



CENTRE COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Dear Centre County Residents,

On behalf of the Centre County Planning Commission, we are pleased to present the *2009 Centre County Planning Commission Annual Report*.

Along with the rest of the country, Centre County is experiencing a difficult economy with many challenges ahead. Unemployment is up, revenues are down, and the number of subdivision and land development plans submitted to the County in 2009 was the lowest in over 25 years. These trends will most likely continue into this year as well.

However, a positive economic sign for the County is the natural gas exploration in the Marcellus shale formation. This activity will significantly increase this year with more drilling, compressor stations, and pipelines. You can read more about the Marcellus shale in this report. The key factors we'll be encouraging as part of this economic boost for the County will be local business development, job creation, and minimizing the impacts to our environment and roads.

Like everyone else, the Planning Office is making adjustments by reducing costs to save taxpayer dollars while trying to maintain the important services we provide to the citizens and municipalities of Centre County. We hope you find this report useful and would encourage you to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or require our assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Jacobs, AICP
Planning Director

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SUBDIVISION / LAND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

One important task of the Planning & Community Development Office is the administration and enforcement of the Centre County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. This is done to ensure that the benefits to be realized by development activity outweigh negative impacts that might result from an increase in demand on local facilities and services and to ensure the developer's compliance with applicable local, state and federal land use controls.

In order to achieve this goal, the Planning & Community Development Office staff is charged with administering the County's Ordinance, applicable throughout much of Centre County, and they must 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 Christopher Schnure.

In the compiled subdivision and land development activity for 2009, the total number of Subdivision Lots created (124) represents a marked decrease in lots created and depicts a significant drop from the previous year's total of 267 lots.

Land Development Units created show a county-wide total of 147 units in 2009. This number also represents a significant decrease in land development activity from last year's total of 443 units.

Upon comparing the data compiled for 2009 with previous years' data, it seems evident that the national, state and local economic conditions have had a negative effect on the subdivision and land development growth patterns and trends.

Per the above, we anticipate a general 'wait and see' attitude among the County's developers; however, this office is projecting a bottoming out and a leveling off of activity for 2010 whereby there is evidence to indicate that both lot and unit inventories are being reduced, coupled with tangible signs of the beginning of an economic rebound. If the numbers prove so in 2010, we project a reversal in direction and the beginning of a modest growth pattern.

If you would like to review additional information regarding development activity, please reference the 2009 Centre County Subdivision and Land Development Activity Report on file at the following website: www.co.centre.pa.us/planning

UNDERUTILIZED SITE INVENTORY

In 2009, the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (CCPCDO) launched a county-wide effort to inventory underutilized and vacant properties. The purpose of this effort is to identify, reclaim or rehabilitate if necessary, and effectively market sites to aid in community economic development efforts.

Using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology, staff located all vacant property served by public water and sewer service and zoned either for commercial uses, or for manufacturing and industrial uses. Underutilized properties were identified through local input – a process which will be ongoing into 2010.

The inventories were prepared on a planning region basis and portrayed graphically through mapping. If your municipality would like to participate in the review of this information and/or provide information for the listing of additional properties, please contact the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office. This is an ongoing project and staff would appreciate additional input.



The Pennsylvania Match Factory

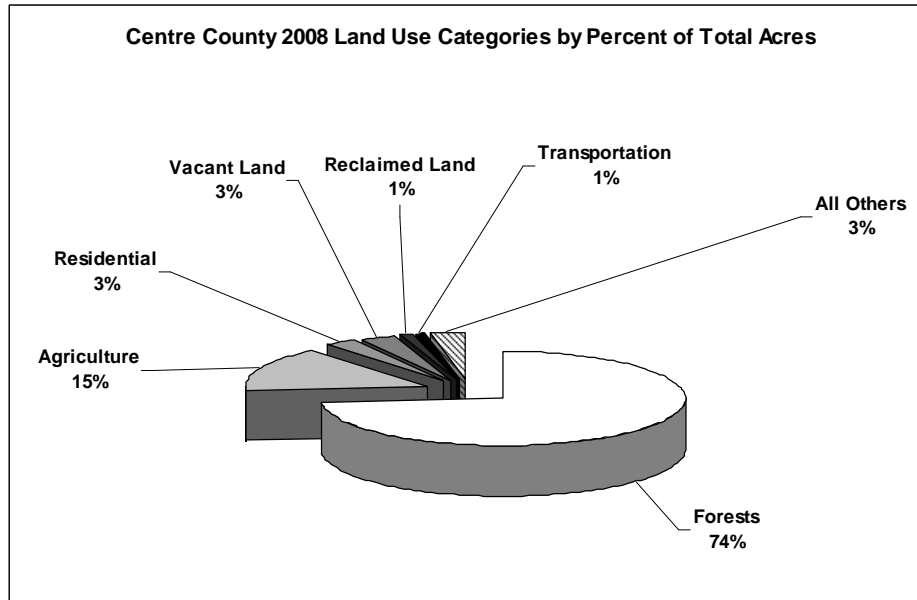
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COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL PLANNING CONTROLS
2010

