

# Venango County Regional Planning Commission



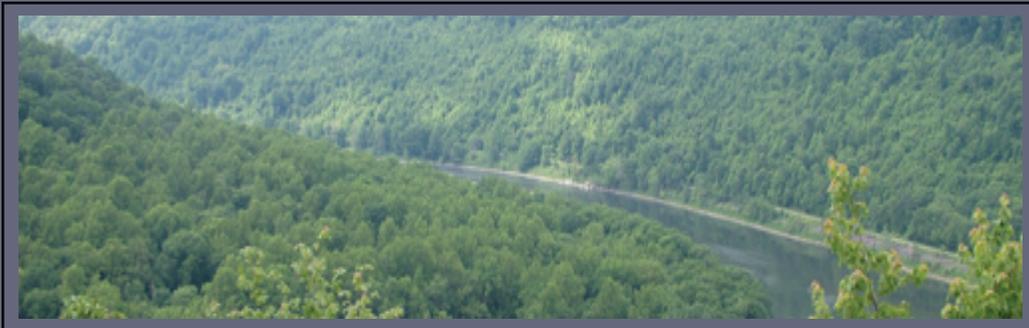
## 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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## MISSION STATEMENT

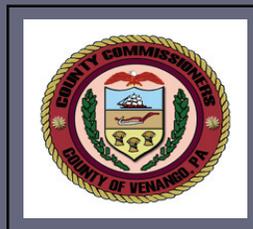
The mission of the Venango County Regional Planning Commission (VCRPC) is to support and advise all municipalities, other partners and organizations to aid in growth, development and land use in accordance with the comprehensive plan.

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.



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.

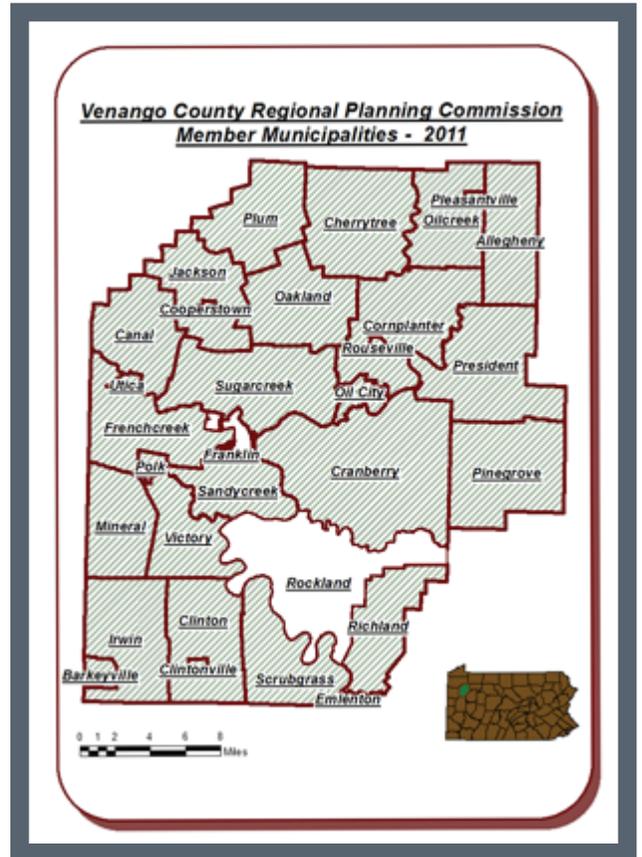
The Venango County Regional Planning Commission coordinates its efforts with local and regional planning organizations. The County Commissioners serve on the Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission, which includes representation from Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, 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.



<http://www.co.venango.pa.us/Planning/>



- 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
- Oakland Township
- City of Oil City
- Oil Creek Township
- Pinegrove Township
- Pleasantville Borough
- Plum Township
- Polk Borough
- President Township
- Richland Township
- Rouseville Borough
- Sandy creek Township
- Scrubgrass Township
- Sugarcreek Borough
- Utica Borough
- Victory Township



Venango County Regional  
 Planning Commission  
 ~  
 2011 Member Municipalities

**2011**  
**Venango County Board**  
**of Commissioners**

Timothy S. Brooks  
 Janet D. Biechner  
 Vincent L. Witherup

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.

