



Venango County Regional Planning Commission 2008 Annual Report



Introduction

The Venango County Planning Commission was created in 1961 and consisted of a nine-member board. In 2005, the VCPC became the Venango County Regional Planning Commission (VCRPC) 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 Venango County Commissioners.

The Commission employs a staff of three full time employees and two part time interns to carry out the administrative and technical responsibilities. The responsibilities include County-wide comprehensive and functional planning in areas of community development, housing, stormwater management, and recycling. The Commission also compiles and analyzes information about County characteristics and trends for use in evaluating proposed activities/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 major land development be reviewed and approved by the Commission.

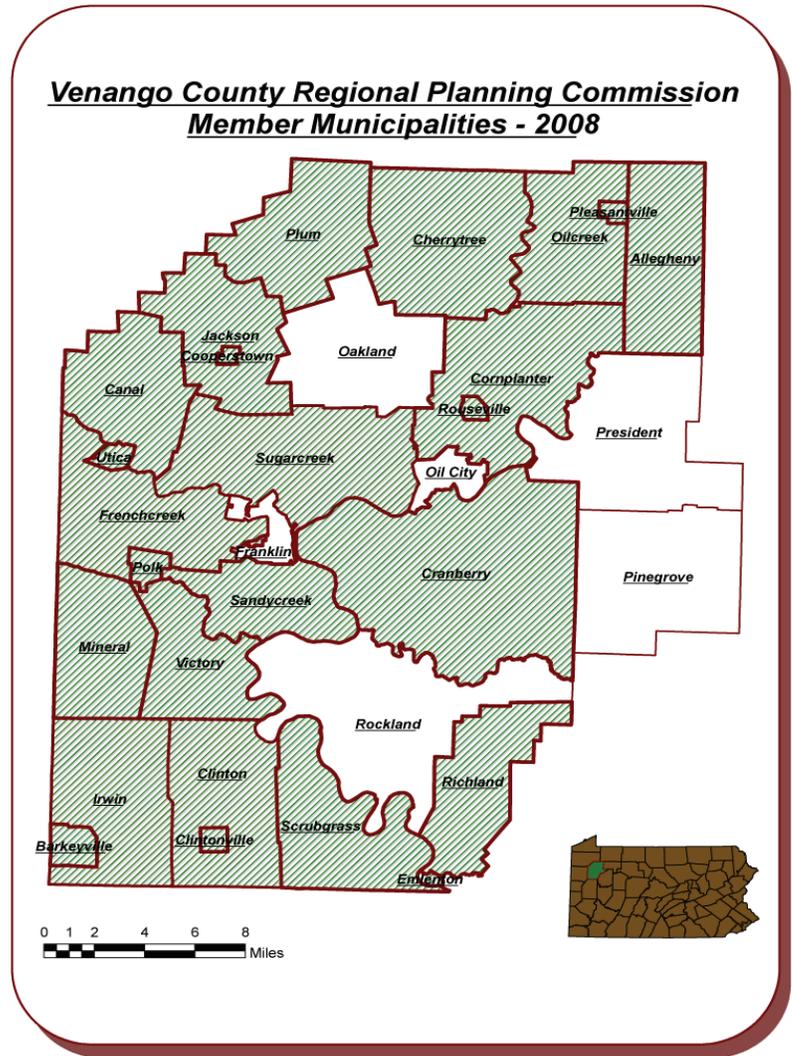
The Planning Commission maintains a library of publications and data used by the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities which is available for use by other agencies and individuals.

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.

2008 Venango County Regional Planning Commission Member Municipalities:

- Allegheny Township
- Barkeyville Borough
- Canal Township
- Cherrytree Township
- Clinton Township
- Clintonville Borough
- Cooperstown Borough
- Cornplanter Township
- Cranberry Township
- Emlenton Borough
- Frenchcreek Township
- Irwin Township
- Jackson Township
- Mineral Township
- Oil Creek Township
- Pleasantville Borough
- Plum Township
- Polk Borough
- Richland Township
- Rouseville Borough
- Sandycreek Township
- Scrubgrass Township
- Sugarcreek Borough
- Utica Borough
- Victory Township



Subdivisions and Land Developments

A total of 107 subdivisions were reviewed in 2008.

