Agenda for Monthly Meeting
Bob Jacobs, Director – Planning Office
February 14, 2012

A. Grant Opportunities and Grant Administration Activities:

CDBG:
- Met with Howard Boro Officials to review the CDBG program and discuss applicability for a project on Mill St. in the Borough.
- Nearing completion of an Income Survey to determine CDBG eligibility of the Potters Mills area.
- Updated the Federal IDIS System Software to reflect recent completion of several projects.
- Conducted the First Public Hearing on uses of fy 2012 County Entitlement CDBG Funds.
- Tabulated costs and prepared invoice for County Planning Office Admin costs related to administering the CDBG program for the 2nd half of 2011.
- Assisting Rebersburg Water Officials to determine CDBG eligibility of approximately 25 homes on the west end of Main Street in the village.
- Took 2nd delivery of Water Meters for Port Matilda and Pine Glen.

Redevelopment Capitol Assistance Program (RCAP):

**Philips Hotel Redevelopment** -- $1 million allocation
- Total reimbursement amount received = $903,322.
- Final payment request prepared but not submitted – waiting for one additional cancelled check.

**Centre County Grange Equine Facility** -- $1 million allocation
- Final payment submitted.

Growing Greener – CEI:
- County planning’s involvement is complete.

Community Conservation and Economic Development Program Funds: $5,000 -- CCC Camp 121 Marker
- Revised scope of work approved by DCNR.
- Grant deadline can be extended to June 2013.
- Memorandum of Understanding between county and township needs to be finalized. It was submitted to county solicitor on October 13th – waiting for his input.

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP):
- Continued support of the HPRP grant administration process for IDIS.

DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2):
- Howard Borough Pedestrian/Bicycle Trail and Penns Valley Rail Trail Feasibility Study both received funding; $46,000 and $33,200 respectively.
- Howard’s engineering firm (Keller Engineers) has commenced work.
- Penns Valley Trail group will be developing an RFP and selecting a steering committee soon.

TreeVitalize: All county municipal officials advised of this grant program which provides trees for parks and streetscapes at a shared cost: 50% grant funds / 25% local cash / 25% in-kind contribution. SEDA-COG administers this program.

Aaronsburg/ Millheim STAG: Staff will coordinate this grant with the respective municipalities. The PENNVEST funding recently awarded to Millheim Borough will serve as the required matching funding for the STAG.

B. Comprehensive Planning:

Land Use: Penns Valley Region digital data 90% complete. Staff will begin Nittany Valley in by mid-February. Draft calculations for completed regions are compiled.

County Update Chapters:
- Agriculture: Still in draft form – next priority to complete.
- Economic Assets: Started
- Housing: Initial work has begun on this chapter.
- Chapters Posted to Web Site: Energy Conservation, Historic Resources, Land Use, and Recreation
C. County Wide / Local Planning / Outreach:

Zoning: Staff is assisting Worth and Haines Townships in the development of zoning ordinances. Haines continues with their review of the zoning chapters. A final draft should be completed by this summer. Worth Twp Planning Commission completed their review in February and will conduct a public meeting in March. Penn Twp has made an informal request to discuss zoning regulations.

Staff is making revisions to Milesburg Borough’s zoning ordinance. A public meeting will be scheduled this Spring. Staff is proving assistance with other municipalities as requested.

Airport Zoning Ordinance: Staff continues to provide assistance to impacted municipalities (Worth, Huston, Potter, and Rush) to address the PennDOT required guidelines for vertical and horizontal hazard surface distances.

Ongoing Regional Assistance:
- Nittany Valley Joint PC: Reorganization meeting held on January 19th. Currently working to confirm fire hydrant locations in the Nittany Valley Region. Being done in conjunction with GIS.
- Penns Valley Regional PC -- identifying five (5) recommendations from their comprehensive plan and implementing them and also assisting with developing a regional equipment inventory.
- Upper Bald Eagle Halfmoon COG – continuing to respond to requests for information.

Marcellus Gas:
- February Well Count: 58 drilled wells; 52 permitted wells.
- Current and Related Projects –
  o Natural Gas Industry Update: Presentations in February and March include MPO Technical and MPO Coordinating Committees and the Spring Township Officials Meeting.
  o Mobile Energy Education Training Lab / Industry and Job Fair – April 19 - 20, 2012. Financial donations have been requested to cover the $3000 cost. CPI will receive and disperse the funds. $1500 committed to date.
  o Source Water Protection Plans:
    • Mountaintop Region Source Water Protection Plan: Project underway.
    • Rush Township Source Water Protection Plans – All 6 systems have authorized participation.
  o Headwaters’ water testing program results – March 7th, BEA HS Cafeteria, 5 – 7 p.m.
  o Roadway Operations Safety Planning and Route Information Sheets – in development.
  o Air Quality: Scheduled speaker for March task force meeting: Natalie Pekney, Ph.D., National Energy Technology Laboratory, Environmental Sciences Division
  o Utilization of Natural Gas / Alternative Fuel Conversion Process –
    • Guideline Document #6 drafted for approval. Intent to distribute to most fleet operators in county.
    • Facilitating meetings between government / quasi public entities with consultant to guide analysis and project ROI for vehicle conversion. Four offers for participation extended to: Centre County Solid Waste Authority / Recycling Center, Centre County Transportation, State College School District, and Cramer’s Busing in Snow Shoe.
- Economic Development: Woodcraft Industries has begun production for the industry.
- Stranded Gas: Staff continues to identify potential natural gas customers and develop opportunities for use of shallow well gas.
- Public Issues Forum – Natural Gas: Attending meetings as county representative.
- Pipelines: Received and responded to Anadarko’s Minor Land Development request for the relatively small Compressor Building (14’ x 24’) proposed to occur on the Commonwealth of PA’s land (COP Tract 23!, Pad A).

