Venango County Regional Planning Commission

Planning Tomorrow Together

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VCRPC BOARD APPROVED

Board Meeting Minutes October 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER – Monthly board meeting called to order by **Chair** Jim Miller, at 4:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL – A quorum of 13 board members (a majority of the 15 current appointees) was present at the public meeting of the Venango County Regional Planning Commission (VCRPC) on 10/20/2026, held in-person at 1174 Elk Street (Courthouse Annex) in Room 100, Franklin PA :

Present Board Members

Tracy Jamieson[1]: ☒Yes ☐No	John Neidich: ☐Yes ☒No	Nick Melnick: ☒Yes ☐No
John McClelland[2]: ☒Yes ☐No	Ben Porter: ☒Yes ☐No	Anita Fuchs: ☐Yes ☒No
Frank Pankratz[3]: ☒Yes ☐No	Larry Baughman: ☒Yes ☐No	Ken Bryan: ☒Yes ☐No
Jim Miller*: ☒Yes ☐No	Megan Weber: ☒Yes ☐No	Keith Klingler: ☒Yes ☐No
Kathy Cochran: ☒Yes ☐No	Glenn Speer: ☒Yes ☐No	Amy Whitehill: ☒Yes ☐No

Symbols denote the following Board-appointed positions: *Chair, [1]Vice-Chair I, [2]Vice-Chair II, [3]Vice-Chair III

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. **08/18/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes** – ✓Motion to approve the minutes made by Frank Pankratz, second by Glenn Speer. All approved.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – A member of the public addressed the Board with concerns about the status of ordinance amendments proposed at the meeting in August, which was not under considered as an action item for the current meeting. The call for amendments had been to address local regulation of data centers, particularly in the Scrubgrass Township area.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF REPORTS

- **Executive Director,** Joshua Sterling – was absent from the meeting. Staff provided news that the County's application for a Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR) grant to fund a Two Mile Run County Park project had been approved. The award of $195,200.00 will be used to rehabilitate the fishing pier at the north end of Justus Lake, install a handicapped accessible kayak launch, and repave the boat launch parking lot. Information about House Bill 2651 proposing Municipal Planning Code (MPC) amendments to add references for solar energy development was shared with the Board.
- **Deputy Director,** Jenna Dillion – informed the Board of a few early (pre-application) meetings scheduled with Sheetz located in Cranberry Township and a potential upcoming proposal for major subdivision.
- **Geospatial Analyst,** Alexandria Shreffler – shared an update on the status of the open audits conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance in Venango County communities, a majority of which can be expected to close-out in the next few months. She also reminded the Board of the upcoming event scheduled and hosted by the VCRPC Staff
- **Recycling Coordinator**, Erik Johnson – announced that 40-tons of cardboard had been collected at the Recycling Center to-date this year. There is an upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection on October 31st and encouraged anyone interested to register ahead for a drop-off time. He mentioned the County is currently seeking bids from vendors for the next 5-year contract for the HHW collection, with the bid opening scheduled to take place on October 28th. He also reminded the Board that the Center is collecting tires by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays during normal business hours, and the trailer on-site still has plenty of room for more tires.

VI. SUBDIVISIONS AND LAND DEVELOPMENTS

a. **AutoZone**, *Cranberry Township* – requested a waiver from Section 701.C.4.i of the Venango County SALDO. A representative of AutoZone provided information about the proposed stormwater management system and noted the requirement to provide a 2-inch drop between the lowest inlet pipe invert elevation and the outlet pipe invert elevation as required by the Venango County SALDO could not be met due to the design of the system. The Representative explained that the existing stormwater infrastructure at the site is too shallow to provide for a 2-

inch drop without compromising the integrity of the pavement for the site. The stormwater management system has been proposed in conjunction with the construction of an AutoZone retail development along US Route 322 in Cranberry Township, Venango County.

✓Motion to grant the requested waiver made by Keith Klingler, second by Frank Pankratz. All approved.

VII. SPECIAL PURPOSE MATTERS – None

VIII. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. **Council of Governments (COG)** – Report was given by COG representative Ben Porter. The upcoming meeting on Thursday November 19th was reported to be held at the Cranberry Township Municipal Building at 7:00 PM.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (GENERAL)

- Keith Klingler, Oil Creek Township – informed the Board of an award granted by DCNR to fund the acquisition of land by the Foundation for Sustainable Forestry (FFSF). The details provided in the application show plans for more than 700 acres in Frenchcreek Township to be acquired for conservation purposes. He expressed disappointment in the disregard of the No-Net-Loss resolution adopted by the County Commissioners, as well as the Venango County Comprehensive Plan. He asked for consideration to amend the Comprehensive Plan to include stronger language regarding No-Net-Loss of private property.

X. ADJOURNMENT – ✓Motion to adjourn made by Tracy Jamieson at 5:19 PM. All approved.

Recorded by Alexandria Shreffler, Geospatial Analyst: _____