



# CENTRE COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2011

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dear Centre County Residents,

On behalf of the Centre County Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission, we are pleased to present the *2011 Centre County Planning Commission Annual Report*.

This past year, land development activity in Centre County remained historically low when compared to the last 30 years. If the first quarter of this year is any indication, 2012 will be much of the same. These low numbers are most apparent in the housing and industrial sectors and is reflective of the downturn in the national economy.

However, the bright spot is the County's low unemployment rate which has consistently been one of the lowest in the state and nation. Although buoyed by Penn State University, growing medical facilities, and the retail/ service sectors, much work still needs to be done. This means keeping and growing jobs by developing local partnerships that work together to improve our housing, water and sewer systems, recreation and open space areas, and transportation network. In order to do our part, the Planning Office will continue to provide the necessary services and assistance to achieve these goals.

We hope you'll find this report informative and serve as a guide to help you become familiar with the services we provide.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Jacobs, AICP  
Planning Director

### MISSION STATEMENT:

It is the mission of the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office to provide the citizens of Centre County with professional planning services by promoting a coordinated and cost effective approach to the orderly growth and development of their communities.

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## SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

One of the several important tasks performed by the Planning & Community Development Office is the administration and enforcement of the Centre County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). This aspect of 'county planning' is done to help ensure that the benefits realized by development activity outweigh negative impacts that might result from an increase in the demand on local facilities and services and to address developer compliance with applicable local, state and federal land use controls.

To achieve this goal, the Planning & Community Development Office staff is charged with the duty of administering the County's Ordinance (the staff's main focus lies within the 25 municipalities that fall under the jurisdiction of the County's SALDO) and to receive, review or monitor all plans originating from those municipalities that have adopted their own local subdivision and land development ordinances. The administration of the County's Subdivision and Land Development

Ordinance is the direct responsibility of staff members Anson Burwell and Chris Schnure.

In the comparison of subdivision and land development activity data for 2011, the total number of 'subdivision lots' created computes to 181 lots county-wide and represents a 12% decrease in the number of lots created from the previous year's total of 206 lots. This change was unexpected due to the previous year's modest rebound, but seems to be reflective of the continued and sustained recession of the last three years.

Similar to the above, 'land development units' compiled in 2011 show a total of 69 units. This number represents an 80% decrease in land development activity from 2010 total of 338 units; which was also unexpected, especially in the size of percentage decrease.

Upon comparison of the data compiled for 2011 with the previous year's numbers, it is evident that the national, state and local economic conditions are still having a negative effect on county

growth patterns. For example, the 2011 development activity for the creation of new lots is still at only 25% of the county totals compiled back in 2006; and similarly, only 21% of the totals for land development units created in the county at that time.

In regard to the various indicators that we routinely observe, the reduction of subdivision and land development activity has proven to be in a sustained pattern of decline for the last several years. There is little evidence to indicate that lot and unit inventories are being further reduced and few positive signs of an economic rebound. If our observations are correct, we predict that the 2012 numbers will reflect a continued downward trend, or at best, a leveling-off in the decline of development activity.

If you would like to review additional information regarding development activity, please reference the 2011 Centre County Subdivision and Land Development Activity Report on file at the following website: [www.co.centre.pa.us/planning](http://www.co.centre.pa.us/planning)

## UNDERUTILIZED PROPERTY INVENTORY

The Underutilized Property Inventory, launched in 2010 and published in 2011, provides adaptive reuse opportunities for recycling buildings to encourage community revitalization and support local economic development. An underutilized site is a property or building which is not used to its fullest economic potential. In some cases the sites are vacant; others are partially vacant. Descriptions for 74 properties were posted [here](#) on the county web site. This site will be continually updated as sites transition in and out of use.

In conjunction with the property inventory, an adaptive reuse report was completed describing the process of converting older buildings for economically viable new uses. A variety

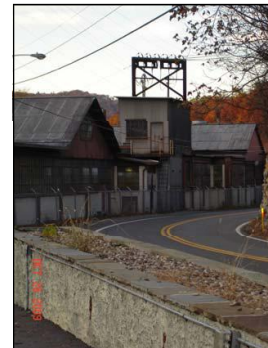
of repairs or alterations to an existing building are usually necessary to serve the contemporary use and bring it into building code compliance. Sometimes, these alterations preserve unique features of the property or building. The report which contains examples of adaptive reuse can be found [here](#).

Older buildings have the advantage of location in close proximity to town centers, with readily available utilities, transportation corridors, and a nearby workforce. Their reuse helps reduce suburban sprawl, builds on previously developed land rather than Greenfield tracts, avoids costly new public investments, and in some cases they are located along established routes served by rail and mass transit.