Headwaters RC&D:
- Quarterly meeting was held here on Jan 24th. The organization is shifting into a self-sustaining business model, with the new Executive Director Ms. Dale Fox performing fundraising in addition to project management.
- Participated in the PA RC&D quarterly meeting via conference call, group is working to find a sustainable model that will help keep their efforts ongoing.
D. **Economic Development:**

CBICC Discussions: Attended second marketing meeting with Mark Sweeney, a principal at McCallum Sweeney Consulting in Greenville, South Carolina.

Bellefonte Community Economic Development and Revitalization: Committees currently looking at most viable approach to strengthen efforts. Met with two prospective buyers and provided information about historic preservation incentives for rehabilitation of the Cadillac Building. An offer to purchase has been made by both firms. Structural and environmental studies underway.

Underutilized Site Inventory: Check it out at the Community and Economic Development Web Page [http://www.co.centre.pa.us/planning/ced/default.asp](http://www.co.centre.pa.us/planning/ced/default.asp)

Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation: Continue to assist with economic development and design committee work plans.

E. **Agricultural Land Preservation Program:**

- Completed the Baseline Document photography for the 193 acre Leotta Long farm in Gregg Township. This farm is being preserved by the Centre County Farmland Trust.
- Completed the settlement for the five preserved farms impacted by the Whitehall Road Widening Project in Ferguson Township. A total of $11,535 was paid to the County and will be used to purchase future conservation easements.
- Attended the Farmland Trust Annual Board Retreat held at the Grange Fair Administration Building on January 27 and 28.

F. **Small Community Water Systems:**

- Monthly Certified Operator services provided to Orviston, Monument, Mt. Eagle, and Eagle Creek.
- Installed valving at Eagle Creek Water Treatment Plant to assist in troubleshooting of water quality problems.

G. **West Nile Virus Program:**

- The Centre County WNV Program was funded by PADEP at $42,798 in 2011.
- In 2011 there were 14 positive avian samples reported from Centre County and 10 positive adult mosquito samples. Those numbers placed Centre County 17th out of 67 Counties in terms of total WNV positives.
- As of December 31, there were 59 Counties in Pennsylvania with WNV activity, with six human cases.
- The Centre County 2012 WNV grant request has been submitted to PADEP for $42,792.

H. **Subdivision and Land Development Activity:**

- Subdivision and Land Development activity resulted in the creation of 17 new files
- Reviewed and/or conditionally approved 10 plot plans
- 15 plot plans were granted Final Approvals and released for placement on record in the Recorder of Deeds Office
- Responded to one request for FEMA Flood Hazard Boundary information
- Performed 21 Private Right-of-Way and/or Easement Agreement reviews
- Provided review comments relative to two non-jurisdiction proposals
- Conducted several pre-submission meetings and final site inspections

I. **Transportation - County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO):**

- LRTIP Update – LRTIP Subcommittee will meet again on Feb 8th to work on defining the goals and objectives for the next LRTIP and begin development of performance measures.
- Moshannon Valley Park and Ride – MTA presented to both MPO committees and gathered input that will be compiled into a final report to be distributed in March.
- MPO Funding Formula – A subcommittee of the MPO Coordinating Committee was formed and will be discussion revisions to the MPO funding formula in response to a request made by Ferguson Twp.
- Ferguson Twp Projects – MPO staff met with Ferguson Twp staff to discuss options related to the ongoing Pine Grove Mountain Escape Ramp II project and the SR 45/SR 26 intersection in Pine Grove Mills.
- TIP Review – MPO Staff met with PennDOT staff to develop options to advance more projects on the 2013-2016 TIP. Funding limitations will currently severely limit or stop progress on 6 projects on that are on the current TIP for preliminary engineering funding.
J. **Cultural, Environmental, and Recreation:**

**Conservation Landscape Initiative (CLI):** Staff presented information regarding the county’s greenway plan and the status of specific trail projects to various state land managers (state game, forest, parks, etc.) as they relate to the newly named Ridge and Valley CLI at Bald Eagle State Park on January 18th.

K. **Housing**

Staff continues administration of the Act 137 Program, Fair Housing, and is providing support to the Housing Cabinet.

Staff continues with its participation as a member of the Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition and is involved in all of the Coalition’s committees. Currently, the Coalition is exploring the possibility of developing a shared housing program for Centre County residents through the efforts of the Housing Ladder Committee.

Staff continues to work with State College Borough staff outreach for the housing rehabilitation program for the Penns Valley Region. The Borough of State College has been receiving applications from households interested in receiving assistance.

**FTHB Program:**

- Responded to inquiries from potential home buyers and lenders.
- Met with a mortgage originator from Citizens Bank to explain the County’s program.
- Distributed the updated program's brochure to reflect the adjusted income limits for 2012.

Staff serves as the Executive Director for the Centre County Housing and Land Trust, providing support to the Board of Directors and the Finance, Housing, Marketing, and Project Development Committees. Work activities include:

- Work with the Housing Committee on developing the home buyer application process
- Research gift acceptance policies
- Follow up on Thompson Place homeowner concerns
- Assist the Board of Directors with developing strategies for the Land Trust’s, based on the recommendations in the Market Analysis.