

VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

2007 Annual Report

VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

FIRST FLOOR, COURTHOUSE

1168 LIBERTY STREET

P. O. BOX 831

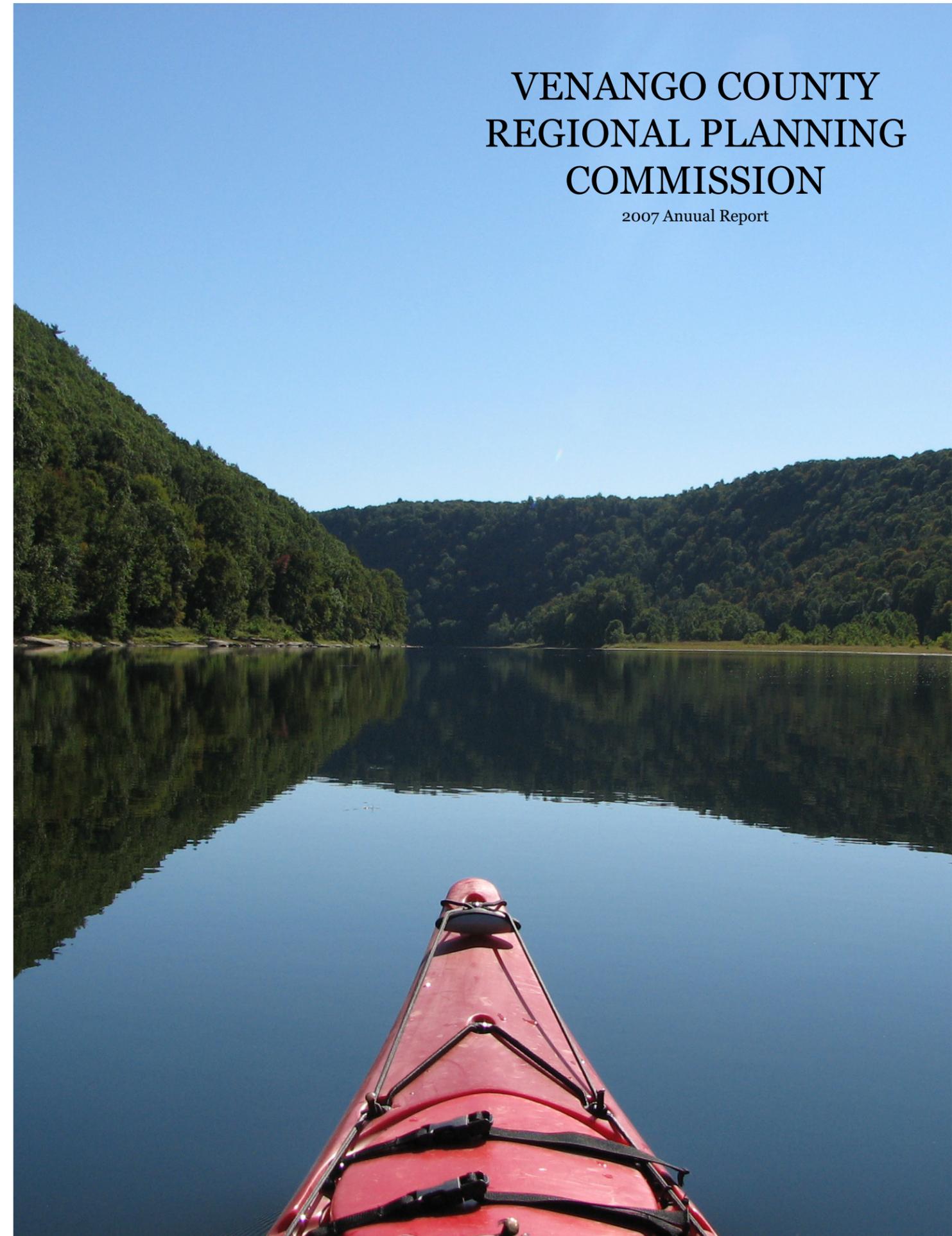
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MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:30 TO 4:30

