

VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



2010 ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

The Venango County Planning Commission was created in 1961 and consisted of a nine-member board. In 2005 the VCRPC 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 five full time employees to carry out the administrative and technical responsibilities. The responsibilities include Countywide comprehensive and functional planning in the 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 and projects and in preparing studies and plans.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Venango County Regional Planning Commission (VCRPC) is to support and advise all municipalities, other partners and organizations to aid in growth, development and land use in accordance with the comprehensive plan.

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 and it is made 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 REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION
2010
~ Member Municipalities ~



- ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP
- BARKEYVILLE BOROUGH
- CANAL TOWNSHIP
- CHERRYTREE TOWNSHIP
- CLINTON TOWNSHIP
- CLINTONVILLE BOROUGH
- COOPERSTOWN BOROUGH
- CORNPLANTER TOWNSHIP
- CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP
- EMLENTON BOROUGH
- FRENCHCREEK TOWNSHIP
- JACKSON TOWNSHIP
- MINERAL TOWNSHIP
- OAKLAND TOWNSHIP
- OIL CREEK TOWNSHIP
- PINEGROVE TOWNSHIP
- PLEASANTVILLE BOROUGH
- PLUM TOWNSHIP
- POLK BOROUGH
- PRESIDENT TOWNSHIP
- RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
- ROUSEVILLE BOROUGH
- SANDYCREEK TOWNSHIP
- SCRUBGRASS TOWNSHIP
- SUGARCREEK BOROUGH
- UTICA BOROUGH
- VICTORY TOWNSHIP



**VENANGO COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

TIMOTHY S. BROOKS
TROY A. WOOD (JAN.-OCT.)
JANET D. BEICHER
VINCENT L WITHERUP(DEC.)

**VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEES**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE
AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

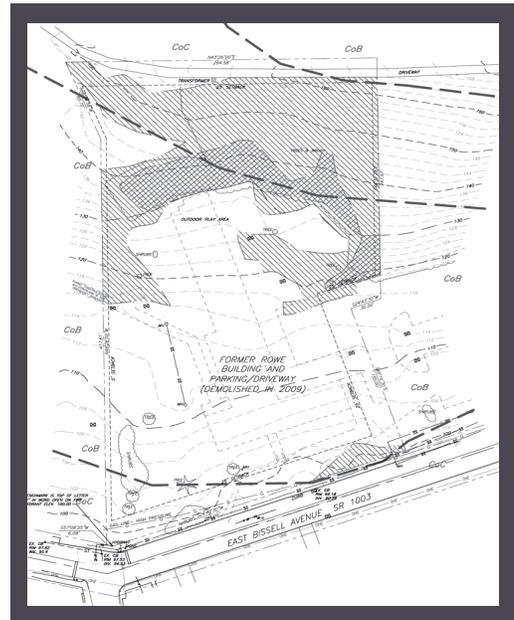
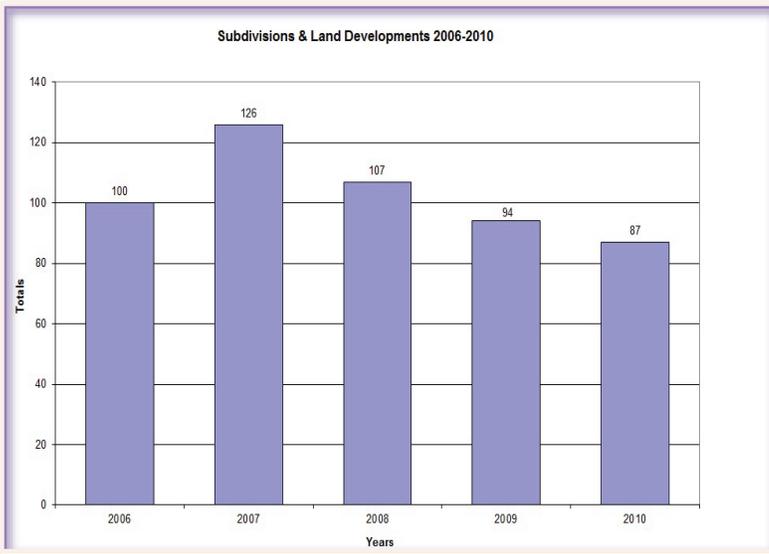
If your municipality has not yet voted to join the Venango County Regional Planning Commission, there are a number of benefits including assistance with planning, grant documents, waived fees for subdivisions, etc.

