



COUNTY OF ERIE

Erie County Planning Commission

Erie County Courthouse
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Gerry Dahl
Chairman

Jan Cornwell
Vice-Chairman

**ERIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

March 10, 2011

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at **Fort LeBoeuf High School**, 931 North High Street, Waterford, PA.

Those in attendance were:

ECPC members:	Representing:
Gerry Dahl	Corry City (Chair, Exec. Board)
Charles Casey	Erie City (Exec. Board)
Paul Pangratz	Girard Twp (Exec. Board)
Richard Allgeier	Greene Twp (Exec. Board)
Joe Legnasky	Lake City Boro (Exec. Board)
Patricia Pfadt	Venango Twp (Exec. Board)
Rick Huston	Conneaut Twp
Brenda Cannell	Edinboro Boro
Jim Cardman	Fairview Twp
Mary Jo Campbell	Washington Twp
Planning Department Staff:	
Jake Welsh	
Matthew Puz	
Guests:	

Executive Board members present – 6 of 9; quorum attained

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Gerry Dahl called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance was given.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None.

APPROVAL OF February 10, 2011 MINUTES

A motion was made by Charles Casey and seconded by Joe Legnasky to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

ECDP Monthly Activity Report

Jake Welsh briefly reviewed information contained in the report that is distributed to the members with the agenda.

State Budget Impacts

Members asked if the proposed state budget would have any negative impacts on the County planning programs. Jake stated that many of the planning department programs are federally mandated and funded, and will not be directly affected by the state budget. There is a concern regarding funding reductions for state programs from DCED and DCNR; that typically have provided funding to municipalities for planning and construction projects. There is also a concern at the Federal level regarding proposed reductions for the CDBG Program; that could impact the County's ability to fund infrastructure and housing related projects in Erie County.

OLD BUSINESS

Erie County Stormwater Management Plan

Jake Welsh provided an update on the status of the Stormwater Management Plan, which was officially adopted by County Council on February 1, 2011. PA DEP submitted review comments on March 10 that will be reviewed by ECDP. After the comments are addressed, DEP will notify the County of their approval of the Plan. At that time, it is expected that DEP will establish a 6-month period, within which, all municipalities will be required to adopt a stormwater management ordinance that is consistent with the plan. The plan is available for viewing at www.eriecountyplanning.org

The next step is a municipal implementation workshop scheduled for March 31st; to review implementation options, discuss ordinance adoption, best management practices, and administrative questions.

Jake noted that the Erie Area Council of Governments is also interested in convening a multi-municipal committee to discuss stormwater management priorities, and opportunities for inter-municipal cooperation, implementation and administration. Invitations to participate on the committee will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Erie County Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Jake Welsh indicated that a public officials briefing and open house / public meeting was held March 1 to review the planning process and receive comments, with approximately 70 attendees. In addition, all municipalities were sent surveys and questionnaires concerning their planning priorities; and an on-line survey was also being developed for receiving comments.

Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan – 5 Year Update

Jake Welsh reiterated the importance that all municipalities participate in the planning process, and adopt the final plan so that they will be eligible for disaster relief funding from FEMA. In order to meet the participation requirement, municipalities are asked to send a representative to at least one of three meetings. The “Kick-off” meeting was held February 10th, with the second meeting scheduled for March 24th. A final, public meeting is scheduled for May 5th. Additional information may be obtained at www.eriehmp.com, or by contacting ECDP.

Local Bridge Inspection Reports

Jake Welsh was asked to address the concerns expressed with the timing of the bridge inspections. Jake indicated that the field inspections are required by the Federal bridge program regulations to be done on either a minimum of a 24 or 12-month interval, which over the past several cycles resulted in the mandated timeframe falling into January and February.

The County had requested PENNDOT to allow the interval/cycle to be modified in the past to move away from the winter months, and requested a modification again after a new inspection contract was put in place in 2010. PENNDOT has now approved the next round of inspections to be done in September and October of 2011.

Erie Inland Port Project

Discussion continued regarding the project. Rick Huston from Conneaut Township restated concern about the lack of information being shared with the municipal officials in the proposed project area in and near Albion. There was discussion about coordinating land use planning in those municipalities in preparation for any new development that may occur as part of the project. Jake offered the services of the planning department if any municipalities are interested in looking at their current land use plans and regulations, to assist in determining if any updates or modifications might be recommended.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.