA Community Action – (First Time Homebuyers Assistance Program)** Assist 15 qualifying families become first time homeowners by providing them pre purchase housing counseling services and financial assistance with down payment and closing costs needed to ensure a successful home ownership experience. This project includes a \$15,000 match provided by two local banks. \$15,000.00

**Moshannon Valley COG — (Blight Prevention Pilot)** In an effort to maintain an affordable housing stock, 15 local municipalities have agreed to participate in a COG pilot program designed to deter blight through preventive maintenance measures such as adopting basic property codes and providing for a property code professional who will work proactively with homeowners providing housing prevention maintenance education as well as information on available housing rehabilitation programs that may assist them financially make necessary repairs. \$15,000.00

### CLEARFIELD COUNTY HOUSING TASK FORCE

In January, a County Housing Task Force meeting was held at CPCA. Staff Attorney, Robert Taylor of Southwestern PA Legal

Services, gave a fair housing presentation for the group. Other topics included: Clearfield County ESG HPRP grant has been awarded in the amount of 107,000; CPCA will administer the program; NSP is coming to an end; Tax Claim office informs us that the judicial sale list should be available in February.

In October, the Community Development Specialist met with NCCDC and the Commissioners concerning a new application to PHFA for tax credit funding for Leonard Street housing. The Commissioners are in favor of NCCDC with regard to reapplying for funding. NCCDC also informed the Commissioners that they are seeking funding for veterans' housing in the City of DuBois. Our office will be assisting the NCCDC with grant applications for both applications.

In November, the County Local Housing Options Team (LHOT) reported that they are working on a point-in-time count to identify homeless individuals in the County. This was a one-day survey conducted in January.

The Community Development Specialist also participated in a conference call with the Housing Alliance of PA and Gulotta to discuss a Countywide blight study that will identify best practices for the County.

In December, the Community Development Specialist established a blight study task force and meeting (1/31/2014) for the Commissioners. Assisted The Gulotta Group with County information for the study.

Participated in COC RHAB conference calls regarding allocations of homeless funding in the 13-county region. Community Connections has unspent funding for third year resulting in a loss of approx. \$48,000 in homeless funding for MH/MR clients.

### CLEARFIELD COUNTY PHARE AWARD

In May, the Office of Planning & Community Development prepared obo the County Commissioners and submitted applications for PHARE funding, using county affordable housing trust funds as leverage, to the PA Housing and Finance Agency in the amount of \$250,000 for two initiatives. The Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) program is funded with Marcellus Shale impact fees.

One application was to support a multiple municipal blight prevention & mitigation program as well as a housing rehabilitation

program, and the second would assist with gap financing for a low to moderate income senior housing project. These initiatives support priorities outlined in the County's recently adopted Housing Needs & Market Assessment which mirror the priorities set forth in the PHARE 2013 Request for Proposals such as increasing safe, affordable housing opportunities, utilizing funds to address the most significant and persistent housing needs in the most effective and efficient manner, and maximizing the leveraging of resources and fostering partnerships.

In October, the Clearfield County Commissioners learned that one of those initiatives was selected to receive \$125,000 in PHARE funds, that being the blight prevention and housing initiative. Such funding was made through the County's Blight Prevention & Housing Rehabilitation initiative that includes three components as described below.

**The Residential Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program** would be set up as a grant program designed to assist residents below 50% of the median area income who have the need for home improvements to address the safety of their homes. Eligible homeowners may apply for up to \$3,000.

**The Rental Housing Rehabilitation Program** would be set up as a matching grant program to assist landlords bring their rental units into compliance with safety, integrity & accessibility while requiring rental units to be made available at fair market rental value for households below 50% of the median area income for a term of 7 years. This program would require the landlord to invest \$1 in private funds for every \$1 provided in PHARE funds.

**The Blight Mitigation Program** would provide funding to municipalities for the demolition of priority blighted structures unfit for habitation, a public nuisance, and structurally unsound.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** *continued*

**Property Maintenance Code Program-** In 2013, the Moshannon Valley Council of Governments was awarded county affordable housing funds to conduct a Blight Prevention Pilot. In an effort to maintain an affordable housing stock, 15 local municipalities have agreed to participate in a COG pilot program. The program is designed to deter blight through preventive maintenance measures, such as, adopting basic property codes and providing for a property code professional. Who will work proactively with homeowners providing housing prevention maintenance education as well as information on available housing rehabilitation programs that may assist them financially to make necessary repairs. Our staff worked with the COG throughout the year on developing the pilot program. A Health and Safety Presentation that addressed housing and why/how code enforcement protects a community was provided in November.