**Venango County Regional**  
**Planning Commission Committees**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
 PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE  
 AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

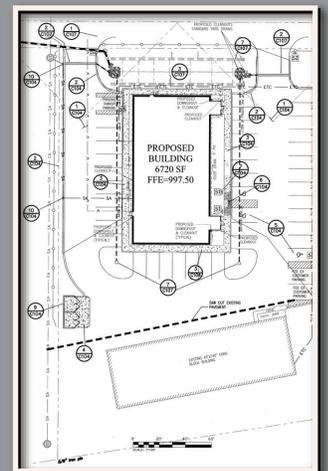
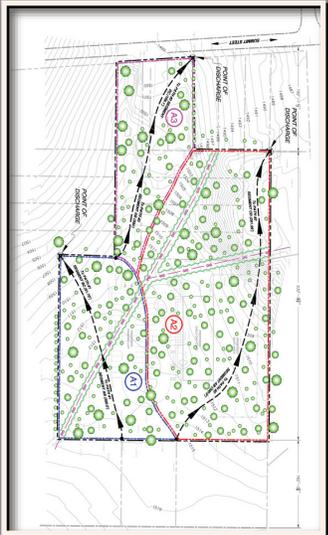
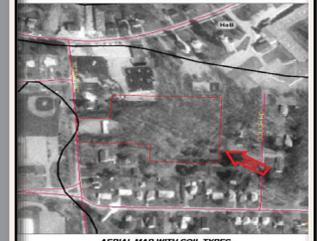
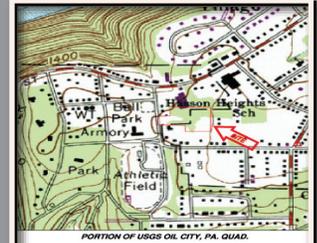
# Subdivisions and Land Development

In 2011, a total of 67 subdivision and land developments have been reviewed and processed by the VCRPC. Cranberry Township saw the most activity with nine subdivisions.

Notable major land developments approved in 2011 included the new Northwest Savings Bank branch, Childhood Development Center facility and G.O. Carlson Re-Melt Facility in Oil City; the PA Probation and Parole facility in Sugarcreek Borough; and Eastgate Plaza (approved with conditions) in Barkeyville.

2011 Subdivision Report (Minor, Major and Land Developments)

Municipality	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Per Municipality
Allegheny				1									1
Barkeyville													0
Canal	1						1	1				1	4
Cherrytree	1							1		1			3
Clinton					1			1		1	1		4
Clintonville													0
Cooperstown													0
Complanter		1	2						3				3
Cranberry	1			3	1	1			3				9
Emlenton													0
Franklin													0
Frenchcreek								1	2				3
Irwin				1	1								2
Jackson							1	1					2
Mineral							1						1
Oakland	1				1						1		3
Oil City	1		1						1				3
Oil Creek										1			1
Pinegrove	1	1					1	1	1		1	1	7
Pleasantville												1	1
Plum													0
Polk													0
President		1											1
Richland				1						1			2
Rockland			1			1					1		3
Rouseville													0
Sandycreek			1			2				1			4
Scrubgrass											1		1
Sugarcreek			1		1	1	2				1	1	7
Utica													0
Victory					1						1		2
Monthly Total	6	3	6	6	6	5	6	6	7	5	7	4	
Year to Date	6	9	15	21	27	32	38	44	51	56	63	67	
2010 Totals	4	8	5	3	7	5	9	15	6	10	4	11	
2010 Year to Date	4	12	17	20	27	32	41	56	62	72	76	87	



