

VENANGO COUNTY

Regional Planning Commission



Annual Report | 2021

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
Mission Statement.....	2
A Statement from Our Director.....	3
Member Municipalities 2020-2021	4
Grantsmanship Summary.....	5
Bank Building – 100 Seneca.....	6
Multimodal Hub.....	7
Venango County Recycling.....	8
Housing Market	10
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects.....	11
Transportation	12
Hazard Mitigation	14
Mapping & Data Analysis	15
Subdivisions & Land Developments	16
Venango County Board of Commissioners	21
Planning Commission Board Members	22
Meeting Schedule 2022	22

Mission Statement

The mission of the Venango County Regional Planning Commission (VCRPC) is to support and advise all municipalities, other partners, and organizations to aid in growth, development and land use in accordance with the comprehensive plan.

The Venango County Planning Commission was created in 1961 and consisted of a nine-member board. In 2005, the Venango County Planning Commission became the Venango County Regional Planning Commission consisting of a 15-member board comprised of county residents, elected officials, and members of the area COGs. All members are appointed by the County Commissioners. The Commission employs a staff of 6 full-time employees to carry out administrative and technical responsibilities. The responsibilities include countywide comprehensive and functional planning in the areas of community development, stormwater management, and recycling. The Commission also compiles and analyzes information about county characteristics and trends for use in evaluating proposed activities and projects and in preparing studies and plans.

Technical assistance is provided to county and local agencies on numerous matters including planning, zoning, subdivision, and development. The Commission administers the county Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, which requires that plans for subdividing land or engaging in major land development be reviewed and approved by the Commission. The Planning Commission maintains a library of publications and data used by the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities; and it is made available for use by other agencies and individuals.

The Venango County Regional Planning Commission coordinates its efforts with local and regional planning organizations. The Planning Director serves on the Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission, which includes representation from Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties. The Commission is a member of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association. The Planning Commission's functions and responsibilities are governed by state law, primarily the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, which provides for the creation, funding, and operation of planning commissions at the discretion of each municipal or county government.



A Statement from Our Director

First and foremost, I would be remiss to not address the obvious— *I am not Jason Ruggiero*. After serving Venango County as a Land Use Planner and then as Executive Director for more than nine combined years, Jason has decided to pursue his passion full-time as an organic farmer as well as a consultant on regional economic development projects. He left us with a legacy that will enable us to continue building on his efforts for many years to come. He will definitely be missed!

If I take a moment to briefly look back on 2021, my first thought is... did it even happen? Was it 2020 all over again? Granted, there are portions that felt very 2020-ish. We began the year working in “pods” to avoid feeling packed into our office. We put up barriers between us, when before it was open and airy. We all wore masks and tried to follow CDC guidelines in order to keep ourselves healthy. We continued to hold many meetings virtually. It was certainly stressful at times, but we stuck together, we adapted, and we overcame the challenges. And indeed, when I recall everything that happened in 2021, we accomplished a lot.

In the past year, Erik Johnson, our Senior Planner, became our County Recycling Facility Manager when— after six years of planning, preparation, and perseverance— he opened the Venango County Community Recycling Center. This will serve all residents of the county and help preserve our environment.

We saw the full replacement of Dotter Road Bridge in Rockland Township, a project which began in 2008. Furthermore, we completed a million-dollar project that extended our fiber line and created an emergency operations center, among other hazard mitigation projects.

With some creative thinking and planning, our Community Development Planner, Josh Sterling, successfully overcame the hardships of starting a home rehabilitation program, which included finding a housing inspector, coping with limited contractor availability, and facing increasing costs of construction. We started a program offering relief to residents affected by COVID-19 with rent, utility, and mortgage payments.

Our Geospatial Analyst, Alexandria Shreffler, is now a Certified Floodplain Manager, which enabled multiple municipalities and the general public to be assisted with floodplain regulation and protection.

We almost doubled our subdivisions and approved five land developments, spurring on our local economy. Ashley Smith did such a fantastic job, in fact, that she was promoted to Deputy Director to fill my vacant position.

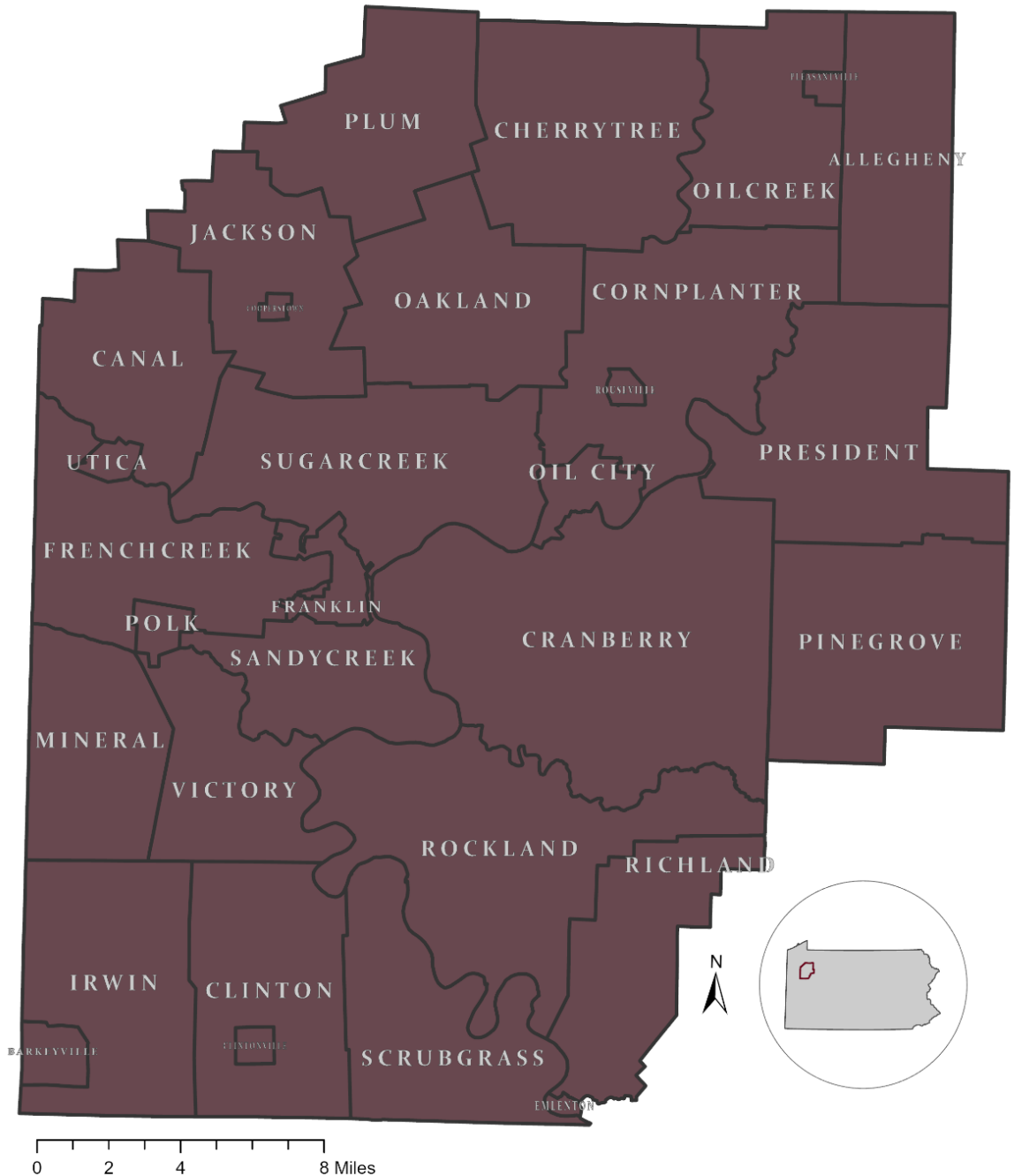
Not too shabby for a year that seems like a blur! And these examples truly understate the accomplishments of the staff of the Planning Commission. We’re very excited to move into 2022 with much enthusiasm and energy at our disposal, ready to serve our municipalities and keep up the momentum of our successes in 2021.

