LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This was a year of transition and the beginning of movement towards the completion of several planning efforts important to the County. Terry Stacey took over from Pandora Wertz in January as CDBG Administrator, and immediately tackled the Woodbury Water Line Replacement Project. More than ½ mile of line will be replaced, solving long-term problems with the delivery of drinking water to residents. The completion of construction is expected early in 2015.

The Planning Commission was also involved with the early stages of planning on updates for several important countywide planning efforts, including:

- County Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2006) – major update
- County Hazard Mitigation Plan (adopted 2012) – major update
- County Natural Heritage Inventory (adopted 1998) – major update
- County Municipal Waste Management Plan (adopted 2011)—minor update
- Regional Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS; adopted 2012)—major update

Transportation efforts included participating in the completion of the 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and assisting with updates to the National Highway System (NHS) and the Federal Functional Classification System.

The Pike 2 Bike corridor project also advanced in 2014. An Economic Impact Analysis was completed by Fourth Economy, Inc. and adopted by the Bedford and Fulton County Boards of Commissioners. The study provided clear evidence of significant economic impact if the 8.5 miles of abandoned Pennsylvania Turnpike and two tunnels are rehabilitated for recreational use. It is projected that as many as 200,000 visitors per year would visit this unique, world-class site upon full development. The next step in the project is the update to the existing Master Plan (2006). A committee of stakeholders from both counties will oversee this effort.

The Bedford County Agricultural Land Preservation Board continued to increase protection of farmland through its agricultural easement purchase program. The 320-acre Hershberger Farm in Woodbury Township was preserved in 2014. Late in the year, the Cook Farm in Londonderry Township (610 acres) was accepted as a bargain sale (donation) by the County Board. The easement will be finalized in 2015 and will represent one of the largest farms ever preserved in Pennsylvania.

The coming year will be challenging as the Planning Commission utilizes its available resources on the many planning efforts described above. We continue to look forward to assisting local residents.

Donald Schwartz
Director
# 2014 Annual Report
## Bedford County Planning Commission

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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Municipalities Planning Code of 1968 (MPC) defines a county Comprehensive Plan as “a land use and growth management plan prepared by the county planning commission and adopted by the county commissioners which establishes broad goals and criteria for municipalities to use in preparation of their comprehensive plan and land use regulation.” Additionally, Section 302(d) of the MPC requires that “County comprehensive plans shall be updated at least every ten years.”

The Bedford County Comprehensive Plan was last adopted on December 6, 2006, so it is rapidly approaching the ten-year update deadline. The six south-central counties represented by the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) - Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset – have been investigating the possibility of preparing a regional Comprehensive Plan. While preserving the integrity of information specific to each county, this approach would allow the integration of planning across county lines, and also hopefully result in a cost savings versus the preparation of six, individual plans. SAP&DC staff have been leading the effort to date, and further investigation will occur in 2015.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

In accordance with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA) and implementing regulations, the County completed an update of its Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2012. Hazard Mitigation is a phrase that describes actions taken to prevent or reduce the long-term risks to life and property from hazards. Pre-disaster mitigation actions are taken in advance of a hazard event (such as flooding) and are essential to breaking the typical disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction and repeated damage. Hazards may be natural, technological or manmade.

Local jurisdictions must comply with the DMA in order to remain eligible for funding and technical assistance from state and federal mitigation programs. Local mitigation plans must include, at a minimum, (1) an action plan to mitigate hazards, risks and vulnerabilities; and (2) a strategy to implement those actions.

The County adopted the Plan on April 3, 2012. The Plan identified flooding as the most important hazard affecting the County, and noted that “Because flooding has been the most damaging and life threatening of the hazards affecting development within the County, this Plan emphasizes flood risk assessment and mitigation.”