For more information, please contact Judy Downs, Executive Director of VCRPC, at 814.432.9681.

Subdivisions and Land Development

For 2010, the Venango County Regional Planning Commission processed and reviewed eighty one minor subdivisions, and six land developments for a total of eighty seven. The month of August was our busiest month with a total of fifteen subdivisions received, followed by October with ten subdivisions received. Of the eighty seven subdivisions and land developments received, seventy five were located in member municipalities.

Sandycreek Township led the way with a total of nine subdivisions and two major land developments.. Some of the most notable major land developments approved by the VCRPC in 2010 include: Terra Alta, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Hawbaker Access Drive, Childhood Development Center and GO Carlson.



SALDO UPDATE 2010

The VCRPC is currently in the process of updating Venango County's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, also referred to as the county SALDO. In 2010, the Planning Commission hosted six revision sessions in conjunction with local municipalities, surveyors, sewage enforcement officers and the county consultants, JMT engineering. The purpose of this revision process is to strengthen the SALDO with regards to the MPC – Municipalities Planning Code. The Planning Commission anticipates a completion of this revised county SALDO in 2011.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ADMINISTRATION & ACTIVITY



Community Development Block Grant projects in Venango County for 2010 included a host of improvements/renovations to Two Mile Run County Park, the completion of the Emlenton Crawford Center handicap accessible elevator, as well as the purchasing of storage totes for the Clintonville Food Pantry.

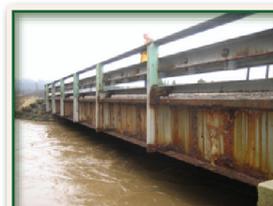
Improvements to Two Mile Run County Park included a variety of architectural barrier removal renovations to enhance handicap accessibility at multiple facilities and locales. At the Nature Lodge, new construction to portions of the back deck and a handicap parking space with entrance ramp were completed. The Justus and Mackie Pavilions received new sidewalks, ramps and railings; and, the Beach House realized updates to the bathrooms and showers. Many of these projects were made possible through additional CDBG-R funding (i.e. \$80,320) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's (ARRA) initiative of 2009.

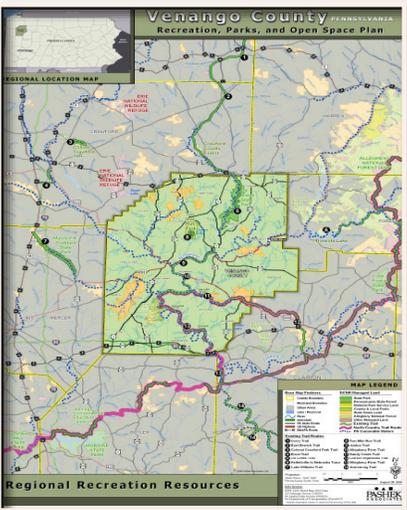
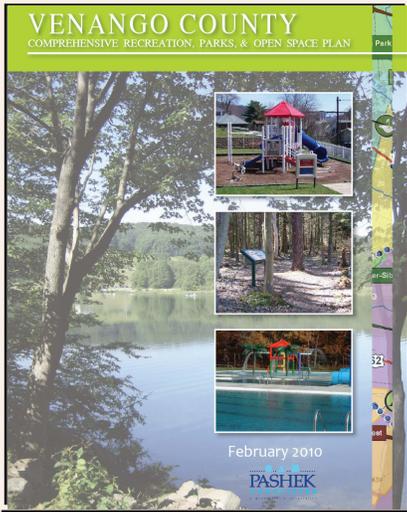
ACT 167 - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

200 West Kensingers Drive, Suite 400 • Cranberry Township, PA 16066 • 724.779.4777 [phone]

This stormwater management plan is the product of a collaborative effort between the varied stakeholders located in the Act 167 Designated Watersheds in Venango County, Pennsylvania. The Plan has been developed based on the requirements of the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act, Act 167 of 1978 and guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The intent of this document is to present the findings of a two-phased multiyear study of the watersheds in the county. Generally, the study was undertaken to develop recommendations for improved stormwater management practices, to mitigate potential negative impacts by future land uses, and to improve conditions of impaired waters.

