



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**

August 11, 2011

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at 6:00 PM on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at the Erie County Conservation District, 1927 Wager Road, Erie, PA.

Those in attendance were:

ECPC members:	Representing:
Gerry Dahl	Corry City (Chair, Exec. Board)
Jan Cornwell	County of Erie (Vice Chair, Exec. Board)
Carol Loll	County Council (Exec. Board)
Charles Casey	Erie City (Exec. Board)
Patricia Pfadt	Venango Twp (Exec. Board)
Joseph Giles	County Council
Jim Cardman	Fairview Twp
Lawrence Davies	McKean Borough
Kenneth Neuburger	McKean Twp
Flory Kondzielski	Waterford Twp
Peter Nye	Wesleyville Borough
Planning Department Staff:	
John McGranor	
Guests:	

Executive Board members present – 5 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 JUNE 9, 2011 MINUTES

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

NEW BUSINESS

ECDP Monthly Activity Report

Gerry Dahl indicated that the Erie County Department of Planning's Monthly Activity Report was attached to the meeting agenda, and asked if anyone had any additional information to add.

John McGranor announced that the Erie County Agricultural Preservation Board has successfully preserved 3 more farms in Erie County. Agricultural Conservation easements were purchased on these farms on August 11, 2011. The farms are located in North East Township, McKean Township and Girard Township. They consist of approximately 295 acres, and bring the County's total preserved acreage to 6,787 acres.

OLD BUSINESS

Erie County Stormwater Management Plan

John McGranor reminded everyone that each municipality should have received a letter from PA DEP notifying them that DEP approved the County's SWM Plan and establishing September 21, 2011 as the deadline for each municipality to adopt a SWM Ordinance consistent with the County Plan.

John indicated that although the County has fulfilled its responsibilities under Act 167, the Planning Department is continuing to assist municipalities by providing technical assistance upon request. ECDP has been receiving questions from municipalities regarding the new ordinances, and several municipalities have requested County reviews of their draft ordinances. John stated that County review of the municipal SWM ordinances is not required by Act 167. However, ECDP will review these ordinances, as a courtesy, when requested by the municipality.

ECDP has issued a memo, dated August 10, 2011 to all municipalities. The memo addresses some of the most common questions that ECDP has been receiving. John briefly discussed these questions, and added that municipalities may contact him if they have any additional questions or if they would like ECDP to review a draft of their municipal ordinance.

Erie County Long Range Transportation Plan Update

John McGranor stated that progress continues to be made on the Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan had been delayed slightly due to the lack of available 2010 Census data. This data is now available. The draft is expected to be available by October or November, and the final plan is expected to be approved by the Erie MPO by the end of 2011.

Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan – 5 Year Update

John McGranor provided an update on the HMP. The plan has been approved by PEMA, and was forwarded to FEMA on 7/15/11 for its review and approval. This typically takes approx. 45 to 60 days. After FEMA approval, County Council will be asked to adopt the plan. Following adoption by the County, municipalities wishing to participate will also need to adopt the plan in order to be eligible for mitigation funding through FEMA. After one municipality adopts the plan, the plan becomes “official”. Other municipalities interested in adopting the plan should do so within one year of the plan becoming “official”. John noted that a boiler-plate adoption resolution will be available for the use of interested municipalities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Gerry Dahl stated that Corry Fest was a huge success.

Larry Davies announced that McKean Borough will be holding its 150-year anniversary celebration on September 17, 2011.

Work on one of the bridges on Reichart Road in McKean has been completed, and the bridge has been reopened. A second bridge is scheduled for replacement next year.

Patricia Pfadt asked why the County Agricultural Preservation Board isn't working with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy to preserve farmland. John McGranor responded that the County would be greatly interested in working with WPC. The County Board amended its guidelines in 2010 in an attempt to add the flexibility to the program that would help to facilitate this partnership. However, these amendments were rejected by the State Board. John explained that State law, Act 43, is very structured. The law requires that all farms applying for the program are scored & ranked in a very objective manner. The highest ranking farms are required to be preserved first, even if outside funding sources, such as WPC, would make it possible to fund a lower-ranking farm. Adherence to the strict legal requirements of the program limits the County's opportunities to partner with outside agencies. However, the County Board will continue to pursue any opportunities that may become available.

The Planning Commission expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Erie County Conservation District for the use of its facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.