Major Land Developments included were:

- Franklin Sheetz Store Remodeling
- Kamp Kennerdell
- FedEx Ground Facility
- Terra Alta Estates

Grant Writing

The Following Grants were assisted on or written by VCRPC staff in 2008:

- Cooperstown Borough (Storm Water Facilities)
- Jackson Township (Dump Truck)
- Victory Township (Maintenance Building)
- Shared Municipal Services Grant
- First Time Homebuyers
- Federal Appropriations Grant to reconstruct Emlenton Hill on PA 38/208.
- Two- Mile Run County Park (\$30,000 for Maintenance Equipment & Playground)
- Irwin Township (\$30,000 for Maintenance Equipment)
- Richland Township (\$30,000 for Maintenance Equipment)
- Plum Township DCNR and Liquid Fuels Grants
- LUPTAP Grant for Frenchcreek/Mineral/Utica
- Act 101, Section 903 Coordinator Grant.
- Act 101 Section 904 Performance Grant for the County of Venango, Cornplanter, Cranberry and Sandycreek Townships.
- DCNR C2P2 Grant for Venango Fairgrounds Multi-Use Field.
- DCNR Circuit Rider funding for Greenways Coordinator.
- Assisted Oil City Library Director, with submission of DCED Single Application Grant.
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund \$40,000 grant match for a \$300,000 HOME Grant to rehabilitate eligible houses in Oil City.
- Emlenton Borough – Heritage Parks DCNR grant for Mineral Springs.
- Barkeyville Access Management Plan Study(\$170,000) – Smart Transportation.



Jackson Township Dump Truck

----LUCA 2010 Census Update----

VCRPC Staff assisted Cornplanter, Frenchcreek, Mineral, Sandycreek, Scrubgrass, and Sugar creek Townships with address canvassing for the 2010 Census.

Updated Pricing Guidelines for the VCRPC

VCRPC Municipal Membership Fees - \$0.50 per capita

GIS Mapping

| | | |
|---------------|------------|---------|
| Existing Maps | 8.5" x 11" | \$2.00 |
| | 11" x 17" | \$ 3.50 |
| | 42" x 36" | \$ 8.00 |

Custom Map Development \$50.00/hour

No charge for mapping for direct member municipalities

Subdivision Fees - Minor

\$0.00 for applicants in member municipalities

\$100 for applicants in non-member municipalities

Subdivision Fees – Major Land Development

\$300 - \$500 plus direct costs for engineering review

Grant Writing - \$50.00/hour

Grant writing free to member municipalities

Grant administration fees - \$50.00/hour or an allowable/negotiated percentage of the grant

