

# Planning Developments

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## Save the Date...

The Mifflin County Planning Commission will hold its Annual Dinner Meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2010. The keynote speaker will be announced soon. Invitations will be mailed in February.

## Coming Soon...

The 2010 Mifflin County Directory is expected to be available during the month of February. A limited number of copies will be published, and it will be available online at [www.co.mifflin.pa.us](http://www.co.mifflin.pa.us).

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## Mifflin County to Update Municipal Waste Management Plan

By Terry Keene, Barton and Loguidice Engineers

The Mifflin County Solid Waste Authority operates a municipal waste transfer station on Route 522 near Lewistown. The transfer station opened in 2005 when the County's Barner Landfill on the same site became full and was closed. The new transfer facility serves residents and businesses of Mifflin County by providing a convenient location for local garbage haulers to drop off waste and recyclables. The facility, in turn, provides economical transport of waste to distant out-of-county landfills. The Solid Waste Authority also runs a recyclables collection program at nine public drop-off sites throughout the County (including the transfer station site), provides paper recycling for the Mifflin County School District, and has a commercial recycling program for select materials with over 20 participating businesses (cardboard/paper being the biggest commodity). The Authority also provides long-term post-closure care at the Barner Landfill.

Recently, tonnages began to decrease at the Authority's transfer station, resulting in lower gate fee collections. This situation required the Authority to dip into its capital reserves to meet its operating budget, a condition that is not sustainable. Authority staff had taken measures to reduce and control internal costs, but needed further expertise and implementation assistance to improve its negative cash

flow situation. In 2009, the Authority hired Barton and Loguidice Engineers (B&L) of Harrisburg to work with Authority staff to identify ways to stabilize and increase tonnages delivered to the site, and to increase revenues in the system.

Phase 1 of the study was completed in December 2009. The study identified ways for the Authority to offer more competitive tipping fees at the transfer station, ways to lower operating costs, and steps to increase tonnages and revenue at the transfer station. The most significant recommendations of the study are to 1) have the Authority enter large-volume discount contracts with large waste haulers, in return for a multi-year commitment of waste deliveries to the site, 2) have the Authority trim its staff to become more efficient make other internal cost savings, and 3) negotiate disposal rate discounts with the Authority's contracted transportation/disposal company, in exchange for increased tonnage deliveries. Many of the recommendations have been implemented, and the Authority now projects a balanced budget for 2010.

Phase 2 of this effort involves conducting an update to the Mifflin County Municipal Waste Management Plan. The last plan update was conducted in 2002-2003. These plans need to be updated at least every ten

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**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*The update of the Municipal Waste Management Plan is being funded in part by PA DEP.*

## County to Update Municipal Waste Management Plan (cont.)

years. Some of the Phase 1 study recommendations need to be incorporated in the County's updated plan document. The Planning and Development Department will oversee the plan update process, which should begin in the next month or two. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee will be re-established to provide public input and feedback during the plan update process. In addition to incorporating Phase 1 study recommendations, the plan update can address other solid

waste issues of interest to the County. These issues may include mandatory waste collection, open burning, and municipal waste bid documents assistance.

The Phase 1 study and the Municipal Waste Management Plan update are being funded primarily through a \$200,000 planning grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

## Annual Evaluation of Hazard Mitigation Plan Conducted

The Tri-County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry Counties was completed in July 2008. Mifflin County adopted its Plan in August 2008. The Plan was developed to enable political jurisdictions to proactively reduce natural and manmade disaster losses through advanced disaster planning. The Plan outlines actions designed to address and reduce the impact of a full range of natural hazards facing the County. The Mifflin County Hazard Mitigation Plan consists of 32 structural mitigation projects and 61 non-structural mitigation measures.

