

**Venango County Regional Planning Commission
Minutes
Meeting July 20, 2010**

Those present at the public meeting of the Venango County Regional Planning Commission held at the Courthouse Annex, Room 100

Warren Thomas
Marc Rickard
Matt Carlson
Debra Kapp
Garnet Wood
Ken Garland
Sonja Hawkins
Bob Cross
Harold Best

Guests:
Mike Grill
Larry Smith
Charlie Eichelberger
Sheila Boughner

Excused:
Jim Berry
Dave Owens
Rodney Gladd
Fred Krizinsky

Staff Present:
Judy Downs
Karen Wenner
Chad Cochran
Alex Smith
Mike Miller, JMT

Unexcused:
Susan Hileman

Chairperson Debra Kapp called the monthly board meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

A majority was present as established by roll call. The attendance of 9 board members was accounted for by Chad Cochran.

A motion was made by Matt Carlson for approval of the minutes from June 15th, 2010 meeting, seconded by Bob Cross; so moved.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Mr. Larry Smith of Engineering Development Inc. asked that G.O. Carlson be officially added to the agenda under the Plan Review Committee section of Officer's and Committee Reports. A motion was made by Matt Carlson to amend the agenda to add G.O. Carlson under Plan Review Committee, seconded by Garnet Wood; so moved

- A motion to move item 6B, Plan Review Committee ahead of item V-Special Purpose Matters was made by Garnet Wood, seconded by Sonja Hawkins, so moved

PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

- Marc Rickard reported that the Plan Review Committee met to discuss updates to the G.O. Carlson project in Rouseville Borough. The Project was given preliminary plan approval at the May VCRPC meeting, and the action was ratified at the June meeting.
- Outstanding items for Final Plan approval were Stormwater Management design review, approval of the Erosion and Sediment control plan, and delivery of a performance bond for the infrastructure improvements.
- To date, the Stormwater Management submission has not been approved by the Venango county engineer, and the Erosion and Sediment Control plan has not been approved by the Venango Conservation District as it is still in the review process. A performance bond was delivered to VCRPC staff, but the pricing has not been verified by the Venango county engineer.
- The Plan Review committee recommends returning payment for preliminary stormwater management plan review fee assessed to G.O. Carlson project by the previous County engineer, Al Wodzianski as his review was only preliminary. A motion was made by Ken Garland to return payment for preliminary stormwater management plan review fee, seconded by Matt Carlson, so moved
- G.O. Carlson added to agenda under item 6B. Mr. Larry Smith consulting engineer for G.O. Carlson project outlined that G.O. Carlson received comments and an invoice from previous engineer for stormwater management plan. Mr. Smith and client feel that they have satisfied the requirements of the review letter from previous engineer and also letter from VCRPC, therefore they feel a second engineering review by new county engineer is not warranted. Mr. Smith asked that the plan be approved as submitted and reviewed by the county engineer at the time.
- Karen Wenner read an agenda briefing memo that outlined a timeline sequence regarding the G.O. Carlson plan project. The agenda briefing memo is attached to these minutes. Judy Downs stated that the staff recommendation is that the Johnson Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT) stormwater plan review be complied with. The Board concurred with the Plan Review Committee and staff recommendation. No Further action was deemed necessary.

SPECIAL PURPOSE MATTERS

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNTY ENGINEER

- Mike Miller, P.E. of JMT is the main point of contact and project manager for the VCRPC and other offices within the county system. Mike explained his background, as well as the background of the company he works for and how they will be able to assist the VCRPC. Mike further explained the project website dedicated to the Commission as well as other county offices such as Property Maintenance, and the Two Mile Run County Park.

COUNTY NATURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY FINAL STUDY

- Charlie Eichelberger of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy presented the final study via PowerPoint and handed out hard copies. Charlie outlined that the Venango County NHI project was started in 2007. Inventories are in place or are under update statewide. Funding was provided by the PFBC, PGC, DCNR and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The methodology for the study was provided by Natureserve.
- Charlie explained the global and state rank status of species. Charlie reported that Pennsylvania was almost completely forested in the 1800's and the dominant tree within Pennsylvania was the American Chestnut. After the chestnut blight, various hardwoods are now the majority as the American Chestnut is essentially non-existent. Charlie reported that the study finds that of the 150,000 acres of native grasslands within PA, only 350 exist today. Charlie further reviewed the study results for Venango County.
- Charlie explained the uses of this study for PNDI review and how other agencies will benefit. Judy Downs reported that this study was completed without any County funding contribution.

OFFICER'S AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- The VCRPC still needs to fill Terry Ray's empty seat on the Planning Commission board. Debra Kapp contacted interested parties and feels that at least one will send a letter of interest to the Board of the Venango County Commissioners.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

- Bob Cross has been appointed to the Board as VCRPC liaison but hasn't attended a meeting yet. Karen Wenner reported that on August 6th the Housing Alliance of PA will speak at a forum to be held at the Venango County Human Service complex. The Forum will be from 10:00 AM –Noon.

COG REPRESENTATIVES

- Nothing new to report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- Judy D. reported that Crawford County was awarded a \$30,000 grant to work on stormwater education with Venango County, Warren County, Erie County and also Venango Conservation District. Judy further reported on FEMA Floodplain Modernization.
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- Alex Smith, GIS Intern presented a map on Two Mile Run County Park forested units. The second map presented was the Morrison Run Road Waterline Extension in Sandycreek Township. CDBG funding is used in the waterline extension. Other maps presented were the Barkeyville Borough Industrial park, two floodplain maps for Sage Run in Oil City and also Cranberry Township. Final maps presented were development suitability maps for the entire county.

PUBLIC COMMENT - GENERAL

- None

A motion to adjourn was made by Warren Thomas. at 8:17 PM, seconded by Harold Best; so moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chad Cochran, Planner I