

CENTRE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

2006 Annual Report

COMPILED BY THE CENTRE COUNTY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SPRING 2007

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Citizens of Centre County,

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and the County Planning Commission, we are pleased to present you with the Centre County Planning Commission 2006 Annual Report.

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As you will see in this year's report, 2006 was a busy year for the Planning Commission and staff. From multi-municipal planning to workforce housing to economic development and business recruiting to agricultural preservation, the scope of services was indeed broad, but most importantly we provided those services throughout all of Centre County. With growth and development continually changing the County's landscape, municipal assistance became the main focus of our work activities. This assistance involved securing grants for various municipal projects, drafting comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances, reviewing traffic studies, and developing recreation/ trail plans.

A positive spin-off from the multi-municipal planning efforts has been the creation of inter-governmental agreements within the various planning regions. These agreements allow the municipalities to cooperate with each other, share resources, and improve their communities through a variety of options that include public safety, parkland acquisition, and equipment purchases.

With the support of the Commissioners, the Planning Office has the capability to meet your needs. As always, we hope you find this Annual Report informative and serve as an invitation for you to explore the many services we can provide.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Jacobs

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.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

One of the most important tasks of the Planning Office is to administer and enforce 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.

In order to achieve this goal, the Planning Office monitors all subdivision and land development plans to verify if they have been properly approved by the appropriate municipal officials.

The administration of the County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance is the direct responsibility of staff members Anson Burwell and

Christopher Schnure.

The Planning Staff compiled a ten year comparison of County-wide development activity and have determined that the total number of subdivision lots is generally equal to the 2005 high-water mark and all trend lines suggest a continued and steady growth pattern.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2006, there were nine municipalities within the County that administer their own subdivision and land development ordinances; the remaining 27 are under the jurisdiction of the County's Ordinance.

2006 Subdivision and Land Development Activity

This chart provides a summary of the subdivision and land development activity that occurred in 2006. More detailed information can be found in the *Centre County Subdivision and Land Development Activity Report*. The report can be found online on the Centre County Government website, www.co.centre.pa.us. Copies are available at the Planning Office.

RECORDED SUBDIVISION / LAND DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR 2006

(Including Miscellaneous Plans)

SUBDIVISION / LAND DEVELOPMENT DATA									
Planning Regions	New Files Created	Total Recorded Plans	Sub. Plans	Acres Subdivided	Lots Created	Land Dev. Plans	Acres Developed	Units Created	Misc. Plans
Centre	89	109	19	833.51	237	37	69.16	93	53
Lower Bald Eagle Valley	26	9	5	97.23	12	0	0.00	0	4
Nittany Valley	63	47	21	1,003.11	361	15	68.64	111	11
Moshannon Valley	14	19	9	203.67	46	3	3.22	26	7
Mountaintop	16	12	4	150.37	9	0	0.00	0	8
Penns Valley	69	36	15	715.83	50	5	7.40	5	16
Upper Bald Eagle	27	16	6	125.11	12	1	2.75	92	9
County Totals	304	248	79	3,128.83	727	61	151.17	327	108

Subdivision and Land Development Terms

Land Development Any of the following activities: (1) The improvement of one lot or two or more contiguous lots, tracts, or parcels of land. (2) A subdivision of land.

Lot Addition A parcel of land that is conveyed, sold, or transferred to an existing lot of record for the sole purpose of increasing lot size.

Miscellaneous Plan A recorded plot that depicts lot additions, replotted lots,

and/or represents a plan approved for "recording purposes only" (e.g., a miscellaneous declaration plan, tract survey plan, and/or a correction of survey plan).

Record Plan or Recorded Plan The original plot plan as approved, acknowledged and recorded in the County Recorder of Deeds Office.

Replot The change of lot lines between lots of separate ownership or between

subdivided lots of common ownership, which does not create any additional "new" lots.

Resubdivision The subdivision of an approved "lot of record" into two or more lots.

Subdivision The division or redivision of a lot, tract, or parcel of land by any means into two or more lots, tracts, parcels, or other divisions of land, including changes in existing lot lines.

