

MINUTES

MERCER COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday – January 25, 2011 - 7:30 p.m. – MCRPC Offices

MUNICIPALITY	PRESENT	ABSENT
FARRELL CITY	Stephen Bennefield Kimberly Doss	
HERMITAGE CITY	Edmund Benton Glenn E. Davis	Duane Piccirilli
SHARON CITY	Frank Connelly Stephen Theiss	Kristopher Fleet 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	Jerry Johnson	Ted Isoldi
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	James F. Rowe Richard Whitten	
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 Hoy James Hughes Sheryl Kelly Larry McAdams	Jeff Fiedler James L. Hogan Robert Kochems Patty McCluskey
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

OTHERS PRESENT

James Nevant, II, Solicitor
Fern Torok, Community Counseling Center
Angelo Stamoolis, Community Counseling Center
Jonathan Fister, Keystone Blind
Cynthia Hanna, Medical Equipment Recy. Program
Sandy Swogger, Mercer Co. Area Agency on Aging
Dan Goncz, Gannett Fleming, Inc.
Jerry Moore, Literacy Council of Mercer County

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.

ATTENDANCE SIGN IN

An attendance sign-in sheet was passed around and representatives present were asked to mark their attendance. Mr. Whitten welcomed Dick Schuller from Lackawannock Township, newest member of the Commission. **A quorum was present.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY AGENDA ITEM

There were no public comments.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2010 MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Benton and seconded by Mr. McAdams to approve the Minutes of the December 21, 2010 meeting with no additions, corrections or deletions. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. John Sweet, Treasurer presented the Financial Statement. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the December 2010 Financial Statement as presented. The motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Holm explained that this afternoon, she received notice from DEP that they had a few minor comments regarding the Storm Water Management Plan for Mercer County, which need addressed prior to DEP issuing an approval letter. Once we receive DEP's approval letter, she noted that we will have 6 months to adopt the local municipal ordinances.

Mr. Stewart mentioned that the MPO Committee will be holding a workshop on February 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. regarding updating the Long Range Plan. He noted that a formal project selection process will be established and MCRPC will work with the MPO to implement projects and issues identified with the Long Range Plan.

PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Whitten explained that the Program Review Committee met this evening to discuss and make a recommendation for the proposed projects for Mercer County 2011 CDBG funding allocation. The Committee reviewed the project proposals submitted in detail.

Mr. Conti noted that every year MCRPC administers the County's CDBG Program. Approximately \$275,000 will be available in 2011 Mercer County CDBG funds for projects. Funds will be available for projects benefiting non-entitlement municipalities (except Sharon, Hermitage, Farrell, Grove City, Greenville, Sharpsville and Pine). MCRPC will provide a recommendation to the County Commissioners. An objective ranking system for projects has been established by the MCRPC staff in order to streamline the process and present findings to the full Planning Commission. The County Commissioners will hold a public hearing in February to receive comments from the applicants and will then select projects for County's CDBG funding based on the criteria outlined. The County Commissioners intend to consider approval of the 2011 application at a regularly scheduled meeting in March or April with either an April or May deadline for submission of the County application to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

Mr. Conti mentioned that we received 9 proposals for the 2011 application totaling \$589,613. The eligible projects are listed below:

1. Keystone Blind Association – Public Service – Orientation & Mobility Training - \$5,200
2. Community Counseling Center – Public Facility – Community Facility in Greenville - \$85,196
3. Liberty Township – Sewer Improvements – Tap-in Fees - \$111,000
4. Literacy Council of M. C. – Public Service – Relocating the Dislocated Worker - \$32,217
5. Jamestown Borough – Sewer Improvement – Emergency Generator - \$50,000
6. Mercer Borough – Sewer Service Lateral - \$130,000
7. Lackawannock, Jefferson, Delaware Townships – Housing Rehabilitation - \$150,000
8. Medical Equipment - Public Service – Purchasing Medical Equipment - \$5,000
9. Area Agency on Aging – Public Facility – Improvements to McQuiston Center - \$21,000

Mr. Conti again noted that this year we have almost \$600,000 in requests, and approximately \$275,000 would be available in 2011 Mercer County CDBG funds for projects. He noted that back in 2007, MCRPC established a ranking system in order to compare apples to oranges, as best as we can. He noted that in recent years, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, which administers these funds, stressed that these projects be completed within 3 years. Mr. Conti explained that the sponsors will have time to comment on their project. Following discussion, the Commission would then make their recommendation to the Mercer County Commissioners, with the County Commissioners making the final decision.

Mr. Whitten next gave each sponsor an opportunity to speak on behalf of their project. Mr. Jonathan Fister, from the Keystone Blind Association mentioned that their project is small, but important to those who are severely, visually impaired in the rural areas in Mercer County. He noted that their project targets the low/moderate income individuals who cannot afford the kind of rehabilitation services which they provide. He noted that their rehab services teach blind people how to pour hot liquids, how to measure, how to work safely around in their kitchens, and how to use a white cane so they can walk to their mail box and back. He noted that they received funding last year which benefitted 50 people and they would like to provide the same service to 50 people this year in order to promote and keep their independence and out of institutions.