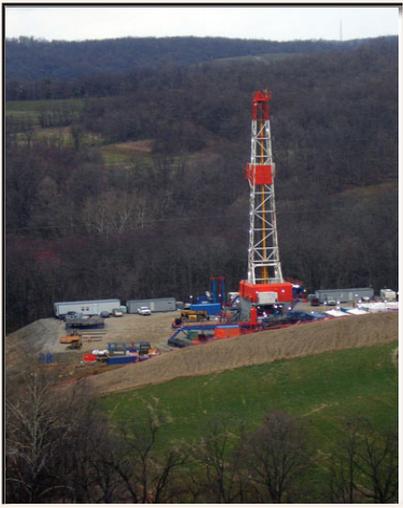
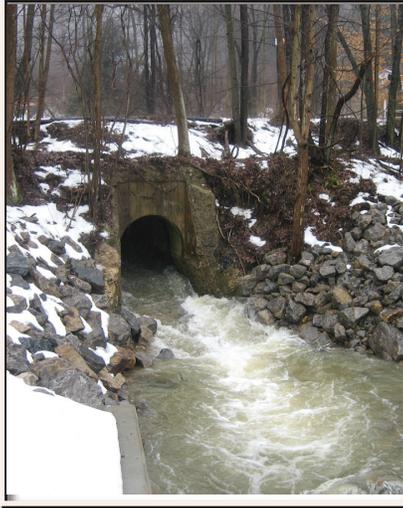
## ~ New County SALDO Update Complete ~

There is a new Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO)! After much review and deliberation, the new SALDO was voted on and signed by the County Commissioners on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

While many of the changes have been minor such as adding new definitions not previously called out, renumbering sections to be fluid and correctly calling out DEP Chapters for Organized Camps and Campgrounds; there were also some significant changes in items regarding Stormwater Management, lot size requirements and recreational/mobile home parks. For a more comprehensive summary of these changes and to view a copy of the revised document, please visit our site here:

<http://www.co.venango.pa.us/index.php/services-and-responsibilities>





## ~ STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ~

Review of Stormwater Management Plans for a natural gas monitoring well in Rockland Township were initiated in 2011. It is now part of the DEP Oil and Gas Checklist for permit applicants to comply with County Act 167 Plans. Moving forward, the Planning Commission staff anticipates a dramatic increase in these plan reviews as natural gas exploration gains momentum in Venango County.

### STAFF TRAININGS & CONFERENCES

- APA (PA American Planners Association) conference in Scranton
- Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) conference in Erie
- Hazard Mitigation training at annual PEMA conference in Harrisburg
- Zoning Officer workshop/training courses at Courthouse Annex, Franklin
- Zoning Matters: Law and Zoning Issues training in Crawford County
- PennDot trainings regarding Linking Planning, NEPA Screening Forms and Road Bonding
- APA training on Land Use Connections through Complete Streets policy
- Certification on Planning to Manage the Secondary Impacts of Natural Gas Exploration in Washington, Pa.
- Stormwater Management training at State College
- Recycling certification training courses in State College
- Northwest Pa. GIS conference in Clarion
- Pipeline Safety training in Clarion
- Sourcewater Protection training in Ridgeway
- Pennsylvania GIS conference in Harrisburg
- Hazard Mitigation Plan training in Pittsburgh
- APA National Conference in Boston

## ~ CORNPLANTER HOMES GRANT ~

In a move to further economic growth and housing market stability in the region, the Venango County Regional Planning Commission submitted an application to DCED for HOME grant funding for Cornplanter Township. This submission for funding was a follow-up to 2010's request for HOME monies for Rouseville housing improvements.

Funding awarded by either/or both of these grants will be used to rehabilitate properties in distressed portions of these communities. These rehabilitation activities are not only meant to improve the housing stock in these areas; but, also encourage economic development following an increased need for contractors to rehab or raze specific properties.