Environmental Review/General PNDI Search-

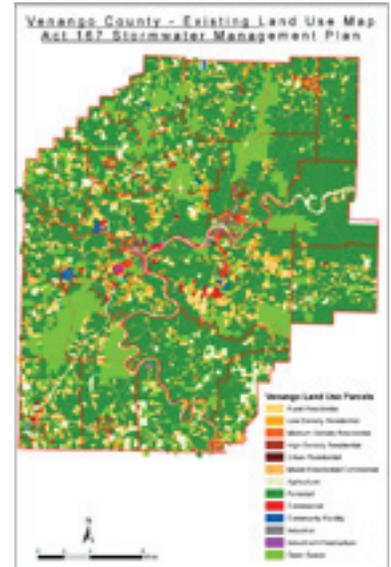
\$50.00/hour

Land Use and Ordinance Preparation/Administration -

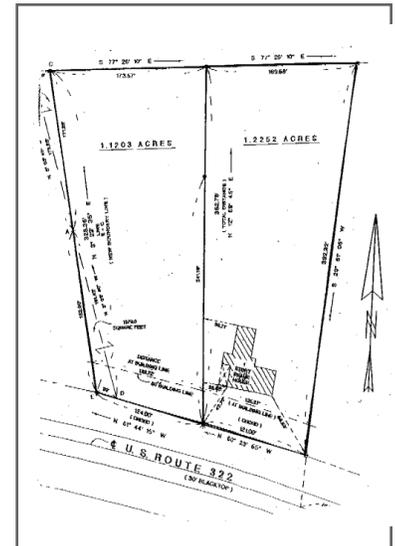
\$50.00/hour

CDBG/HOME/ESG Applications - \$3,500 plus \$500 per project activity

Desktop Publishing - \$50.00/hour



GIS MAPPING



SUBDIVISION REVIEW

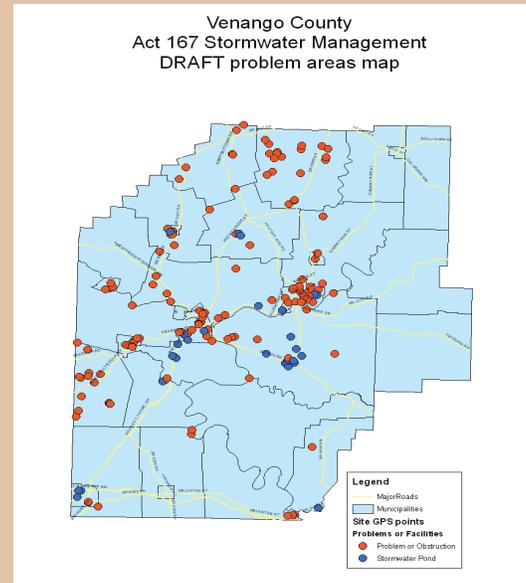
Housing Market Study

The Affordable Housing Trust Board requested qualifications from consulting firms to complete a Housing Market Study for Venango County. The initial goal of the study was to determine how best to spend and leverage Housing Trust Funds. Twelve firms responded and four were interviewed. The consulting firm of czb LLC was chosen to complete the work. Charles Buki gathered data from various sources including the Venango County Board of Realtors, 2000 Census and updates, local landlords and local employers. Cornell University also completed a random sample survey of Venango County residents. The study is funded by a grant from DCED with matching funds provided by the Housing Trust Fund and MH/MR. The study, final recommendations and workshops should be completed by May 2009.

Stormwater Management Planning

2008 was the second year of a 4 year Stormwater management planning effort. Field work on problem areas and obstructions took place. An existing land use map was developed that will be used for hydrologic modeling based on National Resource Conservation Service land use classifications. Some mapping was delayed as the County waited for release of information from the PAMAP program. The consulting firm of HRG Inc. is contracted to complete the study and they will do detailed modeling on 30 sub-watersheds in the County which will include conceptual solutions for problem areas. Stormwater Advisory Committee meetings were held. Each municipality was requested to appoint a member to the SWAC.

The Venango County Commissioners also approved a contract supplement to DEP and HRG's contracts to develop an Integrated Watershed Resource Plan (IWRP). The supplement includes funding from DEP with in-kind services provided by the County. The IWRP will propose a framework for integrating compliance with a number of different legislative acts dealing with water in Venango County. It is a pilot project that DEP initiated. This is the only IWRP in the state being analyzed in a rural county. The IWRP will recommend a central entity to oversee the program.



-----Transportation Planning-----

The VCRPC executive director is a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee for our Rural Transportation Organization (RPO). Three individuals from each of the five county area are appointed to the RPO. The participating counties are Warren, Crawford, Clarion, Forest, and Venango. The Committee's primary function is to make recommendations for projects to be placed on PennDot's 12 year highway improvement plan, commonly referred to as the TIP or Transportation Improvement Program. Funded projects in the first four years of the program in Venango County include:

- Route 8 Reconstruction north of Cherrytree
- Route 322 realignment project at Halls Run in Cranberry Township
- Scrubgrass Creek replacement
- Cooperstown Bridge replacement
- Lake Creek Bridge replacement
- Cherry Tree Road Bridge
- Martin Hill Road Bridge
- Jersey Railroad Bridge
- McClintock Bridge over Oil Creek
- PA 417 Signal in Rocky Grove
- Sugarcreek Bridge #1 – State Route 427
- Raymilton Bridge
- Gadsby Road Bridge
- Geiring Road Bridge
- State Route 8 bypass Wall Repair (Oil City)

Affordable Housing Trust Fund -----

The Affordable Housing Trust Board administers the County's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Board members are appointed by the County Commissioners who make the final determination on program guidelines and expenditure of funds. The primary projects undertaken in 2008 include the First Time Homebuyer Down Payment and Closing Cost Assistance Program and Housing Market Study.