Property descriptions contain detailed site data such as: photos, address and/or parcel number, owner's name and contact information, building and/or land specifications, available utilities, current and past uses, zoning and adjacent land uses.

### Summer Intern

Abigail "Abby" Thomas, an undergraduate student majoring in Landscape Architecture with a minor in Geography served as a part-time 2011 summer intern. She significantly contributed to the posting of the Underutilized Property Inventory and the Adaptive Reuse Report. Abby graduated from Penn State in December and is now working with Campion Landscape Architecture in Annapolis, MD.



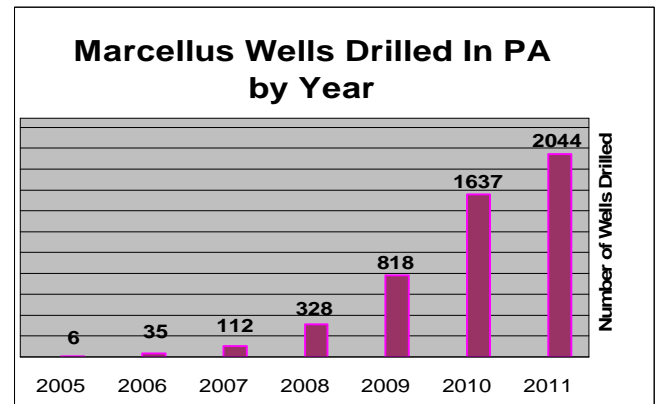
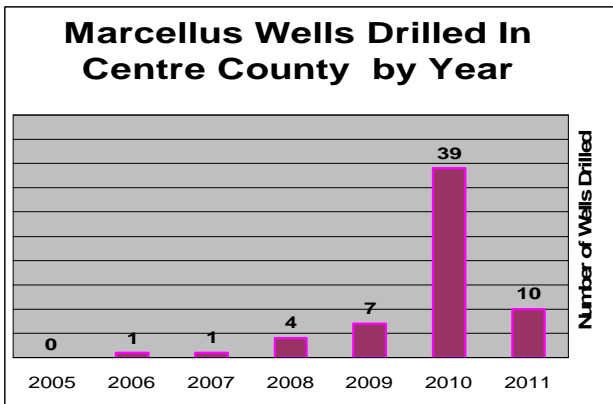
*Bolton Metal Products*

COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING CONTROLS

2011

	Adopted Comprehensive Plan	Planning Commission	Municipal SALDO Applies	County SALDO Ordinance Applies	Zoning Ordinance	Parkland Dedication Ordinance	Building Permit Ordinance	Federal Flood Insurance Program	Ag Security Area	Storm-Water Ordinance
<b>CENTRE COUNTY</b>	X	X		X						X
<b>CENTRE REGION</b>										
State College Borough	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X
College Township	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Ferguson Township	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Halfmoon Township	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Harris Township	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Patton Township	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>LOWER BALD EAGLE VALLEY REGION</b>										
Howard Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Milesburg Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Boggs Township	X			X	X		X	X		X
Curtin Township				X			X	X		
Howard Township	X			X			X	X		
Liberty Township	X	X	X		X		X	X		X
<b>NIITANY VALLEY REGION</b>										
Bellefonte Borough	X	X	X		X		X	X		X
Benner Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
Marion Township	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spring Township	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Walker Township	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>MOSHANNON VALLEY REGION</b>										
Phillipsburg Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Rush Township	X	X	X				X	X		
<b>MOUNTAINTOP REGION</b>										
Snow Shoe Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Burnside Township	X			X			X	X		
Snow Shoe Township	X			X	X		X	X		
<b>PENNS VALLEY REGION</b>										
Centre Hall Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Millheim Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Gregg Township	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Haines Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
Miles Township	X			X	X		X	X	X	X
Penn Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
Potter Township	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>UPPER BALD EAGLE REGION</b>										
Port Matilda Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Unionville Borough				X	X		X	X		
Huston Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
Taylor Township				X	X		X	X	X	X
Union Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X
Worth Township	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X

## Centre County Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling: 2011



### Centre County Natural Gas Industry Update

The above charts comparing the number of wells drilled by year in both Centre County and statewide in Pennsylvania clearly indicate that Centre County saw a significant downturn in new gas well development in 2011. This downturn is attributed to lower natural gas prices and the lack of pipeline infrastructure.

