

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

October 26, 2006

The regular quarterly meeting of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission was held on October 26, 2006 in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Dauphin County Administration Building. Mr. Lenker called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commission members present were Chairman Lenker, Vice-Chairman Forrey, Cumberland County Commissioner Eichelberger, Ms. Best, Mr. Bullock, Mr. Clark, Mr. Graupensperger, Mr. Heefner, Mr. Kerschner, Mr. Leppo, Mr. Memmi, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rhoades, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Sharar, Mr. Stees, Mr. Stokes, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Williams. Messrs. Szyborski and Reardon of the staff were in attendance. Mr. Stoner, Director of Cumberland County Planning Office was in attendance as a guest.

MINUTES

The minutes of the July 27, 2006 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Forrey, seconded by Mr. Clark, contingent a correction to the spelling of Mr. Forrey's name.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The actions of the Executive Committee on the Financial Statements for July 2006 were ratified on a motion by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Heefner. The August Financial Statement was ratified on a motion by Mr. Heefner, seconded by Mr. Bullock.

The Financial Statement for September 2006 was received for filing and audit on a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Sharar. Copies of the Financial Statements are attached to the file copy of these minutes.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

The actions of the Executive Committee on the expenses for July 2006 were ratified through a motion by Mr. Kerschner, seconded by Mr. Williams. The August expenses were ratified on a motion by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Forrey.

The payment of September 2006 expenses was approved on a motion by Mr. Heefner, seconded by Ms. Best.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Szyborski announced the receipt of a letter of resignation due to health reasons from Harold Kling, a longtime member of the Commission. (*Note: Mr. Kling passed away on November 3, 2006*)

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW: Pool Ecosystem Classification Project

Mr. Reardon presented a review of a grant application from the PA Natural Heritage Program to US EPA for funding of a project to study and classify the various pool ecosystems throughout the state. A letter of support was requested and accepted on a motion by Mr. Forrey, seconded by Mr. Stokes.

PLANNING PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Szyborski indicated his involvement with the Regional Action Plan as an outcropping of Governor Ridge's 1999 Executive Order on Land Use Policy and Growing Greener. The Planning Directors from Southcentral PA have met with the statewide departments to discuss the goals and objectives for this region. The Directors have identified the need for an umbrella group and are suggesting the Southcentral Caucus of County Commissioners established under CCAP be used. The Regional Action Plan (RAP) is set up to support each county with its own chapter identifying individual county needs as well as several common chapters. The TCRPC staff is being used as facilitators. The County Planning Directors plan to meet this fall prior to the CCAP Fall Conference. Mr. Szyborski recommends the Commission continue to support this method of approaching the finalization of the RAP. It was the consensus of the Commission to grant that support.

Mr. Szyborski recently returned from a three day MPO Directors meeting with PennDOT. The financial situation is still unresolved, although on November 15th, the Transportation Funding and Reform Commission is scheduled to release its recommendations for consideration by the legislature. It is unlikely action will be taken prior to the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Szyborski was asked by PennDOT to convene a subcommittee of MPO/RPO members to pursue a "Smart Transportation" initiative. The objective is to link land use and site development design with transportation access elements.

The Commission staff has also been asked to participate in a newly established statewide technical advisory committee linking transportation planning with NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act). This is to assure the planning process and the environmental analysis required by NEPA, are connected at the right points in time during the process.

PennDOT is developing a statewide travel demand model. As part of a potential MPO demonstration project, they will be working with TCRPC staff and its model to determine effective regional software design applications. Additional regional applications may include modeling for: freight, economic development, asset conditions, scenario planning, cross-border analyses, air quality, and others.

Consideration is being given to becoming more active in PennDOT's LTAP program which provides training to local municipal officials and employees. The Department will ask for assistance from MPOs to survey for needed topics as well as logistical help with training sessions.

PennDOT has recently published a handbook called “Developing Regional Long-Range Plans” in which many TCRPC/HATS initiatives and practices are referenced as preferred planning practices. These practices are included with national references selected by PennDOT for the document. Mr. Szymborski is very pleased with the staff’s initiatives and inclusion with such noted practices.

Staff will soon be setting traffic counters for Duncannon Borough. Staff hopes to be able to continue to offer this service to municipalities as best as we can. We are currently working with PennDOT to identify additional funding to conduct additional traffic counts on municipal roadways which would then be included in the state’s roadway database.

The GIS Staff recently completed digitally based zoning maps for Duncannon and Marysville Boroughs as part of the Local Planning Assistance (LPA) program. Data for these projects include: orthophotography showing existing conditions, parcel configurations, ownership, current land use, and the local street system. This is another example of the flexibility the program offers. We have had a similar request from East Hanover Township to prepare a base map for its use.

New GIS software has been purchased (ESRI) which will make the GIS system more compatible with our planning partners throughout the region. Staff has received its initial training, although more assistance is expected. Dauphin County Information Technology has been instrumental in helping the Commission make this transition.

The Perry and Dauphin County Comprehensive Plans are both in the public outreach stage with each expected to be adopted shortly thereafter.

Preparation of the Model Zoning and Subdivision/Land Development continues. The development of a task force is underway and should meet in February.

Staff is in the process of preparing County and Regional Planning Commission goals and objectives for 2007, as well as the performance measures evaluation for 2006 to be presented at the Commission’s upcoming annual dinner.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Heefner, seconded by Ms. Best, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Full Commission is scheduled for **Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paul D. Clark

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Secretary