

MINUTES

MERCER COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday – April 26, 2011 - 7:30 p.m. – MCRPC Offices

MUNICIPALITY	PRESENT	ABSENT
FARRELL CITY	Kimberly Doss	Stephen Bennefield
HERMITAGE CITY	Edmund Benton Glenn E. Davis Ray Slovesko	
SHARON CITY	Kristopher Fleet Stephen Theiss	Frank Connelly Gary Mertz
CLARK BOROUGH		James Carucci, Sr.
FREDONIA BOROUGH	Patricia McAdams	Ronald H. Boyd
GREENVILLE BOROUGH	Lisa Holm	Brian Shipley
GROVE CITY BOROUGH		Jeffrey P. Black David Hoy
JACKSON CENTER BOROUGH		Robert Egger
JAMESTOWN BOROUGH		William LeBarron
MERCER BOROUGH		Ted Isoldi Jerry Johnson
NEW LEBANON BOROUGH		Janice Good
SANDY LAKE BOROUGH		Helena Bence Robert W. Kaltenbaugh
SHARPSVILLE BOROUGH	Guy Moderelli	Shawn O'Neill
STONEBORO BOROUGH	John Sweet	
WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH		David George Barbara Sochor
WHEATLAND BOROUGH		Robert Brindza Brian Estock
COOLSPRING TOWNSHIP	Robert L. McGhee	David Moon
DELAWARE TOWNSHIP	William E. Anthony Melissa L. Osborne	
E. LACKAWANNOCK TOWNSHIP		Nancy Givens
FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP		Jane Clark Mont Clark
FINDLEY TOWNSHIP	John B. Courtney Steve Paxton	
HEMPFIELD TOWNSHIP		Pamela Brown Kent Williams
JACKSON TOWNSHIP	Ronald M. Homce	Robert W. Pizor
JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP	Richard McCullough	Ervin Myers
LACKAWANNOCK TOWNSHIP	Richard Schuller	Jody Scopack

MUNICIPALITY	PRESENT	ABSENT
LAKE TOWNSHIP		
LIBERTY TOWNSHIP	Dave Beatty Ron Faull	
NEW VERNON TOWNSHIP		Daniel L. Patterson
OTTER CREEK TOWNSHIP	Paulette Young	Richard Straub
PERRY TOWNSHIP		Richard Marshall Matthew May
PINE TOWNSHIP	Fred Brenner George Hagstrom	
PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP	Richard Whitten	James F. Rowe
SANDY LAKE TOWNSHIP		Edwin Olson Raymond Scofield
SHENANGO TOWNSHIP		Leon Elder David Garrett
S. PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP	James Bartholomew	Mark Presley
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP	Judy A. Hassler	Michael Sebak
WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP	Diana Caiazza Donald C. Whiting	
WOLF CREEK TOWNSHIP	Robert Crothers	Doug Weber
MERCER COUNTY	Jeff Fiedler James L. Hogan Jeff Hoy James Hughes Robert Kochems Larry McAdams Patty McCluskey	Sheryl Kelly
BOROUGH ASSOCIATION		Nita Buczo
SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION		Robert Birtciel
COUNTY COMMISSIONER		John Lechner

STAFF

Dan Gracenin, Executive Director
Carmen Reichard, Assistant Director
Brian Barnhizer, Senior Planner
Matt Stewart, Senior Planner
Lisa Holm, Senior Planner
Chris Conti, Senior Planner

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Rick Whitten, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Dave Beatty, Vice-Chairman, led the Commission in the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence for Capt. Joshua McClimans from Jamestown Borough, who recently died in service to his country.

