

Planning Developments

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Approximately 36% of Mifflin County's total land area is agricultural land.



Mifflin County Continues to Preserve Farmland

by Dan Dunmire, Mifflin County Conservation District



Mifflin County covers approximately 264,128 acres. Of this acreage, approximately 94,133 acres on 1,024 farms are in agricultural use according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) 2007 Census of Agriculture. Agricultural land represents about 36 percent of the County's total land area. Agriculture plays a very important role in the County's economy. In 2007, the total market value of agricultural production in the County was approximately \$86,818,000. However, the value of Mifflin County's farmland goes well beyond economic value.

Farmland plays a vital environmental role providing habitat for wildlife, aquifer recharge areas, and open space in an increasingly urbanizing area. Farmland gives Mifflin County its scenic character and contributes greatly to the quality of life in the area. Increasing development pressure in parts of the County has taken its toll on agricultural land.

Pennsylvania's Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program was developed in 1988 to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county, and local governments to purchase conservation easements, or development rights, from owners of quality farmland. The first easements were purchased in Pennsylvania in 1989. Today, there are 57 participating county programs that receive state funds for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. Counties participating in the program have appointed agricul-

tural land preservation boards with a state board overseeing the program. The state board is responsible for distributing state funds, approving and monitoring county programs, and purchasing specific easements.

Recognizing the need for local leadership to conserve and protect remaining viable agricultural land, the Mifflin County Commissioners appointed a nine member Agricultural Land Preservation Board in October of 1992. The County Board's purpose is to preserve farmland by developing and administering a program to protect farmland and to provide leadership and support to the County's agricultural land preservation efforts. The Mifflin County Conservation District administers the program, and the Planning and Development Department provides representation on the Board.

Farmland tracts eligible for the program must: 1) be located in a duly established Agricultural Security Area of 500 acres or more; 2) have contiguous acreage of at least 50 acres in size or have contiguous acreage of at least 10 acres in size and be utilized for a crop unique to the area, or have contiguous acreage of at least 10 acres in size and contiguous to a property that has a perpetual conservation easement in place held by a "qualified conservation organization"; 3) contain at least 50 percent soils of land capability classes I through IV available for agricultural production; and 4) be at least 50 percent harvestable cropland or pasture land.

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County Preserves Farmland (continued)



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Visit www.agriculture.state.pa.us for information about Pennsylvania's Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program.

Applications are ranked according to soil productivity, development potential, farmland potential, and clustering, or proximity to other farms under easement and in Ag Security Areas. The top-ranked farm receives an appraisal to determine easement value. An easement purchase offer is made based on easement value and the amount of county, state, and sometimes federal funds available. Upon the landowner's offer acceptance, a sales agreement is drawn up and a survey is done to determine the final easement acreage. The application forwarded to the state board for approval after which settlement and recording of the easement occurs.

Since the Mifflin County program's inception in 1992, interest in the program has continued to grow. Currently, 17 farms have been preserved in Mifflin County totaling 1,970 acres at a cost of \$2,102,322, or an average of \$1,067 per acre. More than 4,000 farms encompassing over 400,000 acres have been permanently protected statewide. Pennsylvania now leads the nation in farmland preservation. A sound farmland preservation program will help assure that farmers in the County have sufficient agricultural lands to provide farm products for the people of Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, and the United States.



Mifflin County's Revolving Loan Fund is funded by a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant.

MCIDC Approved for USDA RBEG Loan

Mifflin County's Revolving Loan Fund Program is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG). The purpose of the program is to encourage business retention and expansion. The program focuses on new and existing businesses located in the Greater Lewistown area (Burnham and Lewistown Boroughs, and Derry and Granville Townships).

and renovations, which are part of an overall improvements project in the MCIDC Plaza. The buildings affected by the project include Building 1/36 occupied by Kardex and Buildings 34, 38, and 39 occupied by Lewistown Manufacturing. The loan to MCIDC will help retain 62 existing jobs and facilitate the creation of 50 new jobs for the community. The loan is being processed through Kish Bank.