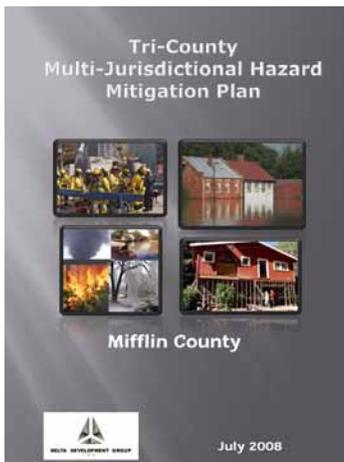
that they originally identified when the Plan was developed. The municipalities were also asked to submit any new projects that could be added to the Plan at this time.

On November 19, 2009, the Steering Committee meeting was held during the Mifflin County Planning Commission meeting. The information provided by the municipalities on the structural projects and the updates from the Mifflin County Emergency Management office on the non-structural projects were reviewed at the meeting. Of the 32 structural mitigation projects, three projects have been addressed and three projects are pending action. Of the 61 non-structural mitigation measures, 17 projects have been completed, 32 projects are in progress, and six projects have been deferred to another agency for action. A progress report is currently being prepared for submission to PEMA.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is required to be maintained by performing annual evaluations and five-year updates. The Steering Committee that helped develop the Plan must conduct the annual evaluation to determine the status of the projects and measures identified in the Plan and if any new projects should be added.

In October 2009, to prepare for the Steering Committee's evaluation, the Planning and Development Department contacted the municipalities of Mifflin County to obtain the status of the structural mitigation projects

The Mifflin County Hazard Mitigation Plan document and the results of the annual evaluation are available at the office of the Planning and Development Department. The Plan can also be viewed online at [www.co.mifflin.pa.us/planning](http://www.co.mifflin.pa.us/planning).



*Mifflin County's Hazard Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted in 2008.*



Visit [www.co.mifflin.pa.us/planning](http://www.co.mifflin.pa.us/planning) to view the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

## Mifflin County CDBG Projects Move Forward

Mifflin County's current projects funded by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program are progressing. Mifflin County receives CDBG funds annually from PA DCED to benefit low/moderate income citizens or communities.

Construction on the Ryde Road project in Wayne Township began in October and was completed in November 2009. Concrete inlets and piping were installed to control stormwater. Grading, stone sub-base, and final paving along with paved curbing were also completed. Final restoration occurred in December 2009. The project contractor was Grannas Bros. Stone & Asphalt Co., Inc. of Hollidaysburg with a contract amount of \$90,646. The engineer was Tap-tich Engineering & Surveying of Belleville. The project was funded from CDBG FFY 2006 and 2007 along with local contributions.



The Newton Wayne Joint Municipal Authority received bids for a new sewage collection system in Newton Hamilton Borough and portions of Wayne Township. Approximately 460 households will be added to the new system. The bids are currently under review. Contracts are expected to be awarded soon and construction to start in early 2010. The project engineer is Uni-Tec of State College. The project will be partially funded from CDBG FFY 2006, 2007, and 2008, as well as a CDBG Competitive grant.

The Mount Union Municipal Authority received bids for a new building and piping at the Lempkelde Well site in Wayne Township. The project will allow additional water flow into the existing system. The lowest bid was received from HRI, Inc. of State College in the amount \$388,600. The bids are currently under review, and a contract should be awarded soon. Construction should take

place in early 2010. The project engineer is Keller Engineers, Inc. of Hollidaysburg. The project will be partially funded from CDBG FFY 2008.

The road reconstruction project in Juniata Terrace Borough will be bid in February 2010. Construction is expected to occur in the spring. CDBG-R monies will fund the project.

The Ferguson Valley Road waterline replacement project in Wayne Township is expected to begin this spring. Bids are due February 16 for piping, stone, and other materials, as needed, to replace existing waterlines. Mount Union Borough will install the materials. The project will be funded from CDBG FFY 2009.