**Coalport Flood Levee Project-**Thorough out the year the Community Development Specialist has been working with Coalport Borough and the Department of Environmental Protection.

Given the long history of flooding and flood damage in Coalport Borough, Clearfield County, the Borough requested that DEP study its flooding problems and determine if a flood project would help them. Upon investigating the local area in detail, DEP determined that a flood project was both feasible and economically justified and, in July 2003, DEP proposed a project by issuing preliminary rights-of-way drawings to the Borough along with a Sponsorship Agreement for executing the project. The Borough of Coalport agreed to the conceptual framework of the project and is in favor of the construction.

The Borough proposed a earthen levee and concrete channel flood protection project that will protect residential and commercial areas of Coalport Borough and an adjacent section of Beccaria Township against floods up to and including a 100-year flood event.

The Borough is responsible for the upfront work of the project which includes utility relocation (water and sewer lines), utility pole relocation, structure removal (sheds, fencing, recreational items such as dugouts, swings,

sidewalks, etc.) property easements and property buyout that included a home & home and garage. In 2005, Coalport Borough sought and received funding from the County's Growing Greener II, and the Application Region Commission to assist with this work.

However the flood project met a major snag due to the commonwealth's budgetary issues which halted payments and design of the project in 2008. Adding to that, additional delays with between Legal Departments at DEP and DGS occurred in 2011. The projects proposed construction dates have been pushed further into 2014. Thus, leaving project costs estimates from 2005 out of line creating a funding gap for the Borough of approximately \$150,000.

Recently, the Borough advertised for bid the moving of sewer and water utilities late in 2013, with the lowest bid to coming in \$61,967 over budget. Additionally they received 69 easements from the legal departments with 35 of those requiring appraisals and negotiations for taking of land, this adds \$88,000 to the gap in project funding. Matching funds already in place for the relocation of utilities, easements and acquisition of land are \$290,000 with \$145,000 from Appalachian Regional Commission, \$123,000 in DEP Growing Greener II dollars and \$22,000 from the Borough.

**Curwensville Revitalization Team-**The Community Development Specialist worked with Curwensville Revitalization Team and Curwensville Borough throughout the year. Looking at the planning, development and accomplishments made in Curwensville, as a result of the combined efforts of the Curwensville Revitalization Team and Borough Council for the betterment of the Community. This analysis has been completed using the implementation schedule and goals of the Curwensville Borough Comprehensive Plan.

**Housing**

Members of the CRT and Borough Council have been active participants in the County Wide Housing Task Force and County Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) initiatives. The task force work includes a housing needs assessment and market study that identifies housing needs, recommendations, and possible funding

solutions. The Borough is noted in the study for having completed a survey and the housing market of Curwensville. More recently, members are appointed to the County's Blight Strategy to address Blighted Properties Task Force.

AHTF funding has been awarded to the Moshannon Valley Council of Governments (MVCOG) to create a uniform code enforcement program. A committee formed from MVCOG that is developing the program, that the Borough will have the option of utilizing for code enforcement. This will assist with the funding and manpower to enforce code violations in the borough. This committee held a Health and Safety Presentation that addressed housing and why how code enforcement protects a community.

Additionally, the MVCOG will administer the County's PHARE housing rehab program. This program just awarded will help homeowners, landlords and municipalities with code infractions by granting or assisting them with the funding needed to make proper repairs. Thereby keeping housing and neighborhoods from becoming blighted. As for assisting municipalities, the PHARE funding will make funding available to help demolish blighted structures that pose threat to health and public safety.

Goals addressed by these actives include providing some means of rehabilitation funds, code enforcement, and the encouragement of traditional neighborhood development.

**Transportation**

Transportation Goals addressed include: Enhancing Gateways Improvements throughout the Borough and considering becoming a trail town. These goals have been completed or addressed.

Three "Welcome to Curwensville" signs have been strategically placed at each gateway of the Borough. As a result of grant funding from the County Recreation and Tourism Authority combined with private in-kind and Borough funding.

Very early, in the planning stages of the CRT group discussion of trail town designation was discussed. The North Central Greenways Plan notes Curwensville as a possible Trail Town. Exploring the advantages and disadvantage of this designation should be considered by the committee again.

*Continued on page 9*

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** *continued**Community Facilities*

Goals worked on and achieved that address Community Facilities include: Rail Trail development to Downtown and the Industrial Development Park, Irvin Park Improvements, enhancement of recreation facilities, and support of police and fire protection.