First Time Homebuyer Program – Funds are available to First Time Homebuyers that are residents of Venango County and for properties located in Venango County. Applicants are determined eligible based upon HUD median income limits dependent upon family size. 2% of the purchase price is required and assistance is limited to 10% of the purchase price. The guidelines also require that applicants use banks that have offices located in Venango County.

Housing Trust Fund Board Members:

Vanessa Rockovich – Franklin Housing Authority
 Tracy Jamieson – Franklin Planning & Community Development
 Rick Cook – Oil City Planning & Community Development
 Andy Restauri – First United National Bank
 Jim Daugherty – Daugherty Real Estate
 Deb Lutz – Oil Region Alliance of Business Industry and Tourism
 Glen Cochran – Oil Region Alliance of Business Industry and Tourism
 Troy Wood – Venango County Commissioner
 Garnet Wood – VCRPC Board Member

Community Development Block Grant

VCRPC administers the County's CDBG program. Funds are available for projects that primarily benefit populations that meet the 51% Low Moderate Income criteria. Venango County receives approximately \$250,000 each year. These monies are available to the "non-entitlement" communities (excluding Oil City, Franklin, Cranberry and Sugarcreek). Since the program began in 1985, Venango County has received over \$6 million in funding. The bulk of the funding has been used for sewer and water upgrades.

Funded Projects by Project Type

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Sewer Improvements | \$1,562,183 |
| Water Improvements | \$1,403,685 |
| Housing Rehabilitation | \$588,088 |
| Public/Comm Facilities | \$730,675 |
| Streets/Roads | \$503,136 |
| Handicapped Access | \$277,466 |
| Recreation | \$15,000 |
| Administration | \$1,038,868 |
| Total Funds Received | \$6,119,101 |

Current projects ready to proceed to construction include:

- Venango Fairgrounds Inc. – Architectural Barrier Removal to the Main Building
- Rouseville Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades
- Rouseville Water System Improvements
- Oil Creek Sewer Service Lines
- Venango County Courthouse – Architectural Barrier Removal
- Utica Borough Sidewalks
- Crawford Center Emlenton – Architectural Barrier Removal
- Cornplanter Township Sewage Pump Station – Clapp Farm



Beagle Club Tire Clean Up



2008 Recycling Clean Up and Collection Activities

- Residential Electronic Waste recycling day was held on June 30th, 2008 at the Cranberry Mall. ECS&R, an electronic waste de-manufacturing/recycling company from Cochranton, was onsite to collect items from local residents.
- Beagle Club tire clean up on 8/20/2008. This event was held in conjunction with PA Cleanways. A total of 256 tires were salvaged from the dump site and sent off for recycling.
- A Tire Collection event was held on 11/8/2008 at Two Mile County Park. Cathy McBride and Cornplanter Twp aided in the organization and execution of this collection.

- 3,000 Law Books were recycled from the Law Library in the Venango County Courthouse



Countywide Recycling Statistics



| Sectors and Modules | 2008 | 2007 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Residential: | | |
| Recycling | 1,143.08 Tons | 799.25 Tons |
| Household Hazardous Waste | 1.67 Tons | 0.52 Tons |
| Organics | 724.00 Tons | 140.00 Tons |
| Solid Waste | 15,052.61 Tons | 19,692.35 Tons |
| Total Tons Collected | 16,921.36 Tons | 20,632.12 Tons |
| Total Tons Diverted | 1,868.75 Tons | 939.77 Tons |
| Total Tons Disposed | 15,052.61 Tons | 19,692.35 Tons |
| Diversion Rate | 11.04% | 4.55% |

Commercial:

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| Recycling | 2,704.00 Tons | 591.04 Tons |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|

2008 Polk Center Earth Day
VCRPC Recycling Booth

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Tons Collected (all sectors): | 19,625.36 Tons | 21,223.16 Tons |
| Total Tons Diverted : | 4,572.75 Tons | 1,530.81 Tons |
| Total Tons Disposed : | 15,052.61 Tons | 19,692.35 Tons |
| Cross-sector Diversion Rate: | 23.30% | 7.21% |



Good news to report regarding recycling in Venango County. Per Act 101 recycling/Solid Waste annual report for calendar year of 2008, it appears there has been a slight decrease in the amount of solid waste (from ~19K tons in '07 to ~15K tons in '08) being collected and a significant increase in overall recycling activities countywide. This should be seen as a great achievement for all municipalities participating in any type of recycling. As the numbers stand now, the recycling diversion rate percentage has jumped from 7.2% in 2007 to 23.3% in 2008. This is a staggering increase of 16.1%!