	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
CENTRE COUNTY	X	X		X						X
CENTRE REGION										
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
LOWER BALD EAGLE VALLEY REGION										
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
NIITANY VALLEY REGION										
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
MOSHANNON VALLEY REGION										
Philipsburg Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Rush Township	X	X	X		X		X	X		
MOUNTAINTOP REGION										
Snow Shoe Borough	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Burnside Township	X			X			X	X		
Snow Shoe Township	X			X			X	X		
PENNS VALLEY REGION										
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	
Miles Township	X			X			X	X	X	
Penn Township	X	X		X			X	X	X	
Potter Township	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X
UPPER BALD EAGLE REGION										
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
Union Township	X	X		X			X	X	X	
Worth Township	X	X		X			X	X	X	X

LAND USE SURVEY

The Centre County Planning and Community Development Office completed the land use survey, compiled the land use data, and updated the land use chapter of the comprehensive plan in 2009. The land use dataset is based on 2006 aerial photography and contains updates from 2008 based on knowledge of where major land use changes have occurred. The following pie chart shows the major land use categories county-wide by percent of total land area:



Agriculture	108,344	Reclaimed Land	12,996
Commercial	2,316	Recreation	3,555
Communications	46	Residential	23,668
Forests	516,717	Transportation	12,051
Industrial	783	Utility	1,820
Mined Land	3,272	Vacant Structure	56
Mixed Use	23	Vacant/Unused Land	20,090
Public/Semi-Public	2,289	Water	3,958

The table above shows the major land use categories and the acres (rounded to the nearest whole acre) for each category. Forested land is the dominant land use in Centre County followed by agriculture and residential land uses.

CATEGORY	2002 acres	2008 acres	Acres (+/-)
Vacant and Unused Land	17,231	20,090	3,669
Forests*	514,429	516,716	2,287
Utility*	789	1,820	1,031
Mined Land	2,774	3,272	498
Water	3,628	3,957	329
Recreation	3,241	3,555	314
Commercial	2,104	2,316	212
Public	2,110	2,289	179
Reclaimed	12,845	12,996	151
Industrial	728	783	55
Mixed Uses	1	23	22
Communications	44	46	2
Vacant Structure	73	56	-17
Residential*	24,189	23,688	-501
Agriculture	109,850	108,344	-1,506
Transportation*	15,448	12,051	-3,397

Another purpose of the land use survey is to track changes in land use by comparing land use survey data from previous years. For the 2008 land use survey, data from 2002 was used to compared the overall gain (or loss) of acres per category. The table to the left lists the major land use categories in order from the category that gained the most acres to the category that lost the most acres. Those land use categories which are marked with an asterisk (*) either gained or lost acres due to how land use data was captured for the 2008 land use survey.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

The Centre County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program has been a source of versatile and comprehensive funding to help local, rural municipalities meet their community development needs by funneling over \$8 million of Federal HUD Funds into facilities and services in Centre County since its inception in 1984.

Water and sewer infrastructure projects received the most attention in previous years and that continued in 2009 as indicated in the table below:

Project	Municipality	Community	2009 CDBG Funding
Water Meters	Burnside Twp.	Pine Glen	\$31,000
Water Meters	Howard Twp.	Mt. Eagle	\$25,000
Water Meters	Port Matilda Boro	Port Matilda	\$62,000
Building Façade Improvements	Philipsburg Boro	Philipsburg	\$40,000
Sewer Main Extension	Worth Twp.	Martha Furnace	\$82,000
Sewer Plant Construction	Burnside Twp.	Pine Glen	\$94,000

American recovery and reinvestment Act

In response to the weak and deteriorating economic conditions in 2009, the US congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). This Act included an additional CDBG funding for local infrastructure projects. Centre County received an additional \$80,320 in CDBG funds in 2009 known as CDBG-R. These monies were then allocated for a water main replacement project in the Village of Smullton, Miles Township to purchase water line parts and materials, stone, excavating services and equipment rental for the Miles Township Water Authority which serves Smullton. The Authority then matched these funds by doing the installation of the pipeline. Installation included the Authority hiring additional LOCAL people to work on the project. The CDBG-R funds resulted in a new water main that vastly enhanced water service to Smullton, including improved fire flows, and provided employment to citizens that had been affected by the slack economy.