# CDBG PROJECTS

## Community Development Block Grant

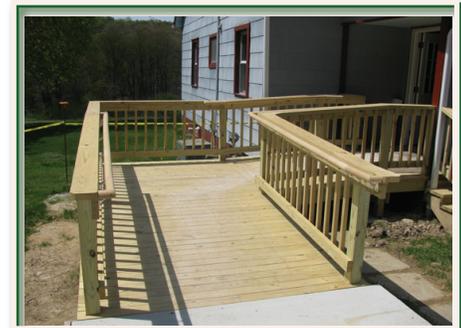
The Community Development Block Grant projects in Venango County for 2011 included a host of improvements, renovations and construction to Two Mile Run County Park, Emlenton Crawford Center, Rouseville Borough and Sandycreek Township waterlines, and Cornplanter Township water booster station.

Improvements to Two Mile Run County Park were completed at The Cottage. A variety of architectural barrier removal renovations now provide handicap accessibility via an outdoor wheelchair ramp and upgraded restroom/shower area — among other improvements as well.

Sandycreek Township and Rouseville Borough both benefited from waterline construction via CDBG funds in 2011. Sandycreek Twp. extended service to outlying residents along Morrison Run Road while Rouseville was able to upgrade/replace existing waterlines along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in the Borough.

The total CDBG funding allocated to these projects in 2011 was approximately \$232,000.

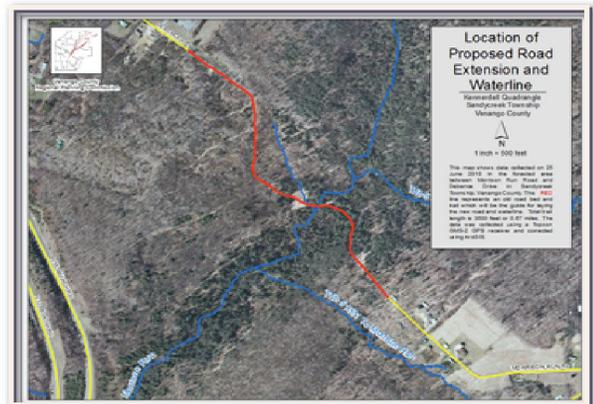
Two Mile Run County Park: Cottage Architectural Barrier Removal and Renovations



Rouseville Borough:  
2nd Avenue Waterline



## Sandycreek Waterline





### Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative

In 2011, the VCRPC was awarded Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) grant funding (\$250,000) for transportation studies within Sugarcreek Borough & the City of Franklin. The Planning Commission has contracted with McCormick Taylor engineering to complete the study. This project will assess the viability of creating a Complete Street connecting the City of Franklin with commercial sectors of Sugarcreek Borough along the Allegheny Boulevard corridor and Route 8 via Front Street in Rocky Grove.

### BRODY BLOCK ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

The Oil City Redevelopment Authority was able to secure much needed funding through an ISRP (Industrial Sites Re-use Program) grant in 2011 to assist with asbestos removal at the Brody Block Site. This grant application was prepared and submitted by the VCRPC to assist in the continued redevelopment of downtown Oil City. The Brody Block site demolition is anticipated to take place in 2012. This grant funding (\$152,625) will aid in the abatement of dangerous asbestos from the site prior to demolition.



Brody Block Building Interior



### ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES:

- Victory Township liquid fuels application assistance: Dennison Run Road Phase II paving project, \$64,000 awarded
- Rouseville Act 537 funding.
- Stormwater Management: Administration of SWM plans for Oil City, the townships of Jackson, Mineral, Allegheny, Cornplanter, Oakland and Cooperstown Borough.
- Plum Township Storage Shed.
- Sandycreek Industrial Park: Administration of grant funds to extend infrastructure.
- Transfer of final funding balance from 2007 Utica Sidewalk project to the Borough to cover additional miscellaneous costs.

# Countywide Recycling

## Spotlight on Special Collections

In 2011, Venango County residents were able to take advantage of a slew of special collection events geared to help them get rid of unwanted and hard-to-dispose of materials. These collections included another year for the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics as well as the addition of a spring & fall Pharmaceutical event. Each event was met with great success; and, the amount of tonnage collected acknowledges a growing awareness by local residents with regards to proper disposal/recycling of such materials.