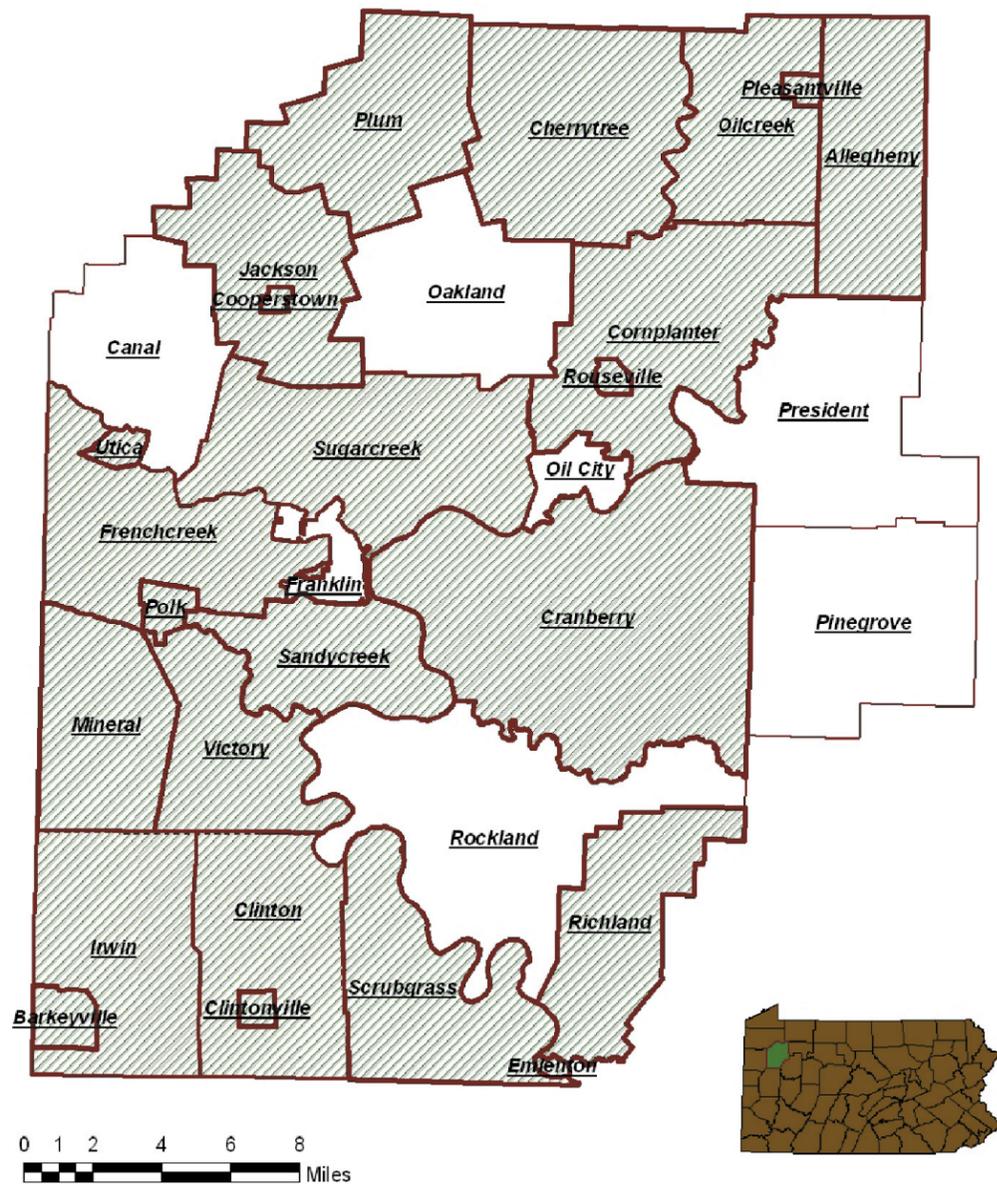
WWW.CO.VENANGO.PA.US/PLANNING



VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The following municipalities became or renewed their membership as planning partners with VCRPC:

Venango County Regional Planning Commission Member Municipalities - February 2008



If you would like to get involved or would like more information about the Venango County Regional Planning Commission and our many initiatives, please visit the county website at www.co.venango.pa.us/planning or feel free to stop by our offices on the first floor of the Venango County Courthouse.