Gravel Bar Obstructing Wills Creek

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that the County conduct a formal update of the Plan every five years. Since the funding and planning process can take more than two years, the Planning Commission began an investigation of funding options in 2014. The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) attempted to locate 100% grant funding for a “bundle” of counties
through FEMA’s Emergency Management Planning Grants (EMPG) program, but this effort was unsuccessful. Another FEMA program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funding, can pay for 75% of project costs. The Planning Commission submitted a letter of interest to FEMA in November regarding this program. It is likely that formal applications will be due early in 2015.

FEMA also requires that the County hold an annual review meeting to allow for municipal input and changes to the Plan, pending the next five-year formal update. The annual meeting was held on November 6, and the period for input on hazard mitigation projects was extended to December 1. No proposed hazard mitigation projects were received by the Planning Commission.

MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Bedford County coordinates its municipal waste management activities along with Fulton and Huntingdon Counties through membership in the South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency (SCCSWA). The County’s most recent revision to its Municipal Waste Management Plan was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in 2010, and the County adopted a Municipal Waste Management Ordinance on May 24, 2011. Nine landfills were awarded ten-year disposal agreements with the three counties.

The owner of an additional landfill approached the SCCSWA and has asked to be included as a facility approved to accept municipal waste. DEP was contacted and the process for public advertisement for new landfills was determined. The advertisement and review of submitted proposals will occur in 2015.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The six south-central counties cooperate in many ways through their relationship with SAP&DC. One is the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). As described by SAP&DC a CEDs is “designed to coordinate public sector and private sector planning and investments into a well-planned “roadmap” to guide initiatives for diversifying and strengthening a regional economy.” The CEDS for the Southern Alleghenies Region “analyzes socioeconomic data, sets forth goals and objectives, defines action plan strategies, and identifies performance measures” to achieve the aim of strengthening the economy.

In 2014, a consulting team was retained to prepare a formal update to the interim CEDS (2012-2016) that had been prepared by SAP&DC. The Planning Commission participated in a steering committee kick-off meeting in October, followed by a public meeting in November and a second steering committee meeting in December. The final report will be due in 2015.

NATURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY

Bedford County last completed a Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) in 1998, and only five counties in Pennsylvania have similar studies that are older. As stated by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, “County Natural Heritage Inventories are designed to inform the residents of a county about their living heritage and give them a tool to use in planning the future of their communities.” NHIs include “information on important
natural areas, habitat for rare plants and animals, and other important natural resources.”

The Planning Commission, representing the County Commissioners and working in concert with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC), applied for funding from the Commonwealth’s Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program to update the NHI. A grant award of $20,000 was received late in the year. The grant will be combined with $94,000 from the WPC and a $5,000 contribution from the County’s Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund. WPC will begin the project in 2015, with completion anticipated in 2017.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Bedford County is a member of the Southern Alleghenies Rural Planning Organization (RPO). RPOs, created by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), are responsible for transportation planning and project programming in rural areas. The Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) entered into an agreement with PennDOT to act as the RPO for Bedford, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset counties. (NOTE: Blair and Cambria Counties are separate Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), created by Federal law in urbanized areas of 50,000 or more people, to undertake similar transportation planning and project programming activities as the Southern Alleghenies RPO).

The Southern Alleghenies RPO completes its work through two committees, the Rural Transportation Technical Committee (RTTC) and the Rural Transportation Coordinating Committee (RTCC). The RTTC is the advisory committee that the four county planning directors serve on and includes representatives from PennDOT, SAP&DC, and other agencies. The RTTC is the policy committee that includes one County Commissioner from each of the four counties and staff from PennDOT and SAP&DC.