This plan was ratified by the Venango County Commissioners in June of 2010 and approved by the Department of Environmental Protection in August of 2010.





VENANGO COUNTY RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

As a point of business during the February, 2010 monthly meeting, the board put forth the recommendation that the newly completed Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Spaces Plan be adopted as an amendment to the County Comprehensive Plan. The County Commissioners ratified this request on February 23, 2010.

Recognizing the importance of parks and recreation in Venango County, this Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan was initiated. The process used to develop this Plan included extensive public input, detailed inventory and assessment, and the development of recommendations for the future of parks and recreation in Venango County.

Vision for the Future of Recreation Parks and Open Space

Principle #1

Enable the continued preservation, sustainability, support, promotion, and development of the recreational, natural, and cultural resources within Venango County.

Principle #2

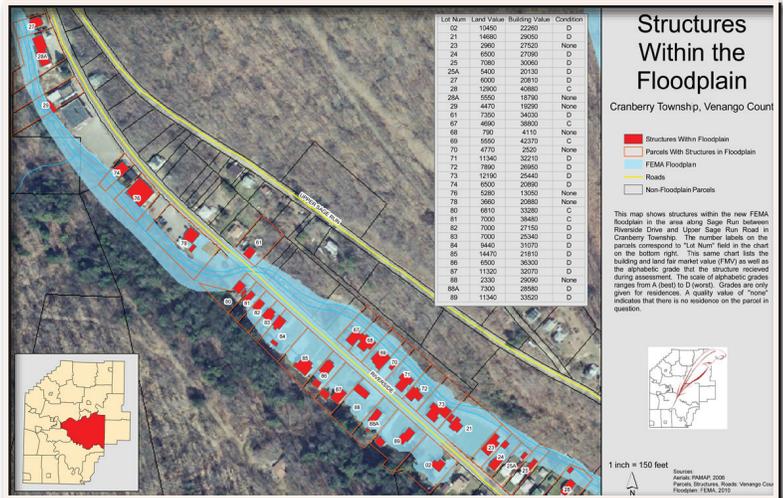
Reveal to Venango County's residents, visitors and tourists the recreational, natural, and cultural resources available for them to utilize and enjoy.

Principle #3

Cultivate the processes and opportunities needed to enhance recreational experiences, and to increase prosperity and population growth, through marketing, promotion, development, and accessibility of recreational, natural, and cultural resources across Venango County.

Hazardous Mitigation Plan

The Hazardous Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on September 14, 2010. The goal of this plan is to identify hazards, institute community initiatives and objectives, and form mitigation strategies within the County. This is a 5 year plan that was funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Each municipality in Venango County is encouraged to pass a resolution to accept the plan to be eligible to receive federal funding in the event of a disaster.



HOME GRANT



Opportunities for Economic Growth and Housing Market Stability

During the latter half of 2010, the Venango County Regional Planning Commission gathered data to submit an application for HOME (or Pennsylvania HOME Program) grant funding opportunities for Rouseville Borough.

The funding received from DCED will be used to rehabilitate properties in Rouseville and shall include the following: It is the intent of the County to provide rehab for a minimum of fifteen homes in the Borough of Rouseville. The compact density of the borough would enable the HOME funding to have a great impact. The Housing Market Study recommendation is to upgrade the existing housing stock and raze properties that are beyond repair and considered a human hazard. By doing so, this will create a healthy and affordable housing market.

Rehabilitation activities will not only improve the housing stock of the Borough; but, it will also spur economic development with an increased need for contractors to both rehab the homes and conduct the necessary lead base paint procedures.



This study was completed in 2010 and examines the various species of plants, animals and natural communities that makeup Venango County's landscape. The overall goal of the study is to plan for, conserve and/or restore the natural systems throughout the county to determine the sustainability of growth and prosperity in the region.

Natural Heritage Inventory



TRANSPORTATION ~Route 8 Land Use & Transportation Study~

The Route 8 Land Use and Transportation Study was undertaken by the Northwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission in cooperation with the Borough of Barkeyville, Venango County, and The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Recent development in the Barkeyville Industrial Park has resulted in increased traffic congestion at the intersection of Route 8 with Stevenson Road, and additional proposed developments have increased concerns over traffic management. The scope of the project was broadened to be a smart transportation study of the entire Route 8 corridor in the Borough of Barkeyville, and to address land use issues as well as transportation management.