Businesses interested in the Revolving Loan Fund Program can apply at the Planning and Development Department.

USDA and Mifflin County have recently approved a loan through the Revolving Loan Fund Program to the Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation (MCIDC). The loan will assist MCIDC with roof reconstruction

Revolving loan funds are currently available through Mifflin County's Revolving Loan Fund Program. Interested businesses should contact the Planning and Development Department to apply.

Department Welcomes New Staff Member

The Planning and Development Department welcomes James Lettiere, AICP, who joined the staff as Community Development Administrator in August. Jim replaced Jan McDonald, who left in August to focus on his work as Philipsburg Borough Manager. The staff wishes Jan the best.

risburg's Department of Building and Housing Development. He later held positions and was progressively promoted during his tenure at the Department of Community Development in the City of Cape Coral, FL. Jim is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the American Planning Association (APA), the Pennsylvania Chapter of the APA, and the National Community Development Association. He has been recognized for community contributions and professional accomplishments throughout his career.

Jim Lettiere holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Service with an emphasis in Urban Planning and Management from Penn State University. He has extensive experience in community development and planning. Jim served on the Patton Township Planning Commission in State College before beginning his career in the City of Har-

Jim enjoys fishing, hunting, listening to his iPod, and spending most of his free time with his two white boxers.



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Contact Jim Lettiere at (717) 242-0887 or jlettieri@co.mifflin.pa.us regarding the County CDBG program.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SPOTLIGHT

FFY 2011 CDBG Funding Cycle Tentatively Scheduled

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is funded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The goal of the CDBG program is to assist municipalities and counties in developing viable communities by providing suitable living environments, decent housing, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low to moderate income (LMI) persons.

With the exceptions of Derry and Granville Townships and Lewistown Borough, all of which receive CDBG allocations separately, Mifflin County's allocation is used to fund eligible and fundable activities (projects) throughout the County to municipalities, authorities, and IRS registered non-profit organizations on a competitive basis.

Activities or projects typically funded by the County's CDBG program are improvements to water and sewer systems, housing rehabilitation for qualified families, road improvements, ADA modifications to public facilities, and playground improvements. In addition, a portion of the funds may be spent on improving or adding new public services. Non-profit organizations that service every municipality within Mifflin County may also apply for funding based upon fair share from the three municipalities that receive their own allocations. Prohibited activities include buildings for general government, general government expense, political activities, and purchase of equipment with the exceptions of equipment purchase integral to public works, fire equipment, and public service. To be considered fundable, all activities must benefit a majority (over 51 percent) of LMI persons.

The Planning and Development Department is currently in the process of preparing for the FFY 2011 CDBG funding cycle. The following is the tentative schedule:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| November 1, 2010 | Notices will be provided to municipalities, authorities, and the public providing information about the availability of grant funds for the 2011 fiscal year. This includes the anticipated funding amount for the County. |
| December 21, 2010 | Application proposals are due to the Planning and Development Department by 3:30 p.m. |
| January 27, 2011 | The first of two public hearings will allow applicants the opportunity to present their proposed projects to the Mifflin County Planning Commission. |
| February 24, 2011 | The CDBG Advisory Committee will meet to formulate funding recommendations for the Mifflin County Commissioners. |
| March 18, 2011 | The second public hearing is for action by the Mifflin County Board of Commissioners for funding levels for the FFY 2011 CDBG application. |
| April 1-15, 2011 | The final FFY 2011 CDBG application is available to the public for inspection. |
| April 22, 2011 | The Planning and Development Department will submit the final application to DCED for consideration and approval. |
| September-October 2011 | The Planning and Development Department will be notified of the final action by DCED. |

For additional information about Mifflin County's CDBG program, or to obtain information about applying for CDBG funding, contact James Lettiere, AICP, Community Development Administrator at (717) 242-0887 or jlettieri@co.mifflin.pa.us.