Mr. Angelo Stamoolis, from Community Counseling Center mentioned that they have experienced significant requests for services for individuals with mental illness and substance abuse problems in their Greenville office. He noted that there has been about a 20% increase over the past 3 years. He noted that the money requested would help with construction costs to the 2nd floor of their Greenville office building in order to comply with the PA Department of Health. Ms. Fern Torok explained that their project targets many low/moderate income individuals than what is required. She noted that this renovation to their Greenville office would help in providing assistance to individuals with mental illness and substance abuse problems and get them on the right track.

Ms. Jerry Moore, from the Literacy Council of Mercer County mentioned that over the past 3 years, Mercer County has lost 10,000 jobs and the unemployment rate is at 10.7%. She noted that they are requesting funds to provide classes/educational training and to try to relocate the dislocated worker by helping them get their literacy skills upgraded and get a better education, GED, etc.

Ms. Sandy Swogger, from the Area Agency on Aging mentioned that they are requesting funds for structural improvements to the McQuiston Senior Center. Funds would be used to repair an expansion crack in the floor in the main multi-purpose room and to repair concrete that is deteriorating outside under the canopy where seniors are dropped off at the center.

Ms. Cindy Hannah, from Medical Equipment Recycling Program explained that they are looking for funds to purchase medical equipment in order to lend equipment to patients. She noted that staff and volunteers collect used medical equipment, clean it, repair it as needed, and then lend it to another needy patient. She noted that

the program has served more than 7,000 residents during its 11 years of existence. The Medical Equipment Recycling Program is housed in a building behind UPMC Horizon in Farrell. She noted that a home in Greenville was donated and volunteers are painting and cleaning the building, which will be the programs second location in Mercer County.

Mr. Dan Goncz, representing Liberty Township explained that the Township is requesting sewage facilities tap-in fees for residents who qualify under the low-moderate income requirements. The purpose of the project was to basically eliminate the malfunctioning on-lot sewage systems. He noted that about 1/3 of the on-lot sewage systems in that area are malfunctioning. The tap-in fees per residential property is \$3,000.

After discussion, Mr. Brenner made a motion to recommend to the Mercer County Commissioners to fund projects in the following order until the grant is fully allocated: \$32,217 for Literacy Council of Mercer County – Public Service; \$5,000 for Medical Equipment Recycling – Public Service; \$5,200 for Keystone Blind Association – Public Service; \$111,000 for Liberty Township – Sewer Improvements; \$50,000 for Jamestown Borough – Sewer Improvements and with remaining funding for the Lackawannock, Jefferson, Delaware Townships – Housing Rehabilitation. Mr. Hughes seconded. After discussion, there was a question regarding the ranking system and how we fund public service agencies and bricks and mortar projects. Mr. Gracenin explained how we fund the projects. There being no further discussion, the motion passed.

AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT CONTRACT

Mr. Gracenin, Executive Director, explained that an annual resolution is needed authorizing the chairman (or vice-chairman or secretary respectively if chairman is not available) to sign the annual grant agreement with PennDOT for transportation planning. A motion was made by Mr. Theiss and seconded by Mr. Faull to sign the annual grant with PennDOT for transportation planning. The motion passed.

APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A motion was made by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Courtney to reappoint Daniel Gracenin as Executive Director of the Commission for 2011. This action is required annually by the Commission's Bylaws. The motion passed.

APPOINTMENT OF SOLICITOR

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Mr. Davis to reappoint James Nevant as Solicitor of the Commission for 2011. This action is required annually by the Commission's Bylaws. The motion passed.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Whitten mentioned that the Committee list was mailed to all Commission members in their meeting packet. He asked that if any representative wanted to be added to a committee, to please let Mr. Gracenin or himself know as soon as possible. Mr. Whitten mentioned that they are looking for at least 1 or 2 new members for the Zoning and Subdivision Review Committee.

AUTHORIZATION FOR STAFF APPROVAL OF MINOR SUBDIVISIONS

Mr. Whitten explained that this action is to be taken annually, which authorizes the approval by MCRPC staff on behalf of the full Commission to approve minor subdivisions under the Mercer County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. A motion was made by Mr. Benton and seconded by Mr. Hoy to approve the authorization for staff to approve minor subdivisions. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS - ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM FOR 2011

Mr. Gracenin explained that MCRPC must approve projects and work activities to be undertaken in 2011, as required by their Bylaws. (A copy is attached to and made a part of the permanent record of Minutes.) There being no questions, a motion was made by Mr. Benton and seconded by Mr. Hoy to approve the Annual Work Program for 2011. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business or discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Mr. Rowe seconded. The motion passed.

Submitted and Certified By:

Bob McGhee, Secretary – MCRPC

Date: _____