2008 Projects

Funded Projects

- CDBG Project Administration
- Shared Municipal Services
- Recycling/Solid Waste Administration
- Affordable Housing Programming
- Housing Market Study
- Northwest Pennsylvania Greenways Plan
- Natural Heritage Inventory
- Phase II Storm Water Management Plan – Act 167 (4 year effort)
- Countywide Recreation Plan
- Circuit Rider

General Administration Activities

- Administration of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)
- Customer/Member Services
- Grantsmanship
- Reporting
- Financial Management
- Mapping Services
- Transportation Planning and Advice
- Marketing and Graphic Design
- Board and Committee meetings
- Training

Additional 2008 Activities

- 2010 Census
- Multi Municipal Comprehensive Plan (Rouseville & Cornplanter)
- Future Land Use Map
- SALDO Policy Review
- Facilitate Southern Comp Plan Implementation
- First Time Home Buyer Program – Year 2
- Solid Waste Management Plan Update
 - HHW Event
 - Electronic Collection
 - 902 Equipment grant application

The following training was attended by the VCRPC Staff:

- APA National Conference
- CDBG Annual Conference - DCED
- Road Bonding - PSATS
- Dirt and Gravel Road - PSATS
- Professional Recyclers - PROP
- Brownfields – DEP
- National Heritage Areas – (speaker) Presentation of Affordable Housing Trust project – Detroit
- Pennsylvania Association of Housing & Redevelopment Authorities
- Storm Water Best Management Practices
- Bridges – PennDot
- Grant Writing Seminar (speaker) – Seneca Hills
- Local Update of Census Adresses LUCA

2007 VCRPC Staff Cost Allocation

- General Fund
- CDBG
- Affordable Housing
- Recycling/Solid Waste
- Storm Water Management
- Shared Municipal Services
- Recreation Plan
- Southern Comprehensive Plan

Looking towards 2008: VCRPC Annual Planning Meeting



The Venango County Planning Commission (VCPC) was created in 1961 and consisted of a nine-member board. In 2005 the VCPC became the Venango County Regional Planning Commission consisting of a fifteen-member board comprised of County residents, elected members, and three members of the area COGs. All members are appointed by the County Commissioners. The Commission employs a staff of four to carry out the administrative and technical responsibilities. The responsibilities include Countywide comprehensive and functional planning such as Housing, Recreation, Solid Waste and Land Use. The Commission also compiles and analyzes information about County characteristics and trends for use in evaluating proposed activities and projects and in preparing studies and plans.

Technical assistance is provided to county and local agencies on numerous matters including planning, zoning, subdivision and development. The Commission administers the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, which requires that plans for subdividing land or engaging in land development be reviewed and approved by the Commission. The Planning Commission maintains a

library of publications and data used by the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities which is available for use by other agencies and individuals.

The Venango County Regional Planning Commission coordinates its efforts with local and regional planning organizations. The County Commissioners serve on the Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, which includes representation from Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties. The Commission is a member of both the Pennsylvania and American Planning Associations. The Planning Commission's functions and responsibilities are governed by State Law, primarily the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, which provides for the creation, funding and operation of planning commissions at the discretion of each municipal or county government.

VENANGO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- Susan M. Smith, Chairperson
- Larry E. Horn, Vice Chairman
- Gary R. Hutchison

VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION DEPARTMENT

- Judith Downs, Executive Director
- Ben Breniman, Shared Municipal Services
- Debra Frawley, Planner II
- Lynn Lawrence, Planner I
- Sarah Mellring, GIS Intern (Summer 2007)
- Willis Thomas, Planning Intern (Summer 2007)
- Al Wodzianski, PE, Engineer

VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Susan Hileman, Chairperson | Debbra Kapp, Oakland Township | Fred Krizinsky, Oil Region COG |
| Warren Thomas, Vice Chairman | Garnet Wood, City of Franklin | Wally Stearns, Barkeyville Borough |
| Marc Rickard, Secretary/Treasurer | Ken Garland, Victory Township | Kirk Anna, Sugarcreek Borough |
| Terry Ray, Cranberry Township | Jeff Langworthy, Oil Creek Area COG | Sonja Hawkins, City of Oil City |
| Mary Ann Caton, Pleasantville Borough | Dan Kaylor, Southern Venango COG | Neil McElwee, City of Oil City |

VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEES

- Executive Committee, Susan Hileman, Chair
- Plan Review Committee, Ken Garland, Chair
- Affordable Housing Board, Terry Ray, Chair

2007 PROJECTS

Community Development Block Grant Program

CDBG Project Implementation:

- Rouseville Water
- Emlenton Sewer
- Cornplanter Sewer
- Anderson Building Demolition
- Pleasantville Water Meters
- Polk Sewer



Grant Writing

The following grants were written by VCRPC Staff in 2007:

- Plum Township – Cooper Park
- Courthouse Stairway Renovation
- Cooperstown - Storm Water
- Victory Township - Storage Building
- Victory Township - Road Grader
- Jackson Township - Dump Truck
- Shared Municipal Services 2nd year
- Peer to Peer Circuit Rider
- Plum Township – Liquid Fuels
- Phase II Storm Water Management Plan – DEP
- Housing Market Study - DCED



Allegheny Township - Dump Truck



Emlenton Borough
Mineral Springs Park

Subdivisions and Land Developments

Minor Subdivisions

A total of 123 Single lot subdivisions were reviewed in 2007

Major Land Developments

- Hawbaker – Barkeyville Borough – Asphalt Plant
- Team Hardinger - Barkeyville Borough – Trucking terminal
- Klapec Development, Cherrytree Township - Manufacturing
- Eastgate Plaze, Barkeyville Borough – Light Commercial

Affordable Housing Trust Fund

First Time Homebuyer Program
\$75,000 awarded to 14 eligible applicants



Sheasley Building - Downtown Affordable Housing

Northwest PA Regional Greenways Plan

The Northwest Regional Planning and Development Commission is the lead agency for the Regional Greenways Plan that will include the following counties:

- Erie
- Crawford
- Venango
- Mercer
- Clarion
- Forest
- Warren
- Lawrence

The Venango County Regional Planning Commission is the lead agency for Venango County's portion of the project. This project will work closely with the Natural Heritage Inventory also currently being conducted in Venango County. The draft maps created for the NHI are also being used for the Greenways Plan. The Venango County public kick off meeting was held September 4 with nearly 30 people in attendance. A meeting was also held with municipal officials. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2008.

2007 PROJECTS

Southern Venango County Comprehensive Plan

The Southern Venango County Comprehensive Plan has been completed and all of the participating municipalities have adopted the plan. The municipalities all worked very hard on this plan and it turned out very well with many compliments already received. This plan is the blueprint for the future of Southern Venango County. It must be used often, updated and amended as progress is made.

The gateway to Venango County is ready to be opened.

Anticipated projects to begin include:

- Barkeyville Borough – I-80 interchange commercial subdivision
- Victory Township – 1) New recreation related business
2) Opening of a restaurant
- Clinton Township – 1) Mixed use development
2) Alternative energy business
- Scrubgrass Township – Businesses at Power Plant site
- Emlenton Borough – continued trail development and brownfield site development

Natural Heritage Inventory

The County Natural Heritage Inventories are biological inventories of some of the most ecologically important and interesting habitats of Pennsylvania's Counties. Being surveys of the natural environment, they are planned to follow a predictable schedule in a sequence timed to seasonal changes. In 2007, the NHI completed the following tasks:

- Initial inventory of existing studies, documents, aerial photography and plans - winter 2006-2007
- First field season – summer 2007
- Review of data and initial reports – winter 2007-2008

This project will provide for the county a full set of maps that outline all identified Natural Heritage areas and managed lands. The final report will be organized by municipality, watershed, region or any geographic area consistent with county planning and resource management. Detailed descriptions of sites, natural regions, major natural community types, and special plants and animals will be included. Recommendations regarding the management, protection and potential arrangements for the living resources present will be a significant part of the report.

Recycling

Recycling Projects in 2007:

- VCRPC joined the PA Cleanways Network
- Electronics Collection - 5,822 pounds of electronic waste was collected from 77 individuals.
- Illegal Dump Survey began in fall 2007 - to be completed in Spring 2008



Oil Creek State Park 2nd Annual CITO - 63 volunteers, 3.69 tons of material removed

Venango County Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan

Phase I of the plan was completed in mid-2007. This phase determined the needed extent of the plan, a beginning list of problem areas, the scope of work and the budget required for Phase II. The PA DEP is funding this project with local match from VCRPC in-kind services. Funding for Phase II has been approved and the project will begin in 2008 and proceed for four years.

Phase II will consist of the following tasks to complete:

- Task A - Data Collection, review, analysis
- Task B - Technical analysis, modeling, conceptual solutions, goals and objectives, and economic analysis
- Task C - Public/Municipal participation, meetings with engineers and solicitors
- Task D - Plan preparation and implementation, model ordinance development, plan adoption
- Task E - Project management & administration

Within six months of the adoption of the County Stormwater Management Plan, each municipality is required by the state to adopt a Stormwater Management Ordinance. Through this project, it will be determined how best to accomplish ordinance adoption and how these ordinances will be administered.