CDBG Funded Projects Progress



The Ferguson Valley waterline replacement in Wayne Township should be complete in November.



The Newton Wayne Joint Municipal Authority's new sewer system is nearing completion.



The Lempkelde Well project in Wayne Township is anticipated to be completed in December.



Juniata Terrace Borough employees repainted parking and crosswalk lines after paving was completed in June.

Mifflin County's projects funded by the CDBG, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (CDBG-R), and Competitive Grant programs are moving forward towards completion. The funded projects benefit low/moderate income citizens and communities.

♦ **Ferguson Valley Waterline Replacement in Wayne Township** (FFY 09) – The main waterlines have been replaced by the Mount Union Borough employees. Six individual service waterlines into homes need to be installed, and the project is in the final stage of completion. All work is anticipated to be finished by the end of November 2010.

♦ **Newton Wayne Joint Municipal Authority** (FFYs 06, 07, 08, and Competitive Grant) – Work on this project is nearing completion for the new sewer system installation in portions of Wayne Township and Newton Hamilton Borough. New lines along Kistler Road, Silverford Heights, and Country Club Road are complete. Work is progressing in Newton Hamilton Borough, with approximately 90 percent of the pipe installed. During excavation, the contractor hit rock, which has slowed progress in this area. Street patching and repaving have occurred in areas where the sewer line installation is complete. Two of the three pump stations are awaiting final pump delivery, and the third is underway and expected to be completed soon. The meter vault at Kistler Borough is also finished. Some of the final testing has been completed as well. The main sewer, conveyance lines, and pump stations should be completed by November 2010.

When completed, this project will serve approximately 460 homes with public sewer. The sewage will flow into Mount Union's Sewage Treatment plant, which has adequate capacity to serve these areas. The contractors are Pumping Solutions, Inc. and Guyer Brothers. Individual laterals to residential properties will begin this winter.

♦ **Lempkelde Well in Wayne Township** (FFY 08) – Work has been progressing on the new building and waterlines to treat the water from the Lempkelde Well in Wayne Township. When completed, this project will allow a considerable amount of additional water to be supplied to local residents. In addition, the well will allow the Authority, when needed, to shut down other sources of water for maintenance and not affect the water flow. The building and waterlines are complete. Items to be completed at this time are electrical service by Penelec and installation of towers and telemetry for which additional right-of-way acquisition is underway. The project should be completed by December 2010. The contractor is HRI, Inc. of State College.

♦ **Mifflin Juniata Dental Clinic** (FFYs 06, 07, 08, 09) – The Dental Clinic has moved into its new location in the COMPASS Building on Dorcas Street in Lewistown. The move has allowed for more low/moderate income residents to be served in the larger and more accessible location. The grant funding is used to pay a portion of salaries and fringe benefits for a dental assistant to serve more eligible clients, due to a demand for services.

♦ **Juniata Terrace Street Reconstruction** (FFY CDBG-R 09) – At the end of June 2010, paving was completed on several streets within the Borough of Juniata Terrace. All of Terrace Boulevard that was not previously repaved, First Street, Second Street, and Henderson Way were milled and paved. The contractor was Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. of State College. The Borough employees repainted lines on the streets for parking and crosswalks.

Derry and Granville Townships' CDBG projects, which benefit low/moderate income citizens and areas of these Townships, have been progressing toward completion.

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Recreation is Important to the Quality of Life in Mifflin County

by Ann Toole, Toole Recreation Planning

The summer playground program has been increasing in participation by 20 percent every season for the last four years. As part of the Peer to Peer project, area citizens have been expressing how important recreation is to the quality of life in Mifflin County.