OTHERS PRESENT

ATTENDANCE SIGN IN

An attendance sign-in sheet was passed around and representatives present were asked to mark their attendance. **A quorum was present.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEM

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL TO 2010 CHAIRMAN GUY MODERELLI

Mr. Whitten thanked Guy Moderelli for serving as Chairman for 2010 and also for serving as Chairman during most of 2009 due to Tom Paxton being in the hospital. He thanked him for his service and extended his appreciation for a job well done. Mr. Moderelli thanked everyone on the Commission for all the cooperation and support he has received over the years.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2011 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Whiting and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the Minutes of the January 25, 2011 meeting with no additions, corrections or deletions. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. John Sweet, Treasurer, presented the January, February and March 2011 Financial Statements. A motion was made by Ms. McCluskey and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the January, February and March 2011 Financial Statements as presented. The motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Gracenin, Executive Director, explained that the census numbers were recently published and it showed that Mercer County has dropped in population overall, most notably in Farrell and Sharon. He noted that Pymatuning Township and Jefferson Township also had big percentage drops in population. He also noted that in June of this year, and over the next two years, communities can contest their census count by filing a petition with the Census Bureau. He indicated that this will not change the overall count for the County, State or US, as a whole.

Ms. Reichard, Assistant Director, gave an update on the Lawrence-Mercer Counties Recycling Program. She noted that due to the overwhelming success of the first event, they are sponsoring a Second National Take-Back Initiative Prescription Drug Day with state and local law enforcement agencies, which will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 10:00 – 2:00. She noted that this is a great opportunity for the public to dispose of potentially dangerous expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceuticals and other prescription drugs by turning them over to law enforcement officials for proper disposal. She noted that the first ever National Prescription Drug Take Back Day was held in September 2010 and was a huge success. There were approximately 3,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation that participated and collected over 121 tons of medications during that event.

Ms. Holm, Senior Planner, explained that the County adopted the Storm Water Management Plan on September 9, 2010; on January 28, 2011 DEP approved the Plan; and July 27, 2011 is the deadline for all municipalities to adopt the Storm Water Management Ordinance. She noted that the model ordinance is available on MCRPC's website. She stated that also on this website is a sample legal notice which can be used

by the municipalities when advertising the ordinance. Ms. Holm next gave an update on FEMA – Flood Plain Ordinances. She noted that FEMA does not anticipate sending out the Letter of Final Determination (LFD) until February 2012. Once this office receives the Letter of Final Determination, the County will have 6 months to adopt the flood plain ordinances. Mr. Gracenin explained that under the Storm Water Management Plan, the model ordinance has two optional sections; Article 5 re: riparian buffers and part of Article 3 re: formulas. He noted that these sections are optional and can be removed if the municipality chooses to remove them. He also indicated that after talking with DEP, it is okay to run a joint advertisement, if you are a member of COG. He noted that the cost of the legal ads is reimbursable through DEP.

Mr. Conti, Senior Planner, gave a brief update on the CDBG Program, which is administered through the MCRPC. He noted that we administer grants for Mercer County, Pine Township, Greenville Borough and now Grove City Borough. He stated that in the past we have done a number of competitive applications; and this year we have a competitive application for Liberty Township. He also mentioned that recently he heard that the Federal budget cut this program by 16% from last year.

Mr. Stewart, Senior Planner, gave an update on transportation planning. He noted that the MPO received a grant to perform the State Street Planning Study in Sharon and Hermitage, and the RFP will be going out soon. Next, he indicated that the MPO is required to update the Long Range Transportation Plan every four years, which is a long term look at what we plan to spend our Federal transportation dollars on. He explained that the voting members of the MPO have been looking at a newly computerized (Decision Lens) program for ranking the projects; and bridges are a #1 priority. He also noted that the State is in the process of updating State funding meetings. Mr. Stewart stated that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 10:30 a.m., and is open to the public.

Mr. Barnhizer, Senior Planner, gave an update on the Mercer County Affordable Housing Fund Program. He noted that the Affordable Housing Fund Board solicits and reviews project proposals, and monitors the completion of projects approved by the County Commissioners. In February 2011, two applications were approved. The first application is for the Mental Health Association of Mercer County, which is creating rental housing units in four structures on Stambaugh Avenue for their clients. The second application is for Lawrence County Social Services which is a handicapped accessibility improvements project, and will be matched by a \$100,000 state grant. Both projects' grant agreements have been signed and the projects are underway.