## Centre County Natural Gas Task Force

The Centre County Natural Gas Task Force serves as an ad hoc committee formed in 2010 by the Centre County Board of Commissioners. The county planning department provides staff support for this committee whose goal is to “*address public and private sector impacts and opportunities for drilling in Centre County*”. The list of task force accomplishments for 2011 follows.

- Completed 4 Guideline Documents: lease, seismic, pipeline, and water considerations.
- Met with Lt. Governor Jim Cawley concerning local issues.
- Hosted 10 special presentations: Jennifer Means (DEP), Bob Blair (Tioga County), Jim Ladlee (MS Workforce), Mark Stephens (DEP), Mike Arthur (MCOR), Vance Dunbar and Greg Kraynak (PA Fish and Boat Commission), Brian Chilton (HB Rentals), Ross Pifer (PSU Dickinson School of Law), Tim Kelsey (PSU Dept of Ag Economics), and Dennis and Jim O'Donnell (Alternative Fuel Solutions).
- Created a Natural Gas Industry Information web link from the Centre County Home Page.
- Completed and posted a listing of underutilized buildings available for re-purposing by the NG industry.
- Facilitated a tour and discussions related to manufacturing housing units for the NG industry. Secured the manufacture of furniture by a local industry for furnishing well pad housing units.
- Encouraged participation and succeeded in gaining local support for Source Water Protection (SWP) Plans for the MountainTop Water Authority and PA American Water – Philipsburg.
- Likewise, 4 additional community water systems authorized participation in the SWP planning process and formal documents should be signed in 2012.
- Received authorization from the Centre County Board of Commissioners to expand (when timely) the TF to include a sub-committee on community services.
- Tracked well development and produced numerous maps. As of 12/31/11, Centre County had 62 total Marcellus wells and nearly 1,000 total shallow wells.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

The Centre County CDBG program is a versatile and comprehensive source of funding that helps the rural municipalities in Centre County meet their community development needs in Low to Moderate Income neighborhoods by funneling over \$8.5 million of Federal HUD Funds into improvements of important public facilities and services since its inception in 1984.

Project	Municipality	Community	2010 CDBG Funding
Water Meter Upgrades	Gregg Twp.	Spring Mills	\$46,944
Water Main Replacement	Snow Shoe Twp.	Clarence	\$125,000
Water Main Replacement	Penn Twp.	Coburn	\$75,000
Sewer Lateral Assistance	Rush Twp.	Northy	\$30,000

Infrastructure projects, such as public water, sewer, storm-water and streets are considered highest priority by state and federal grant administrators and by County Planners. This priority can be seen in the 2011 CDBG funding awards indicated

in the table and is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. Continuing changes in water and sewer regulations, along with aging infrastructure, places an unduly heavy burden on rural utilities with small customer bases over which to spread heavy debt service associated with borrowing for system improvements. In the past 16 years CDBG funds have helped over half the municipal water suppliers in Centre County come into or stay in compliance with basic requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The expenditure of CDBG funds must meet one of three primary National Objectives. These are: Benefit to Low and Moderate Income (LMI) Families; Elimination of Slum & Blight; Urgent Threats to Public Safety. A minimum of 70% of a County's CDBG expenditure must be to the LMI objective. Centre County's program has historically funded projects that benefit LMI families. The CCPCDO maintains a close working relationship with all the municipalities in the County and seeks the input of these local leaders in determining how to allocate the County's annual allocation of CDBG Funds. Overwhelmingly, local officials support continued infrastructure funding in the low income sections of the County. Often, the County CDBG funds are used to assist the local communities to leverage other funds to help address the large financial demands for infrastructure upgrades. The funding philosophy of the Centre County Commissioners has been that water and sewer infrastructure enhancement contributes both to the health of a community and fosters long term economic development potential.

## Centre County Comprehensive Plan Updates

Updates to the county's comprehensive plan are an ongoing effort. In 2011, the recreation update was completed and posted [here](#) on the county's website. It summarizes the county-wide Greenway Plan adopted in 2010. Important strategies are to: (1) promote recreation through municipal efforts, (2) coordinate with multiple groups to identify recreation opportunities, (3) advance recreation for non-motorized transportation and pedestrian friendly communities, (4) advance recreation efforts for smart growth and conservation, (5) provide recreation opportunities for all, and (6) identify funding sources for recreation.