In a public meeting about recreation in June 2010, citizens of Mifflin County came together to share what types of recreation facilities and programs are important to them. Here is what they shared:

Playground Program is a Hit with Kids: The summer playground program is a hit. Citizens would like to see more recreation opportunities for people of all ages. Opportunities for youth, ages 12 to 14, would be especially important. More access, activities, and events along the Juniata River would be great. While there are nice parks in the communities, more ball fields and indoor recreation opportunities, such as gyms for sports and fitness, are needed.

In addition, a new idea, disc golf, emerged. Several citizens were interested in helping plan, develop, and maintain disc golf. People of the area would like to see more art, drama, music, and nature based recreation to enjoy. Citizens expressed concern that the recreational opportunities and facilities that are in place could just "go away" because no one is in place to plan, manage, and maintain community recreation as an essential service. Opportunities happen now mainly because volunteers and community organizations step up to help.

Participants of the public meeting identified the importance of volunteers,

public/private partnerships, and participation by municipalities and the County. With the current economic challenges, citizens underscored the desire to make recreational opportunities a more important part of community life here.

Partnerships Are Key: To implement a major recommendation of the recently adopted Juniata-Mifflin Counties Greenway, Open Space, and Rural Recreation Plan, we are moving ahead with developing ways to provide more recreational opportunities for area residents through Mifflin County's Peer to Peer Technical Assistance Project. Mifflin County received grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) to figure out how to establish more public/private partnerships, multi-municipal recreational opportunities, and continued use of volunteers to ensure the long-term viability of public recreation in the area.

The Planning and Development Department is working with the United Way of Mifflin-Juniata, Communities That Care, and the municipalities participating in the summer playground program on the project. During the summer and fall, we will explore how we can formulate a public recreation system rooted in partnerships. Our goal is to find a way for government, community organizations, and citizens to come together in sharing responsibilities and support for parks and recreation. Together, we can create a vibrant place to live, work, raise a family, play, and retire.

Individuals or groups interested in working with Mifflin County in this effort should contact Bill Gomes at (717) 242-0887 or wgomes@co.mifflin.pa.us.

SEDA-COG Solicits for Transportation Projects

On August 26, Jim Saylor, Director of SEDA-COG's Transportation Planning Program, gave the County Planning Commission an update on SEDA-COG's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and information on a small bridge study that is being conducted.

The LRTP that began in 2008 includes an inventory of existing conditions, as well as goals, objectives, needs, maps, and ranking criteria to review potential projects. The overall goal of the

plan is to develop a strategy to improve the region's transportation system and facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods. A Steering Committee, comprised of representatives of SEDA-COG's Rural Planning Organization (RPO), business organizations, and government agencies, helped update the LRTP.

In July, SEDA-COG solicited municipalities for candidate projects to be considered in the new LRTP. The SEDA-

(Continued on Page 6)



The Planning and Development Department, United Way, and Communities That Care are partners on the Peer to Peer project.



The playground program in Mifflin County is a hit with the kids.



The Peer to Peer project is funded in part by a DCNR C2P2 grant.



SEDA-COG's LRTP is intended to promote greater mobility, improve safety, and revitalize communities.

Transportation Projects (continued)



For more information on SEDA-COG's LRTP, visit www.seda-cog.org/transportation.

COG RPO staff and a subcommittee of the Steering Committee will review candidate projects and compile a pool of projects to be evaluated and prioritized using the LRTP project ranking criteria. Proposals will be evaluated based on economic and community benefit, consistency with county and municipal comprehensive plans, cost benefit ratio, inter-modal connection, inter-municipal cooperation, and environmental impact.

Jim Saylor encouraged the County and municipalities to submit proposals to be considered in the future when

funding opportunities become available. Examples of projects are motorized and non-motorized vehicle accommodations, trails, ramps, rail access, safety projects, and bridge repair/replacement. Prior to the September 30 deadline, the County and two municipalities submitted projects to SEDA-COG for consideration.