It's much too simple to say trail development to the downtown is addressed simply by addressing our trails on gateway signage.

The CRT has discussed connecting the trail and downtown area since its inception.

Perhaps a walk order to explore this goal and identify clear objectives that can be accomplished. Additional trail goals exist and with the CCEDC commencing on brownfield work in the industrial development area of the Borough.

Discussion of connecting the Trail to the IDA area has been successful. Recommendations have been made for the CRT and Borough keep the developer on task with this goal.

A preliminary plan or analysis of Irvin Park was completed by PSU students. This plan gives the CRT and Borough a starting point. Grants from DCNR come in early spring, and typically require a plan. I highly recommend the Borough follow through with the plan. Stronger collaboration is needed here between the CRT and Borough Council to accomplish a piece of the planning in 2014.

The passion of the CRT group has led to great enhancements throughout the Borough. Grants and sweat equity have made it possible to have additional benches and tables for seating of the residents and visitors at Irvin Park.

The Borough Council has provided the community with one additional full-time police officer. In addition, they have purchased in car equipment for the Police Department which allows the officers to remain on the streets guarding the community.

*Economic Development*

Goals Addressed: Define an actual Boundary of the CBD; Prepare a Revitalization Strategy; Improve the Gateways into the Borough.

The CRT has established what boundary they want to use on a whole for the revitalization for the Borough. Additional work needs to be done to address CBD boundary within the established revitalization area, then initiate

talks with the Borough for official adoption of both boundaries. Just as the CRT works diligently to make the Borough a beautiful and serene community, the Borough and appointed Authorities address the more mundane goals of the Comprehensive Plan. A mission statement and vision was established by the CRT group almost two years ago. This should be reviewed and further continuation of the strategic planning needs to take place with Borough involvement.

*Historical Preservation*

Much discussion has been given to the heritage and history of the Borough during CRT meetings from everyone. Collaboration of the Historical Society and social organizations is needed here to carry out the objectives and goals.

Many other initiatives and accomplishments of goals have been carried out by the Curwensville Borough Council and its appointed authorities. Briefly address: Planning and Programming/Land Use/Public Utilities/Physical Environment.

**Development of Public Water in Clover Hill/Glen Richey Area**—The Community Development Specialist has held and attended several meetings regarding the need for decent water in the Clover Hill/Glen Richey Area. The water in this area has been jeopardized by past and current mining activities. The Community Development Specialist worked with DEP BAMR Office to have a survey conducted to determine if the area is eligible for BAMR funding.

The survey area has been developed and water testing from the residents private water supplies will be conducted in the early part of the year of 2014.

Additionally, the Community Development Specialist has met with Clearfield Municipal Authority officials, Lawrence Township Supervisors, Pennvest, and DEP staff to request their support for this initiative.

**Coalport Streetscape Project**—Coalport Borough was awarded \$100,000 in 2010 CDBG funds towards a curb and sidewalk replacement project along Main Street. Curbs were severely deteriorated allowing storm water runoff to access the sidewalk areas as well as building foundations. Curbing is not only needed for directing

storm water into existing storm sewer intakes, but also to address an ongoing safety issue for pedestrians and compliments existing economic development initiatives of the Borough. The Borough leveraged \$150,000 in federal funds awarded by Rep. Shuster. Total project cost was \$250,000 with the Borough leveraging 60% in federal funds.

The project was completed this year and has addressed the stormwater and pedestrian safety issues that existed, while adding compliments and beautifications to the Main Street and economic development initiatives of the Borough.

**Clearfield Revitalization**—The Community Development Specialist was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Clearfield Revitalization Corporation, Inc, in which, she has continued with assisting the group with grants, and offering technical assistance so that it can continue to become more sustainable and grow.

The group has worked to continue the Main Street Program and to implement an Elm Street Plan. They have also hired a new director for the Main Street Program as well as a Development Director to explore sustainability options.

Clearfield Borough announced that the Clearfield County Economic Development Corporation has taken over the River Walk Project and has moved forward with some of the land options being secured and purchased.

## EDUCATION, GRANTS, OUTREACH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Throughout the year, the Community Development Specialist provided education, outreach, and technical assistance to numerous groups and organizations. The following is a summary of those efforts categorized into Community Development, Grants, Human Services, and Recreation/Tourism.