Study Goals

1. Improve traffic operation in the study corridor.
2. Provide a sustainable transportation system, accommodating pedestrians and bicycles as well as motorized traffic.
3. Improve safety for vehicular and non-vehicular traffic throughout the study area.
4. Limit or control driveway access throughout the corridor.
5. Ensure that the costs of future transportation improvements are assessed fairly.
6. Encourage land use policies that support a sustainable and efficient transportation system.

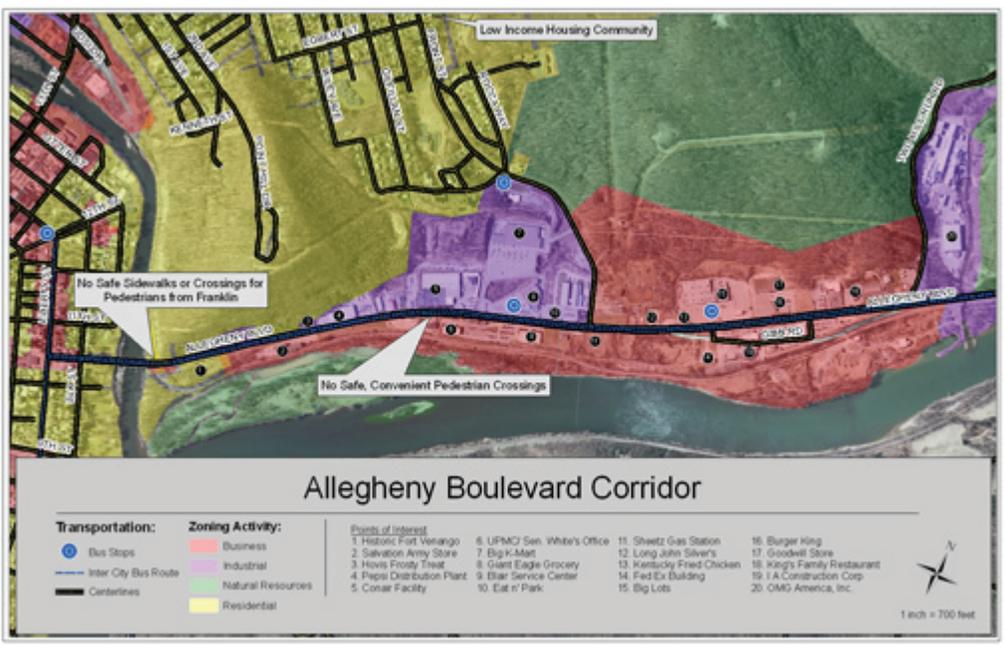
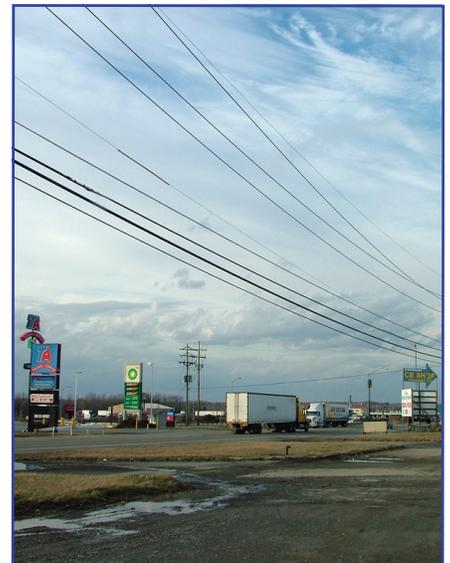
Objectives

1. Improve operations at Stevenson Road.
2. Address causes of identified safety issues at Stevenson Road and elsewhere in the corridor.
3. Maintain acceptable levels-of-service at study intersections and key driveways under projected future traffic conditions.
4. Adopt appropriate land use controls.
5. Develop a mechanism for identifying transportation impacts of developments and for capturing the cost of implementing the improvements.
6. Identify changes to zoning and other ordinances to allow the Borough of Barkeyville to manage land uses and direct future development.