In addition, a request for proposals for the 2010 CDBG allocation was advertised and distributed in November for organizations and municipalities interested in applying for funding. The deadline for proposals was December 30. The CDBG public hearing for applicants to present proposals will be held during the Mifflin County Planning Commission meeting on January 28 at 3:30 p.m. Contact Jan McDonald at [jmcdonald@co.mifflin.pa.us](mailto:jmcdonald@co.mifflin.pa.us) for information regarding the County's CDBG program.

## Housing Rehabilitation Projects Underway

The Mifflin County Housing Rehabilitation program provides home repairs to income eligible homeowners through grant funding. Home repairs are made to correct deficiencies that are potential health and safety problems. First priority repairs (for health and safety) can include water and sewage, lead-based paint interim controls, electrical, roofing, heating, foundation, chimney, plumbing and bath, and porches. Secondary priority repairs (for energy efficiency) can include windows, doors, insulation, ceiling, walls, floors, and siding. Minor or cosmetic rehabilitation activities are not funded by this program. Investor-owned or rental properties are not eligible for assistance through this program.

In order to qualify for the County's Housing Rehabilitation program, applicants must be a resident of Mifflin County, meet HUD low and moderate income household limits, own and occupy the single-family home they wish to repair, have homeowners insurance and flood insurance (if applicable), and be current on real estate taxes.

The Planning and Development Department is currently working on nine jobs in the County's Housing Rehabilitation program. Projects are funded by HOME, CDBG, or CDBG-R monies and are progressing.

Interested homeowners can apply for the Housing Rehabilitation program in person at the office of the Planning and Development Department. Contact Doug Marks, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist/Construction Manager, at (717) 242-0887 for more information about the program.

# PLANNING FOCUS

## Stormwater Management Plan to be Completed in June

by Doug Weikel, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

Mifflin County's Stormwater Management Plan project has been affected by the Pennsylvania budget process. During budget negotiations, it became clear that funding through Act 167, the primary source of funds for stormwater management planning, would be impacted. Due to these funding concerns, work on the Mifflin County Stormwater Management Plan was slowed until the budget was finalized. The Pennsylvania's Fiscal Year 2009 budget, which was passed in October 2009, reduced the appropriation for the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Stormwater Management Program to \$0. It is expected that the Fiscal Year 2010 budget will also contain \$0 for the Stormwater Management Program.

In the weeks after the passing of the budget, the Stormwater Program received approval so that certain appropriated balances from the program's previous years were made available until the end of the 2009 Fiscal Year (June 30, 2010). As with all other Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans, the Mifflin County Stormwater Management Plan is being accelerated so that it will be completed by June 30, 2010 utilizing the appropriated balances from previous years.

To date, significant portions of the Plan have been drafted. The work completed includes a hydrologic model of the Juniata River and Jacks Creek Watersheds for both the existing condition and future condition. Currently, two areas of the Plan are being worked on: 1) developing the recommendations

for the identified problem areas and 2) the Model Stormwater Management Ordinance. The Model Ordinance is perhaps the most important part of the Plan, as all municipalities must adopt the Ordinance within six months of DEP's approval of Mifflin County's Plan.

Using input solicited from the Watershed Plan Advisory Committee and insight from the municipal engineers, the Model Ordinance will contain standards that look at the aspects of stormwater runoff. The Ordinance will be consistent with existing Stormwater Management Policy including the *Pennsylvania BMP Manual*. Some of the important standards include Peak Rate Control, Volume Control and Water Quality. The Peak Rate Control will include provisions for no increase in the rate of runoff. The Volume Control standard is intended to look at the total amount of runoff from an activity. The standard will include calculation methodologies using a design storm method or the simplified method. In other words, there will no longer be two release rates as is currently found in the Kish Creek Stormwater Management Ordinance. By meeting the Volume Control standard, the Water Quality standard will be met.

A draft of the Model Ordinance will be distributed to the Watershed Plan Advisory Committee, municipal engineers, and municipal solicitors for review and comment prior to the next Committee meeting that is expected to be scheduled in February.