SMALL COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS

The Small Community Water System Assistance Program continues its successful efforts to bring adequate quantities of safe drinking water to the small, rural communities in the County. The program, which was initiated in 1994, provided various types of assistance to almost half of the 41 water systems in Centre County in 2006. The County program coordinates closely with the Centre County Water Authority, which was formed in 1999, and implements many of the programs that the Water Authority initiates.

program currently provides state certified water operating services to the water systems in Orviston, Monument, Mt. Eagle, Hampton Hills, Opequon Hill, Eagle Creek Community, and Rock Springs. The Circuit Rider performs such duties as water testing, chemical feed rate adjustments, water quality complaint investigation, water main flushing, leak detection, and creation of various reports including the Annual Water Report to PA DEP and the Consumer Confidence Report.

-Matt Milliron, Senior Planner

The most active program in 2006 was the Circuit Rider Certified Water Operator program. The

Did You Know?

The County Water Authority is investigating other services they may be able to provide that could save the small water systems money. These include Computerized Water Billing Services and Construction Inspection Services. Computerized Billing usually requires the purchase of rather expensive billing software programs. The Authority could purchase the software which would then be "shared" by several systems through the billing service. The Authority also currently does some bulk purchase of water treatment chemicals and is expected to expand on the bulk purchase program.

CDBG PROGRAM

The County's Community Development Block Grant Program, (CDBG) has been a primary factor in substantial upgrades to many small water systems in Centre County over the past 10 years. Since 1995, the County has invested more than \$4 million in water system upgrades in 15 different communities in the County. These County funds helped leverage an additional \$2.9 million in funds from the State CDBG program administered by PA Department of Community and Economic Development. CDBG funds have been used to develop new water sources in Orviston, Monument, Mt. Eagle, Coburn, Madisonburg, and Port Matilda. New water storage tanks have been constructed in Sandy Ridge, Snow Shoe Twp., Orviston, Mt. Eagle, Monument, Madisonburg and Rebersburg. Old, undersized water mains were replaced in Milesburg, Port Matilda, Unionville, Snow Shoe Twp., Orviston, Monument, Mt.

Eagle, Coburn, Casanova, Blanchard and Millheim. These water main projects also included new fire hydrants and fire protection improvements.

The County Planning and Community Development Office (PCDO) has also recognized deficiencies in on-lot sewage disposal systems in the County and has worked with the County Commissioners to see that CDBG funds have been used for public sewer system projects in East Walker Twp., Coburn, Sunnyside, Julian and Sandy Ridge.

As part of the County's long range facilities planning efforts, the PCDO also identifies and prioritizes future water and sewer infrastructure needs to municipalities and has initiated income surveys in these communities as a vital first step in determining eligibility for grants for future upgrades.

CDBG PROJECT FUNDING 2006		
Municipality	Project Description	Amount Funded
Miles Township	New Storage and treatment in Madisonburg	\$75,000
Miles Township	New Storage and treatment in Rebersburg	\$145,467
Port Matilda	Water well reconstruction	\$100,000
	Total:	\$320,467

Other services provided by the Water System Assistance Program in 2006 include:

- **CDBG income surveys to determine grant eligibility in Spring Mills and Rush Twp.**
- **Surface Water Contamination potential of water wells serving Port Matilda**
- **Water System design and compliance to the Trotter Farm Development in Halfmoon Twp.**
- **New metered water rate design in Unionville**
- **Water System mapping in Rock Springs, Unionville and Mt. Eagle**
- **Monitoring of impacts to water wells by gas well drilling activity**

WEST NILE VIRUS PROGRAM

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 County Planning and Community Development Office.

In 2006 the staffing consisted of a County Coordinator and two Project Assistants, all of whom are part time County employees. This staff logged 2,300 hours and accumulated 21,100 miles of travel while carrying out the program.

The total amount of grant funding for the Centre County West Nile Virus Program from PADEP that

was expended in 2006 was \$61,185; it is anticipated that a similar amount will be spent in the County in 2007 for mosquito surveillance and control.