— Hilary Buchanan, VCRPC Executive Director

Member Municipalities 2020-2021

The commission is proud to report 100%, county-wide participation in the membership program.

Allegheny Township
 Barkeyville Borough
 Canal Township
 Cherrytree Township
 Clinton Township
 Clintonville Township
 Cooperstown Borough
 Cornplanter Township
 Cranberry Township
 Emlenton Borough
 City of Franklin
 Frenchcreek Township
 Irwin Township
 Jackson Township
 Mineral Township
 Oakland Township
 City of Oil City
 Oilcreek Township
 Pinegrove Township
 Pleasantville Borough
 Plum Township
 Polk Borough
 President Township
 Richland Township
 Rockland Township
 Rouseville Borough
 Sandycreek Township
 Scrubgrass Township
 Sugarcreek Borough
 Utica Borough
 Victory Township



Grantsmanship Summary

Legislative Pre-Disaster Management Grant

- Emergency Warning Signs and Barricades Equipment
- Generator Installation in the Sandycreek Municipal Building, Sandycreek Firehall, and the Franklin Professional Building
- Franklin Professional Building Emergency Operations Center
- Fiber Optic Line loop between Franklin Professional Building, the Sandycreek Firehall and Municipal Building, the Franklin Wastewater Treatment Plant, and back to Franklin

Transportation Set-Aside Grant

- Multi-Use Trail along Allegheny Boulevard (Route 8/62) in Franklin and Sugarcreek Borough

Recycling

- 2021 DEP 902 Grant
- 2020 904 Performance Grant
- 2020 903 Recycling Coordinator Grant
- Various HHW Reimbursement Grants

Community Development

CDBG – County

- Home Rehab
- Demolition
- Emlenton Hughes Park ADA Project
- Barkeyville Municipal Building ADA Project
- 100 Seneca at Cornplanter Square Rehabilitation
- Rouseville Borough Sidewalk Project
- Clintonville Borough Water Meters Replacement Project
- Clinton Township Municipal Building ADA Project
- Clintonville Community Food Pantry Supplies/Equipment
- Conservation District/ADA Trail Improvement Project
- Emlenton Stormwater Infrastructure Project
- Reno Polling Place ADA Project

CDBG-CV

- Rent, Mortgage, & Utility Payments

CDBG – OBO

- Cranberry Home Rehab
- Cranberry Demolition
- Sugarcreek Home Rehab

PHARE – County

- Home Rehab

HOME – Franklin

- Home Rehab

Bank Building – 100 Seneca

From the desk of Emily – “Here at the Venango County Economic Development Authority, we have been busy at work to revitalize the former Oil City National Bank building or, as we now call it, 100 Seneca at Cornplanter Square. The 5th floor of the building will serve as our business innovation center. The center will house a large meeting room, which will be open to the public as well as co-working space, maker-space and traditional commercial office-space. We anticipate starting construction on that and associated building rehabilitation work in the first quarter of 2022. On the first floor of the building, we have been working diligently with our architects to create a plan for preserving the vaulted fresco ceiling in the lobby and restoring other valuable historic features of the first and second floors. A local entrepreneur who co-owns a craft beer and artisan spirits company will be leasing space on both the first and part of the second floor of the building to create a brew pub and distillery that will also serve as the company’s experimental and prototyping production facility. We couldn’t be more excited about this partnership. If you are interested in learning more about our plans for the building or know someone that may be interested in leasing the remaining available space on the first floor or subsequent floors, I encourage you to visit the building’s website at www.100seneca.com.

“In other exciting news, the eAcademy program is in its third year. The eAcademy is a dual enrollment entrepreneurship program for high school seniors designed to immerse students in learning about economic development, entrepreneurship, and local businesses. The eAcademy program receives participants from Rocky Grove, Oil City, Cranberry, Titusville and Forest High Schools and I am happy to say that several students from our year-1 cohort have gone on to start businesses in Venango County.

“If you are interested in learning more about 100 Seneca, the eAcademy, or other economic development authority projects, a schedule of our meeting dates can be found on our webpage, www.vceda.com.”

– Emily Lewis, VCEDA Executive Director



100 Seneca, 2021

Multimodal Hub

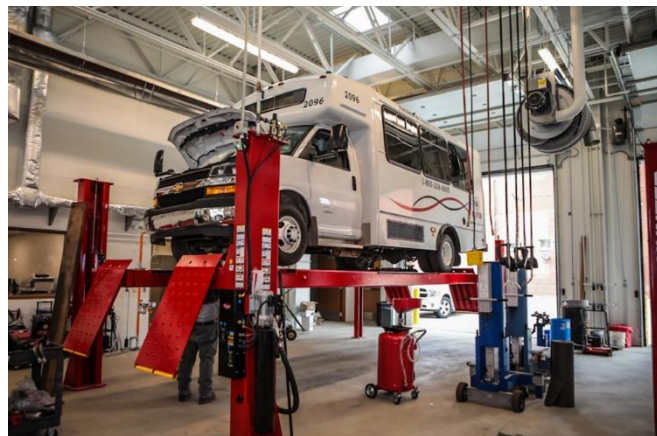
In June of 2019, construction began on Phase II of the Venango County Multimodal Hub. The second and final phase of the project will result in the completion of a project that began in 2017 with the demolition of the former Oil City Parking Garage. This phase of construction has cost approximately \$10 million with Venango County contributing only \$60,000 of that total amount. The balance of the project cost was covered by PennDOT funding through the Bureau of Public Transit.

The project, which was undertaken in partnership with both PennDOT and the Crawford Area Transit Authority (CATA), was completed on May 17, 2021. At that point, CATA relocated its Venango County operations from their location adjacent to the Venango Regional Airport to the new multimodal facility, allowing for its previous location to be used as the new Venango County Community Recycling Center. The multimodal facility includes new administrative offices, four maintenance bays, a dedicated bus wash facility and indoor storage for up to 25 transit vehicles.

In total, the Venango County Multimodal project has invested more than \$12 million into Oil City's Northside neighborhood and will result in a more user-friendly and cost-effective public transit system in Venango County.



Emily Lewis, VCEDA Executive Director (left) and Jason Ruggiero, VCRPC Executive Director (right). Photo credit to Rich Sayer.



Multimodal Hub, June 2021. Photo credit to Explore Venango.

Venango County Recycling

Venango County Community Recycling Center

In 2015, the County adopted their most recent Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling Plan. These plans are required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania every 10 years to establish guaranteed landfill space capacity for the county going forward. In addition to solid waste management provisions, these plans are aimed at analyzing and enhancing County recycling programs via a series of recommendations or goals.

