

Planning Developments

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Congratulations to Otis Riden, Chairman of the Mifflin County Planning Commission, who was appointed Mifflin County Commissioner in December 2006.

Inside this issue:

CDBG Public Hearing to be Held	2
Growing Greener II Funds Available	2
Construction Set to Begin for Monument Square Streetscape Project	3
Wind Energy Workshop to be Held	3
Planning Commission to Hold Annual Meeting	4
Natural Areas Inventories Nearing Completion	4
Associate Planner Position Filled	5
Ordinances eLibrary Provides Electronic Access to Land Use Documents	5
Upcoming Events	6



Watershed Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC) meeting of December 28, 2006.

Stormwater Management Plan Progresses

by Douglas Weikel, P.E., Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

Phase I of Mifflin County's Act 167 Juniata River Watershed Stormwater Management Plan began with a Watershed Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC) meeting on December 28, 2006. The WPAC, which includes representatives from municipalities in the county, the Mifflin County Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Mifflin County, will guide the project team in developing the plan.

Mifflin County has completed Act 167 plans for Jack's Creek and Kishacoquillas Creek (which includes Honey and Laurel Creeks). The new plan will update these plans and complete a plan for the Juniata River Watershed, making this plan effective countywide. Primary goals of the plan are to:

- Manage stormwater runoff created by new development taking into account the cumulative basin-wide stormwater impacts from peak runoff rates and volume;
- Maintain existing water quality by preventing additional loading of various stormwater runoff pollutants into the stream network;
- Maximize the use of stormwater management practices that provide groundwater recharge in an attempt to maintain the existing hydrologic regime; and
- Preserve existing natural drainage ways and water courses and

provide proper maintenance of stormwater management facilities.

The project team is collecting and analyzing data. Each municipality is completing a detailed questionnaire to identify general stormwater information, as well as documenting stormwater problem areas. The questionnaire will also gauge the effectiveness of existing controls. The data will be used to develop the scope of study and level of effort for Phase II of the plan, which will begin in the fall of 2007.

Municipal participation and support is critical during the early stage of the planning process so that the plan will reflect what the local municipalities want and need to address stormwater related issues. Key items to be included in the plan are documentation of existing problems and proposed solutions to solve them. Strategies to address identified impaired stream segments will also be included in the plan.

The next WPAC meeting will be held in April 2007 to review questionnaire results and existing conditions, discuss the effectiveness of existing Act 167 plans, and identify issues to address in the plan. Phase I of the stormwater management plan will be completed by June 30, 2007.



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point of contact for the project,
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CDBG Public Hearing to be Held



Contact Melody Bratton at (717) 242-0887 to discuss projects before submitting CDBG proposals.

The FFY 2007 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application process is underway. Mifflin County utilizes CDBG funds to benefit low and moderate income citizens by alleviating serious and immediate threats to the health and welfare of community residents with improvements to neighborhood infrastructure. Projects typically funded by the program are improvements to water and sewer systems, housing rehabilitation for qualified families, road resurfacing, ADA modifications to public facilities, and playground improvements. A portion of the funds may be spent on improving or adding new public services. Mifflin County receives approximately \$225,000 annually from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and uses these

funds on countywide projects or distributes these funds to municipalities, authorities, and non-profit organizations on a competitive basis.

On December 7, 2006, a call for proposals was sent to over 30 recipients, including municipalities, service agencies, and organizations. Those interested in submitting applications for 2007 funding must submit proposals to the Planning and Development Department no later than January 16, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. Applicants should plan to attend the CDBG public hearing on January 25, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mifflin County Courthouse where they will be given the opportunity to present their project to the Mifflin County Planning Commission and the Planning and Development Department.



Mifflin County has received \$1,000,000 in Growing Greener II funds.

Growing Greener II Funds Available

Under Act 45 of 2005, the Mifflin County Commissioners have received an earmark of \$1,000,000 in Growing Greener II funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In order to obligate these funds, known as the Growing Greener County Environmental Initiative Program, the Mifflin County Commissioners have developed a Growing Greener II Strategy. The strategy is designed to clearly outline Mifflin County's process for choosing projects for submission under the County Environmental Initiative Program.

guide Mifflin County's implementation of the County Environmental Initiative Program. Projects must be eligible under Act 45 of 2005 Growing Greener II, be consistent with the Mifflin County Comprehensive Plan, be reviewed by the Mifflin County Conservation District, and leverage other private or public dollars.

Fact sheets detailing eligible projects and applications can be obtained from the Mifflin County Conservation District or the Planning and Development Department. The fact sheets describe each Growing Greener II program category that county bond funding may be used for. Eligible applicants are those deemed eligible to apply for the particular program in which they are interested. Applicants must be a local unit of government or a non-profit organization that is considered a 501 (c) (3) or 501 (c) (6). Applications must be submitted to the Planning and Development Department no later than **February 9, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.** Projects will be selected on March 1, 2007.