-Bert Lavan, County Coordinator



Surveillance and Control

During the surveillance season from early May until the end of October, larval and adult mosquitoes from over 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 2006 there were 1,108 sampling events in Centre County that resulted in 34,642 mosquitoes being sent for identification and testing. There were

602 West Nile Virus tests performed on adult mosquitoes, with one positive result. In 2006 the County WNV program also assumed responsibility for collecting and shipping dead birds for virus testing, a function previously performed by the PA Department of Health. Thirty-eight birds from Centre County were tested, with two being found positive for West Nile Virus, resulting in increased mosquito surveillance by County West Nile Virus staff in the locality where the birds were found.

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 2006, Centre County West Nile Virus staff conducted 147 pesticide applications to control mosquito numbers.



Public Education

Public education is also an important part of the West Nile Virus program. In 2006, 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

Despite a decline in reported human cases in Pennsylvania from as many as 237 in 2003 to 9 in 2006, the virus is clearly still with us, as positive West Nile Virus birds and mosquitoes were found throughout the state in 2006, as well as in Centre County. 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. 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.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Through daily planning efforts and our role with the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO), the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (CCPCDO) continues to be integral to transportation planning throughout the county. Over the past year, staff has continued to take a proactive approach to the coordination of land use and transportation infrastructure development. A few examples include meeting with Walker Township officials, developers and PennDOT on potential intersection

and pedestrian access upgrades associated with several proposed residential developments, working on site access issues related to the initial industrial development at the future Centre County Industrial Park at Rockview and assisting with the ongoing development of the Bellefonte Central Rail Trail Feasibility Study.

Our office also monitors major Centre County transportation projects such as the construction and pyrite remediation along future Interstate 99 and any developments



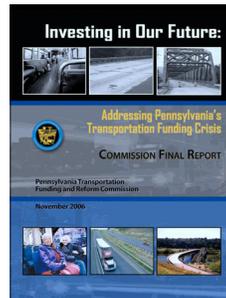
with the stalled South Central Centre County Transportation Study and Corridor O.

-Mike Bloom, *Senior Transportation Planner*

Transportation Funding and Reform Commission

In 2005, highway funds were flexed to public transportation operators across Pennsylvania, including CATA, to address shortfalls in transit funding. Additional highway and bridge funding was also made available at that time. As a result of these transportation funding issues, Governor Ed Rendell established a “Transportation Funding and Reform Commission (TFRC)” to provide recommendations about how to address the issues.

Following release of their initial findings the TFRC held a series of



public listening sessions across the Commonwealth, including one in

State College. The CC MPO and the County both provided testimony at this listening session.

In November 2006, the TFRC released its final report, entitled *Investing in Our Future: Addressing Pennsylvania's Transportation Funding Crisis*. The report may be accessed on the web at www.dot.state.pa.us/tfrc.

Long Range Transportation Plan

One of the primary functions of the CCMPO is the development of a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP serves as the official, adopted plan for a metropolitan area, and directs transportation decision making for a twenty-year period.

In late 2001, work began on a new Centre County LRTP; which would replace the CCMPO's existing LRTP, Mobility Action Plan 2015. Staff from CCPCDO has assisted with the development of this plan from its onset.

In September 2006, the CCMPO adopted the new LRTP for Centre County, known as the Centre County Long Range Transportation Plan 2030. This new plan offers a comprehensive, multi-modal overview of the current facilities, while offering a list of potential future upgrades to further enhance Centre County's transportation network. For additional information on the LRTP or to download a copy, please visit the project website at: www.centrecountylrtp.org.

2007 Update of the Centre County LRTP

In 2007, CCMPO staff will continue to update the new Centre County LRTP to bring it into full compliance with the new federal transportation legislation known as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users or SAFETEA-LU.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



The first phase of the implementation of the **Centre County Affordable Housing Needs Assessment: A Blueprint in Action** began

mid-2006. The first two actions taken by the Centre County Board of Commissioners were to create a Housing Coordinator position in the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (PCDO) and to establish a Housing Cabinet. The Cabinet is charged with advising the Commissioners on housing policy and strategies.