With a consistent loss of multiple rural recycling drop-off sites throughout the County due to rampant illegal dumping, the County included a recommendation within this new plan to create a centralized, Countywide Recycling Convenience Center available to all residents. This facility would be staffed to mitigate potential dumping activities and collect all manner of household recycling items. Fast forward six years; and, that goal was achieved through County administrative perseverance, as well as state funding via the DEP's 902 grant program.

In 2021, the County opened the new Venango County Community Recycling Center to the public. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on July 16th with many residents and community/business/civic leaders in attendance at the facility.

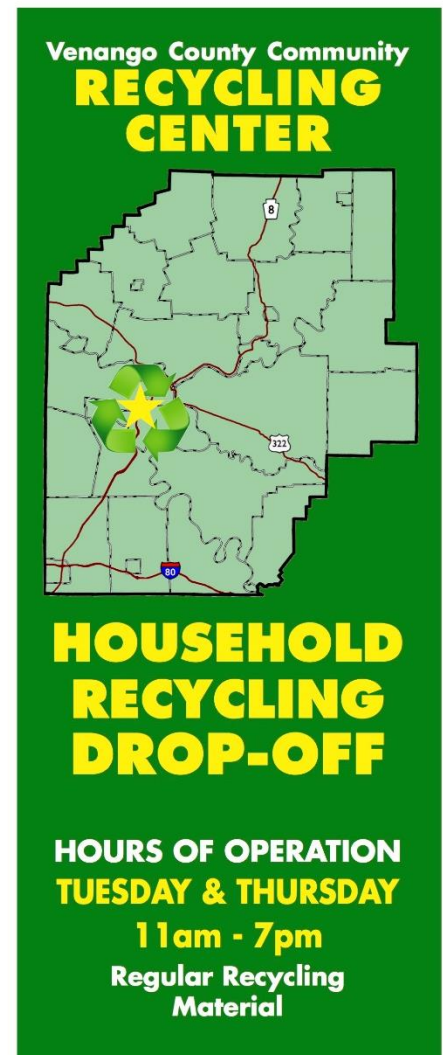
Located at 134 Hangar Drive in Franklin, Pennsylvania, next to the County's regional airport, this property is County-owned and previously occupied by the Crawford Area Transit Authority. In the true spirit of recycling, the County opted to "re-use" this property, formerly known as the "County Garage", for the recycling center. Materials currently accepted include: Plastics #1(PET), #2(HDPE) and #5, Metal and Aluminum Cans, Glass Bottles (all colors), Paper Products (newspaper, office paper, magazines and paper board), and Corrugated Cardboard. Going forward, the center's program will strive to continue to expand access for residents to recycle "Special Collections" materials such as Household Hazardous Waste (Paints and Chemicals), Electronics and Tires.

For more information on the Venango County Community Recycling Center and the County Recycling Program, please visit the county website at <https://www.co.venango.pa.us/278/Recycling> or contact the Venango County Recycling Coordinator, Erik Johnson, at ejohnson@co.venango.pa.us.

Special Collection Events

In 2021, the County of Venango hosted a multitude of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Electronic recycling events. These special collection events are geared to provide residents and businesses access to properly recycle or dispose of materials that cannot be thrown in with the regular municipal waste streams. Furthermore, this program is very important in helping to mitigate illegal dumping activities throughout the county by coordinating this service for the public.

From January to October, 16,539 lbs. of HHW was collected via the program. This type of waste includes all manner of paints and toxic household chemicals that can contaminated ground water if leached from the landfill. In addition to this material, 41,566 lbs. of Electronics were collected and recycled at these events.





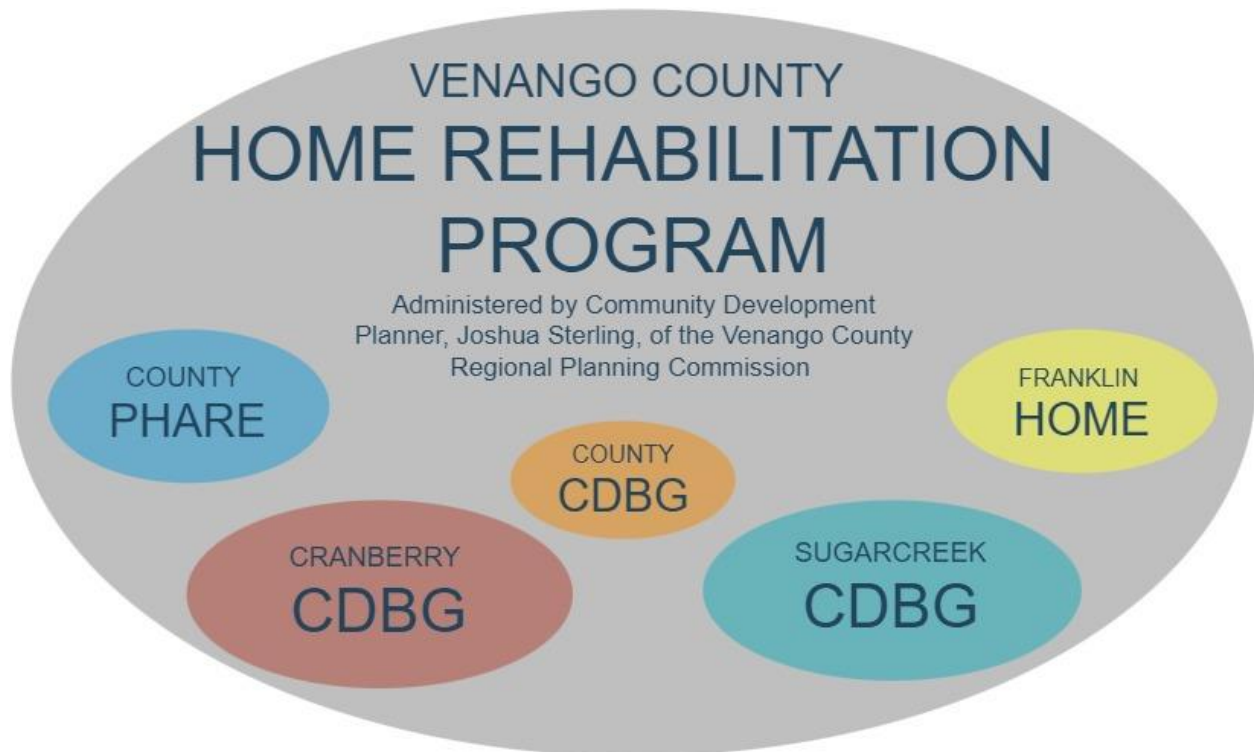
The Recycling Center Ribbon Cutting, July 2021. VCRPC Staff pictured above, from left to right: Alexandria Shreffler, Hilary Buchanan, Jason Ruggiero, Ashley Smith, Erik Johnson, and Joshua Sterling.



Housing Market

The County of Venango continues its two-pronged approach to correct an out-of-balance housing market that has needed corrective actions for decades, as detailed in a 2009 housing market analysis by the consulting firm CZBLLC. A substantial overstock of housing has led to an ever-growing list of vacant properties and households across the county suffering the effects of deferred maintenance, whether the subject of their own homes or those around them. The natural course for blight, according to the housing analysis, is to spread – unless there is a sustained public sector effort to mitigate the problem. Through the County’s – and the communities it administers on-behalf-of (OBO) – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs, the approach to address blight includes 1) owner-occupied home rehabilitation and 2) demolitions of blighted structures.

