



**COUNTY OF ERIE**

**Erie County Planning Commission**

Erie County Courthouse

140 West Sixth Street - Room 111

Erie, Pennsylvania 16501

Phone: (814) 451-6336

[www.eriecountyplanning.org](http://www.eriecountyplanning.org)

Gerry Dahl  
*Chair*

Jan Cornwell  
*Vice-Chairman*

**ERIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**MARCH 12, 2015**

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at Fort LeBoeuf High School (room 502), 931 North High Street, Waterford, PA.

**Those in attendance were:**

<b>ECPC members:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
Gerry Dahl	County (Chair, Exec. Board)
Richard Allgeier	Greene Twp (Exec. Board)
Paul Pangratz	Girard Twp (Exec. Board)
Patricia Pfadt	Venango Twp (Exec. Board)
Charles Casey	Erie City (Exec. Board)
Jim Cardman	Fairview Twp (Exec. Board)
Edward Kissell	County
Darrell Kimmy	Amity Twp
Joe Mangini	Corry City
Kenneth Neuburger	McKean Twp
William Kuhn	Platea Borough
<b>Planning Department Staff:</b>	
John McGranor	
<b>Guests:</b>	
Cynthia Proctor	Venango Twp
Amanda Bair	Fairview Twp
Kathy Dahlkemper	Erie County Executive

Executive Board members present – 6 of 9; quorum attained

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

None

## APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 5, 2015 MINUTES

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

## ECDP MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

John McGranor presented information on the following topics:

After three years of public input, research and collaboration, Destination Erie will be holding a special event to release its final plan and discuss implementation. The event will include remarks by Dr. James Denova concerning the Power of 32, which is a similar planning initiative that brought together thousands of citizens from 32 counties in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. The event will be held on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Raymond M. Blasco, M.D. Memorial Library, Hirt Auditorium. In addition, Anna Frantz, Destination Erie's project manager, will be giving presentations to municipal officials, at an ECATO event later tonight, as well as the Summit Township municipal building, on Friday morning, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Erie County Recycling Center's 2015 schedule is now available. The next collection date is this Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Pre-registration is required. The center is open to all Erie County residents. A 15-cent per pound fee for e-waste and 35-cent per pound fee for household hazardous waste will be applied. The County has hired Brittany Prischak to oversee the County's recycling program. Brittany will replace Don Blakesley, who retired last year. For more information on the Erie County Recycling program, visit [www.ErieCountyRecycling.com](http://www.ErieCountyRecycling.com).

The Erie County Greenways Program allocates Act 13 Marcellus Legacy Funds for eligible projects. This year, approximately \$200,000 is available. Funding requests are limited to a maximum of \$50,000, and a 25 percent match is required. Eligible applicants include local governments and authorities, schools and universities, and non-profit organizations. Applications are currently being accepted and must be received no later than April 6<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the Erie County Greenways Program Guide and an on-line application are available at [www.eriecountyplanning.org](http://www.eriecountyplanning.org). Contact Julia Donahue from the Erie County Department of Planning for additional information.

Interest in the Erie County Agricultural Land Preservation Program remains strong. The program received 22 applications during its 2014 application period. Three farms were preserved last year, including farms in Fairview, Girard and Wayne Townships. The County is currently working to preserve 5 farms located throughout the county (North East, Fairview, Union and Venango Townships). State funding for 2015 is approximately \$402,000. The County has allocated an additional \$50,000 for the program. To date, the

program has preserved approximately 7,400 acres of farmland in Erie County. The goal for 2015 is to preserve an additional 450 to 500 acres.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Erie County Fair Housing Action Plan

The Erie County Fair Housing Action Plan is being developed by Mullen & Lonergan Associates. M&L is working to incorporate some minor revisions based on comments received as part of the public input process. The final plan is expected to be completed no later than March 26<sup>th</sup>, so that it can be incorporated into Destination Erie's final plan. The Erie County Fair Housing Action Plan is available for viewing at [www.planerieregion.com](http://www.planerieregion.com).

Charles Casey asked if the ECPC would need to review the revised plan and make another recommendation for adoption by County Council. John McGranor indicated that a decision would be made when the revisions become available, and that the answer would most likely depend on how substantial the revisions are. At this point, it is his understanding that the revisions will be minor, and concern the identification of "responsible entities" for implementation of the various goals and strategies identified by the plan.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Q&A Session with the Erie County Executive

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper was in attendance, and agreed to address questions and topics of interest. Numerous topics were discussed, including the Public Safety Radio System, the National Marine Sanctuary, ITC Lake Erie Connector, bicycling, and the Erie Inland Port project. Some of the highlights follow:

MCM Consulting Group has been retained to evaluate the radio system and provide recommendations. The County Executive is currently working with County Council on a possible bond issue to be used to finance system upgrades. The County Executive emphasized that 100% of the cost will be paid by the County. There will be no additional costs for municipalities, unless municipalities desire to order radio units in addition to those provided by the County as part of the system upgrade.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program serves to protect and preserve scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections, and economic productivity in designated waters of United States. NOAA is currently accepting nomination applications from communities throughout the country to consider for sanctuary designation. If a sanctuary designation is pursued and obtained by NOAA for a 'Lake Erie Quadrangle' Marine Sanctuary, the focus would be on the preservation and protection of the known and undiscovered shipwrecks within the PA waters of Lake Erie. There will be no restrictions on any fishing or shipping activities. The program is 100% federally funded, with no match commitment required from

state or local sources. Municipalities will be contacted, and will be requested to consider providing letters of support. The County Executive noted that a nomination application will not be submitted to NOAA unless there is sufficient public support. For more information, visit [www.lakeeriequadnms.org](http://www.lakeeriequadnms.org).

Erie County is working with PennDot and the Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership to research the feasibility of a rail terminal as part of the Erie Inland Port Project. The County Executive explained that the market feasibility of a terminal needs to be documented and determined before any additional investments are made.

## **OTHER BUSINESS / MUNICIPAL REPORTS**

Ken Neuburger announced that the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual, Northwest PA Maple Association Maple Taste & Tour Weekend will be held this weekend, March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The tour showcases maple syrup producers from throughout Erie, Crawford and Warren counties.

Ed Kissel noted that the winter weather has delayed installation of the RELCO units. Millcreek Township is expected to be the first to install the units.

Ken Neuburger stated that Act 13 funding was used for a culvert project on Oliver Road.

Charles Casey asked about salt usage over the winter months. The general consensus was that sufficient salt supplies were available, but that usage was up this year due to the weather conditions.

According to Jim Cardman, an update to Fairview Township's zoning ordinance is currently under review. The update follows adoption of the Township's Comprehensive Plan update. The Township has already adopted a new Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance in support of its new comprehensive plan.

The next ECPC meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2015 at the Raymond M. Blasco M.D. Memorial Library.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.