Together with PennDOT, the Southern Alleghenies RPO helps to rank and program projects for the State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP which is the first four – year listing of projects to be completed with federal and/or state funds), the State Twelve Year Program (TYP), as well as to develop and implement the region’s Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

ACT 89 of 2013

House Bill 1060, legislation on Pennsylvania transportation funding, was signed by the Governor on November 25, 2013 and became Act 89 of 2013. Act 89 will generate additional revenue for various modes of transportation for the five-year period that began on January 1, 2014. Some of the provisions in the Act that affect the County and local governments are:

- Increases the Prevailing Wage Law threshold from $25,000 to $100,000 for local transportation projects
- Additional Liquid Fuels Allocations for local roads and bridges
- Funding to coordinate traffic signals to alleviate traffic congestion
Allocates additional funding for the Dirt and Gravel Roads program
Allow savings of local matching funds under a new bridge bundling initiative
Allows counties the option to access a $5 vehicle registration fee for transportation purposes or allocation to political subdivisions

**NHS & Functional Classification System Update**

Beginning in late 2014 and continuing through mid-2015, PennDOT District 9-0 is coordinating a six-county, two-step update of the National Highway System (NHS) and the remaining Federal Functional Classification System. The NHS system serve major population centers, meet national defense requirements, serves interstate and interregional travel, among other criteria. U.S Route 30 from Bedford to Breezewood, S.R. 1007 from U.S. 30 to PA 26, and PA 26 from S.R. 1007 to the Bedford/Huntingdon County line were recommended as proposed additions to the NHS system totaling 41.2 miles (see map below).

**TIP Updates**

The TIP is a list of priority transportation projects to be funded over the next four year period. It is a living document, updated every two years through a public involvement process, and is the first four years of the Twelve Year Program. A project cannot receive federal or state funding unless it is on the TIP.

Projects on the TIP usually proceed in phases (preliminary engineering, final design, relocation of utilities, right-of-way acquisition, and construction). Each project phase is listed on the TIP, funding for that phase, and an anticipated schedule. When funds are made available for the final construction phase, a project will no longer appear on future TIP documents even though the project may not yet be completed. Projects must be completed or removed from the TIP in order to add new ones. The TIP is fiscally constrained and includes only those projects with a source of funding.

*A project’s placement on the TIP means that one or more project phases (e.g. preliminary engineering, final design, relocation of utilities, and acquisition of rights-of-way) are funded in one or more fiscal years. Getting a project to the construction phase could take a few years.*

The State Transportation Commission approved the proposed FFY 2015 TIP for Pennsylvania on August 14, including the Southern Alleghenies RPO component. On September 30, 2014, the Federal Highway Administration approved the FFY 2015 Southern Alleghenies TIP. The map on Page 7 shows the approved FFY 2015-2018 TIP highway and bridge projects for Bedford County.

A packet of information will be mailed to municipalities, agencies, and individuals interested in transportation in early 2015 that will start the 2017-2020 TIP process.
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)
FY 2015-2018

List of Projects

Bettendorf
1. Buena Road to PA 31
2. Odenning Ck Rts to Hwy Rd
3. Evans Creek to Spring Dr
4. Hallsville Rd-Chamber Mls
5. Junction Rd Rts to SR 29
6. Maryland Line-Washington St

State Bridges
7. SR 1001 - PA 28 to PA 28
8. SR 303 - PA 31 to US 30
9. Sunbeam Ck Hooper Rd
10. Tumpa Creek Town Rd
11. US 22 to Snake Spring Rd
12. West Waldo Rts US 22

Local Bridges
13. Everett Boro Bloody Ro Br
14. Hopewell Bridge Replace
15. JA 31 East River Bridge
16. JA 31 East Rte 400 Bridge
17. Rts 400 Oppenheim Run Br
18. US 30 over Kline Rts US 30

Project Extents

SAP & DC

Data Source: PennDOT, SAP & DC
Created By: SAP & DC, January 2015
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

SPECTRA ENERGY PIPELINE

The Director was notified in April of the proposed Spectra Energy natural gas pipeline. The route for the $4-billion pipeline began at the existing compressor station adjacent to State Route 220 south of Bedford Borough, and continued for 427 miles to North Carolina. The route passed along the west side of the highway to a point north of Centreville (Cumberland Valley Township), then east over Evitts Mountain to Beans Cove (Southampton Township), before turning south into Maryland.

The proposal resulted in significant public interest, and the Director initiated contact with Spectra Energy officials to assure that residents would have the opportunity to address their concerns in a public forum. Spectra notified the Director in August that the project had been suspended prior to meeting with the public. Contact will be reinitiated with Spectra if the project moves forward in the future.