ZONING AND SUBDIVISION REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. McAdams, Committee Chairman, explained that the Committee met last week, a quorum was present and reviewed the following items:

1. Major Subdivision Plan – Preliminary Plan – Coolspring Township – South Western Alpha Housing & Health Care, Inc. for Community Counseling Center of Mercer County – Lots 1 & 2 – Mr. McAdams explained that the subdivision proposes 2 lots to be accessed from a proposed private street off of SR 58, Greenville Road. The plan includes proposed sewer and water line extensions to serve these properties. The engineer and developer anticipate that the Final Plan will be ready for consideration at the May meetings, pending necessary sewage and water service information. A motion was made by Mr. McAdams to approve the preliminary layout plan for 2 lots with a new street, which will remain private, with sewer and water extensions to serve these properties and other buildings. Mr. Hughes seconded. The motion passed.

2. Major Subdivision Review – Final Plan with Required Improvement Guarantees – Shenango Township – Winner Development of the Perry-Sheraton Plan – Mr. McAdams explained that the subdivision proposes three lots to be accessed from an easement for a private roadway with utilities. The plan includes the

development of a hotel on the east side of property located between I-80 and SR 60 and east of the existing hotels. This plan previously received preliminary approval for layout and construction. Due to timing of construction, they are requesting final plan approval with improvement guarantees so the subdivision can be recorded. A motion was made by Mr. McAdams to approve this Final Subdivision Plan upon the condition that Shenango Township accepts the improvement guarantees for the Winner Development of the Perry-Sheraton Plan. Mr. Hughes seconded. The motion passed.

CDBG COOPERATION AGREEMENTS – GREENVILLE, GROVE CITY, PINE AND COUNTY

Mr. Conti, Senior Planner, explained that authorization is needed to enter into the standard cooperation agreements with Greenville Borough, Grove City Borough, Pine Township and Mercer County to provide for full administration by MCRPC of their FY 2011 CDBG programs. He briefly explained how the projects are administered. There being no discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Benton to approve entering into the standard Cooperation Agreements with Greenville Borough, Grove City Borough, Pine Township and Mercer County to provide for full administration by MCRPC of their 2011 CDBG programs. The motion passed.

AUTHORIZATION FOR COMMITTEES TO ACT ON BEHALF OF FULL COMMISSION IN JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

Mr. Whitten explained that the full Commission does not meet in June, July and August, but needs to authorize the Committees of the Commission to act on behalf of the full Commission. A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to authorize the Committees of the Commission to act on behalf of the full Commission for the months of June, July and August. Ms. McCluskey seconded. The motion passed.

SUMMER PICNIC

Mr. Gracenin stated that MCRPC has annually held a summer picnic for members either in June or July. He noted that this is one way MCRPC can say thank you to Commission representatives. He noted that we try to move the picnic around to different parts of Mercer County and if anyone has any suggestions, to please let him know. Mr. Gracenin asked for authorization, in the form of a motion, to hold a summer picnic with the date, time and location to be determined at our May meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Whiting to authorize holding a summer picnic. Mr. Theiss seconded. The motion passed.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Whitten explained that this item is new on the agenda and is an opportunity for members to discuss local projects or issues within their jurisdictions that may interest others. The floor was open for discussion. Ms. Brown mentioned that bids are going out next week for the new Wal-Mart in Springfield Township. Mr. Crothers from Wolf Creek Township questioned the status of their CDBG specs. Ms. Reichard explained that we are reviewing the technical specs and tying those into the requirements that they need to meet for DCED and should have the specs ready and put the legal notice in the paper by next week. Mr. Whitten mentioned that he attended the PSATS Conference last week and noted that the Secretary of DCED is very interested in multi-municipal projects and felt that municipalities should look at doing more of this. Mr. Hagstrom mentioned that the Reynolds Packaging Building is for sale.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Courtney mentioned that this meeting included a lot of educational information and should be continued with future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business or discussion, Mr. Whiting made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted and Certified By:

Bob McGhee, Secretary – MCRPC

Date: _____