Growing Greener II applications are due no later than February 9, 2007.

Only capital projects deemed eligible under Act 45 of 2005 guidelines are eligible for funding and will be ranked by Mifflin County. Examples of eligible projects are farmland preservation easements, recreational facilities, alternative energy facility development, public water and sewer treatment facilities, stormwater management facilities, dam rehabilitation or removal, floodplain and watershed protection, and community revitalization. The following principles will

Construction Set to Begin for Monument Square Streetscape Project

by Gregory L. Elliott, RLA, The EADS Group, Inc.

In December 2006, The EADS Group, Inc., Mifflin County's engineer, submitted final drawings for the Monument Square Streetscape Project to PennDOT District 2 for review and approval. This project consists of Phases I and II and will include new sidewalks with concrete unit pavers, curbing around Monument Island, architectural light standards, pre-cast concrete planters, café areas with tables, benches, litter receptacles, trees, tree grates, stenciled concrete crosswalks, drainage improvements, handicap curb ramps, and revised parking layout.

Bids are expected to be solicited from qualified contractors in late February 2007. Construction will be-

gin in May 2007 and is to be completed by September 2007. Construction of this project will be paid for by grants awarded to Mifflin County through the Hometown Streets and Safe Routes to School program. Preliminary planning for Phase III has been initiated by The EADS Group and will include one-block extensions of the streetscape design along East and West Market Street and North and South Main Street.

For additional information, interested parties may contact Bill Gomes, Director of the Planning and Development Department at (717) 242-0887, or Greg Elliott, Director of Site Development of The EADS Group, Inc. at (814) 445-2470.

Wind Energy Workshop to be Held

In November 2004, Governor Rendell signed into law Act 213, the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act. The act requires 18 percent of electricity sold to retail customers in Pennsylvania come from "renewable and advanced energy sources" by 2020. Wind power is one of these alternative energy sources.

Several rural counties in Pennsylvania have been beset by the commercial development of large wind turbines. Based on information provided by Penn Future, an environmental organization supportive of wind energy, 10 counties located in the southwestern and northeastern sections of the Commonwealth are likely areas for wind energy development. One of those areas is Huntingdon County. In 2005, the Planning and Development Department was approached by individuals exploring the feasibility of developing wind energy facilities in Mifflin County. Are municipalities ready for this type of land use and its impact?

In response to this question and the growing interest, the Pennsylvania Planning Association (PPA) in conjunction with its Central Section is sponsoring a workshop entitled *Wind Energy and Community Planning*. The workshop will be an all day event on **March 27, 2007** at the Ramada Inn in State College. The program sessions will include an overview of the role of planning and energy alternatives, the siting process for wind facilities, economics of wind energy development, environmental and human benefits/impacts of wind farms, case studies of wind farm developments, and regulatory options available to communities.

The workshop will be a great opportunity to learn about this developing energy resource and its potential implications on our communities. Additional information on the workshop will be forthcoming in the next few weeks on PPA's website at www.planningpa.org.



Monument Square Streetscape Project construction will begin in May for completion in September 2007.



Greg Elliott, RLA, of EADS is the consulting landscape architect for the project and can be reached at (814) 445-2470.



Visit PPA's website at www.planningpa.org for more information about the Wind Energy workshop.

Planning Commission to Hold Annual Meeting



DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis will be the keynote speaker at the Planning Commission's 2007 annual dinner meeting.

The Mifflin County Planning Commission will hold their 2007 annual dinner meeting on Wednesday, March 28 at the Lewistown Rec. Park Community Center.

Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), will be the keynote speaker at the meeting. Secretary

DiBerardinis' topic will be *The Value of Natural Resources in Community Revitalization and Sustainability*. The Secretary will talk about the value of our natural resources as we work to revitalize our communities and make them sustainable.

Invitations and more information on the annual meeting will be mailed in February 2007.

Natural Areas Inventories Nearing Completion

Information provided by Rocky Gleason of The Nature Conservancy

In 2004, The Nature Conservancy began a County Natural Area Inventories (CNAI) that consisted of a two-year inventory of biologically significant areas of Mifflin, Juniata, and Snyder Counties. The Juniata, Mifflin, and Snyder Counties Natural Areas Inventories project is nearing completion. The CNAI is designed to inform county residents about their living heritage and provide a tool to use in planning the future of their communities. Completion of the inventories is also important with respect to future DCNR funding.

tory material will include a natural history overview of the county, which includes sections on common animals that occur in the county including mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, and dragonflies. The introductory material will also include a synopsis of the aquatic community classification of the streams, creeks, and rivers in the counties.

The Nature Conservancy expects to have a draft report ready for review by the end of January or early February 2007. The draft report will be reviewed by a committee formed for each county made up of members of various organizations. Committees typically include representatives from county Planning Commissions, county Conservation Districts, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, the Farm Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce, local conservation or watershed organizations, and regional universities or colleges. After incorporating important suggestions from the draft review committee, the final inventory reports will be printed and distributed. A final public meeting will be held to present the results of the project to the public. Both the final public presentation and delivery of the completed inventories should be finished by June 2007.