Priority Greenways (existing and proposed):

- Spring Creek Canyon (pictured)
- Elk Scenic Drive
- Lewisburg-Tyrone Railroad
- Bellefonte Central Rail Trail
- Brick Town Trail
- Bald Eagle/Spring Creek Canal
- Snow Shoe Rail Trail
- West Branch of the Susquehanna River





## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

CCPCDO staff continues to take a proactive approach to the coordination of land use and transportation infrastructure development. In conjunction with the Centre Regional Planning Agency (CRPA), the CCPCDO provides staff support to the federally governed Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO). The CCMPO is the lead entity responsible for developing the county's transportation plans and allocating federal, state and some local transportation funds toward priority projects.

**Funding Challenges**  
2011 posed significant fiscal challenges to the CCMPO as funding available for transportation projects continued to decline, while project needs continued to increase.

On the state level, the Governor's Transportation Funding Advisory Committee (TFAC) completed their

evaluation of options for increasing transportation funding from various state sources and presented their findings to the Governor for his consideration. Since that time, two bills mirroring the findings from the TFAC have been proposed by local legislators, but as of early 2012 there had been no action taken on a state transportation funding proposal.

Federal transportation funding continues to come forth through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Act - A Legacy for Users or SAFETEA-LU legislation that has received multiple extensions beyond its original 2009 expiration date. Both the House and Senate have drafted bills to replace SAFETEA-LU, but as of early 2012 there has been little consensus on the scope of that legislation. SAFETEA-LU's most recent extension expires on March 31, 2012.

**2011 – Accomplishments**  
Despite these fiscal challenges, the CCMPO, in close coordination with PennDOT, continued to advance high priority projects like the SR 550 Betterment in the Bellefonte/Spring Township area, Whitehall Road in the Centre Region, the Moshannon Valley Park and Ride Lot Study and numerous bridge projects.

Staff has been closely involved with subdivision and land development reviews to ensure that transportation needs are adequately met at the initial stages of development. In addition, the MPO staff continued to further advance its outreach and technical assistance efforts with its municipal partners on numerous initiatives.

**A Look Ahead To 2012**  
The CCMPO will again have a full agenda in 2012. Over the year to come one of the major work tasks of CCPCDO staff

dedicated to the MPO will be continuing the work on the 2014 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update that began late in 2011. As outlined in the MPO's annual plan of work for 2011-2012, staff will be charged with incorporating new elements into the plan including, but not limited to, performance measures, implementation strategies and a local asset inventory. Throughout the coming year, the MPO will be adopting the goals and objectives of the plan, laying out the project solicitation and prioritization processes and developing the aforementioned new elements.

**To Learn More**  
To learn more about the initiatives being undertaken by the CCMPO, please visit [www.crcog.net](http://www.crcog.net) and click on the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization link in the menu on the left side of the page.

## Local Asset Inventory

In late 2011, the CCMPO started the process of compiling a broad inventory of assets on the local transportation system. Primarily, this inventory will focus upon collecting information on the local road system and local bridges with spans between 4-20 feet, which are not currently inspected.

CCMPO staff working closely with the Centre County Geographic Information Systems department have begun mapping bridge locations and have performed two field data collections in Snow Shoe Borough and Rush Township. Staff has located approximately 14 structures through those two field views and several of them are in need of significant repairs.

In 2012, this inventory will begin again with staff completing their review of as many as 90 more bridge locations and undertaking assessment of certain local road segments. PennDOT will be providing the MPO new field equipment for this assessment that will make documentation of these locations significantly easier moving forward.



## HOUSING

Centre County offers a First Time Home Buyer Program to eligible County residents providing down payment and closing costs assistance in the amount of \$10,000 or 10% of the purchase price, whichever is less. The assistance is in the form of zero percent, deferred loan that is made payable when the house is sold when the mortgage is paid off, house is sold or no longer used as a principal residence, or is refinanced for more than 100% of the purchase price.

In 2011, the County, through its participating lenders, assisted three home buyers. Since the inception of the program, 304 home buyers have taken advantage of the program. For more information visit <http://www.co.centre.pa.us/> or call the Centre County Planning Office at 355-6791.

### CENTRE COUNTY HOUSING and LAND TRUST

In October 2011, the Centre County Board of Commissioners signed an agreement with the Centre County Housing and Land Trust to provide 15 hours per week of the Housing Coordinator's staff time to serve as the Housing and Land Trust's Executive Director.

The expanded role of the Housing Coordinator's position will enable the Housing and Land Trust to further develop its programs to better serve the affordable housing needs of the communities and residents of our County.



### Housing Rehabilitation

In 2011, Centre County Board of Commissioners was awarded HOME Program funds through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to establish a housing rehabilitation program in targeted areas of the County. The targeted areas are: Boroughs of Centre Hall and Millheim, and Villages of Aaronsburg, Madisonburg, Rebersburg and Spring Mills.