Mr. Saylor also discussed a small bridge study that is underway. The study will help identify problem bridges less than 20 feet in length. Currently, the only bridges that are inspected on a regular basis are those that are 20 feet or longer.

Chapter 102 Regulatory Changes Discussed



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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chapter 102 regulatory changes become effective November 19, 2010.

On September 23, Floyd Ciccolini, Resource Conservation Specialist of the Mifflin County Conservation District, presented to the Mifflin County Planning Commission an overview of upcoming changes to the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations. Chapter 102 regulations govern earth disturbance activities of all types and require the use of erosion and sediment control measures to minimize potential sediment pollution to waters of the Commonwealth. Floyd discussed how these regulations will affect development activity in the Commonwealth and in Mifflin County.

started construction by November 19, 2010 will be expected to obtain the NPDES permit.

Property owners affected by the new regulations will now be required to have a licensed professional sign off that all requirements for their project have been met. Projects of one acre or more of earth disturbance in special protection watersheds will be required to have a buffer area with no disturbance of 150 feet. Special protection watersheds affect two thirds of Mifflin County. Residential construction involving one acre or more of disturbance will also be impacted by these requirements. For instance, a resident building a home that will disturb an area of one acre or more must have an approved NPDES permit before a building permit is issued. In addition, sites with one acre or more of earth disturbance will also have changes in the NPDES permit fee structure. The NPDES permit base fees will be \$500 for general permits and \$1,500 for individual permits, and DEP will now require an additional \$100 per disturbed acre.



Chapter 102 regulatory changes can be found on the PA Bulletin's website at www.pabulletin.com.

Effective November 19, DEP's Chapter 102 regulations will require any project with one acre or more of earth disturbance to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit prior to the start of earthmoving activities, not including agricultural tillage activity. NPDES permits require a licensed professional to submit an application, erosion control plan, and post construction stormwater management plan to the local Conservation District for review and approval.

Effective November 19, Chapter 102 will also include additional regulations for agricultural activities in special protection watersheds, such as requiring written erosion control plans for animal concentration areas.



Contact the Mifflin County Conservation District at (717) 248-4695 with questions related to Chapter 102 regulations.

The new one-acre earth disturbance threshold for requiring an NPDES permit will change the previous DEP regulations, which required sites with five acres of earth disturbance or more, as well as sites between one and five acres of disturbance containing a point source discharge, to obtain NPDES permit coverage. Sites between one and five acres that were previously determined *not* to have a point source discharge that have not

Regulatory changes are in the PA Bulletin online at www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol40/40-34/40_34_p3.pdf. More information or answers to questions about the Chapter 102 regulations can be obtained by contacting the Mifflin County Conservation District at (717) 248-4695.

CDBG Funded Projects Progress (continued)

◆ **Maitland Area Sanitary Sewer Lateral Connection Fee Project** – The Derry Township Sewer Authority’s existing public sewer system did not previously serve the Maitland area of Derry Township. The Maitland area has experienced many on-lot septic system problems due to the soil types and underlying geology. As a result of a 1997 Township 537 study, the Township Sewage Enforcement Office (SEO) conducted a survey in the Maitland area and determined that 55 percent of the on-lot septic systems were malfunctioning, and 26 percent were under-designed. A total of 81 percent of the on-lot systems inspected failed inspection. The consequences of these conditions could have resulted in contamination of Jacks Creek through groundwater movement.

As a result of the study, Derry Township began the process of seeking ways to correct the problem by extending the public sewer service to this area. Another concern was how to address low-income residents who required assistance for hooking into the new public sewer system. Derry Township, with the assistance of the Planning and Development Department, applied for funding through the Pennsylvania Competitive 2009 CDBG Program. The grant application was completed in conjunction with Derry Township’s ongoing sewer project expansion to correct failed septic systems. The purpose of the grant was primarily to help income eligible residents in the target areas with the lateral connection expenses. DCED awarded the grant to the Derry Township Supervisors in May 2010.