The Cabinet's first task was to prioritize the Assessment's recommendations and recommend a timeline for implementation. Upon approval of the recommendations by the Board of Commissioners, the next phase of the implementation will occur.

In 2007, affordable housing will continue to be a priority concern, and PCDO continues to partner with the Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition to find ways to address the affordable housing needs in our communities.

The PCDO appreciates the continued support of the Centre County Board of Commissioners, and the dedication of resources to continue our work.

In addition to the previously mentioned programs, the County's **First Time Home Buyer Program** is underway. In 2006, the program is now being administered by the PCDO. Potential home buyers working with a participating lender may apply for County down payment assistance up to 10% of the purchase price or

\$10,000, whichever is less. The assistance is in the form of a zero percent deferred loan, a second mortgage. The loan is paid back when the home is no longer used as a principal residence, refinanced for more than 100% of the purchase price, resold, or the mortgage is paid off.

More information on the program is available on the County's website.

Linda Marshall,
Housing Coordinator

Centre County Affordable Housing Cabinet	
Doug Bierly	Penns Valley Region
Robert Crum	Centre Regional Planning Agency
Glenn Fisher	Clearfield Bank and Trust
Sue Hannegan	Nittany Valley Region
Carl Hess	State College Borough Planning & Community Development Office
Robert Jacobs	Centre County Planning & Community Development Office
George Khoury	Centre County Housing Authority
Stan LaFuria	Moshannon Valley Economic Development Partnership
Pat Long	Centre County Association of Realtors
Ron Quinn	Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition
Anne Yorks	Builders Association of Central Pennsylvania

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Planning and Community Development Office (PCDO) provides community and economic development assistance to the County's municipalities, economic development organizations, and business interests.

Municipal Economic Development Services:

PCDO provides municipalities services including preparation of site selection analyses, assistance with grant preparation, and business recruiting.

During the past year, the PCDO worked cooperatively with the Centre Region Council of Governments to develop marketing materials for the University Area Joint Authority's Beneficial Reuse Project. This project, which generates

ultra pure water from the region's wastewater, provides an opportunity to market a unique resource for high tech manufacturing applications. Staff will continue to work with the Centre Region Council of Governments to attract industries to the region.

In addition, staff has provided downtown revitalization assistance to municipalities through staff support to local Main Street Program efforts. In 2006, this support included the development of a Request for Proposals to redevelop a former hotel in downtown Philipsburg, the facilitation of downtown business and property owner forums, and the preparation of vacant property inventories. Downtown redevelopment is one of the core elements of the PCDO's economic and

community development mission and staff will continue to provide technical support to local revitalization efforts.

PCDO also provides economic development planning assistance to municipalities including parking studies, ordinance reviews and updates, infrastructure planning (e.g. sewer, water, transportation facilities), etc. Each of these services is intended to ensure that the County's land use planning goals are matched with ample opportunities for economic growth.

The PCDO maintains comprehensive data concerning population, employment, land use trends, education, recreation, etc. This information is often requested for use in marketing studies and business plans.

INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

During the past year, the Centre County Planning and Community Development Office (PCDO) staff has continued to work with several municipalities and regions to develop and implement regional Comprehensive Plans and to promote inter-municipal cooperation. Regional Comprehensive Plans offer recommendations to guide and manage the communities' growth, protect sensitive natural areas, promote economic development, and provide for adequate infrastructure. By planning together, municipalities can achieve many goals

including the efficient use of land and infrastructure and the provision of various housing types. Other inter-municipal partnerships provide opportunities to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of municipal services while controlling costs.

The Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission, consisting of the Borough of Bellefonte and the Townships of Benner, Marion, Spring, and Walker, adopted a regional Comprehensive Plan in September of 2004 and has, with assistance from the PCDO, been preparing a model regional zoning ordinance. The model ordinance should be ready for municipal adoption in early 2007.

The Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission, made up of representatives from Centre Hall and Millheim Boroughs and the Townships of Gregg, Haines, Miles, Penn, and Potter, adopted a regional comprehensive plan in March 2006. The municipalities have continued their cooperative relationship to implement elements of that Plan including the development of conservation design techniques and village zoning district regulations.