Altogether known as “The Venango County Home Rehabilitation Program,” administered by Community Development Planner Joshua Sterling, the program awards funding to low- to moderate-income (LMI) homeowners in order to help maintain the housing stock that may otherwise become in danger of falling into blight conditions. Through the program, the County collects pertinent income and household composition data required to determine eligibility. Once a household is qualified, the County sends its third-party home inspector to the residence to draft a work write-up, in consultation with the homeowner. The homeowner then gets to choose three vetted General Contractors from a County-maintained list to receive bid packets for the project, which includes the work write-up. The lowest bidder is awarded the Contract, unless the homeowner opts for one of the other bidders and agrees to pay the cost difference. The homeowner also agrees to a 5-year depreciating lien that is attached to their home’s deed for a period of five years (except in the case of PHARE), at an amount equal to half the cost of the grant-funded home rehab.



HOME Investment Partnership

Once the City of Franklin partnered with the County on the administration of a HOME Investment Partnerships Program grant, Planning staff then set to work reestablishing a home rehabilitation program that had not existed for a number of years in the County. The Borough of Sugar creek then modified its FFY2016 CDBG Contract to include approximately \$60,000 for owner-occupied home rehabilitation. During the pre-application phase for its FFY2017 CDBG program, Cranberry Township decided to allocate its entire entitlement into the housing rehabilitation program. From 2018 to present, both Sugar creek and Cranberry have allocated nearly all of their CDBG funding into housing rehabilitation and demolitions.

Future Funding

In 2021, the County applied for a \$680,000 Pennsylvania Housing And Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) fund grant, expressly for countywide housing rehabilitation. After discussions with officials at Oil City and Franklin, the County intends to submit a follow-up HOME grant application in partnership with Franklin and a first HOME grant for Oil City, in 2022.

Blight Demolition

The complement to the home rehabilitation side of this initiative is blight demolitions. According to the housing market analysis, there are approximately 5,000 more housing units affordable to households earning less than 50 percent of the area median income than there are households at that income level. Therefore, outside of an economic boom to the scale that established the local cities and economies with the birth of the oil industry, part of the solution must be to remove the housing market's overstock through demolitions of buildings currently contributing to community blight.

One way the County is accomplishing this project is by partnering with all its municipalities to purchase homes off tax sales through the Venango County Land Bank. The Land Bank has the power to purchase homes from those sales without competitive bids. This makes the larger goal of removing properties with extreme deferred maintenance and clearing the lots for future development affordable.

As the County's PHARE grant shifted to solely funding home rehabilitation – formerly it was split between rehab and demolition – the County's CDBG program pushed its demolition funding to the maximum allowable – 30% of the total grant Contract. In the FFY2020 CDBG application, the County allocated \$83,965 for countywide demolition projects. In the FFY2021 CDBG application, the County allocated \$136,224 for home rehab; Cranberry Township allocated \$100,341; and Sugarcreek Borough allocated \$87,994.20.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects

Building Better Neighborhoods

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provides funding for projects that meet one of three criteria:

- 1) Provide a benefit to low- to moderate-income (LMI) persons
- 2) Prevent or eliminate blight
- 3) Meet an urgent community need that poses an urgent threat to health or welfare

In the future, Venango County will continue to administer CDBG funds on behalf of Sugarcreek Borough and Cranberry Township, as a result of a regulation handed down from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. While these projects are administered by the County, the local municipalities still have the responsibility to select their own projects that comply with the CDBG program requirements. The Venango County Regional Planning Commission initiated and completed numerous Community Development Block Grant-funded projects during 2021.

CDBG Application – 2021

For Venango County's FFY2021 CDBG application, the Planning Commission submitted proposals of \$59,885 for the second phase of a project to bring Emlenton's Hughes Park into ADA compliance; and \$136,224 for countywide owner-occupied home rehabilitation.

For Sugarcreek Borough, the Commission submitted a proposal of \$87,994 for LMI, owner-occupied home rehabilitation activities. For Cranberry Township, the Commission submitted a proposal for \$100,341 for LMI, owner-occupied housing rehabilitation. In total, including administrative expenses, the 2021 application submission requested \$468,836 for municipal and county projects.

Transportation

In 2021, the Planning Commission partnered with PennDOT, the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, and other local organizations and municipalities to ensure the transportation needs of Venango County will continue to be met.

Liquid Fuels

The Venango County Liquid Fuels program continued to be administered by the Deputy Director (now Executive Director) of the Planning Commission, Hilary Buchanan. The County Liquid Fuels program consists of three separate allocations. The largest is the County Liquid Fuels MS-991, or Liquid Fuels General Fund, which is used to fund municipal aid grant requests via the County Aid Program, bridge inspections for local bridges, and the Summer Bridge Crew. The other two allocations from Act 44 and Act 89 may only be utilized for expenses related to county owned bridges.

County Aid Program

In 2021, the County was able to allocate \$250,000 of County Liquid Fuels funds to be used in 2022 for county aid projects by our municipalities. Due to the reduction in our Liquid Fuels funding from the Commonwealth, the County provided \$50,000 from its general fund to continue to assist our local municipalities with their transportation needs. This year, there were 16 applications received by the County for a total of \$444,255.06. Eleven of these applications were awarded a total of \$250,000. Awarded project scopes included addressing drainage issues, daylighting roads, rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads, and bridge replacement matching fund assistance.

National Bridge Inspection Program

The National Bridge Inspections Standards (NBIS) program requires all bridges over 20 feet in length on public roads to be inspected. The County has agreements with each municipality to administer the inspection process on these bridges to ensure they comply with federal inspection requirements. The municipalities of Venango County own a total of 51 bridges, and the county itself owns 19 bridges over 20 feet in length. STV, Inc. continues to serve as the bridge inspection contractor for our county and municipalities. We have been able to coordinate the inspections with municipalities who would like to be involved in the process, which fosters communication between all entities.

Dotter Road Bridge

The replacement of historic Dotter Road Bridge was completed ahead of schedule by Thomas Construction of Grove City, PA in July of 2021. Dotter Road Bridge in Rockland Township, constructed in 1885 by the Smith Bridge Company, was a single span, single lane, pin-connected four-panel Pratt pony truss with a nail laminated timber deck. The new bridge is a 62-foot, single lane bridge constructed with three 48" wide by 24" high prestressed concrete spread box beams with an eight-inch-thick composite concrete deck. It had been listed as structurally deficient for many years and needed to be replaced. Because it was considered a historic bridge, it was required to be preserved as such; therefore, the bridge could not just be torn down and replaced. The bridge has been purchased by an individual in Texas, and was relocated to their property in 2021.



Dotter Road Bridge, before (Left) and after (Right). Photo Credit: Travis Lees, STV

Miller Farm Bridge

Miller Farm Bridge, constructed in 1888, connects Cherrytree and Oil Creek Townships in Oil Creek State Park. It is a 154-foot single span steel truss with steel stringers and a laminated timber wood deck. Originally, the bridge was slated for removal, but upon further consideration, the decision was made to try to rehabilitate the bridge instead. The Right-of-Way Plan was completed in 2021. The project is expected to be let in May of 2022.

Fisherman's Cove Bridge

Fisherman's Cove Bridge is an 84-foot two span, single lane bridge with two steel riveted deck girders and a timber beam deck. The bridge was constructed in 1907, with a timber truss cover added in 1991. In 2021, the bridge saw increasing need for repairs in prior to its scheduled replacement. The County worked continuously with STV, PennDOT and Victory Township to determine the most efficient means to keep the bridge open and safe for residents. The replacement of the bridge is expected to let in January 2022.