Prior to the extension of the sewer project to the Maitland area, the Derry Township Sewer Authority provided sanitary sewer service to 2,350 residential and 78 non-residential customers in and around Yeagertown and the area of Derry Township adjacent to Lewistown Borough. As a result of the expansion project, 300 new residential and 2 non-residential customers were

added to the system. The majority of the residences in the Maitland area are now connected to the system. The Derry Township Sewer Authority stipulated that all residential connections would be completed by October 1. In some instances, the Authority granted approval for time extensions in order for the connections to be made. The Township’s grant covered only the lateral fee connection costs. Property owners were responsible to cover the costs of septic pump out, abandonment, and backfill.

◆ **Middle Road Ball Field Concession Stand (Veterans Memorial Park and Ball Field Complex)** – The ball field park and complex is located along Middle Road on the north side of the Juniata River in Granville Township. The property consists of approximately 14 acres of open field and approximately 26 acres of second and third growth woodland. The purpose of the park is to provide diverse, active, and structured recreation opportunities with some passive recreation uses. The complex is a multi-year funded project, which allowed for the acquisition and master planning for the park. The concession stand contains approximately 1,620 square feet, and the materials and labor were properly bid out and awarded. The materials contracts were awarded to Juniata Lumber and Supply and Big Valley Concrete. Electrical services will be provided by Penelec, while the post hole labor will be provided by Allegheny Sales and Service, Inc. As of October 15, 2010, the rough framing, plumbing, and concrete floor of the concession stand are complete. Granville Township will be completing all labor other than the post holes. At a later time, a well will be drilled to provide potable water to the site, and two handicapped accessible bathrooms will be provided. The concession stand will allow public access to food and drinks and will provide an eating area under an overhang, which will be an added amenity to the park.



Most of the Maitland area residences are now connected to the sewer system.



Work progresses on the concession stand at the Middle Road Ball Field in Granville Township.



CDBG funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



CDBG funds are applied for through PA DCED.

PLANNING FOCUS

Mifflin County Adopts Stormwater Management Plan

by Brad Newlin, P.E., Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

The Mifflin County Stormwater Management Plan was adopted by the County Commissioners on June 17. The plan was developed in accordance with the Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act, P.L. 864 No. 167, 1978 in order to maintain, or decrease, current flood levels by managing accelerated runoff from future development, prevent damage to stream banks, improve water quality, and increase groundwater infiltration. The development of the Plan was funded by both state and local sources. After the plan is approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP), each municipality of Mifflin County will be required to adopt the plan's model ordinance within six months.

This Act 167 Plan provides a holistic stormwater management plan for all of Mifflin County as opposed to individual watershed plans. Other plans that will be revised or incorporated into the countywide plan include the Kishacoquillas Creek Watershed Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan completed in 2003 (which included the Honey Creek and Laurel Creek watersheds) and the Jacks Creek Watershed Plan completed in 1995. Stormwater Management Plans had not previously been prepared for any of the remaining watersheds in the County.

Public participation was actively solicited by the Planning and Development Department throughout the project. In order to obtain input from the County's municipalities, a Watershed Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC) was formed and met several times during the project. With each municipality represented, the WPAC was designed to act as a conduit of information to and from the Planning and Development Department, the project's consultant (Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.), and the community. In addition, the Mifflin County Planning Commission provided a great deal of insight during the development of the Plan. Municipal engineers representing many municipalities also provided input for consideration.

The plan is a policy document to manage stormwater runoff. The goals of the plan were established during the early stages of the project with input from the WPAC to meet requirements of the Act 167 Program, as well as to meet the needs of Mifflin County. The Plan was developed to include strategies with these objectives in mind to address each of the Plan's goals. The model ordinance was developed through this planning process.