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, the County hosted its third consecutive annual Household Hazardous Waste event at the Cranberry Mall. Over 200 households participated in the event with a total of 14,978 lbs. of material collected and diverted from the landfill.

The County hosted its second consecutive yearly Electronics/E-Waste collection on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Cranberry. With new legislation banning certain electronics from the landfills, county residents took full advantage of the 2011 event which saw the amount of tonnage collected almost double from that of the previous year's collection. In 2010, JVS Environmental, who was the contractor for both years' events, reported ~25,000 lbs. of e-waste collected. This number increased to 43,200 lbs. of electronics (mostly TVs, PC equipment and monitors) collected in 2011 with approximately 275 households in attendance.

In April, Venango County participated in its first ever Pharmaceutical Collection hosted in conjunction with the DEA and local/county law enforcement agencies. Six collection points were established in strategic regions of the county to cater to residential needs in both rural and populated municipalities. Due to the success of a spring collection, the County was offered another chance to host a fall event on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. A total of ~490 lbs. of pharmaceuticals were netted from both collections!



**Got Drugs?**  
Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal  
**Saturday, October 29th**  
Visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov) or call 800-882-9539 for more information.

**Date: Oct. 29th      Time: 10AM-2PM      Cost: Free**

**DROP OFF LOCATIONS:**  
Couthouse Annex, 1174 Elk St., Franklin  
City Hall/Police Dept., 21 Seneca St., Oil City  
Cranberry Municipal Bldg., 3726 St. Route 257, Seneca  
Pleasantville Municipal Bldg., 114 W. State St., Pleasantville  
Crawford Center, 511 Hill St., Emlenton  
Sugarcreek Municipal Bldg., 212 Fox St., Franklin

**Local Collection Event Sponsors:**  
Venango Co. Sheriff's Dept. - Venango Co. Regional Planning Commission  
Oil City Police Dept. - Sugarcreek Borough Police Dept.

Local contact for additional information, please call Erik Johnson at 814.432.9684 or email [ejohnson@co.venango.pa.us](mailto:ejohnson@co.venango.pa.us)

### VENANGO COUNTY ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT

**Cranberry Mall** Route 322 Cranberry Twp.  
**Saturday, November 5th, 10AM - 2PM**

**ACCEPTABLE ITEMS INCLUDE:**  
Desktop Computers      Laptops  
PC Monitors      Televisions  
Keyboard/Mouse      Misc. Computer Components  
Printers      Copiers  
Fax Machines      Radios  
Speakers      UPS Batteries  
Laptop Batteries      Cell Phones  
Digital Cameras      Appliances

\*Refrigerant Appliances(\$35 Freon Removal)/Flourescent Bulbs(\$1/ea.)

**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](mailto:ejohnson@co.venango.pa.us)



## 2011 VCRPC ANNUAL MEETING ~ TWO MILE RUN NATURE LODGE ~ NOVEMBER 19th



### ONGOING WORK ITEMS

- SALDO**: Communication to developers.
- Membership Services**: Liquid Fuels, Housing, Mapping, Grant Writing, Subdivision Review & Land Developments, Shared Municipal Services, Recycling, Ordinance Administration.
- Community Development Block Grant.**
- Solid Waste and Recycling.**
- Grant Writing.**
- Pleasantville Historic Resource Survey.**
- File Purge.**
- HOME Grants.**
- Sugarcreek/Franklin Smart Transportation Study.**
- Floodplain Ordinances and Mapping.**
- Stormwater Ordinance Administration for Members**

The Venango County Regional Planning Commission met on November 19th at the County Park to review work plan initiatives from 2010, assess its progress in 2011 and put forth new goals for 2012.

The meeting proved to be advantageous in providing staff and board perspective on how to focus efforts and attain goals associated to work load. To this end, the VCRPC shall institute a system of metrics to help gauge progress year to year.