Act 13 At-Risk Bridge Program

Although allocations from the Act 13 fund continue to decrease, the County was able to award grants to two municipalities in 2021 to assist with repairs to their structurally deficient bridges.

A heavy rain event contributed to the need to fund repairs to Pritchard Road Bridge in Oakland Township. The culvert structure will be rehabilitated along with additional scour protection being installed along both abutments. The stone wingwalls will either be reset or repaired with stacked concrete block wingwalls. The township was awarded \$55,000 to make the repairs that are scheduled for 2022.

Porter Road Bridge in Clinton Township has been in decline, but just recently had been declared structurally deficient. This is one of the criteria for usage of Act 13 funds. This bridge is often utilized as an unofficial detour when there are accidents on Interstate 80 or Route 208. The installation of new steel beams and a laminated deck, as well as repairs to the concrete abutments and installation of additional scour protection, will enable this bridge to serve its community well into the future. The township was awarded \$100,000 towards the needed repairs, which are scheduled for 2022.

Multi-Use Trail from Franklin to Sugarcreek Nears Construction Phase

Planning efforts continued throughout 2021 for the multi-use trail that will extend from Liberty Street in Franklin to Front Street in Sugarcreek Borough, along Allegheny Boulevard (Route 8/62). The Right-of-Way Plan was completed in February, allowing for the environmental permitting process to proceed. The Joint Permit from the PA Department of Environmental Protection was approved in November.

The trail is intended to replace what is widely regarded as an unsafe dirt path that pedestrians travel along the four-lane highway. The asphalt multi-use trail will be at least 8 feet wide beginning at the end of the bridge where the sidewalk currently ends. This will allow for two-way pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Additional meetings were held this year to address safety concerns at the intersections of Allegheny Boulevard with Elk and Liberty Streets after a traffic accident resulted in a pedestrian fatality.



Multi-Use Trail, Franklin to Sugarcreek

Construction considerations include ADA compliance, safety at intersections with local businesses, a variable right-of-way, utility locations, and environmental concerns. The City of Franklin's Water Authority is planning to replace the waterline that runs in the same location as the multi-use trail. We are trying to coordinate efforts to minimize overall impact.

The construction portion of the project is expected to let in March 2022 after the Final Design is approved.

Hazard Mitigation

Hazard Mitigation Projects Completed

The 2021 year saw the completion of the Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant that had originally been earmarked in 2008. In 2018, the projects for this earmark were approved by FEMA to allow work to officially begin. The projects contained within these subgrants were created to address emergency events surrounding flooding issues surrounding the Chubb and Morrison Run watersheds:

- 1) The Joint Emergency Operations Center located at the Franklin Professional Building received a complete renovation in order to service the entire county in the event of an emergency. It has also served as a training location for emergency personnel.
- 2) Three emergency generators were installed at the Franklin Professional Building, Sandycreek Township Municipal Building, and Sandycreek Fire Hall in 2020. These generators will provide emergency backup in the case of a power outage, supporting emergency personnel and providing a location for a warming station if needed during winter months. Variable messaging signs and emergency barriers were purchased and delivered to the City of Franklin, where they are being stored in order to be used in the event of an emergency.
- 3) The fiber optic line extension project was completed in 2021, routing the line from the Franklin Professional Building to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Franklin, then to the Sandycreek Municipal Building and Sandycreek Fire Hall. This configuration provides a redundant loop to prevent a service outage in the event of an emergency.

The completion of these three projects will help emergency personnel serve the residents of Sandycreek Township, the City of Franklin, and Venango County as a whole in the event of an emergency.

Floodplain Management

The county also hosted a local training event for the municipalities in August, 2021. A representative of PAFPM reached out to our office about giving a presentation to local officials which would communicate basic concepts of floodplain management and relevance to our unique opportunities as cooperative region.

Alexandria Shreffler acquired the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) designation in September, 2021 after successful completion of the CFM exam (ASFPM). Municipal agreements were made with Oil Creek (June, 2021) and Oakland (December, 2021) townships to provide administrative assistance for floodplain development permitting and annual reporting.

Finally, administrative assistance for the Stream Bank Stabilization project near Henderson Station in Mineral Township and proposed by National Fuel Gas in 2020 was completed in early October 2021.

Floodplain Management Agreements: Participating Municipalities

Canal	Oct. 2013
Clintonville	Jan. 2014
Frenchcreek	Nov. 2013
Irwin	Mar. 2018
Mineral	Nov. 2013
Oakland	Dec. 2021
Oilcreek	June 2021
Pinegrove	Nov. 2013
Polk	Nov. 2013
Rockland	Mar. 2013
Victory	Nov. 2013



Exposed pipe in stream bank, before.



Stabilized bed with cutting-edge materials, after.



PAFPM Chair, Joshua Lippert, gives a presentation to local municipal officials, August 2021

Mapping & Data Analysis

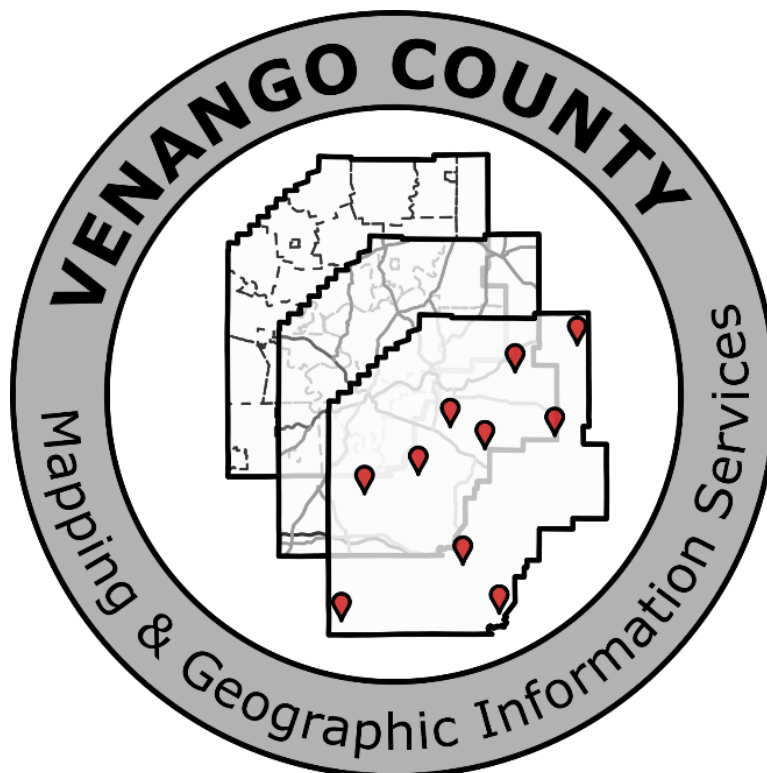
Implementing a Data Management Plan

In order to provide community access to quality GIS data, the commission has resolved to improve internal data management. The purpose of implementing a data management plan will be to more efficiently support high-functioning front-end applications, which are slated for beta-testing in the coming year. This will take the form of a panel of GIS products accessible via the internet potentially evolving into a centralized reference and planning tool for all members of the planning commission, other county departments, municipal officials, local businesses, homeowners, and all citizens interested in community participation.