The plan provides the goals and objectives of the study; a county description including physical characteristics of the watershed; a summary of existing stormwater regulations and related plans; existing stormwater problem areas and obstructions; a technical analysis of hydrologic modeling; technical standards and criteria; a summary of stormwater management techniques; an economic analysis of the cost for implementing stormwater management; descriptions of existing water quality impairments and recommendations; additional recommendations to improve overall watershed health and function; adoption, implementation, and update procedures; and a model municipal stormwater management ordinance.

The Mifflin County Conservation District in conjunction with the Planning and Development Department plan to hold an outreach program to orient municipalities on how to administer the ordinance and to better understand the technical aspects of the Plan.



DEP Approves Stormwater Management Plan

In September, PA DEP notified Mifflin County of their approval of the Mifflin County Act 167 Countywide Stormwater Management Plan. PA DEP and DCED reviewed the plan and found the plan to be consistent with municipal floodplain management plans, state programs that regulate dams, encroachments and water obstructions, and state and federal flood control programs. The plan is compatible with other watershed stormwater management plans in the vicinity of Mifflin County's watersheds and is consistent with the purpose and policy of the Stormwater Management Act of 1978.

According to Section 11(b) of the Stormwater Management Act, each municipality within the area covered by the Mifflin County Stormwater Management Plan is required to adopt or amend and implement ordinances and other regulations (parts of zoning, building code, subdivision and land development, erosion and sedimentation control ordinances, etc.) that regulate development within the municipality in a manner consistent with the County's Plan and the provisions of the Stormwater Management Act. Municipalities adopting the model ordinance developed as part of the County's Plan, which DEP encourages, will not have to amend other ordinances as the model ordinance contains a Repealer Section. The deadline for enacting an ordinance to satisfy the requirements is March 9, 2011. Municipalities should notify DEP immediately after enacting or amending ordinances, and provide the plan name, ordinance number, and enacted date.

Depending on the appropriation of funds, DEP will reimburse municipalities for eligible expenses incurred to adopt or amend and implement the stormwater management ordinance. The reimbursement application can be obtained from DEP or online at <ftp://ftp.state.pa.us/pub/dep/SWM>.

Contact the Planning and Development Department for more information about the County's Stormwater Management Plan. Questions regarding Act 167 or municipal ordinance requirements can be directed to Barry Newman of DEP at (717) 705-6346.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

FEMA and PEMA Hold Mitigation Planning Seminar

On July 28 and 29, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) held a two-day seminar, *Mitigation Planning for Preparing and Reviewing Local Plans*. Mark Colussy and Phil Lucas, Director of the Emergency Services Department attended the seminar. The focus of the seminar was hazard mitigation and the necessary steps for an effective Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Areas covered during the workshop were organizing resources and assessing risks, as well as developing, reviewing, and implementing the HMP.



Currently, all 67 counties either have approved HMPs or are in the process of approval by FEMA. Counties must evaluate the HMP annually for projects that have been implemented. The entire plan must be updated and re-approved by FEMA every five years. Mifflin County's HMP was approved in July 2008. The Planning and Development Department is currently in the process of conducting the second annual evaluation of the County's HMP.

PEMA introduced a new approach for converting HMPs to digital format to create a standard format for more consistency statewide. Consultants are testing this approach for FEMA standards. FEMA wants new HMPs to implement more projects, which will be considered when approving plans. PEMA encourages counties to watch for yearly grants to apply for funding to implement projects and prepare the required five-year HMP updates.



Alternative Energy Workshop Held

On September 2, the Central Section of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) held an *Alternative Energy and Regulation in PA Communities* workshop. The workshop educated planners on the menu of alternative energy sources and their impacts on communities. About 70 planners and engineers attended the workshop including Bill Gomes and Mark Colussy. Bill Gomes assisted in developing the workshop.