The program is designed to bring the eligible home owner's dwelling into compliance with the rehab standards in order to reduce ongoing and future maintenance costs, promote energy efficiency, and to preserve decent affordable owner-occupied housing.

## CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

The mission of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board is to preserve the County's prime agricultural land. The nine member board was established in 1989 and has purchased Agricultural Conservation Easements on 39 farms in seven townships totaling 6,213 acres. The Board evaluates farms that are enrolled in Agricultural Security Areas of at least 500 acres, have 50 percent of the productive soils in capability classes I through IV and 50 percent of the total acreage in harvested crop land or pasture.

Funding for easement purchases comes from the Bureau of Farmland Preservation, Centre County Government, and the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Townships also have the option to participate in the easement purchase program. The total amount of funds used to purchase Agricultural Conservation Easements in Centre County now exceeds twelve million dollars. This is an average of 1.8 farms per year at \$1,994 per acre or \$317,688 per farm. On a broader perspective, Pennsylvania leads the nation in farmland preservation with 4,243 farms preserved totaling 459,007 acres in 57 counties.

## Centre County Farmland Trust

The Centre County Farmland Trust is a publicly supported, tax exempt, nonprofit organization [501(c)(3)]. The trust is authorized by the Internal Revenue Service and the Pennsylvania Department of State to accept, hold and administer conservation easements. Governed by a 15 member Board of Trustees established in 1996, the Trust has preserved nine farms totaling over 725 acres with five more farms totaling over 1,000 acres appearing on the waiting list.

Land owners wishing to donate a conservation easement as a charitable gift must meet the minimum criteria established by the Internal Revenue Service and the Trust. Land owners must have a current survey and legal description of the property along with an appraisal by a Certified General Appraiser who determines the easement value. Once approved by the trustees, an easement deed is prepared along with extensive documentation that establishes the condition of the land at the time the easement deed is recorded. Land owners who qualify may be able to claim their donation as a charitable gift and take advantage of federal tax reductions. Eased properties are inspected annually by the Board to ensure that the easement deed is being observed. Conservation easements are permanent and become part of the deed when land is sold or transferred. The land owner still owns the land but has donated the right of present and future land owners to develop the property.

Funding comes from annual memberships of individuals, families and corporate sponsors. Grants to support specific projects have come from the Hamer Foundation, Centre County Community Foundation, The Bureau of Farmland Preservation, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club.

**Centre county 2011 west nil e vir us sur veil lance and contr ol progr am**



West Nile Virus is a disease that resides in bird populations and can be transmitted to humans through the bite of a mosquito that has previously bitten an infected bird. While most cases of West Nile Virus in humans are mild or even undetected, in some instances the virus can result in inflammation of the brain or spinal cord, and can result in death.

Since mid year 2000, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has made funds available in the form of annual grants to Pennsylvania Counties for the purpose of monitoring the local mosquito population for the presence of West Nile Virus, for the purchase of equipment and pesticide products for controlling mosquito numbers, and for public outreach to teach citizens how to protect themselves from becoming infected by West Nile Virus.

In Centre County the West Nile Virus (WNV) Program is administered by the CCPCDO. In 2011 the staffing consisted of a County Coordinator, who is a part time County employee.

**Funding**

The Centre County West Nile Virus (WNV) Program expended \$38,672 in grant funding in 2011. Centre County's PADEP funding for the 2012 WNV Program will be \$55,200, reflecting the addition of one additional field assistant.

**Surveillance and Control**

During the surveillance season from mid April until the end of September, larval

and adult mosquitoes from 500 test sites throughout the County are captured and sent to PADEP in Harrisburg for identification. The adult mosquitoes are further tested for West Nile Virus if they are found to be a species that can infect humans with the virus. In 2011 there were 639 sampling events in Centre County that resulted in 24,350 mosquitoes being shipped for identification and possible testing. There were 525 West Nile Virus tests performed on adult Centre County mosquitoes, with ten positive results. The County's WNV program is also responsible for collecting and shipping dead birds for virus testing. Thirty two birds from Centre County were tested in 2011, with 14 testing positive for West Nile Virus.

The presence of a positive mosquito or the presence of large numbers of a mosquito species that can transmit the virus to humans can result in the application of pesticides to reduce the population of these "target vectors". In 2011, Centre County West Nile Virus staff conducted 140 pesticide applications to control mosquito numbers.

Additionally, County WNV staff responded to 98 citizen requests for information, dead bird collection, or mosquito surveillance and control.