COALDALE-SIX MILE RUN WATER CORPORATION METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Coaldale-Six Mile Run Water Corporation serves customers in Coaldale Borough and Broad Top Township. The Board of Directors asked for assistance from the Planning Commission late in the year in preparing an application for approximately $20,000 in grant funding from the federal Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to replace all of the system’s 130 customer meters. Many of the meters are more than 40 years old, and some are not operational. The Director prepared the application and it appeared at the end of the year that funding would be awarded early in 2015.

BEDFORD COUNTY HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

Bedford County Housing Partnerships (BCHP) was created with the support of local agencies having a common interest in increasing housing options for low income, disabled, and homeless persons in the County. On April 3, Planning Commission staff attended a presentation sponsored by BCHP regarding the Fair Housing Act. The Planning Commission continues to support BCHP in its efforts to provide housing for underserved populations in Bedford County.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

OUTREACH TO MUNICIPALITIES

The Director continued an outreach effort to identify local needs and potential assistance. Meetings were attended this year in Hopewell Borough and Southampton Township.

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP – CRS

At the request of the Director, Bedford Township staff attended a meeting of the County Planning Directors of Pennsylvania on April 25 and described their success with FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS). This program allows municipalities to achieve lower rates for federal flood insurance if they achieve specific flood protection milestones, both structural and non-structural. Bedford Township is one of the lowest (if not the lowest) population municipalities in the Commonwealth that participates in CRS. It is hoped that the Township’s success will be transferrable to other municipalities.
**PRESENTATION TO SENATE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

The Director gave a presentation to the Senate Democratic Caucus Policy Committee Roundtable on Economic Development and Tourism on January 22. The presentation focused on efforts to develop trail projects as tourism attractions in the County.

**FLOOD INSURANCE AND SFHAs**

The Pennsylvania Flood Plain Management Act of 1978 (Act 166) requires that each municipality which has been notified that it has been identified as having an area or areas which are subject to flooding shall participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Under the federal Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended, flood insurance must be purchased by property owners seeking any federal financial assistance for construction or acquisition of buildings in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), i.e., where there is a 1% chance of an annual flood (“100 Year Floodplain”). This financial assistance includes certain federally guaranteed mortgages and direct loans, federal disaster relief and loans, as well as other similarly described assistance from FEMA and other agencies.

The SFHAs are depicted on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). New FIRMs became effective for Bedford County on March 2, 2012.

Implementation of the new FIRMs meant that a number of properties in the County were now impacted by the flood insurance requirement. In 2014, Planning Commission staff continued to provide assistance to property owners and realtors seeking guidance on whether buildings and parcels were in a SFHA.

**TRAILS AND RECREATION**

**HUNTINGDON AND BROAD TOP RAILS TO TRAILS**

The Broad Top Township Supervisors have acquired ownership of 10.6 miles of the old Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad right-of-way and are working cooperatively with the non-profit Rails to Trails of Bedford County Inc. to develop it for free public use. Rails to Trails of Bedford County Inc. has established a website and is accepting memberships and donations to support the project. The website is: [http://www.railstotrailsofbedfordcounty.org](http://www.railstotrailsofbedfordcounty.org).

The northern trailhead is in Riddlesburg. The trail continues south along the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River to Cypher and then overland to Tatesville through a largely isolated and forested valley. The trail intersects two public parks, Riddlesburg Park and Cooper Park, and provides for pedestrian access to State Game Lands #261.

The project is designed in four phases (all distances approximate):

- **Phase 1**: Riddlesburg to Hopewell to Cooper Recreation Area (2.3 miles)
- **Phase 2**: Cooper Recreation Area to SR1020 (4 miles)
Phase 3: SR 1020 to Big Bend Beach Road T505 (2 miles)
Phase 4: T505 to trail end at SR 1009 Plank Road in Tatesville (2 miles)

Phase 1 was completed in 2012 and Phase II (including repairs to a railroad bridge over the river) was finished in 2014. It is anticipated that Phases III and IV will be completed in 2015.