ROUTE 8 LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION STUDY FINAL REPORT



Submitted by:
Parsons Brinckerhoff
September 30, 2010



PCTI STUDY

In 2010, the VCRPC submitted two Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) grant applications to secure funding for infrastructure studies in Sugar Creek Boro. and Cranberry Twp. These studies would assess the viability of pedestrian walkways around areas of newer commercial development in those communities.

To the left is a GIS rendering of zoning activity along Allegheny Boulevard corridor in Sugar Creek Borough.

Countywide Recycling

Venango County's recycling program has made great strides in 2010 with regards to program expansion and overall waste diversion. Upon hosting another Household Hazardous Waste collection for its second year in a row, the County realized a 17% increase in resident participation at the event and successfully diverted over 22,000 lbs of hazardous material from the landfills and water tables. Building on the momentum on the success of these special collections, an Electronics/E-Waste Collection was piloted in November of 2010. This event took in over 24,000 lbs. of electronics servicing 210 local residents. Venango County is looking to continue this trend by attempting to host a pharmaceutical collection event in 2011 as long as funding allows.



Clean - Up Event and Collections



Cornplanter Illegal Dump Clean-up

On March 27th, a total of 24 volunteers from surrounding municipalities convened at the largest surveyed illegal dumpsite(s) in Cornplanter Township along Cornplanter Run / Durkin Rd. These volunteers, along with municipal/heavy equipment from the township and technical support from PA CleanWays and Penn DOT, successfully remediated approximately 2-3 acres of a wooded hillside clearing the area of all visible debris, garbage and tires. The clean-up was executed in one day's time (8 hrs) opposed to the three days estimated in the preliminary schedule. This project not only benefited the community environmentally, but, also served as an important educational tool to alert local residents/volunteers, many of whom were adolescents, of the problems surrounding illegal dumping.

Below is a listing of conclusive data generated from this clean-up.

TONNAGE:

Tons of waste disposed of by Tri-County Industries:	5.98 Tons
Tons of scrap recycled by Dahlstrom Iron & Metals:	0.35 Tons
Tons of tires recycled by Sehman Tire Services, Inc.:	5.2 Tons/416 tires @ ~25lbs)
TOTAL TONNAGE REMEDIATED FROM SITES:	11.53 TONS



VENANGO COUNTY ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT

Cranberry Mall
Route 322
Cranberry Twp.

Saturday, November 13th, 10AM - 2PM

Cost: Free
Excluding (*)
PC Monitors
TV's
Refrigerator Appliances
*Cash or Check

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS INCLUDE:

Desktop Computers	Laptops
PC Monitors (*\$5 fee)	Televisions (*\$1 per diagonal inch fee)
Keyboard/Mouse	Misc. Computer Components
Printers	Copiers
Fax Machines	Radios
Speakers	UPS Batteries
Laptop Batteries	Cell Phones
Digital Cameras	Appliances

*Refrigerant Containing Appliances (\$35 fee for Freon removal)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

General Rubbish	Household Garbage
Vacuum Cleaners	Bio Hazardous Materials
Ammunition	Radioactive Items (Smoke Detectors)

Household Hazardous Waste (Paints, Chemicals, Cleaners, Etc.)

We Kindly Request Any Businesses or Organizations With A Substantial/BULK Quantity of Electronics PLEASE PRE-REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT.

Call the Venango Co. Regional Planning Commission at the number listed below. Thank you.

For Additional Info: 814-432-9684 or Email: ejohnson@co.venango.pa.us

COLLECTING HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

Safely Dispose of Common Household Chemicals

**Venango County
Cranberry Mall
Route 322, Cranberry Township
Saturday, July 31, 2010
9 am - 1 pm**

FEE: \$2/gallon - Cash Only

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS INCLUDE:

- aerosol cans
- automotive fluids
- motor oil, transmission fluid, antifreeze, brake fluid
- batteries
- chemistry sets
- compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)
- gasoline and kerosene
- household cleaners
- ammonia, drain openers, acid cleaners, oven cleaners
- mercury
- paint products
- latex, oil based, alkyd based, arts/crafts chemicals, rust preservatives, creosote, water sealers, paint thinners, furniture strippers
- pesticides/herbicides
- rodent killers, insecticides, weed killers, mollusks, fertilizer
- photo chemicals
- pool chemicals