Andrew Place, Deputy Secretary for Energy at DEP, provided an overview of the role of energy in Pennsylvania. He said PA is in the forefront of renewable energy, and the Governor's goal is to save \$10 billion in energy costs in the Commonwealth. Michael Newman of Advanced Solar Industries and Charles Williams, Jr. of Meyer Brothers Drilling conducted a session on solar and geothermal energy. Mr. Newman discussed the federal and state incentives to encourage solar use and the cost of residential systems, which can range from \$20,000 to \$40,000. The average residential solar system creates about 8,000 KW hours per year, while the average house uses 16,000 KW hours per year. Mr. Williams discussed the evolution of geothermal residential uses and the types of systems installed.



Other energy alternatives, wind energy and outdoor burning boilers, were discussed. Kevin Lampo of Sun Lion Energy Systems, Inc., spoke about vertical and horizontal wind turbines, the different unit sizes, and the KW/MW produced. He discussed wind turbine misconceptions, such as the noise level and challenges the industry faces for determining the appropriate height and location. Jane Greber, an Air Quality Specialist at DEP, discussed outdoor wood fired boilers, which are freestanding fuel burning heaters that resemble a small shed. On October 2, DEP released new regulations on the boilers (available at www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol40/40-40/1876.html) because of odor, smoke, and particulate matter produced. Setbacks for the boilers have also been an issue.



Sessions were also presented by Tom Committa of Thomas Committa Associates and Matt Tunnell of GreenWorks Development, LLC, who provided examples of how energy sources shape communities. They discussed green building technology and energy provisions in the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). A panel discussion on how local communities were regulating or trying to regulate the alternative energy sources was also part of the workshop. The panel included Susan Smith of the Law Office of Susan J. Smith and zoning officers from Lebanon County and Mount Joy Township, Lancaster County. Workshop presentation materials can be found online at www.planningpa.org.

PA Chapter of APA Holds Annual Conference

The PA Chapter of APA held its Annual Conference from October 3-5. More than 550 planners and planning officials attended the conference. Keynote speakers were Pat McCrory, former Mayor of Charlotte, NC; Christopher B. Leinberger, professor and founding Director of the Graduate Real Estate Development Program at the University of Michigan; Paul O. Swartz, Executive Director of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission; Carol R. Collier, Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission; and Kurt Hausammann, Director of Planning for Lycoming County.



Bill Gomes, Jim Lettiere, and Mark Colussy attended sessions that provided diverse information on ethical dilemmas faced by many planners, floodplain management, affordable housing and housing choice, farmers markets serving low-income households, land use law, designing streets to serve all users (not just automobiles), integrating transportation and land use planning, web technology to engage the public in the planning process, legislative updates, new approaches to comprehensive planning, farmland preservation alternatives, innovative approaches to transportation planning, funding opportunities, and how to engage the Amish in the planning process. Conference presentation materials can be obtained at www.planningpa.org.



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Developing a Better Community

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Mifflin County Planning Commission meetings for the remainder of 2010 will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursdays, October 28, November 18, and December 16. Meetings for the first quarter of 2011 will be held on Thursdays, January 27, February 24, and March 24, at 3:30 p.m. Meetings are held in Meeting Room B on the 2nd Floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.
- ◆ The Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI) will hold a Course in Subdivision and Land Development Review on November 3, 10 and 17 from 6:00-9:30 p.m. at the Juniata Valley Regional Business Center in Lewistown. Visit <http://cax.aers.psu.edu/pmpei/> for registration information.
- ◆ Mifflin County's Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Committee will hold its annual review meeting during the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, November 18 at 3:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the 2nd Floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.
- ◆ The deadline for applications to be submitted to the Planning and Development Department for Mifflin County's FFY 2011 CDBG program is December 21 by 3:30 p.m. Contact James Lettiere, AICP, Community Development Administrator, at (717) 242-0887 or jlettieri@co.mifflin.pa.us with questions regarding proposed projects.
- ◆ The Mifflin County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for FFY 2011 CDBG applicants to present proposed projects on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. in Meeting Room B on the 2nd Floor of the Mifflin County Courthouse.

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