-----2008 Events, Meetings & Training Summary-----

The following events, conferences, meetings, and training seminars were attended by VCRPC Staff:

- APA National Conference -Las Vegas
- PPA Annual Conference-Pittsburgh
- CCAP County Planning Directors Meeting - Quarterly
- Governor's Interagency Land Use Team meeting- Harrisburg
- Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania Conference -Gettysburg
- DCNR Grant Workshop – Clarion
- Grant Writing Conference at the McKeever Learning Center
- PPA Northwest Section Meetings
- PHMC Grant Writing Workshop
- CD&H Practitioners (CDBG) Conference
- Venango County Association of Township Supervisors Annual Convention
- Venango County Workers Comp. Training
- Polk Center Earth Day
- Venango County Conservation District Envirothon
- Cornplanter Community Awareness Day
- Recycling Sustainability Forum Regional - Quarterly
- Recycling Forum Meeting - Moraine State Park

2008 Venango County Regional Planning Commission Board Members

Ken Garland
Victory Township,
Chairperson

Marc Rickard
Cranberry Township,
*Venango Conservation
District*

Dave Owens
Polk Borough, *Council*

Garnet Wood
Franklin, *City Council*

Sonja Hawkins
City of Oil City, *Mayor*

VCRPC STAFF:

Fred Krizinsky
Oil Region COG,
Secretary/Treasurer

Neil McElwee
City of Oil City, *Council*

Judy Downs
Executive Director

Warren Thomas
Richland Township

Susan Hileman
Cornplanter Township,
*NW Industrial Resource
Council*

Ben Breniman
Municipal Services

Terry Ray
Cranberry Township

Matt Carlson
Sugar creek Borough,
Police Lt. & Zoning Officer

Lynn Lawrence
Planner I/Recycling

Therese Alcorn
City of Oil City,
*Cranberry Area School
District*

Debbra Kapp
Oakland Township

Willis Thomas
Planning Intern

Jim Berry
Pleasantville Borough,
Oil Creek COG

Rodney Gladd
Emlenton Borough,
Southern COG

Adam Hoffer
GIS Intern

Al Wodzianski
PE. Engineer

Venango County Board Of Commissioners

Timothy S. Brooks
Troy A. Wood
Janet D. Beichner

Venango County Regional Planning Commission Committees

Executive Committee
Plan Review Committee
Affordable Housing Committee

2009 Work Plan:

- ❖ CDBG(Community Development Block Grant) Applications Construction Project
- ❖ Phase II Stormwater Management Plan – Act 167
- ❖ Municipal Grant Submissions
- ❖ Subdivisions and Land Development Review
- ❖ SALDO – Subdivision And Land Development Ordinance Revision
- ❖ First Time Homebuyer Program Guidelines
- ❖ Northwest PA Greenways Plan
- ❖ Housing Market Study – May 2009 completion
- ❖ Natural Heritage Inventory – Fall 2009 completion
- ❖ Venango County Housing Authority Revisions
- ❖ CEDS – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- ❖ American Recovery Reinvestment Act Funding(2009 Federal Stimulus) and ARRA Projects
- ❖ Barkeyville Corridor – Access Management Plan
- ❖ APA(American Planning Association) Conference
- ❖ Jackson Township Bridge Replacement
- ❖ Frenchcreek, Utica, Mineral Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan
- ❖ Oil City, Rouseville, Cornplanter Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan
- ❖ Emlenton Boro – Crawford Center Elevator
- ❖ Clapp Farm Sewage Pump Station
- ❖ Rouseville Streets
- ❖ Clintonville Borough Sewer and Water Authority – Water System Improvements
- ❖ Utica Sidewalks
- ❖ Two Illegal Dump Clean-ups in Spring
- ❖ Household Hazardous Waste Collection in July
- ❖ Earth Day at Polk Center in April
- ❖ Recycling 101 Training Seminar in April
- ❖ Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan Development and Sustainability Study



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