In addition, several of the

municipalities in the County's Upper Bald Eagle Valley Region (Huston, Taylor, and Worth Townships) have joined with neighboring Halfmoon Township to form the Upper Bald Eagle / Halfmoon Council of Governments. This new organization, formed with the assistance of PCDO staff, will serve as a continuing mutual forum to deal with regional challenges and opportunities and will serve to facilitate cooperative ventures including joint purchasing, the delivery of services, contracting arrangements, etc. for the mutual benefit of the municipalities and their citizens.

Providing assistance to regional cooperative activities is a key component of the County Planning and Community Development Office's municipal outreach program.

-Chris Price, Assistant Director

MUNICIPAL OUTREACH

As part of our municipal outreach program, the Planning and Community Development Office offers ordinance preparation and review assistance to the County's municipalities. Several municipalities have taken advantage of this service in 2006 with projects including zoning ordinances, sign regulations, village district criteria, conservation design and cluster development standards, and historic conservation ordinances.



Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission

ORDINANCES

The E-Library

Municipal land use documents are available via the Internet. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania created an online library of county and municipal ordinances and plans referred to as the "E-Library". The E-Library database is maintained by The

Governor's Center and County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. Updated documents should be provided to Jim Shellenberger, Land Use Project Director and/or the PCDO where they can be made available online as

well as provided to the county or municipality on CD. For more information, Jim Shellenberger can be reached at (717) 526-1010, ext. 3351 or jshellenberger@pacounties.org. The E-Library can be found at www.elibrary.state.pa.us.

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 31 farms in seven townships totaling over 5,305 acres.

Farms meeting the minimum criteria are evaluated and scored based on the Land Evaluation-Site Assessment process developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The 100 point scoring process takes four factors into consideration: soil quality, (50% of the score); farmland potential which involves acreage, stewardship and conservation efforts, (20% of the score); clustering which takes into account both preserved

farms and those enrolled in Agricultural Security Areas, (20% of the score) and development pressure (10% of the score). Farms are then ranked in order from the highest to lowest scores. The board makes offers to purchase development rights from the owners of the highest



ranking farms. The easement value, which is the difference between the market value and the agricultural value, is determined

by a Certified General Appraiser. If the farm owner accepts the Board's offer, documentation is prepared for review by the Bureau of Farmland Preservation and final approval by the State Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

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 now exceeds nine million dollars. This is an average of 1.7 farms per year at \$1,831 per acre or \$313,355 per farm

-Norman Lathbury, *Ag Land Preservation Program Coordinator*

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 preserved its first farm, consisting of 147 acres, in May of 2004, a second farm consisting of 122 acres in the spring of 2005 and the third farm consisting of 100 acres in 2006. Three more farms totaling over 500 acres are in the process of being preserved in 2007. Ten more farms, totaling over 1,900 acres are 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. 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.



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

Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Resource Conservation & Development Councils are a blend of private enterprise and government in a nonprofit public/private partnership. Activities are directed by a volunteer Council consisting of local representatives of government, business, development organizations, non-profit organizations, conservation districts, and individuals. Pennsylvania has nine RC&D Councils that take an active role in demonstrating emerging activities and technology.

Centre County is affiliated with Headwaters RC&D. Recently, Headwaters worked with the Snow Shoe Rails to Trails Association to receive a trail improvement grant, which added to the previous secured monies to improve bridges, trails, and repair a rail tunnel. Other ongoing activities include a biomass feasibility study, No-Till efforts, NW Pennsylvania Grazing Conference, new partnerships, and community planning workshops.

CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND RECREATIONAL

The Centre County Planning & Community Development Office has had a busy year assisting with the following efforts throughout the County.