**Community Development** —The Community Development Specialist assisted NCCDC with completing a Community Development Survey for their Low Income Housing Tax Credit Project on Leonard Street. The project will provide 30 affordable housing units for seniors.

Assisted Knox Township Supervisors with funding for paving of roads.

The Community Development Specialist worked with DCED to determine eligible use of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding for the City of DuBois.

The Community Development Specialist attended DEP's Alternative Fuel Conference at LHU Clearfield Campus. This conference addressed funding opportunities CNG/LNG for large fleets and those interested in opening fueling stations. The Community Development Specialist shared fleet information with Conway Trucking, and Wal-Mart Fleet Division, in Clearfield.

The Community Development Specialist attended the quarterly Community Development and Housing Advisory Board Meeting at DCED. We discussed future training for environmental reviews, labor standards, county training for obo applications, and competitive applications.

The Community Development Specialist attended workshops for the CCRTA's marketing grants, DCED Keystone Community Grants, County Township Association, and provided technical assistance for six municipalities and four non-profit organizations.

**Human Services** —The Community Development Specialist attended the Commissioners' meeting and Lawrence Township Supervisors' meeting to discuss the JAG grant. Both gave approval to submit for the funding. This grant will assist all 7

police departments of the County with a Countywide data sharing system.

The Community Development Specialist met with Clearfield County League on Social Services to create the planning and implementation of the Safe Haven Grant.

The Community Development Specialist met with the Commissioners to discuss the Human Service Block Grant initiative. The Commonwealth will ask for counties to come forward on their own to implement the Block Grant. The Commissioners will decide whether to opt into the Block Grant for FFY 2013 – 2014 or remain as a non-Block Grant County for another year.

The Community Development Specialist attended the Northwest Housing Consortium meeting with 9 of the northwest counties. Discussions included: Our RHAB board did not approve of DCED's COC state merger. They will work with DCED to adopt a method that they agree with so that our small counties and COC's have a voice.

The Community Development Specialist met with Northwest Bank officials to discuss housing needs of the County and housing organizations. Northwest is interested in first-time homebuyer mortgages, and assisting with blight initiatives of the County.

The Community Development Specialist attended the County Collaborative Board Meeting at LHU Clearfield. The group, made of human services providers, discussed the board meetings and upcoming retreat.

The Community Development Specialist met with CCEDC staff and MVEDP staff to discuss the possibility of a federal planning grant at EDC. The planning grant would help create jobs related to manufacturing and our focus at the meeting was creation of manufacturing jobs related to Marcellus Shale gas industry.

The Community Development Specialist attended the Northwest RHAB consortium meeting in DuBois. Discussion was held on LHOTs, Point Time Surveys, and the Housing Alliance of PA meeting.

The Community Development Specialist hosted a Housing Alliance of PA Regional housing meeting for 9 of the northwest counties. Liz Hersh addressed the Federal

Home Loan Bank Housing Study and then discussed the effects from the federal budget (Sequester).

**Recreation/Tourism**-The Community Development Specialist assisted Bilger's Rocks Association with their second step in applying for USDA funding for their forestry plan.

**Grants**-Submitted a grant concept paper for \$240,000 to PCCD for JAG funding that would assist with a Countwide remote records management system for all 7 law enforcement agencies and the EMS/911 Center. This grant was denied.

Submitted a grant in the amount of \$290,000 to the Department of Justice Office against Violence Women for the Safe Haven Program. This program will provide supervised visitation and safe exchanges for victims and their children. This grant was awarded.

Grant submitted in the amount of \$20,000 to DCNR for Bigler Township. The grant will assist the Township with playground equipment at B & B Recreation Park in Madera with new playground equipment. This grant was denied.

Grant submitted in the amount of \$57,287 to DCNR for Osceola Mills Borough. The grant will provide ADA access and playground equipment for Osceola Mills Borough Park. This access path will also give the community a walking track around the park. This grant was denied.

Submitted a grant in the amount of \$125,000 to the PA Housing Finance Authority for the PHARE grant. From the PA Housing Trust Fund, this funding is from Act 13 monies. We have submitted the application to assist with affordable housing rehabilitation. This grant was awarded.

Submitted a grant in the amount of \$125,000 to the PA Housing Finance Authority for the PHARE grant. This second grant was submitted to assist with senior housing on Leonard Street. This grant was denied.

Submitted a grant in the amount of \$2,347 to PCoRP Loss Prevention Group. This grant will assist the County with video surveillance of the administration building to prevent vandalism. This grant was awarded.