Benefits to the Bedford shopping district resulting from utilization by guests at the Resort. The Planning Commission has provided full support for the project, including assistance with the acquisition of funding, as a major enhancement to the Bedford area. The construction bid will be advertised in January 2015.

**PIKE 2 BIKE CORRIDOR: ABANDONED PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE**

The Pike 2 Bike Trail Network Master Plan and Adaptive Re-Use Study (“Master Plan”) was completed in May 2006. As described in the Master Plan, on October 1, 1940 the Pennsylvania Turnpike was opened to automobiles.

In 1968, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission bypassed an 11-mile segment of roadway in Bedford and Fulton Counties, containing the 1.3-mile Sideling Hill Tunnel and the 0.7-mile Rays Hill Tunnel. In 2000, the Commission began to contemplate future use of this property. The following year the Commission sold an 8.5-mile section of the roadway, including the two tunnels, to the Southern Alleghenies Conservancy (SAC) for $1. SAC then commissioned the creation of the Master Plan to study the cost and
Several consultants were interviewed and Fourth Economy Consulting of Pittsburgh was selected to prepare the report. Three Scenarios were analyzed, ranging from basic trail and tunnel improvements, to the addition of a museum and nature preserve in Fulton County. The study projected that upon full development (Scenario 3), up to 200,000 visitors, spending $12 million, would visit the corridor each year. The Planning Commissions for both counties and the Boards of Commissioners approved the Economic Impact Analysis in the spring of 2014. The study may be found at http://www.bedfordcountypa.org/uploads/Pike2Bike_Report_v.1.3_May_19__2014_FINAL.pdf

Abandoned Turnpike and Tunnel
The project continued to receive attention at the State level and the Director gave presentations to two legislative committees. The first, on September 22, was at an “Environmental Issues Forum” for the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control Conservation Committee. This presentation was preceded by a tour for legislative staff members. The second presentation, on December 9, was for the Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Public outreach efforts for the Pike 2 Bike project included an article in the September/October issue of Pennsylvania
Magazine, and an interview by the Director with WHYY (National Public Radio) in Philadelphia.

The next step in the project will be an update of the Master Plan, which will likely be undertaken in 2015 by a committee formed with representatives from Bedford and Fulton Counties. Concurrently, there will be an investigation concerning the formation of a joint municipal authority to administer the project and corridor. Hopefully, the Master Plan update will be completed by 2016 and the project can then move to the final design and funding phases.

**STAFF AND COMMISSION REVIEWS**

**CONSISTENCY REVIEWS**

The Planning Commission has the responsibility to review and comment on public facility projects, zoning, subdivision and land development ordinances, as well as consistency with the County Comprehensive Plan (Section 303 of the Municipalities Planning Code; Acts 67 and 68 of 2000). Federal Executive Order #12372 also provides the authority to comment on the consistency of federally-funded projects with the Plan.

The Planning Commission conducted 26 consistency reviews in 2014. Highlights included:

- Bedford Joint Municipal Authority, Bedford Heritage Trail
- Broad Top Township, McCartney Surface Coal Mine
- Bedford County Airport, Hangar and Office Expansion
- East Providence Township Municipal Authority, Major Wastewater System Upgrades

**SUBDIVISION, LAND DEVELOPMENT & SEWAGE MODULE REVIEWS**

In 2013, the Planning Commission developed an application format and fee schedule for the review of subdivision and land development plans, as well as sewage planning modules. The new format went into effect on January 1, 2014.

A discussion of all reviews is provided below and totals are provided in the following table and map. Reviews were conducted for 21 municipalities. A summary for 2014 included:

- 87 Subdivision Reviews
- 11 Land Development Reviews
- 4 Sewage Module Reviews
- Total Fees of $5024

**SUBDIVISION REVIEWS**

Of the 87 subdivision reviews completed in 2014, 62 involved the creation of one or more stand alone non-building lots; and/or the creation of one or more non-building side lot additions to existing adjacent lots; and/or one more property lines changes where no new lots were created. There were 25 subdivisions reviewed where one or more single family homes were proposed using either on-lot sewage disposal or connection to municipal sewerage.

**LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS**

A total of 11 land development plan reviews were completed in 4 municipalities.
(Bedford Township, Lincoln Township, West Providence Township, and West St. Clair Township). The plans included:

- Rehabilitation of the Everett Readiness Center, Route 26 North, West Providence Township
- Bedford Ford, Lincoln-Mercury, Inc., RV Display & Storage Lot (Phase 1), Route 30, Bedford Township
- New Dollar General Store, Route 56, West St. Clair Township
- One Single Family Home on an existing lot, Lincoln Township
- PA Turnpike Commission, Redevelopment of North Midway Plaza, Bedford Township
- Rockland Manufacturing Parking Lot, Bedford Township
- H.B.&T Tire Storage Building, West Providence Township
- Bedford Ford, Lincoln-Mercury, Inc., RV Display & Storage Lot (Phase 2), Route 30, Bedford Twp
- JLG Industries, Inc., Fencing and Added Parking, Bedford Township
- Blackberry Bottom Farm Dormitory Housing, Bedford Twp
- Tenley Park Amphitheatre, West Providence Township

(SEWAGE PLANNING REVIEWS)

The County Planning Commission is responsible under Act 537 for review and comment on Act 537 Plans: Component 2 Modules (proposals involving the use of individual or community on-lot sewage disposal systems and retaining tanks); and Component 3 Modules (proposals involving sewage treatment plants, or extensions to public sewerage systems, or individual small flow treatment systems).

County planning agencies are not required to comment on Component 1 Modules (proposals of 10 lots or less intended for detached single family dwellings served by individual on-lot septic systems).

The Planning Commission reviewed four Component 2 and Component 3 Sewage Planning Modules. The table below shows the total number of all types of reviews completed in each municipality. The Map on the next page shows the location of all reviews conducted in 2014.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MUNICIPALITY</th>
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<td>Bedford Township</td>
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<td>Lincoln Township</td>
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<td>West St. Clair Township</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodbury Township</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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</table>
2014 Annual Report
Bedford County Planning Commission

2014 Subdivision, Land Development & Sewage Review Activity

- Subdivision Review Locations
- Land Development Review Locations
- Sewage Planning Review Locations

Bedford County Planning Commission 2015
THE DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION represents the County on numerous boards and committees, including the following:

- Bedford County Agricultural Land Preservation Board
- County Planning Directors Association of Pennsylvania
- South Central Counties Solid Waste Agency

Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission, Planning Advisory Committee
- Regional Planning Organization (RPO) Regional Transportation Technical Committee
- Evitts Creek Steering Committee
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Regional Advisory Committee
- Ridge and Valley Streamkeepers
- Southern Alleghenies Conservancy

Planning Commission staff attended the following conferences and trainings in 2014:

- Annual Convention of Bedford County Township Officials
- A New Look at Reviewing Subdivision and Land Development Plans (PA Local Government Training Partnership)
- Applying for DCNR Grants

The Bedford County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and the Bedford County Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program were created by the County Commissioners in December 1995, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Agricultural Area Security Law of 1981 (Act 43), as amended by Act 149 of 1988. The formation of the Board signified the first step in the implementation of the Bedford County Agricultural Conservation Plan. The primary goals of the seven-member Board are to:

- Administer a program for purchasing and accepting donations on agricultural conservation easements in accordance with Act 149 and succeeding amendments and guidelines.

- Promote efforts to support the growth of existing agricultural and non-agricultural communities in the County.
- Encourage the use of farmland preservation techniques through public and private programs in the County.
- Encourage the preservation of the most productive soils in the County.
- Inform the public about the importance of Agricultural Land Preservation.