Beech Creek Greenway Feasibility Study

The Beech Creek Watershed Association received a \$35,000 planning grant from DCNR to explore the feasibility of establishing a greenway that links Bald Eagle State Park and Southern Sproul State Forest to the communities of Beech Creek, Monument, Orviston, Romola, Howard, Mount Eagle, Blanchard and Eagleville through a network of rail trails, bike and pedestrian paths, water trails and scenic byways. The

project consultant is Albertinvernon Architecture, LLC; “in-kind” partners include the Beech Creek Watershed Association, Centre and Clinton County Planning offices, GIS and Conservation District Offices, Penn State Center for Watershed Stewardship, and Clearwater Conservancy. Work completed in 2006 included the formation of a Study Committee representing over 40 groups of landowners, Federal, State, County and

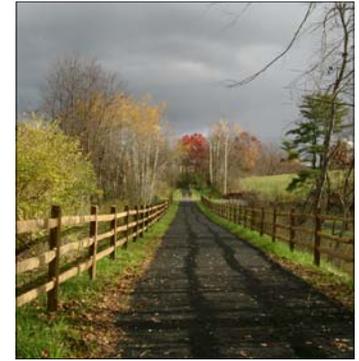
municipal officials, business and environmental organizations, and greenway user groups; GIS mapping and analysis of background data, and a public meeting. Work started in 2006 and ongoing included conceptual design of the greenway route, including alternate routes and connectors to existing greenways; and legal, market and economic analyses. The feasibility study is scheduled for completion in June 2007.

-Beth Rider, Senior Environmental Planner

Bellefonte Central Rail Trail Feasibility Study

Pashek Associates began work on the Bellefonte Central Rail Trail Feasibility Study in June 2006. Since that time they have completed the following work: physical assessment and inventory of the corridor; natural features inventory, cultural and historic features inventory, identification of potential intersection and access points, title search and legal opinion regarding property ownership of the corridor; and demographic analysis of the

local and regional service area population; developed trail user profiles; and projected the potential demand/use at the local service and regional service area levels. Key person interviews are in progress and Pashek Associates is currently evaluating the potential alignments of the proposed trail. Pashek Associates anticipates the project will be completed this summer.



Bellefonte Central Rail Trail passing through the Penn State Arboretum

Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania

Designated in 2001, The Lumber Heritage Region (LHR) is the largest of the state’s 12 heritage areas encompassing 15 counties. Since its inception, the LHR has worked collaboratively with stakeholders in the region to produce quality products and to enhance existing assets that will enrich the visitor’s experience and impact the quality of life of the people who live here.

The rich history and heritage of the people of this area includes countless fascinating stories that beg telling. The natural forest resources and astounding geological formations have provided the people of the area with a wealth of opportunities and challenges. An interpretive plan for the LHR was completed in 2005. The plan aims specifically to capture the essence of the region, articulate it through a defined visitor experience and framework of messages that coax the visitor into a deeper

appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage. The plan also includes opportunities to tell the story of today’s lumber



LRH Interpretive panel near the Match Factory

industry and its conservation and sustainability practices.

While many projects have been in the

works, our focus has been on opportunities for the value-added wood industries. The region is unique in that our Heritage Industry is alive and kicking in Pennsylvania, although it is dealing with tough international competition. The Lumber Heritage Region is taking an indirect but substantial approach to green projects in the LHR by working to seek and improve opportunities for the Lumber Industry.

Bellefonte received two interpretive panels through a grant from the LHR that was a recommendation of the Management Action Plan. The panels are located in Talleyrand Park near the Match Factory property and will educate residents and tourists about the rich history of Centre County and the LHR.

CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Steven G. Dershem

H. Scott Conklin / John T. Saylor

Timothy T. Boyde, *County Administrator*

CENTRE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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 to the activities of the PCDO.

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 2006 were:

Robert L. Corman, Chairman	<i>Penns Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/06</i>
Freddie Persic, Vice Chairman	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/08</i>
Kevin Abbey, Secretary	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/08</i>
Thomas E. Hoover	<i>Mountaintop Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/07</i>
Cecil J. Irvin	<i>Centre Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/07</i>
Thomas Poorman	<i>Lower Bald Eagle Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/09</i>
Jack Shannon	<i>Moshannon Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/06</i>
Vacant	<i>Upper Bald Eagle Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/06</i>
Vacant	<i>Nittany Valley Region</i>	<i>Term Expires: 12/31/09</i>

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

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Check us out on the Web too!

<http://www.co.centre.pa.us>