Future site of the Pine Glen Sewer Plant serving Burnside Township

FloodPlain Mapping and Ordinance Adoption – 2009

On May 4, 2009, new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Hazard Boundary Maps became effective for all of Centre County. These maps serve as an initial determinant for floodplain location; and as a result of this process nearly all municipalities in the county updated their

Floodplain Ordinances prior to the May 4, 2009 effective date. The CCPCDO staff assisted municipalities throughout this process, providing local municipal maps, draft ordinance preparation and ordinance review. Local municipal ordinances supplement the FEMA maps and define

building requirements for new development projects. While the newer developments fall into the current floodplain regulations, some older developments were built before the regulations were in place. Floodplains are regulated to protect property, decrease the risk of injuries

and maintain the balance of the hydrologic system.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN: 2009 UPDATE & BEYOND

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).

Long Range Transportation Plan 2040

The Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan 2030 (LRTP) currently serves as the official plan for the Centre County metropolitan area, and directs long term transportation decision making.

LRTP's are required by federal law to be completely updated every four years. Since Centre County's LRTP 2030 was initially adopted in 2006, the CCMPO must adopt a new LRTP by September 2010. In late 2008 work on those update activities began and this work has continued throughout 2009.

The CCPCDO and CRPA staffs working closely with local officials have developed socioeconomic forecasts for each municipality in Centre County. These forecasts project population and employment figures over the

next 30 years. The socioeconomic forecast numbers are used to determine anticipated traffic volumes and travel patterns throughout Centre County; this information serves as a key input to the ongoing development of a Centre County travel demand model. The model will allow the CCMPO to consider the potential impacts that candidate transportation improvements will have on the transportation network.

In order to develop an inventory of potential transportation improvement projects, the CCMPO has solicited project requests from all 35 municipalities, local organizations and the public. As of early 2010, 117 candidate projects were under consideration for the new LRTP 2040. The projects submitted consist of the following:

- 49 Highway and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) projects
- 29 State Bridge projects
- 15 Bicycle and Pedestrian projects
- 14 Public Transportation projects
- 10 Local Bridge projects.

During the summer of 2009, the CCMPO developed a new

set of eight Project Ranking Criteria that would be used as a guide for prioritizing transportation project priorities. These criteria consider the following factors:

- Safety & Security
- Preservation of the Existing Transportation System
- Efficient System Management & Operations
- Integration & Connectivity of the Transportation System
- Accessibility and Mobility Options for People & Freight
- Consistency with Planned Growth & Development Areas
- Environment & Air Quality Conformity

Economic Vitality

In early 2010, the 78 projects from the Highway and ITS, Bicycle and Pedestrian and Public Transportation categories were all prioritized using this criteria, while bridge priorities were established in consultation with PennDOT. The technical rankings will be discussed by the CCMPO committees during the first half of 2010 and some policy level adjustments to the rankings are anticipated.

The other major component of the LRTP is the development of the estimated available funding. Working closely with

PennDOT, the MPO must project available funding over the 30 year life of this LRTP. As required by federal law, the MPO must ensure that the programs and projects that it presents for funding in the LRTP are constrained within those available funding limits. This requires the MPO to make strategic, often very difficult decisions, related to allocating funding toward projects.

Based on the current schedule for the LRTP adoption process, the draft LRTP project lists are anticipated to be presented to the MPO in June 2010 and then listed for public comment and air quality conformity. Final adoption of the new LRTP 2040 is slated to occur in September 2010.

To learn more about the LRTP and the CCMPO, please visit the CCMPO's website at www.ccmopo.net.



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, or the house is no longer used as a principal residence, or is refinanced for more than 100% of the purchase price.

In 2009, the County, through its participating lenders, assisted eight home buyers. Since the inception of the program, 297 home buyers have take advantage of the program.

For more information visit <http://www.co.centre.pa.us/> . The program’s brochure is listed under the Features section of Centre County Government’s Home Page or call the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office at 355-6791.