*Phase II of the Stormwater Management Plan is being funded in part by PA DEP.*



*The project engineer presented an update on the Stormwater Management Plan to the County Planning Commission at their October 2009 meeting.*



*Doug Weikel, PE, of HRG is the engineer working on the County Stormwater Management Plan.*

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## PA Chapter of APA Holds Annual Conference

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) held its Annual Conference from October 4-6, 2009. The conference was attended by more than 550 planners and planning officials from across the Commonwealth. The keynote speakers were Dr. Timothy Beatley of the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning at the University of Virginia School of Architecture and Dr. Jeremy Nowak, President and CEO of the Reinvestment Fund. Dr. Beatley spoke on sustainable communities and strategies for communities to reduce their ecological footprint and become more livable places. Dr. Nowak discussed the state of the regional economy and the role and impact of Federal and State incentive programs.

Bill Gomes and Mark Colussy attended the following sessions at the conference: ABC's of LEED for Homes and LEED for Neighborhoods; Using Data and GIS to Target Neighborhood Stabilization Program Dollars; Improving Your Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance; Implementing Complete Streets in PA; Imagine Regional Plans that Actually Work; Planning for the Impacts of Development; Plan Regionally, Implement Locally: Multi-Municipal Planning in PA; Sustainably Repositioning Greyfield Sites; Water Resources Planning for Sustainable Pennsylvania Watersheds; and Accommodating Affordable and Senior Housing in the Comp Planning and Implementation Process. The programs provided diverse information on new technology, the subdivision review process, transportation planning, regional planning, redevelopment of older sites, water resources planning, and senior housing. Information on the sessions can be obtained by contacting Bill Gomes or Mark Colussy at the Planning and Development Department.

## Smart Transportation Workshop Held

The Central Section of the PA Chapter of the American Planning Association held a workshop on November 6, 2009 entitled *Traffic Impacts: Finding a Smart Solution*. The session was sponsored in conjunction with PennDOT. The first speaker was Brian Hare, Chief of Design Services for PennDOT, who gave an overview on Smart Transportation and the relation between land use and transportation. Daniel Kueper, a planner and Senior Project Manager with Michael Baker, Inc., provided examples of Smart Transportation in action in Hanover Township and in the municipality of Uwchian in Chester County. Mr. Kueper also presented flexible roadway design and relating land use to roadway type. Eileen Pauletta, Senior Project Engineer with Orth-Rodgers and Associates, discussed design features of the road, sample ordinance provisions, the new Transportation Impact Study Guidelines, and the Highway Occupancy Permit process. Ms. Pauletta stressed the importance of partnerships in developing the Transportation Impact Studies particularly during the scoping meeting. One of the partnerships she mentioned was with the county planning agency. The session ended with a workshop exercise presented by Mary Raulerson, Senior Transportation Planner with Glatting, Jackson, Kercher and Anglin, on how to apply smart transportation principles.

Approximately 34 professional planners and engineers attended the workshop. Bill Gomes, who serves as Chair of the Central Section of the PA Chapter of APA, assisted in the development of the program. The Central Section plans to hold another workshop in the spring on alternative energy sources. Information on upcoming professional development events and programs can be obtained by visiting [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org).



Annual Conference information can be obtained at [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org).



Visit [www.planningpa.org](http://www.planningpa.org) for events and programs offered by the PA Chapter of APA.



The *Traffic Impacts: Finding a Smart Solution* workshop.



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Developing a Better Community

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ◆ **Mifflin County Planning Commission meetings for the first part of 2010 will be held on Thursdays, January 28, February 25, March 25, and April 22 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mifflin County Courthouse. The Annual Dinner Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 1.**
- ◆ **PA DCNR has an open application period for the 2010 Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2). Applications will be accepted through the Environmental eGrants System only from January 6 through April 21, 2010. DCNR, in cooperation with the PA Recreation and Park Society (PRPS), have scheduled workshops on the program during February. To register, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/calendar). For more information on applying for C2P2 funds, visit [www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx](http://www.grants.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx).**

***Developing a Better Community***