Fieldwork for the CNAI project was conducted in 2005 and 2006.

In 2006, The Nature Conservancy completed its second season of fieldwork for the project, and many interesting habitats and species of concern were documented. Site selections for ground surveys were based primarily on aerial photo interpretation, available database information, and suggestions submitted by local naturalists. Landowners were contacted to gain permission to survey private property. Since the beginning of 2006, The Nature Conservancy continued to prioritize ground surveys. Additional map and aerial photo analysis led to more ground survey sites being added to the list.



The draft CNAI report is expected to be ready for review early in 2007.

The report writing process is well under way, and introductory material for the report is being researched and written. The introduc-

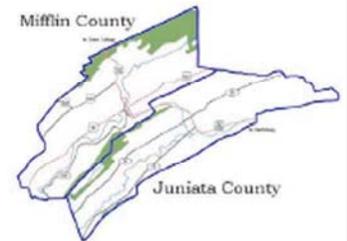
Associate Planner Position Filled

In October 2006, DCED approved a Shared Municipal Services Program (SMSP) grant in the amount of \$30,800 for the Associate Planner position. The Associate Planner will be a shared position between the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department and the Juniata County Planning Department.

In Mifflin County, the Associate Planner will be responsible for reviewing subdivision and land development plans and administering the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. The Associate Planner will also work with the Mifflin County Council of Governments, as well as assist with the County Public Sewer Plan and the Juniata-Mifflin Counties Greenways, Open Space, and Rural Recreation Plan. In Juniata County, the Associate Plan-

ner will assist Juniata County's Planning Director with reviewing subdivision and land development plans, assist with the development of the Juniata County Comprehensive Plan, and help maintain the Juniata County Planning Department's website.

Andrew Hartwell has accepted the Associate Planner position and will start on January 22, 2007. Andrew holds a Bachelors Degree in Applied Geographic Technology from Slippery Rock University. He previously worked as a cartographer and geospatial analyst at Wiser Imagery Services in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Andrew is a member of the American Planning Association (APA) and the American Association of Geographers. The entire staff would like to welcome Andrew to the Planning and Development Department.



Mifflin and Juniata Counties partner to fill the Associate Planner position.

Ordinances eLibrary Provides Electronic Access to Land Use Documents

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania created an online library of county and municipal ordinances. This resource is called the Ordinances eLibrary. The eLibrary is an electronic database and clearinghouse of county and municipal land use documents. The eLibrary provides Commonwealth agencies electronic access to land use documents they will consider when developments are under review and as required under the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). The eLibrary is a mechanism for local and county governments to promote land use documents to assist in coordination of planning between communities. The eLibrary gives business and community leaders and residents easier access to these documents.

The eLibrary primarily focuses on county and municipal comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, floodplain ordinances, subdivision and

land development ordinances, official maps and other official documents. Documents should be provided to Jim Shellenberger, Land Use Project Director, at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). The documents are scanned in PDF format and made available online at the county or municipal level and linked to the eLibrary, as well as provided to the county or municipality on CD. Amendments can be added as needed. All municipal zoning ordinances, subdivision and land development ordinances, and comprehensive plans within Mifflin County are now on the eLibrary.

For more information, Jim Shellenberger can be reached at (717) 526-1010, ext. 3351 or jshellenberger@pacounties.org. To visit the eLibrary, Mifflin County has a link on its website at www.co.mifflin.pa.us. The Ordinances eLibrary can be found at www.elibrary.state.pa.us.



For more information about the Ordinances eLibrary, contact Jim Shellenberger at (717) 526-1010, ext. 3351.



Visit the eLibrary at www.elibrary.state.pa.us.

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Donna Baer,
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Millie Sunderland,
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Upcoming Events

- Mifflin County 2007 CDBG applications are due to be submitted to the Planning and Development Department no later than Tuesday, January 16 at 4:00 p.m. The CDBG public hearing will be held Thursday, January 25 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mifflin County Courthouse.
- Growing Greener II applications are due to be submitted to the Planning and Development Department no later than Friday, February 9 at 4:00 p.m.
- The *Wind Energy and Community Planning* workshop, sponsored by PPA in conjunction with the Central Section of PPA, will be held Tuesday, March 27 at the Ramada Inn in State College. Visit PPA's website at www.planningpa.org for more information about the workshop.
- Mifflin County Planning Commission meetings for 2007 will be held the fourth Thursday of each month (third Thursday in November) at 3:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the second floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse. The reorganization of officers will occur at the January 25 meeting. The annual meeting will be held Wednesday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lewistown Rec. Park Community Center.
- The next Public Sewer Plan Advisory Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, February 21 at 4:00 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the second floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.
- The next Watershed Plan Advisory Committee meeting will be held in April. The specifics will be provided to the committee soon.

Developing a Better Community



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