CHAPTER 11

PLAN ADMINISTRATION, IMPLEMENTATION & MAINTENANCE

INTRODUCTION

The responsibility of administering the 2015 Perry County Comprehensive Plan rests with the Perry County Commissioners. The effectiveness of this plan toward meeting its goals is dependent on clear and concise communication between the Perry County Commissioners and Perry County Planning Commission and other County agencies tasked with responsibilities as a result of this plan.

The PA MPC requires counties to update comprehensive plans, “…at least every 10 years.” Although counties are required to adhere to this time line, local governments are only required to review their plans during the same time sequence. It is for this reason the County must strive for compliance while at the same time it must encourage the thirty (30) municipalities within its border to follow this lead.

The 2015 Perry County Comprehensive Plan was not developed strictly for archival sake and the fulfillment of the Commonwealth’s requirement. Instead, the document was created to address issues. In addition an underlying purpose is to have this document function as part of standard operating procedure for the Perry County Commissioners and their partners, providing guidance in their daily decisions and as continued resource.

The Perry County Planning Commission is a nine (9) member citizen board. Traditionally membership has been made up of a good cross-section of citizens with a variety of professional knowledge in dealing with land and municipal issues. In addition to the nine (9) member board, one County Commissioner serves as a liaison to stay informed of the workings of the group, and to take their thoughts on the monthly proceedings back to their constituents.

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) works in concert with the Perry County Planning Commission and their planning efforts. Traditionally Perry County has relied upon the TCRPC to help staff the Perry County Planning Commission’s Office in Bloomfield Borough. Staff’s dual work responsibility has worked out rather well, and continues to be a strong bond between the County and the TCRPC. The flexibility of this working agreement has saved the county administrative funding, and maintained the County’s ability to have an adept resource available for the public, to deal with all planning matters.

Besides supplying staff support to Perry County during the standard workday, the TCRPC also provides support through its Local Planning Assistance (LPA) program to municipalities that have established planning commissions and need professional planning assistance. Presently there are four (4) municipalities that have signed
agreements with the TCRPC to aid them in their efforts. At the present time all Perry County municipalities participating in the TCRPC LPA program fund their working agreements from their own budgets. The other two counties in the Tri-County Region (Cumberland and Dauphin) pay for this service directly to the TCRPC so that municipalities can take advantage of the assistance. With the passage of this plan, an effort should be made to look into interest in program and the availability of funds to help bolster the LPA program in Perry County. In so doing, the County will certainly benefit by taking the opportunity to assist local officials in maintaining their comprehensive planning programs.

As an added benefit of performing a comprehensive planning process, other County row offices, departments, and agencies all stand to benefit from the information found within the overall Comprehensive Plan document itself. From facts and figures, to current governmental policies and the plan implementation, a wealth of information has been compiled in the document for daily use and reference.

With the three sub-regional Plan Development Section plans, the municipal governing bodies are responsible for implementing their respective plans. Prior to undertaking action, on any element the local board should secure guidance from the local planning commission where one exists. In the absence of such an organization, the responsibility will rest exclusively with the governing body.

**PLAN FUSION**

Perry County and its municipalities understand there are a number of plans requiring maintenance, many of which require much of the same information as background supporting recommended actions. The concept of plan fusion is intended to address each of these plans in a way that would not place an added burden on the county to undertake separate planning processes to address all of the federal and state required plans. The focus is to eliminate redundancy and provide the county with a recognizable cost savings by not having to develop individual and separate plans.

Through the fusion process every time this plan or any other referenced plan is updated and formally adopted, the change is automatically synthesized with all Perry County Plans by reference. All areas that contradict or which are in conflict are superseded by the content of the newer plan as it relates to the new plans content. As a result the new official date for all of the following referenced plans becomes the a date of the

This plan recognizes if a separate substantial revision to a plan involved in the fusion process is required or mandated by a state or federal agency in writing, specifying why the fusion process cannot satisfy routine maintenance of a particular plan, then and only then, should a separate update process be undertaken.

As such, each of the following listed plans has laterally been updated through this Comprehensive Plan development process.
Plans to Capture in this Fusion Process

1. Comprehensive Plan Basic Studies
2. Future Land Use Plan
3. Community Facilities and Utilities Plan
4. Sewerage Plan
5. Water Supply Plan
6. Capital Improvements Plan
7. Hazard Mitigation Plan
8. Historic, Cultural and Natural Resources Plans
9. Housing Plan
10. Transportation Plan
11. Greenways Plan
12. Parks and Recreation Plan
13. Open Space Plan
14. Emergency Operations Plan
15. Solid Waste Plan

ANNUAL REVIEW OF PROGRESS

Every year it is essential to document accomplishments and restructure the work schedule for the following year. At the regularly scheduled date on the year from the adoption of the plan, the county or municipal planning commissions or governing bodies the board will go over their respective plans to determine what has been undertaken, and what they should undertake during the next year.

Financial cost sharing opportunities exist for multi-municipal participation which also includes the County. Discussions on all action items should take place with potential partners leading up to each and every Annual Review so that sound decisions can be made at each annual meeting on the plan. Atop the list of potential partner municipalities would be each of the financially plan-allying municipalities dealing with the same issue(s).

During the review, the following four categories can be used to evaluate all issue correcting actions.

- Action not initiated (List why)
- Action in discussion stages (List what still needs to happen for action to be undertaken)
- The logistics of the strategic action is currently being worked on. (List what still needs to happen for action to be undertaken, or date when action is expected to be implemented)
- The strategic action was successfully implemented. (Document cost encumbered to complete action)
Another will be based on the public’s perception of the issue when the plan process is revisited. Will the issue reappear in the next plan? Will it cease being considered a top issue? Obviously progress occurs incrementally and as such, the effects of such changes may need time to resonate with the public to perhaps change perception regarding a particular issue.

**CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

Whenever an implementing action is undertaken, the action item leaders and partners must remain vigilant should something unexpectedly wrong occur. If something goes awry during implementation, the identified parties must work together to collaboratively resolve the problem without allowing it to escalate.

If the action can be reversed this may be a solution. Some actions may be acted upon and complete, without an option to reverse. Corrective efforts or mitigating actions may be necessary to alleviate the unintended impacts, should the consequences of any such an action become noticeably detrimental.

**PLAN MAINTENANCE**

As previously mentioned, the PA MPC requires the County’s Plan to be updated every 10 years. Municipal plans only need to be reviewed during the same time sequence. To systematically ease this financial burden for both the County and its municipalities the present partnership approach is something that must continue. With 1/5th of the county’s municipalities participating with this plan, hopefully we can double the number of partners with the next update.

Aside from the PA MPC requirements, if all strategic actions are accomplished prior to the 10-year cycle, the process will need to be immediately revisited. If this were to occur, the PCPC staff will begin researching the availability of grants, seek municipal partners, and apply for project funding under the direction of the PCPC.

With technology being what it is today, a digital copy of the plan is available to the public for viewing and access at any time. The files are also downloadable under either MS Word or Adobe .pdf format. Considering this, a separate comment box is also available for future plan suggestions.

Last of all, the Basic Studies component of this plan should be maintained to facilitate background research and inventorying of the County’s assets. This component offers a beneficial snapshot of where the county finds itself at a particular point in time. Because the Basic Studies component is incorporated by reference, it will subsequently be the focus of an update two years following the next US Census scheduled for 2020 when the data will eventually be available.