Other topics of discussion included: additional communication and assistance to smaller municipalities, the public, & partners; enhanced knowledge of regulations; Plan Review Committee role in terms of land developments, subdivisions & waivers and the possibility of a future transfer of Housing responsibilities to the Housing Authority.

## NEW INITIATIVES FOR THE VENANGO COUNTY REGIONAL

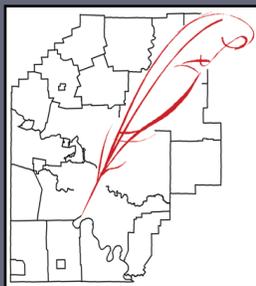
### PLANNING COMMISSION FOR 2012

- \* **Shale Gas Activity**: Training/workforce development, supply chain development, landowner leasing.
- \* **Telecommunications/Broadband**: Economic development, emergency management, etc.
- \* **Transportation**: Traffic patterns/use, first responders and information sharing.
- \* **Recycling**: Solid Waste Management Plan and special collections(tires).
- \* **Housing/HOMES Grant**: Grant passage, blight issues, land banking, legislation concerning zoning.
- \* **Proactive Permitting**: Protecting environment vs. economic development.
- \* **Conservation Easements**: Forest & farmland preservation.
- \* **Implementation Studies**
- \* **Recreation Linkages**: Water & Land.