Moving toward this goal, the past year included activities related to the completion of a data inventory. This included 1) initial review of all files both geographic and non-geographic in nature, 2) an evaluation of each file to determine significance, 3) the development of a structure to support the organization of those files, and finally, 4) the first relocation of the files. These are the first stages in developing a data management plan, which will also include a needs assessment and a GIS assessment, resulting in recommendations and a strategy for ongoing production and performance both internally to the Commission and externally with the rest of the county departments and community at large. The transition from static map-making to interactive web-map publishing also included the upgrade and conversion from ArcMap to ArcGIS Pro, which will progress into the ArcGIS Online (AGOL) environment where the county will be able to collaborate with other regional and local entities more freely.

Community & Regional Involvement

Geospatial Analyst, Alexandria Shreffler, also attended the Northwestern PA GIS Conference at Clarion University and gave a presentation about Open Source GIS, including discussing the usefulness of Python and Virtualization to support collaborative mapping. As part of a community outreach activity, she also gave a GIS presentation to a School-Age group on GIS Day, which is always the 3rd Wednesday in November. The students were engaged and excited, prompting plans to repeat the activity again next year.



Subdivisions & Land Developments

Subdivisions

In 2021 there were a total of 80 subdivisions approved by the Planning Commission. This is a 58% increase from the number of approvals granted in 2020. Cranberry Township has seen the most activity in 2021 with 16 subdivisions. Sugarcreek Borough came in second with 9 subdivisions, and next, Cornplanter Township with 7.

Land Developments

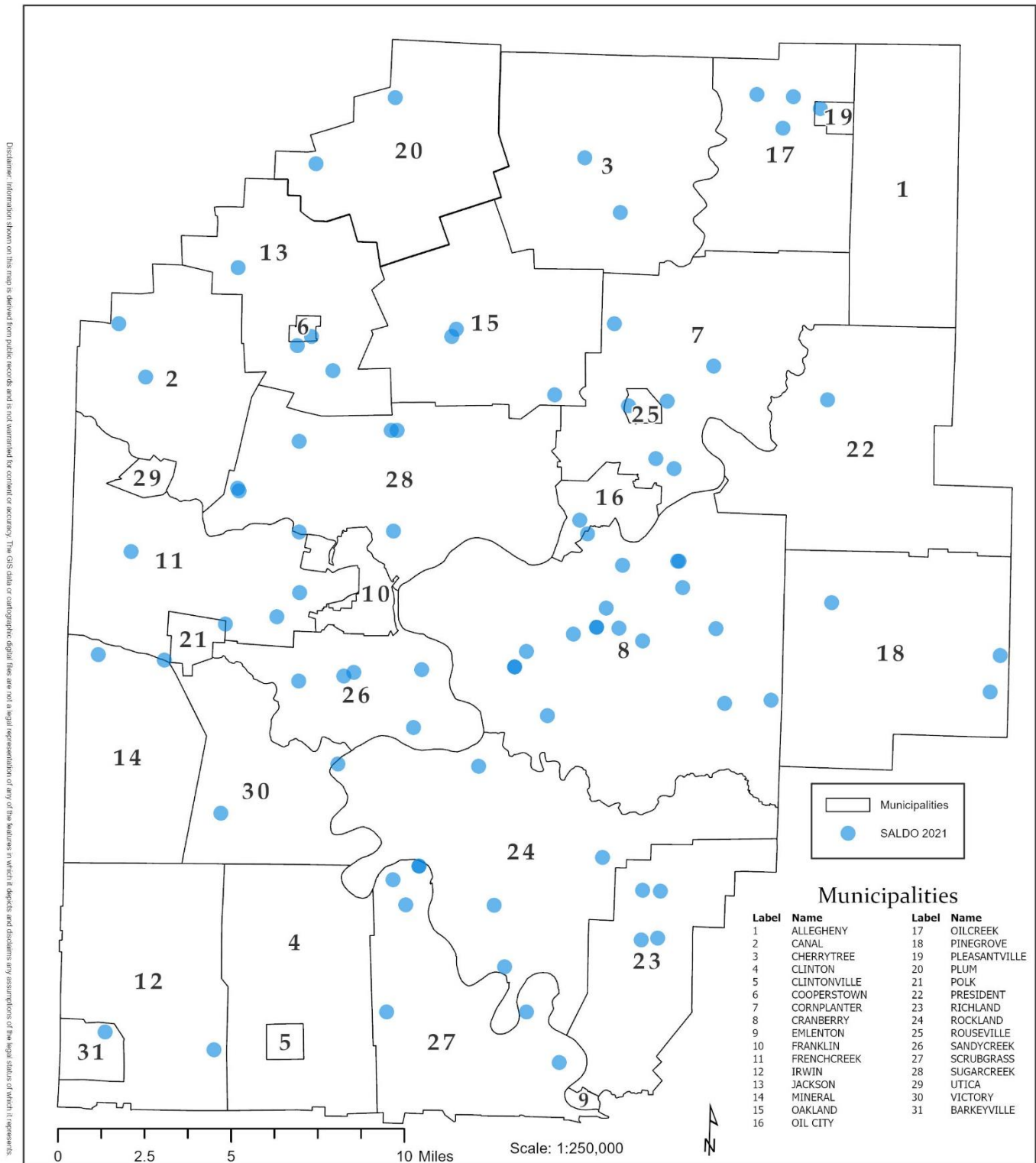
The Planning Commission received five land development applications in 2021. One of those applications were approved and the other four applicants are working towards approval in early 2022. Two development applications from 2020 were approved in 2021 as well for a total of five approved development plans in 2020. Notable land developments approved in 2021 include Log Cabin Rebuild in Cranberry Township, Gahr's Tire Service in Barkeyville Borough, and Dollar General in Pinegrove Township. In 2021, the county continued their contract with Lennon, Smith and Souleret Engineering, Inc., which serves as the reviewing engineering firm.

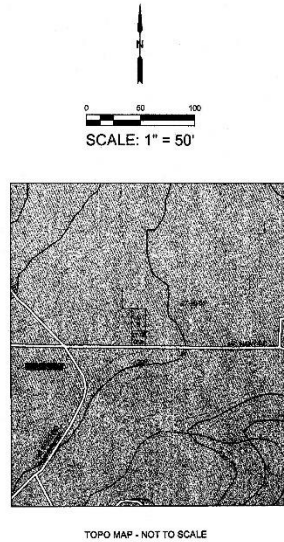
2021 Subdivision Report - Minor, Major, and Land Developments												Total Land Developments	Total Per Municipality
Municipality	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Allegheny													-
Barkeyville													1
Canal	1							1					2
Cherrytree					1						1		2
Clinton													-
Clintonville													-
Cooperstown					1								1
Cornplanter					1		2				1	2	7
Cranberry		1	3	3		1			1	1	4	2	16
Emlenton													-
Franklin								1					1
Frenchcreek			1					2	1				4
Irwin						1							1
Jackson									1	1	1		3
Mineral				1									1
Oakland					1	1						1	3
Oil City												1	1
Oil Creek			1						1				2
Pinegrove			1			1			1				4
Pleasantville		1											1
Plum			1	1									2
Polk													-
President				1									1
Richland					2					1	1		4
Rockland				1		2			1		1		5
Rouseville													-
Sandycreek	1					1			1	2			5
Scrubgrass		1	1		1	1	1				1		6
Sugarcreek	1		1	1	1	2	1	1				1	9
Utica													-
Victory								1					1
2021	3	3	9	8	8	10	4	6	7	5	10	7	
Monthly Accumulation	3	6	15	23	31	41	45	51	58	63	73	80*	Grand Total: 83