CENTRE COUNTY FIRST TIME HOME BUYER PROGRAM		
Participation by Planning Region		
1996-2009		
	# of UNITS	ASSISTANCE
Centre County	297	\$2,348,948.43
Centre Region	92	\$764,612.25
Lower Bald Eagle Valley Region	37	\$298,312.05
Moshannon Valley Region	14	\$97,896.00
Mountaintop Region	18	\$115,589.00
Nittany Valley Region	80	\$645,850.19
Penns Valley Region	41	\$327,550.94
Upper Bald Eagle Valley Region	15	\$99,138.00



MODEL INCLUSIONARY REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

The Centre County Planning and Community Development Office with the guidance of the Centre County Housing Cabinet, an advisory body to the Centre County Board of Commissioners, has developed model policies to promote affordable housing development.

Inclusionary housing is a concept that promotes the creation of housing that is affordable to income eligible households as part of a subdivision or land development proposal. The municipality would require or incentivize the developer to provide 10 to 20 percent of

the dwelling units as affordable. The units would be integrated throughout the development.

A voluntary approach provides incentives to encourage the developer to construct affordable units. Incentives or cost offsets may include: density bonus, reductions in regulatory requirements such as lot and street standards, waiver of fees, and streamlining the administrative process.

A mandatory approach requires the developer to provide for a specified percentage of affordable units.

As with the voluntary approach, cost offsets are provided.

To view the model policies manual visit <http://www.co.centre.pa.us/planning/housing.asp>





GYPSEY MOTH SUPPRESSION PROGRAM 2009-2010

Spring 2009 Situation

The high gypsy moth egg mass numbers in the eastern and southern central part of the County indicated that those townships would be subjected to major defoliation pressure. Conversely, the western part of the county had experienced a population collapse in the summer of 2008, as was indicated by the dearth of egg masses in western and northern central townships, and was not under a defoliation threat.

The 2009 Gypsy Moth Outbreak & Spray Program

2008 experienced a wet spring and early summer. However, this was trumped by 2009, which broke County high rainfall and low temperature records during May and June. But it is never possible to predict how such conditions will affect the gypsy moth population and spray programs are planned well ahead of the time of spray and proceed as planned. The spray program was performed very

successfully, with no weather or equipment delays. As expected, an increasing amount of defoliation appeared in unsprayed, high egg mass areas in June. However, soon after most defoliation stopped and even in the most extreme cases, it was hard to distinguish between sprayed and non-sprayed areas.

The extremely wet and cool conditions led to a high incidence of the fungal pathogen *Entomophaga naimaiga*, resulting in complete collapse of gypsy moth populations, which interrupted the progressive defoliation. There were many reports in July of hundreds of dead caterpillars appearing on tree trunks which were confirmed by observation.

The 2009 program sprayed 6,549 acres of private residential areas in 124 blocks. In addition, the state treated an additional 9,850 acres of mainly state forest land in 30 spray blocks.

2009 Project Management

The project management

protocols which were established in the 2007/2008 program were refined and found to be very effective at managing the gypsy moth program in 2009. Most interactions with county residents were performed online which simplified and streamlined procedures.

Gypsy Moth Outlook

Gypsy Moth outbreaks occur as a result of favorable weather conditions, although if gypsy moth defoliation occurring in the Eastern Seaboard are plotted against time, there is a clear 10-year cycle, often with an intermediate 5 year 'bump'. The latest outbreak was in fact such a bump, so according to the 10-year cycle theory, the next outbreak should occur in two or three year's time. The size of the outbreak will be modulated by weather conditions. However, given the massive expansion of the fungal pathogen, there is now a huge inoculum of resting spores present in the soil which can survive at least eight years and which are ready to express themselves whenever they

encounter gypsy moth caterpillars. For that reason, it is expected that the next noticeable outbreak will not occur for at least another 8 years.

Early Warning for Future Gypsy Moth Outbreaks

Gypsy moth outbreaks are a fact of life in Central Pennsylvania and the insect itself telegraphs the likelihood of a population expansion in a visible manner. An outbreak should not therefore catch the County by surprise when it occurs, leading to an inevitable delay in ameliorating measures. In 2009, participants in the spray program of that year were contacted and encouraged to volunteer as 'citizen entomologists' to monitor gypsy moth population rises by filling out online surveys which would record insect activity in most parts of the county. 124 volunteers signed up and will be participating in the reporting program in 2010.