Easements purchased through this state- and county-funded program are perpetual. With minor exceptions, the land preserved must be used for agricultural purposes by current and future property owners. Farms
in the Program are also inspected annually by the Bedford County Conservation District. Due to limited funds, the County Agricultural Board normally can only purchase one easement every several years. However, donations of farms at no cost or a reduced price (“bargain sales”) have extended Program funds in the past.

Farm owners interested in the Program submit an application which is scored and then ranked against other applicants. A summary of the ranking criteria (weighting) includes:

- Land Evaluation – Percent of soils in each Classification (I – VIII) (46 percent)
- Site Assessment – Development Potential (14 percent)
- Site Assessment – Farmland Potential (23 percent)
- Site Assessment – Clustering Potential (17 percent)

There are currently 16 enrolled farms encompassing 3165 acres (almost 5 square miles). The 16 farms are distributed as follows:

South Woodbury Township – 5
Colerain Township – 4
East Providence Township – 2
King/East St. Clair Townships (border) – 1
Snake Spring Township – 1
West Providence Township – 1
West St. Clair Township – 1
Woodbury Township - 1

HERSHBERGER FARM (320 ACRES)

The Hershberger Farm is located in Woodbury Township north of Woodbury Borough, near the Blair County line. It was ranked first on the current list of applicants and is comprised of six tax parcels adjoining SR 866 and Hickory Bottom Road. The State Agricultural Land Preservation Board approved the easement purchase at its April meeting for a price of $319,910 and the closing occurred in August. The farm was the largest approved at the April State Board meeting.

COOK FARM (610 ACRES)

The Cook family approached the Director about an easement purchase “bargain sale” ($1 purchase). The farm is located in Londonderry Township, south of Hyndman Borough and several miles from Maryland. An application was submitted and approved by the County Board in November. The bargain sale should be completed in 2015, and would be one of the largest easement purchases in the history of the Commonwealth’s program.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program allocations are Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds passed down to and administered by PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) under Pennsylvania Act 179. At the County level the CDBG Program is administered by the Planning Commission on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

Counties that are not Federal Urban Counties (e.g., Bedford County) are eligible to apply for entitlement CDBG Program funds. Townships and Boroughs are also eligible to apply for CDBG Program funds if they have a population of 4,000 or more (based on the U.S. Census). Bedford Township is the only municipality in Bedford County that has a population over 4,000 that is eligible to apply for entitlement CDBG Program funds. However, the County is responsible for administering the CDBG programs for eligible townships and boroughs with a population of 10,000 or less. Therefore, Bedford County applies for and administers the Bedford Township CDBG Program funds on behalf of Bedford Township. To date, $15,097,043 has been allocated to Bedford County and to Bedford County on behalf of Bedford Township.

Woodbury Water Main Replacement, Horizontal Directional Drilling along Main Street (PA 36)

The Bedford County CDBG entitlement funds must be used to fund projects that benefit non-entitlement municipalities/communities or not-for-profit organizations.

Projects to be funded through the CDBG Program are selected through a competitive process. Each year, usually in late September, the Planning Commission mails project proposal packets inviting municipalities and not-for-profit organizations to submit project proposals to compete for the County CDBG allocation. The proposals are usually due into the Planning Commission by early January. Proposed projects must meet three eligibility requirements: (1) National Objectives criteria (benefit at least 51% low-to-moderate income (LMI) persons); (2) be an activity listed under HUD 24 CFR Part 570, authorized category of basic project eligibility; and (3) be a necessity and a good expenditure of funds.
Activities must reflect necessary and reasonable costs, and must conform to State and Federal regulations. The project(s) must (1) meet the environmental review requirements/procedures; (2) solve the problem; (3) be able to be completed within three years; and (4) prove other funding is not available.

The project proposals are reviewed by the Planning Commission staff for compliance and completeness. The projects meeting the CDBG program eligibility criteria are presented at a public meeting to the County CDBG Priority Board. The Priority Board is comprised of the Planning Commission Board members. The Priority Board ranks the projects as to the greatest need/urgency and forwards their recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners have the final decision as to the project(s) to receive funding.