WE DO NOT ACCEPT:

- ammunition
- appliances
- bulk waste
- commercial and industrial waste
- compressed gas cylinders (including propane tanks)
- drugs
- explosives
- flares
- fluorescent tubes
- leaking containers
- medical waste (including needles)
- PCBs and dioxin
- radioactive materials (including smoke detectors)
- tires

2011 ANNUAL WORK PLAN TOPICS AND ONGOING WORK ITEMS

- SALDO
- MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
- CDBG
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST
- EDUCATION TO MUNICIPALITIES
- GRANTMANSHIP
- FILE PURGE
- PLEASANTVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY
- RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE



2010 ANNUAL MEETING AND WORK PLAN SESSION

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE VCRPC IN 2011

- **Transportation:** Railroad Usage, Road Bonding, Liquid Fuels opportunities for municipalities, Capital Projects for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program(TIP), etc.
- **PCTI Grant Award:** Sugarcreek/Franklin Transportation Smart Project.
- **Commercial/Industrial Recycling Opportunities.**
- **Sustainability Plan:** Economic Development sustainability through mapping of designated growth areas.
- **Stormwater Ordinance Administration:** Help for member municipalities.
- **Hazardous Mitigation Project:** Sage Run.
- **HOME Grant Submission:** Rouseville Borough.
- **Industrial Site Reuse Grant:** Removal of Brody Block Building in Oil City.
- **Flood Plain Ordinances and Mapping**
- **Wellhead Protection Planning and Ordinances**
- **Scenic Resources:** Incorporate as land use in comprehensive plan update.
- **Natural Resources Use:** Marcellus Shale impact on roads and Economic Development, Alternative Energy research, Land Use, etc.
- **Comprehensive Plan Update**
- **Zoning:** Training and mapping.

2010 VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS

Debbra Kapp

Chairperson
Oakland Township

Susan Hileman

Cornplanter Twp.
NW Industrial Resource Center

Marc Rickard

Cranberry Twp.
Conservation District

Rodney Gladd

Clintonville Borough
Southern COG

Ken Garland

Victory Twp.

Garnet Wood

Vice Chair
Franklin City Council

Jim Berry

Pleasantville Borough
Oil Creek COG

Harold Best

Cranberry Twp., Council

Warren Thomas

Richland Township

Dave Owens

Polk Borough Council

Sonja Hawkins

City Of Oil City, Mayor

Fred Krizinsky

Secretary/Treasurer
Oil Region COG

Matt Carlson

Sugarcreek Borough
Chief of Police

Keith Klingler

Oil Creek Twp.
DEP Roundtable

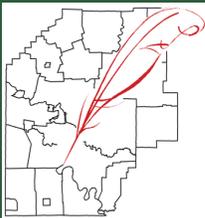
Bob Cross

City Of Oil City,
Controller

Terry Ray

Cranberry Twp.

VCRPC STAFF



Judith A. Downs

Karen Wenner

Erik Johnson

Chad Cochran

Alex Smith

JMT Engineering

Executive Director

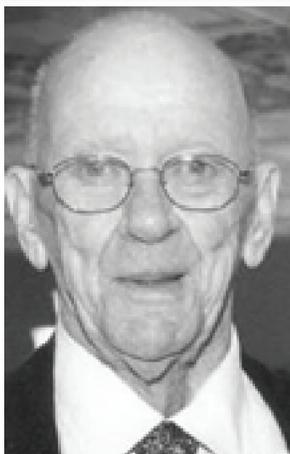
Shared Municipal Services

Planner 1 / Recycling Coordinator

Planner 1 / Subdivision Admin.

GIS Intern

PE, Engineer



The Venango County Regional Planning Commission was saddened in 2010 with news of the passing of fellow board member, Jim Berry. Jim's service to his local community of Pleasantville Borough, the County and the country as a whole was extensive and invaluable. A veteran of World War II, Jim was assigned to the Third Armored Division and fought at the Battle of the Bulge. He was held as a prisoner of war and received two Purple Heart medals. In recent years, Jim served on Pleasantville Borough Council and as its mayor - as well as a member of various local committees and commissions. He served as a board member to the VCRPC starting at the beginning of 2009. Jim was a great friend and colleague and will be sadly missed.



Venango County Regional Planning Commission
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