**Public Education**

Public education is also an important part of the West Nile Virus program. In 2011, the County West Nile Virus program gave WNV presentations to the six County Senior Centers, and also maintained an educational booth at the Grange Fair in Centre Hall.



**Protect Yourself**

Following several years of declining positive mosquito results, in 2010 West Nile Virus made a significant return to Pennsylvania. In 2011 the upward trend in WNV infections continued. There were 1,262 positive mosquito results Statewide. Forty nine birds were found to be infected with WNV, and there were also 13 veterinary cases. Six human cases of WNV were confirmed in 2011. Residents should take reasonable precautions to avoid mosquito bites, such as wearing long sleeved clothing where mosquitoes are active, and using insect repellants outdoors, especially those containing DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.



Elimination of standing water in both natural areas and artificial containers is the single most important thing residents can do to reduce breeding populations. Rain gutters, swimming pool covers, bird baths, wheelbarrows, ornamental ponds, and especially tires are all capable of breeding large amounts of mosquitoes.





## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) AND MAPPING

Centre County Government will be upgrading the GIS software to version ArcMap 10.1. Internal software users will not see any changes but the data structure and data storage will be modified to accommodate the latest software version. Public GIS users can expect website upgrades in the coming months as the platform moves from Freeance to Flex. Centre County Government continues to provide mapping services to municipalities, conservation groups, authorities, school districts, landowners, businesses, and other government entities. Staff in the GIS Department, E911, Tax Assessment, and the Planning Office coordinate their efforts to provide the public with the most current and accurate information as possible. Information includes both spatial data features (where is something located?) and the key characteristics associated with it (name, acreage, use, etc.). Users can access basic information for free on the public GIS website at <http://www.co.centre.pa.us/gis/public.asp>. Users can access more detailed information at the Centre GIS website at <http://www.co.centre.pa.us/gis/centregis.asp> through a WebIA subscription. The departments of Planning, GIS, and Tax Assessment can provide hard-copy maps at minimal fees.



## PLANNING COMMISSION RETIREE INFORMATION



We would like to thank Cecil Irvin (left), who represented Centre Region and served from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2011; Robert Corman (center) who represented Penns Valley Region and served from February 13, 1996 through December 31, 2011 and Thomas Hoover (right) who represented Mountaintop Region and served from September 22, 1998 through December 31, 2011 for their exemplary service to the Centre County Planning Commission and the citizens of Centre County .

## Grant Assistance / Administration

County planning staff provided support in various forms for the following grant projects completed or underway in 2011 in Centre County. In some cases staff time was used as in-kind services and in others, staff met the compliance requirements for receipt of the reimbursement dollars.

### GG CEI Grants

The County Environmental Initiative (CEI) Growing Greener / Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grants awarded by the State to Centre County assisted three recreation areas: Bellefonte's Parkview Heights Park and the Talleyrand Park Bridge Project, and Millheim's Community Park. Improved teener league baseball facilities, an ADA-accessible bridge, and parking and play equipment, respectively, were completed and at year's end were awaiting final inspections.

### Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Canal Trail Feasibility Study

Included in the Clinton County Greenways and Open Space Plan, and completed in 2011, was the Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Canal Trail Feasibility Study. This study investigated the potential of creating a trail between the Borough of Bellefonte in Centre County and the City of Lock Haven in Clinton County. The study corridor generally aligned with

the historic Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Navigation Company Canal. The complete study can be found [here](#). County planning staff provided in-kind services to this project.

The proposed alignment for the 6.3-mile segment between Bellefonte and Curtin was a feasible combination of both on-road and off-road bicycling routes. Between Curtin and Beech Creek, a 14-mile segment, the feasible route followed the proposed Brick Town Trail, the majority of which will be located within publicly owned lands.

The final segment between Beech Creek and Lock Haven and outside the Centre County boundaries is proposed to be a water trail following Bald Eagle Creek.

### Historic Preservation Plan for the Borough of Philipsburg, PA

The Philipsburg Revitalization Corporation, Inc. with grant funding from the federal Preserve America program, administered by Preservation Pennsylvania and the PA Historical and Museum Commission, completed a Historic Preservation Plan for the borough. In-kind services were provided by the county planning staff. The final plan can be found [here](#).

The outcome of this project was the development of an Action Plan with implementation strategies aligned with four overarching goals:

Goal 1: Increase Visual Awareness of Philipsburg's Historic District and History.

Goal 2: Increase Heritage Tourism Activity

Goal 3: Safeguard Philipsburg's Character by Preserving Character-Defining Buildings, Sites and Features.