For more information:
gypsymoth@co.centre.pa.us

CENTRE COUNTY 2009 WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROGRAM



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 each County 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 Program is administered by the CCPCDO. In 2009 the staffing consisted of a County Coordinator and two

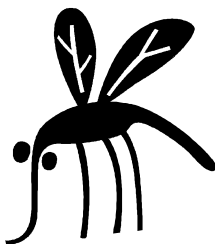
Project Assistants, all of whom are part-time County employees. This staff logged 2,760 hours and accumulated 20,958 miles of travel while carrying out the program.

Funding

The PADEP grant funding for the Centre County West Nile Virus Program that was expended in 2009 totaled

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WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL PROGRAM (CONTINUED)



\$71,358; Centre County's funding for the 2010 WNV Program will be

\$59,528.

Surveillance and Control

During the surveillance season from late April until the end of October, 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 2009 there were 1,345 sampling events in Centre County that resulted in 33,779 mosquitoes being

shipped for identification and testing. There were 367 West Nile Virus tests performed on adult Centre County mosquitoes, with no positive results. In 2006 the County WNV programs also assumed responsibility for collecting and shipping dead birds for virus testing, a function previously performed by the PA Department of Health. Eight birds from Centre County were tested in 2009, with none being found 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 2009, Centre County West Nile

Virus staff conducted 176 pesticide applications to control mosquito numbers.

Additionally, County WNV staff responded to 39 citizen requests for dead bird collection or mosquito surveillance and control.

Public Education

Public education is also an important part of the West Nile Virus program. In 2009, County staff made presentations to six Senior Citizen Centers. In addition, the West Nile Virus program maintained an educational booth at the Grange Fair in Centre Hall.

Protect Yourself

In 2009, 279 positive West Nile Virus mosquitoes were captured in Pennsylvania.

Additionally, 10 birds and 2 horses were found to be infected with WNV. No human cases have been reported as yet in Pennsylvania for 2010. 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.

Centre County Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling: 2009



View of the Little 1H / Little 2H well site location in Snow Shoe Township, Centre County, showing the on-site activity just prior to completing the hydraulic fracturing process (commonly referred to "fracing"). Two Marcellus Shale wells are located here. The depth of the wells is approximately 8000 feet.

Exploration of the Marcellus Shale in Centre County increased in 2009 with a focused interest in the Mountaintop and Moshannon Valley regions of the county. The majority of activity was concentrated in Burnside and Snow Shoe Townships, with lesser activity in Boggs, Curtin and Rush Townships.

Much of the drilling activity in the county occurred on state-owned lands and in relatively close proximity to large transmission pipelines. Placement of well pads near existing pipelines made it initially possible for four (4) of the county's Marcellus Shale gas wells to go "on line" with transmission to the Leidy underground storage fields, located in northern Clinton County.

By mid-year 2009, the well permitting process changed and permits were being processed for four to six well sites per drilling pad location. Advancements in drilling technology, a better understanding of the underlying geology, and more experience working within the constraints of the local topography made it advantageous to concentrate development activities. By the close of 2009, Marcellus Shale well sites in Centre County were, on average, located 15 feet apart on a nearly 5-acre cleared and level parcel of ground, referred to as a pad.

In addition to the millions of dollars invested by the drilling companies in order to extract the natural gas, the local economy saw an increase in dollars generated by lease agreements, royalties, business expansion and development, increased retail sales, and overnight accommodations. Local products and services directly and indirectly related to the industry included stone from local quarries, fencing and portable restroom facilities for drilling sites, hotel services, food and beverage sales, water sales, and concrete sales – to name a few.

The chart on the next page summarizes the activity of the five drilling companies actively working in Centre County in 2009:

(Continued Page 10)

DRILLING FOR NATURAL GAS—MARCELLUS SHALE (CONTINUED)

Marcellus Shale Drilling Activity in Centre County, Pennsylvania by Drilling Company (as of January 4, 2010)						
Company Name	Wells Drilled	Well Pads Sited	Wells Fractured	Wells Permitted But Not Drilled	Wells in Production	Wells in Planning Phase
Anadarko	3	14	1	20	0	30
Carrizo	1	0	1	0	0	3
EXCO – North Coast	5	5	5	5	4	59
Range Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0
Williams Appalachia	0	0	0	0	0	5
Totals	9	19	7	25	4	97

Given the outlook for continued drilling activity, the known impacts occurring here and elsewhere throughout the State, and the court’s involvement in several related areas, the Centre County Board of Commissioners in December 2009, authorized the staff of the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office to proceed with the formation of a natural gas task force which would be charged with studying and formulating recommendations that would minimize the negative impacts of the drilling activity while maximizing the economic benefit.

