



Venango County Regional Planning Commission

Planning **Tomorrow**
Together

Phone: (814) 432-9689
Fax: (814) 432-9679
www.venangocountypa.gov/Planning

1168 Liberty Street
PO Box 831
Franklin PA 16323

Board Meeting Minutes June 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Monthly board meeting called to order by Jim Miller, at 4:30 PM.
- II. **ROLL CALL** – Those present at the public meeting of the Venango County Regional Planning Commission on 06/16/2026, held in-person at 1174 Elk Street (Courthouse Annex) in Room 100, Franklin PA :

Members Present:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ Jim Miller (Chair) | ☒ Nick Melnick |
| ☒ Tracy Jamieson (Vice-Chair I) | ☐ Kathy Cochran |
| ☒ John McClelland (Vice-Chair II) | ☒ Ben Porter |
| ☒ Frank Pankratz (Vice-Chair III) | ☒ Glenn Speer |
| ☒ Larry Baughman | ☐ Megan Weber |
| ☒ Ken Bryan | ☒ Amy Whitehill |
| ☒ Anita Fuchs | ☒ Keith Klingler |
| ☐ John Neidich | |

Guests Present (List):

- 40 guests (see attached list)

Staff Present:

- | |
|--|
| ☒ Joshua Sterling |
| ☒ Jenna Dillion |
| ☒ Alexandria Shreffler |

Quorum Present: ☒ Yes ☐ No

The attendance of 12 board members (of the 15 current appointees) was accounted for by Alexandria Shreffler.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. 05/26/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- ✓ Motion to approve the minutes made by Ben Porter, seconded by Frank Pankratz. All approved.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Numerous members of the public acknowledged their attendance of the meeting to voice concerns over plans for the development of a data center in Scrubgrass Township, which had been circulating on the internet and in social media circles. Several members of the public expressed concerns of the potential impacts to the community and surrounding area. The Commission confirmed that no application for land development or preliminary plans had been submitted to indicate any details of the proposal. The Commission also encouraged anyone with concerns to approach or potentially petition Scrubgrass Township, as they have the land use authority and would be better positioned to regulate compared to the County and the Commonwealth.
- Bill Prichard, Scrubgrass Creek Watershed Association (SCWA) – A representative of the SCWA expressed appreciation to the Commission for support in developing the 2026 assessment of the South Sandy watershed.

V. SUBDIVISIONS AND LAND DEVELOPMENTS – None

VI. SPECIAL PURPOSE MATTERS

- a. **Annual Report Draft** – a final draft version of the 2025 Annual Report was presented by Staff with notes on revisions which had already been identified for correction. Staff requested conditional approval with any other feedback or revisions due by the end of the month before final printing on the first of July.
- ✓ Motion to move forward with the report with potential revisions made by Keith Klingler, second by Frank Pankratz. All approved.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF REPORTS

- **Executive Director, Joshua Sterling** – provided an update on the status of engineering plans for the project design of the Moody Park Architectural Barrier Removal (ABR), which is anticipating completed design by early July. The contract for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding year 2025 grant is currently awaiting signatures for execution.
- **Deputy Director, Jenna Dillion** – shared that the Grand Valley Manufacturing land development proposal in Cherrytree Township has not yet responded to comments made by the County's engineering firm to comply with

the County Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO). She also provided an update on the AutoZone land development in Cranberry Township, which has resubmitted plans in response to comments.

- **Geospatial Analyst, Alex Shreffler** – had a main focus on finishing the draft of the Annual Report, and nothing else to report.

VIII. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **COG Representatives** – Report was given by Ben Porter. The upcoming Council of Governments (COG) meeting on Thursday June 18th is to be held at the Frenchcreek Township building at 7:00 PM.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL

- Tracy Jamieson, Franklin City Resident – expressed clarification that the SALDO would not be an effective method of regulating data centers. Staff confirmed, and provided additional information about the concerns regarding noise as an expected nuisance from this type of land development. Zoning was also discussed as the preferable method of regulation, and it was noted that Commission Staff intend to support Scrubgrass Township in pursuing zoning at the municipal level, including by reviewing their ordinance and providing feedback on potential considerations. There was general discussion amongst the Board members about protocol and strategies for handling inquiries regarding data centers.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- ✓ Motion to adjourn by Glenn Speer, seconded by Tracy Jamieson at 5:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandria Shreffler, Geospatial Analyst

Guests Present:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Scott Gearhart, Scrubgrass Township Citizen | • Sarah Fye, Citizen |
| • Candace Gearhart, Scrubgrass Township Citizen | • Barbara Gross, Citizen |
| • Michael R. Hill, Scrubgrass Township Property Owner | • John Ferketic, Resident |
| • Cathy Kentzel, Property Owner | • Paula Yobe, Resident |
| • Paul Kentzel, Property Owner | • Martin Kaminski, Resident |
| • Debra O'Neil, Rockland Township | • John Apitsch, Resident |
| • Terry O'Neil, Rockland Township | • Kara Pfingstl, The Derrick |
| • Susan B. Webb, Rockland Township | • Julie Halligan, Resident |
| • Heidi Swasy, Rockland Township | • Marcie Wilding, Kennerdell Resident |
| • Karen Danko, Scrubgrass Township Resident | • James Wilding, Kennerdell Resident |
| • Justin Danko, Scrubgrass Township Citizen | • Olivia Schuab, Resident |
| • Bill Prichard, Scrubgrass Creek Watershed Association | • Gini Wheelzenel, Resident |
| • Jeanmarie Boyd, Scrubgrass Township Resident | • Aubrie Pecore, Resident |
| • Wayne Boyd, Scrubgrass Township Resident | • Cassandra Artman, Resident |
| • Jacob Bowen, Scrubgrass Township Resident | • Richard Mechley, Resident |
| • Sandra McStraw, Venango County Resident | • Mallory Piercey, Resident |
| • James McStraw, Venango County Resident | • K Ferninger, Resident |
| • Amy Coinkel, Venango County Citizen | • Tristen Bowler, Resident |
| • Irene McCobe, US Citizen | • Sean Greenwood, Resident |
| • Tim Heffernan, Venango County Commissioner | • Diane M. Miller, Resident |