*Value represents the total Minor and Major Subdivisions

VENANGO COUNTY

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENTS



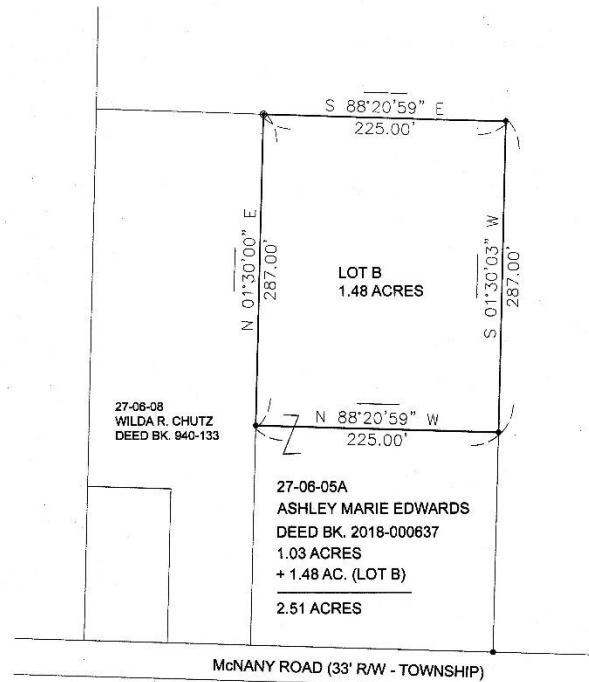


LEGEND

These standard symbols will be found in the drawing.

- INDICATES FOUND IRON PIN UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
- ⊕ INDICATES REBAR & CAP SET
- ⊙ INDICATES SPIKE WITH 1" DIA. HEAD SET IN LARGE BOULDER

NOTE: ALL UTILITIES AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY MAY NOT BE PLOTTED ON THIS DRAWING.



Subdivision Part 4: Personal Statement

Creator's Statement:

I/We, (Owner) Stephen A. Makuch confirm that this survey was not and will not be used for anything but the purpose for which it was created.

Creator's Signature: Stephen A. Makuch My commission expires December 7, 2022. Commission Number: 100454

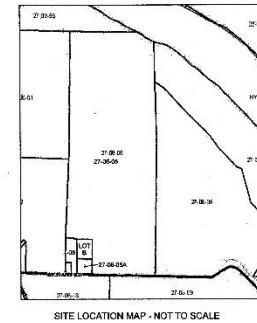
Notary Public: Mary Ann Stover My commission expires December 7, 2022. Commission Number: 100454

Creator's Statement:

I/We, (Owner) Stephen A. Makuch hereby confirm that the parcel to be surveyed shall not be contiguous to my existing property and will merge with my existing lot.

Creator's Signature: Stephen A. Makuch My commission expires December 7, 2022. Commission Number: 100454

Notary Public: Mary Ann Stover My commission expires December 7, 2022. Commission Number: 100454



27-06-05
STEPHEN A. MAKUCH ET AL.
DEED BK. 2019-001358
97.25 ACRES (ASSESSED)
-1.48 ACRES (LOT B)

95.77 ACRES

BY: STOVER LAND SURVEYING
PO BOX 42
SENECA, PA 16348
814-677-4533
PROJECT NO. 20015

MINOR SUBDIVISION - FINAL PLAN

TITLE: MAKUCH EDWARDS DATE & PARCEL

MUNICIPALITY: SCRUBGRASS TOWNSHIP

TOWNSHIP: SCRUBGRASS TOWNSHIP

OWNER: STEPHEN A. MAKUCH ET AL.

ADDRESS: 60 KENNETH A. MAKUCH
25 SCRIBTON RD.
WESTFORD, MA 01886

PROPERTY INFORMATION

SUBJECT: 1 ACRE

MIN. AREA: 1 ACRE

MIN. WIDTH: 200'

MIN. YARDS: FRONT: 50' SIDE: 10' REAR: 25'

PROPOSED LAND USE:

ACRES OF TRACT: 1.48

ACRES OF DEVELOPMENT: 1.48

TOTAL NO. OF LOTS: 1

MIN. LOT SIZE: AREA: 1.48 ACRES WIDTH: 200' DEPTH: 100'

DATE AND TIME OF FILE: 11/08/2020

SCALE: 1" = 50'

DATE: 11/08/2020

PLAN IS NULL AND VOID UNLESS RECORDED BY:
NO DEEDS MAY BE TRANSFERRED UNTIL PLAN IS RECORDED.

VENANGO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

STAFF MEMBER: DATE: 5-24-21 TIME APPROVAL: 2:00 PM

DEPT. DIR.: DATE: 5-24-21 TIME APPROVAL: 2:00 PM

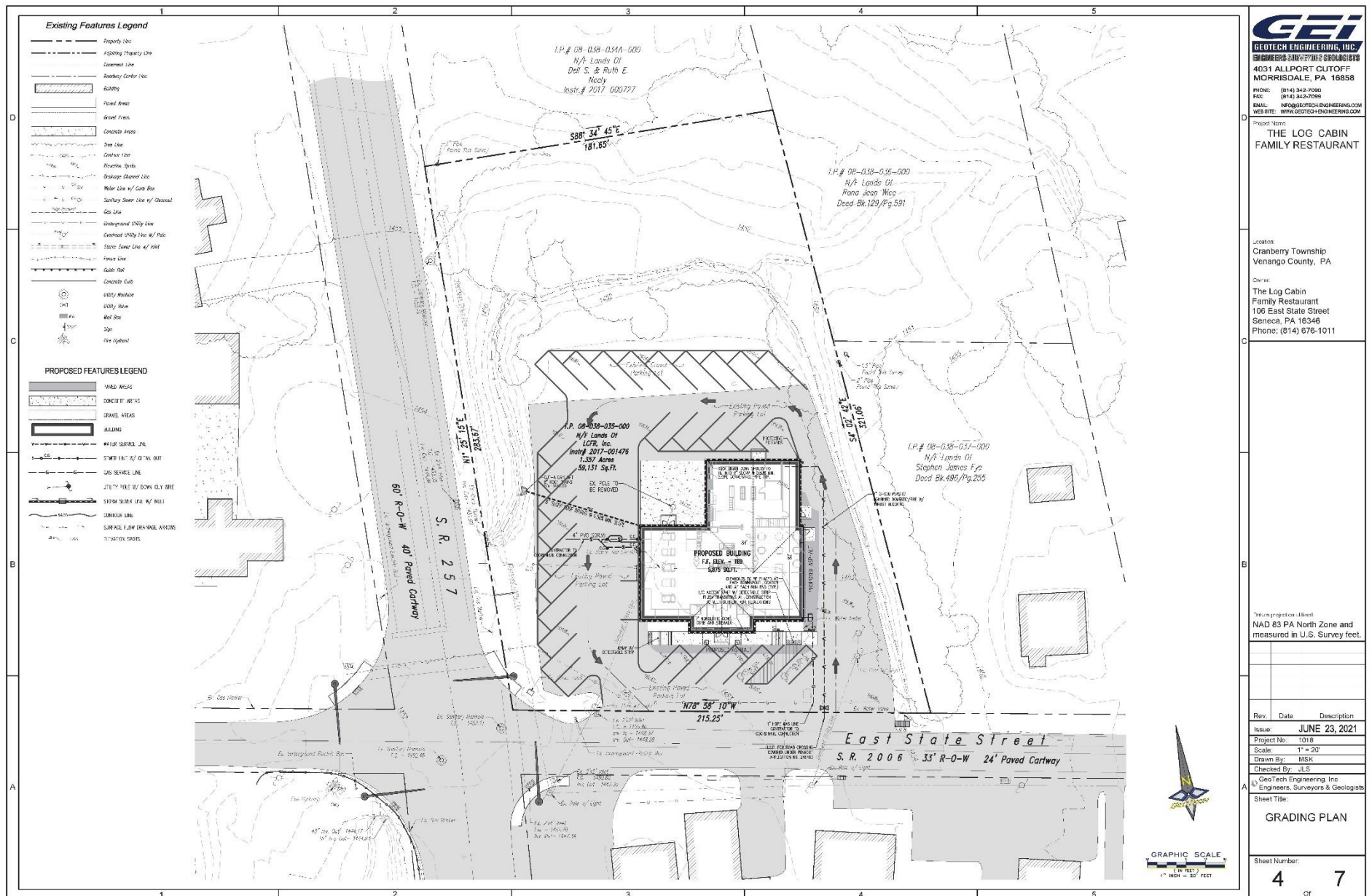
COMMENTS:

DEED NO.: 2021-2543

STATE OF PA. - CO. OF VENANGO ON THE DAY OF 5/24/21, ROSE, MAYORS AND THE UNINCORPORATED OFFICIAL, PERSONALLY APPEARED Stephen A. Makuch, who being duly sworn according to LAW, DEPOSED AND SAYS THAT HE/HE IS THE OWNER AND/OR SUTABLE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY SHOWN ON THIS PLAN, AND THAT HE/HE ACKNOWLEDGES THE SAME TO BE TRUTH ACT AND PLANS AND RESIDES THE SAME AS RECORDED AS SUCH ACCORDING TO LAW, WITHIN MY HAND AND SEAL THE DAY AND DATE SHOWN, MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 12/07/2022.

Notary Public: Mary Ann Stover My commission expires December 7, 2022. Commission Number: 100454

2021-2543



Year-to-Year Subdivision Overview (Minor, Major, and Land Developments)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total Land Developments
2021	3	3	9	8	8	10	4	6	7	5	10	7	3
Monthly Accumulation	3	6	15	23	31	41	45	51	58	63	73	80*	
2020	-	3	5	-	-	5	2	10	3	3	7	6	5
Monthly Accumulation		3	8	8	8	13	15	25	28	31	38	44*	
2019	5	1	9	11	3	3	3	13	5	-	2	10	10
Monthly Accumulation		6	15	26	29	32	35	48	53	53	55	65*	
2018	4	3	7	4	3	5	13	6	6	5	2	9	8
Monthly Accumulation		7	14	18	21	26	39	45	51	56	58	67*	
2017	6	3	8	6	10	13	5	8	4	8	5	6	7
Monthly Accumulation		9	17	23	33	46	51	59	63	71	76	82*	
2016	10	1	6	6	7	8	7	4	6	10	3	9	-
Monthly Accumulation		11	17	23	30	38	45	49	55	65	68	77*	
2015	6	3	7	6	7	6	3	3	3	6	10	6	1
Monthly Accumulation		9	16	22	29	35	38	41	44	50	60	66*	
2014	9	5	8	11	3	4	7	9	7	2	7	6	Not available
Monthly Accumulation		14	22	33	36	40	47	56	63	65	72	78*	
2013	4	2	3	3	4	11	7	3	6	4	7	2	Not available
Monthly Accumulation		6	9	12	16	27	34	37	43	47	54	56*	
2012	7	7	2	5	6	7	2	6	5	2	6	7	Not available
Monthly Accumulation		14	16	21	27	34	36	42	47	49	55	62*	
2011	6	3	6	6	6	5	6	6	7	5	7	4	Not available
Monthly Accumulation		9	15	21	27	32	38	44	51	56	63	67*	

*Value represents the year's total of Minor and Major Subdivisions

Venango County Board of Commissioners

1174 Elk Street
 Courthouse Annex, 2nd Floor
 Franklin, PA 16323



Sam Breene, Chairman
 Mike Dulaney, Vice Chairman
 Albert "Chip" Abramovic, Commissioner

Planning Commission Staff

Executive Director	– Hilary Buchanan (2022)
Deputy Director	– Ashley Smith (2022)
Senior Planner	– Erik Johnson
Community Development Planner	– Joshua Sterling
Geospatial Analyst	– Alexandria Shreffler
Land Use Planner	– Vacant

Staff Training

APA Webinars – Ethics and Policy Guidance, Small Town and Rural Planning
 CDBG Webinars – Grant Program Guidance
 DCED Webinars – HOME Program Admin, ARP Information
 HUD Webinars – Environmental Review, CARES Act Training, Small Communities
 PEMA Webinars – Floodplain Ordinance Training, Elevation Certificate Demo
 Misc. – Grow PA Broadband, URISA NG911 Webinar, Geo-Enabled Elections Series, ARP Funding GIS, PHMC Resources, Fair Housing

Conferences

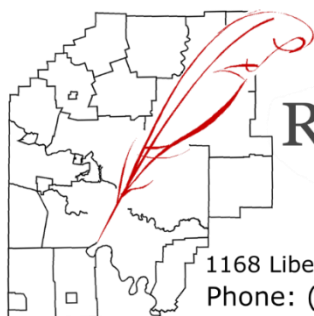
Floodplain Management Symposium, March 16th - 18th
 GeoPython Conference, April 22nd - 23rd
 PA GIS Conference, May 11th - 12th
 Esri User Conference, July 2021
 Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) Conference July 13th - 15th (Virtual)
 Waste Audit at State College August 11th - 12th
 Northwestern PA GIS Conference, October 2021

Workshops

GIS Day 2021 – Community Outreach (School) Presentation
 DCNR's C2P2 Grant Workshop

Professional Associations, Committees, & Outreach Opportunities

Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA)
 Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)
 Pennsylvania Association of State Floodplain Managers (PAFPM)
 Pennsylvania Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium (PAMAGIC)



**Venango County
 Regional Planning
 Commission**

1168 Liberty Street | PO Box 831 | Franklin, PA 16323
 Phone: (814) 432-9689 Fax: (814) 432-9679

Planning Commission Board Members

Chair – Nancy Marano
Vice Chair – Frank Pankratz
Secretary / Treasurer – Greg Miller

Annie Fuchs
Tracy Jamieson
Keith Klingler
Julie Powell†

John McClelland*
Nick Melnick
Bill Moon
John Neidich
Fred Krizinsky†

Ben Porter
Sue Smith
Glenn Speer
Judy Lentz⁺

†Newly appointed member in 2021. *Newly appointed member in 2022.

*Departing Members

The Planning Commission extends gratitude to John McClelland for completing seven (7) years of service between 2014 and 2021.

Meeting Schedule 2022

3rd Tuesday of each month (except May)

Start time for meetings will be 6:30 PM

In-Person Meeting Location:

1174 Elk Street
Franklin PA, 16323

If the meeting is declared virtual, an announcement will be posted on our website.

Please contact our office for call-in and web link information.

January 18, 2022
February 15, 2022
March 15, 2022
April 19, 2022
May 16, 2022
June 21, 2022
July 19, 2022
August 16, 2022
September 20, 2022
October 18, 2022
November 15, 2022
December 20, 2022