Goal 4: Build Social Capital, Increase Volunteer Capacity / Mobilize Youth.

### Philips Hotel Redevelopment Project

The \$2.3 million redevelopment of the Philips Hotel from a senior housing facility to mixed use primarily for hotel accommodations and dining and banquet facilities progressed toward completion in 2011. Centre County serves as a pass-through economic development entity for this project that upon completion is anticipated to receive a \$1 million Redevelopment Capitol Assistance Program (RCAP) reimbursement grant. County planning staff administers this project on behalf of the county.

### Centre County Grange Equine Facility

From start to finish, the construction of the new equine facility on the grounds of the Centre County Grange Encampment property was completed in 2011 using a \$1 million Redevelopment Capitol Assistance Program (RCAP) reimbursement grant. County planning staff also administered this project on behalf of the county.

### CCC Camp 121 Marker – Curtin Township

In 2011, Centre County was awarded a small \$5,000 Community Conservation and Economic Development Program grant for the installation of a historical marker at the former site of Civilian Conservation Corps Camp 121, once located along the south side of Beech Creek stream. Planning staff is administering this project on behalf of the county.

### Howard Borough Pedestrian / Bicycle Trail

Two funding programs were combined for this project which will get underway in 2012. Howard Borough played a leading role in securing DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) funds in the amount of \$46,000 and a Transportation Enhancement (TE) allocation in the amount of \$267,950. The C2P2 funds are being used to complete the engineering and design of the trail and the TE funds will be used for construction of this 3/4 mile trail following the historic Bald Eagle Valley railroad right-of-way connecting East End and West End Parks through the town center, linking the Howard Elementary School with nearby neighborhoods.

### Penns Valley Rail Trail Feasibility Study

Gregg Township was awarded a



## Grant Assistance / Administration cont'd

DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) grant in 2011 in the amount of \$32,300 for the completion of a Rails-to-Trails feasibility study of the former 33-mile historic Lewisburg – Tyrone, Centre and Spruce Creek Railroad corridor from Ingleby in Haines Township to Lemont in

College Township. County planning staff will be serving as project manager.

### Aaronsburg / Millheim Water Inter-Connect

The Haines-Aaronsburg Municipal Authority (HAMA) and Millheim Borough were

awarded a \$250,000 in US EPA STAG funding for the completion of a water line inter-connect between the respective water systems. This inter-connect will provide water to either system if emergencies occur such as drought situations and also provide adequate water pressure for fire suppression.

This STAG grant will also compliment the PENNVEST grant recently awarded to Millheim Borough that will enable the Borough to replace the waterline along Route 45 to the proposed inter-connect location at the municipal boundary line.