## 2011 Venango County Regional Planning Commission Board Members

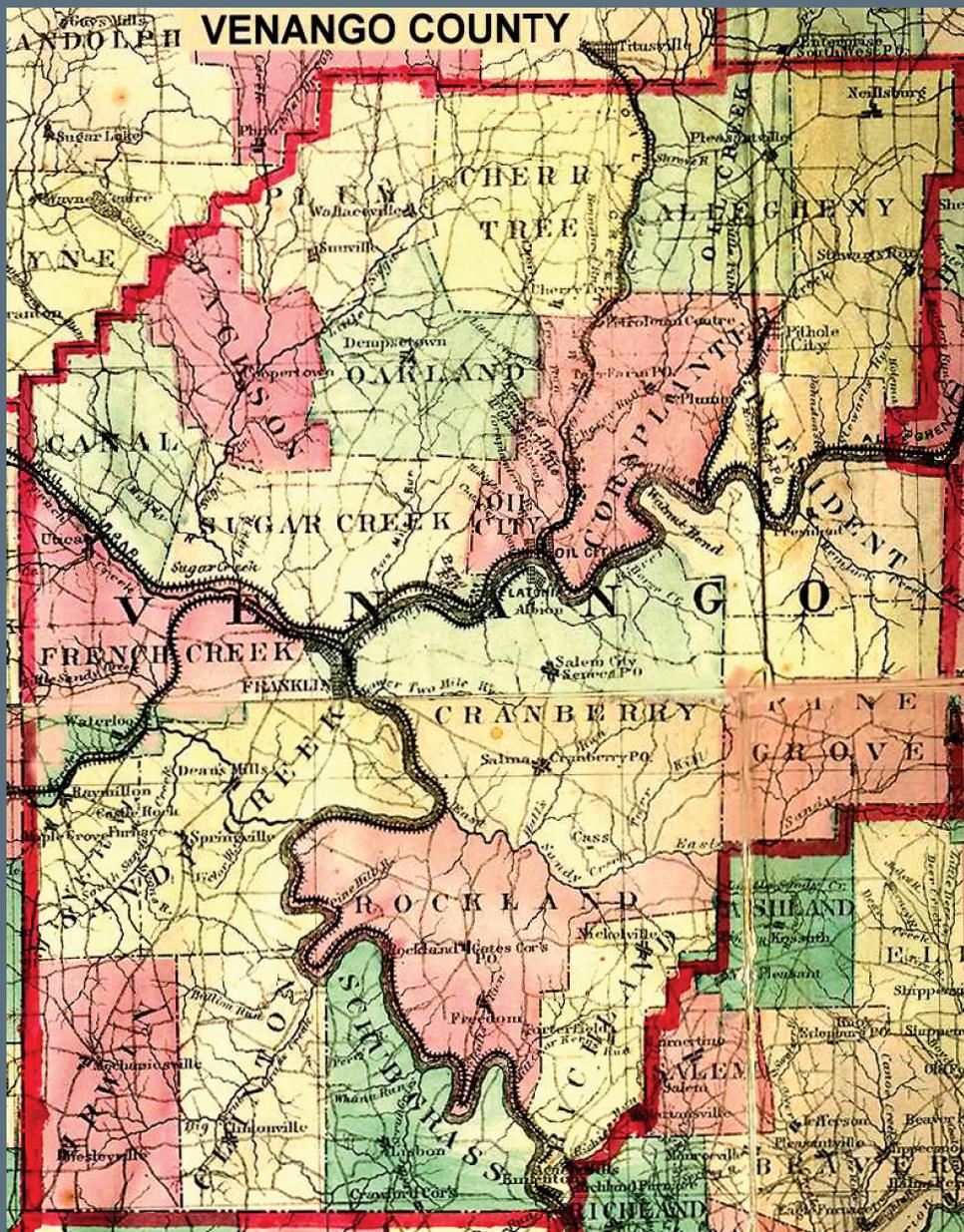
NAME	MUNICIPALITY	APPOINTED	TERM	NE = non-elected E - elected
Debra Kapp <b>Chair</b>	Oakland	12/23/08 12/24/04	1/1/09 - 12/31/13 1/1/04 - 12/31/08	NE
Garnett Wood <b>Vice Chair</b>	Franklin	12/23/08 12/22/04	1/1/09 - 12/31/13 1/1/04 - 12/31/08	E
Fred Krizinsky	Oil Region COG	12/15/09 12/22/04	1/1/10 - 12/31/14 1/1/05 - 12/31/09	E
Warren Thomas	Richland Twp.	01/01/07 12/04/02	1/1/07 - 12/31/11 1/1/02 - 12/31/06	NE
Marc Rickard	Cranberry Twp.	11/28/07 01/01/04	1/1/08 - 12/31/12 1/1/03 - 12/31/07	NE
Robert Cross	Oil City	12/15/09	1/1/08 - 12/31/12	E
Susan Hileman	Cornplanter Twp.	01/01/07 03/06/03	1/1/07 - 12/31/11 1/1/02 - 12/31/06	NE
Nick Melnick	Cornplanter Twp.	09/13/11	1/1/08 - 12/31/12	NE
Keith Klingler	Oil Creek Twp.	10/01/10	1/1/09 - 12/31/13	NE
Ken Garland	Victory Twp.	01/01/07 02/16/05	1/1/07 - 12/31/11 1/1/02 - 12/31/06	NE
Bill Flockerzi	Oakland Twp. Supervisor	12//31/10	1/1/11 - 12/31/15	E
Rodney Gladd	Southern Venango COG – Clintonville Boro.	12/15/09 12/23/08	1/1/10 - 12/31/14 1/1/05 - 12/31/09	E
Dave Owens <b>Sec/Treas.</b>	Polk Boro.	12/15/09 12/23/08	1/1/10 - 12/31/14 1/1/05 - 12/31/09	E
Harold Best	Cranberry Twp.	12/31/10 12/15/09	1/1/11 - 12/31/15 1/1/06 - 12/31/10	E
Sonja Hawkins	Oil City	12/31/10 12/15/05	1/1/11 - 12/31/15 1/1/06 - 12/31/10	E

## VCRPC STAFF



Judith A. Downs  
 Karen Wenner  
 Erik Johnson  
 Alex Smith  
 Christopher Berkey

Executive Director  
 Shared Municipal Services  
 Planner 1/Recycling Coordinator  
 GIS Mapping/Planner 1  
 Planner 1/Sudivision Adminstrator



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