Upon completion and approval by DCED, the Department issues a Release of Funds Certification at which time the implementation of the project(s) may begin.

Guyer Brothers, Inc., of New Enterprise, PA started construction on October 13, 2014 to replace 2,950 LF of water main on the east side of Main Street in Woodbury with High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe using Horizontal Directional Drilling. Roadway paving and lawn restoration are to be completed in the spring of 2015.

The Planning Commission staff then meets with the organization that submitted the project(s) to determine the steps that will be required to complete the project within the allotted funds and the contract timeframe (3 years). If an engineer or an architect is required, a Request for Proposals (RFP) is advertised, and an engineer/architect is selected through an open and competitive process. The engineer/architect designs the project, obtains the permits and easements. If construction is required, a bid document is prepared and a contract is awarded, also through an open and competitive process. The Planning Commission staff monitors the construction process, handles billing, and completes project close-out.

The project is monitored by DCED staff and audited by an accounting firm selected by the County. All files are maintained for four years after the CDBG Program year has been closed-out by HUD. The total timeframe is approximately ten years.

A CDBG grant application for County and Bedford Township entitlement funds is submitted to DCED for approval. A grant contract is executed between the County and DCED and an environmental review is then conducted for the recommended project(s).
### 2014 BEDFORD COUNTY CDBG ENTITLEMENT PROJECTS & APPLICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
<th>FUNDING YEAR(S)</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hyndman Borough</td>
<td>2008 2009</td>
<td>Phase I, II, and III Replace 4300 LF water main</td>
<td>$236,703.00 97,276.99</td>
<td>Completed awaiting DCED Monitoring &amp; Audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defiance Water Association</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Replace 7300 LF of water main from springs</td>
<td>$220,401.88 ($38,991.12 remaining)</td>
<td>Completed awaiting DCED Monitoring &amp; Audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaldale Six Mile Run, Water Corp</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Replace 4 Slow Sand Filter waterlines</td>
<td>$219,002.52 ($347.48 remaining)</td>
<td>Completed awaiting DCED Monitoring &amp; Audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodbury Borough</td>
<td>2010 2012 2013</td>
<td>Replace 2930 LF of Water Line, East side of Main Street (S.R. 36)</td>
<td>$38,991.12 194,899.00 195,449.00</td>
<td>Under construction during 2014 and 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad Top Township On-Lot Septic Systems (Application)</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Reconstruct or Replace malfunctioning on-lot septic systems</td>
<td>$137,809.00</td>
<td>Awaiting DCED FFY 2014 Contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defiance Water Association (Application)</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Improvements to 4 springs containments for greater water capture</td>
<td>$60,000.00</td>
<td>Awaiting DCED FFY 2014 Contract</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2014 BEDFORD TOWNSHIP CDBG ENTITLEMENT PROJECTS & APPLICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
<th>FUNDING YEAR(S)</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Root Road Sanitary Sewer and Water Improvements</td>
<td>2006 – 10 + 2010 Competitive</td>
<td>Construct 7500 LF of water main and 9000 LF of sanitary sewer main</td>
<td>$725,866.00 $465,000.00</td>
<td>Completed awaiting DCED Monitoring &amp; Audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Root Road</td>
<td>2009 2010 2011</td>
<td>Reconstruct and pave the road due to the sewer and waterline construction (unspent 2011 and 2012 funds transferred to Housing Rehab)</td>
<td>$52,918.87 100,619.00 25,896.48</td>
<td>Completed awaiting DCED Monitoring &amp; Audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Rehab</td>
<td>2011 2012 2013: and 2014 (Application)</td>
<td>Rehab single-family LMI homes in Bedford Township</td>
<td>$59,486.52 74,118.00 74,792.00 76,183.00</td>
<td>Subrecipient contracting with CCA: Awaiting DCED FFY 2014 Contract</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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