



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**

September 8, 2011

A meeting of the Erie County Planning Commission was held at **6:30 PM** on **Thursday, September 8, 2011** in the **Admiral Room** at the **Raymond M. Blasco Memorial Library**, 160 East Front Street, Erie 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)
Patricia Pfadt	Venango Twp (Exec. Board)
Jim Cardman	Fairview Twp
Flory Kondzielski	Waterford Twp
Planning Department Staff:	
Jake Welsh	
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 AUGUST 11, 2011 MINUTES

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

NEW BUSINESS

ECDP Monthly Activity Report

Jake Welsh indicated that the Erie County Department of Planning's Monthly Activity Report was attached to the meeting agenda, and asked if anyone had any questions or additional information to add. Jake also discussed items from the report:

State Transportation Commission (STC) Public Hearing – Jake discussed the testimony ECDP presented on behalf of Erie County and Northwest PA at the STC hearing in Cranberry, PA on August 25th. The presentation focused on the current state/condition of the highway, bridge and transit system in the region, the estimated costs to maintain the system, and the amount of funding expected to be available. Jake noted that the expected funding over the next several years is not going to be enough to cover the estimated cost to maintain the infrastructure at its current levels. Jake also mentioned support of a transportation funding report recently completed by an Advisory Commission that would help to close the funding gap and suggested that members review the report and let their legislators know their thoughts on supporting the recommendations in the report. It can be found at <http://www.tfac.pa.gov/>

Annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) – Jake reminded that the annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) event was coming up on September 17, 2011 from 9am – noon at fifteen locations across Erie County, and if anybody was interested in participating to contact the office.

Destination Erie - Regional Plan for Sustainable Development – Jake also stated that the ECDP / County of Erie is serving as the lead applicant and facilitator for a regional consortium to apply for HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program funding. HUD has allocated \$100,000,000 for Sustainable Communities Regional Planning initiatives across the country to improve regional planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions, and increase the capacity of communities to modernize land use and zoning plans. The required pre-application was submitted and accepted by HUD August 25th. The full application is currently being prepared for submittal by October 6, 2011 for \$2,000,000 to prepare the regional plan.

OLD BUSINESS

Erie County Stormwater Management Plan

Jake Welsh stated that each municipality should be working toward adoption of a SWM Ordinance consistent with the County Plan by the September 21, 2011 deadline. Jake indicated that the Planning Department is continuing to assist municipalities by providing technical assistance upon request, including County reviews of their draft

ordinances. Jake also discussed an Erie Area COG Stormwater Committee meeting with PADEP and municipal officials held August 22. The purpose was to discuss DEP's MS4 permit regulations, local implementation of the regulations and opportunities for multi-municipal collaboration. There was information exchanged about the status of DEP's MS4 Program; there still appear to be unresolved issues at the state level regarding the proposed new permit, no final guidance has been developed.

Erie County Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Jake Welsh stated that most of the recent work was focusing on finalizing the evaluation criteria and performance measures being used to prioritize the candidate projects. The draft is expected to be available by October or November, and the final plan expected to be approved by the Erie MPO by the end of 2011.

Erie County Hazard Mitigation Plan – 5 Year Update

Jake Welsh provided an update on the HMP. The plan is still under review by FEMA. Following their approval, and 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.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a reminder that McKean Borough will be holding its 150-year anniversary celebration on September 17, 2011.

Gerry Dahl noted that the City of Corry is undertaking a study to develop and submit recommendations for the city to consider similar to the state's Early Intervention Program; which assists municipalities experiencing fiscal difficulties to develop comprehensive multi-year financial plans and establish short and long-term financial objectives.

There was discussion on a recent meeting held on site north of the zoo along Mill Creek regarding the erosion to neighboring properties to the east. PennDOT and DEP were present to look at the area and indicated that an engineering study would be conducted to develop a solution.

Jake provided an update on the local bridge inspection program, noting that the next round of inspections had been moved up to the summer/fall months of 2011. PennDOT recently informed ECDP that inspections being done by the new consultant began in mid-July and would be completed by mid-October on the approximately 100 locally owned, over twenty foot long bridges in Erie County.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.