SPRING CREEK & BALD EAGLE NAVIGATION CANAL FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Canal Feasibility Study initiated in 2009 will investigate the potential of locating a trail between Bellefonte in Centre County and the Lock Haven in Clinton County. This feasibility study is being performed by Simone Collins Landscape Architecture from Berwyn, PA as part of the Clinton County Greenways and Open Space Plan with assistance from both the Centre County and Clinton County Planning agencies.

The study corridor is approximately 25 miles in length and is intended to follow the general alignment of the historic canal constructed by the Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Navigation Canal Company that was in operation

between 1834 and 1865. The study corridor can be divided into three (3) distinct segments: Bellefonte to Curtin Village; Curtin Village to Beech Creek; and Beech Creek to Lock Haven.



Bald Eagle and Spring Creek Canal Lock in Beech Creek Township, Clinton County

The proposed alignment between Bellefonte and Curtin Village will be a feasible combination of both on-road and off-road bicycling routes that will pass alongside and connect many of the known remaining canal artifacts as it passes through Milesburg to Curtin Village.

The proposed alignment between Curtin Village and Beech Creek, also known as the ‘Brick Town Trail’, was studied separately as part of the Beech Creek Greenway Plan. The Brick Town Trail will also be a feasible combination of both on-road and off-road alignments, the majority of which will be located within Bald Eagle State Park.

The final segment between Beech Creek and Lock Haven in Clinton County is a proposed water trail to follow Bald Eagle Creek from the end of the proposed Brick Town Trail alignment along Beech Creek to the Bald Eagle Creek confluence with the West Branch Susquehanna River below Lock Haven. This proposed water trail has excellent recreational potential due to

the almost year round navigability due to controlled releases from the Foster Joseph Sayers Reservoir.

In summary, the proposed canal trail alignment ~32.5 miles has the potential to tell the history of the former canal from the land and water perspective and will serve as a multi-faceted recreational and historical means of transport through the Bald Eagle Valley.



A Close-up of the Canal Remnant in Howard Township

CENTRE COUNTY RECREATION & GREENWAY PLAN

During the past few years CCPCDO has been working on Recreation Planning efforts consistent with Governor Ridge's executive order 1998-3, encouraging all PA Counties to have a Countywide Greenway Plan by 2010.

The Centre County Recreation & Greenway Plan has been completed thanks to a grant from the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) and matching funds and support from the Centre County Board of Commissioners. The plan identifies a greenway as a

corridor of open space. Greenways vary greatly in scale; from narrow ribbons of green that run through urban, suburban, and rural areas; to wider corridors that incorporate diverse natural, cultural, and scenic features. They can incorporate both public and private property, and can be land or water-based. They may follow old railways, canals, or ridge tops, or they may follow stream corridors, shore lines, or wetlands, and include water-trails for non-motorized craft.

Plan Corridors include: Conservation, Recreation, and Transportation. The Plan highlighted all the benefits of Greenways and Trails including: new partnerships, economic vitality, health benefits, alternative transportation, environmental education, historic preservation, protection of streams, stimulation of tourism, preservation of wildlife and plants, and enhancement of property values.

The Plan also discusses implementation and

management strategies as well as potential funding sources. Staff looks forward to working with municipalities, organizations, and other stakeholders to implement priorities within the Plan.



Poe Paddy Railroad Bridge Connection to Mid-State Trail in Penn Township

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 38 farms in seven townships totaling 6,024 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 eleven million dollars. This is an average of 1.9 farms per year at \$2,018 per acre or \$305,950 per farm. On a broader perspective, Pennsylvania leads the nation in farmland preservation with 3,964 farms preserved totaling 432,054 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 seven farms totaling over 700 acres with seven more farm totaling over 1,500 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.

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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.

Many thanks to these individuals for the commitment of their time and energy to the work of the Centre County Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission Members in 2009 were:

Robert L. Corman, <i>Chairman</i>	<i>Penns Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/10</i>
Freddie Persic, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/12</i>
Kevin Abbey, <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>

2009 CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jon W. Eich, Chairman

Rich Rogers

Stephen G. Dershem

Timothy T. Boyde, County Administrator

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