## Source Water Protection Planning

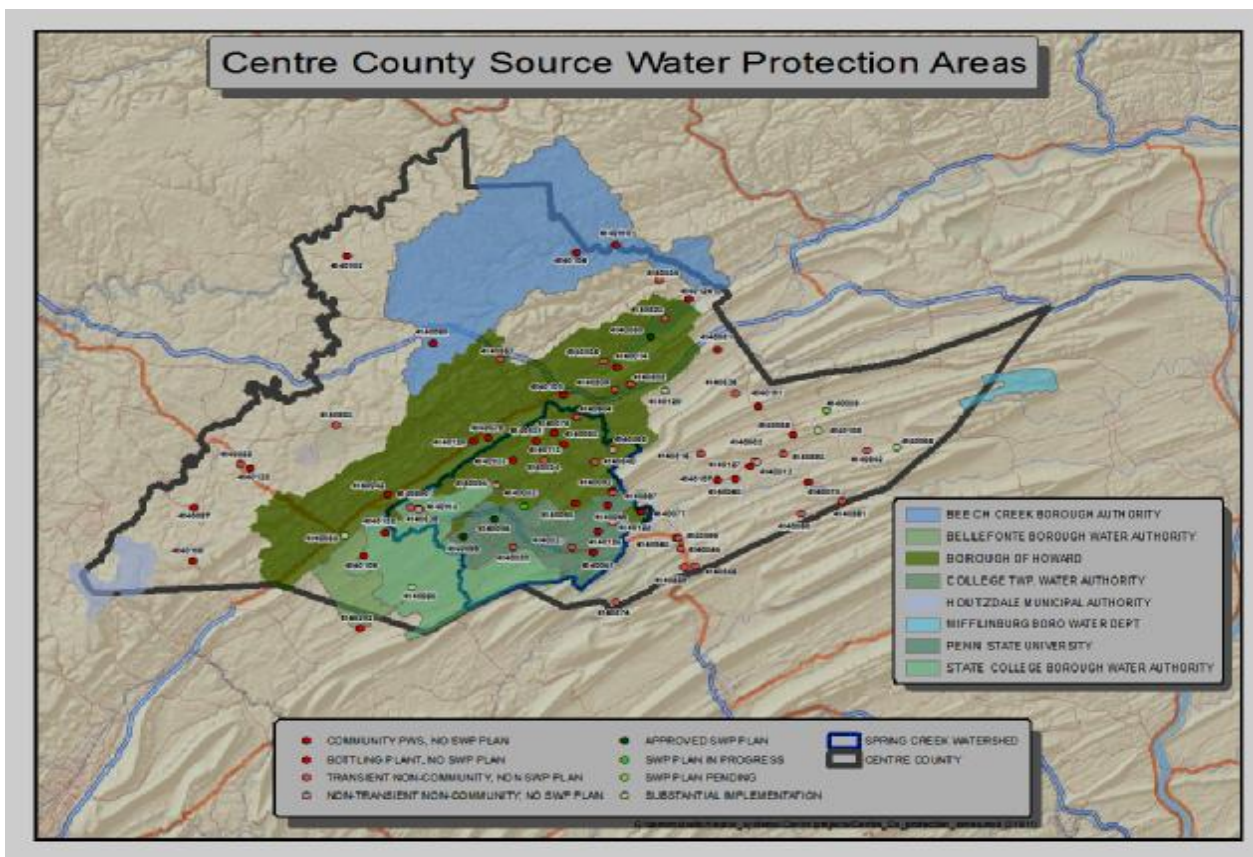
The protection of drinking water has become increasingly important in recent years, and in 2011 the Mountain Top Regional Water Authority received a Source Water Protection (SWP) Technical Assistance Grant to develop a local program for protection of their water sources. The Pine Glen spring and the two wells in Snow Shoe Township will be included in the study. The plan, when complete in 2012, is expected to address: conservation and restoration measures for the delineated source water protection areas, existing and potential sources of contamination, and identification of probable areas for new groundwater

sources. Information for this program can be found on the PA Department of Environmental protection website at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), keyword: Source Water and Groundwater Protection. County planning staff serves on the steering committee

comprised of community volunteers from the area.

By years end, and in addition to the Mountain Top Source Water Protection Plan, county planning staff was also assisting with the development of a joint SWP Technical Assistance Grant project in 2012. The five water systems

participating in this regional approach have source water locations in Rush Township and include: Philipsburg's PA American, Houtzdale, Cooper Township (Clearfield County), Oak Ridge, and Halfmoon. The Black Moshannon State Park water system will also be included.



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PLANNING

## 2011 PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Centre County Planning Commission is comprised of elected officials and interested citizens to represent the regions of the County. The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Willowbank Office Building. The Commission provides valuable input on the activities of the CCPCDO.

Robert L. Corman, <i>Chairman</i>	<i>Penns Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/10</i>
Kevin Abbey, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/12</i>
Freddie Persic, <i>Secretary</i>	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/12</i>
Thomas E. Hoover	<i>Mountaintop Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/11</i>
Cecil J. Irvin	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/11</i>
Thomas Poorman	<i>Lower Bald Eagle Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/12</i>
Jack Shannon	<i>Moshannon Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/10</i>
Mimi Wutz	<i>Upper Bald Eagle Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/10</i>
Robert P. Dannaker	<i>Nittany Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/11</i>

## 2011 CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jon W. Eich, Chairman

Rich Rogers

Stephen G. Dershem

Denise L. Elbell, County Administrator

*Many thanks to the past and present members for the commitment of their time and energy to the work of the Centre County Planning Commission.*

## 2012 PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

The Commission provides valuable input regarding the activities of the CCPCDO. The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Willowbank Office Building.

Freddie Persic, <i>Chairman</i>	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/12</i>
Robert P. Dannaker, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Nittany Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/15</i>
Mimi Wutz, <i>Secretary</i>	<i>Upper Bald Eagle Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/14</i>
Christopher Kunes	<i>Penns Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/14</i>
Kevin Abbey	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/12</i>
Vacant	<i>Mountaintop Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/15</i>
Dennis Hameister	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/15</i>
Thomas Poorman	<i>Lower Bald Eagle Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/12</i>
Jack Shannon	<i>Moshannon Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/14</i>

## 2012 CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Stephen G. Dershem, Chairman

C. Chris Exarchos

Michael Pipe

Timothy T. Boyde, County Administrator