

2000
ANNUAL REPORT



LYCOMING COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

and

**LYCOMING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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& PLANNING SERVICES

(insert message from Roger Jarrett)

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(insert message from Jerry Walls)

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LYCOMING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Rebecca A. Burke, Chair
Richard T. Nassberg, Vice-Chairman
Joseph H. Neyhart, Secretary

LYCOMING COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Roger D. Jarrett, Chairman
W.E. Toner Hollick, Vice-Chairman
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**LYCOMING COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND PLANNING SERVICES STAFF**

Jerry S. Walls, AICP, Executive Director
Kurt Hausammann, Deputy Director
Mark R. Murawski, Transportation Planner
Clifford A. Kanz, AICP, Development Services Supervisor
William L. Harris, Community Development/Hazard Reduction Planner
William R. Kelly, Economic Development Specialist
Allan Bennett, Zoning Administrator
Kevin L. McJunkin, Environmental Planner
Maggie Emery, Subdivision & Land Development Administrator
Amy Rankey, Subdivision & Land Development Administrator
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Lynn F. Cunningham, Planning Technician/Analyst
Richard Murphy, Land Records Cartographer
Allen Kaplan, GIS/Data Systems Planner
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Ed Feigles, GIS/Data Systems Technician
Mary Ellen Rodgers, Administrative Specialist
Jane Magyar, Clerk IV
Beverly H. Bennett, Clerk II-A

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OVERVIEW OF THE LYCOMING COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Lycoming County Planning Commission has been concerned with the economic, social, and environmental future of Lycoming County since its formation by the County Commissioners in 1966. The Commission reviews, proposes, and recommends courses of action that will maintain and enhance the high quality of life in our County.

Nine citizen members are appointed to the Planning Commission, serving four year terms without pay. In appointing members to this Commission, the Commissioners try to ensure that the members come from different regions of the County and have a diverse mix of occupations and perspectives.

The Commission is supported by the County Economic Development & Planning Services staff of nine professional planners and six technical and clerical support personnel (see attached chart). The staff has a wide range of specialized experience and training including:

- * Economic Development
- * Strategic Economic Planning
- * Comprehensive Growth Management
- * Demographic Analysis
- * Transportation Engineering and Planning
- * Infrastructure Planning
- * Zoning and Subdivision/Land Development Ordinance Preparation and Administration
- * Floodplain and Stormwater Management
- * Hazard Mitigation Planning
- * Community Planning
- * Grantsmanship
- * Information Technology
- * Geographic Information Systems
- * Parks and Recreation Facilities Planning
- * Environmental Concerns, such as Solid Waste Management, Wastewater Treatment, and Water Supply Systems

The staff prepares the necessary background research and documentation for planning projects and programs being developed by the County Planning Commission and the County Commissioners, assists individual citizens with various land use concerns, and provides planning assistance to municipalities upon request.

The County Planning Commission is partially funded from the County General Fund; with the majority from State and Federal Government grants; development processing fees; and municipal service contracts.

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MISSION STATEMENTS

Lycoming County

To plan and implement changes which will improve the local economy and make Lycoming County a better place to live, learn, and conduct business.

Lycoming County Planning Commission

To facilitate and promote the coordinated and harmonious management and/or Development and protection of resources within Lycoming County for present and future needs. Intervene through proactive strategic planning initiatives on problems or opportunities and timely response to needs and issues identified by the County, municipalities, local agencies or community organizations and private citizens.

Department of Economic Development & Planning Services

To promote the orderly **development** of land while preserving/conserving natural Resources, **stimulation** of sustainable economic growth, **investment** in Technologies, and the **creation** of the infrastructure needed to enhance the quality of life of County residents. To initiate or support projects that foster sustainable communities and promote public welfare and safety throughout the County consistent with the goals set forth in the County's Comprehensive Plan. To advance and support joint or inter-municipal cooperation in planning and project initiatives.

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insert staffing chart

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LYCOMING COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION *2000 YEAR IN REVIEW*

The Lycoming County Planning Commission meets the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m., in addition to advertised committee meetings on an as-needed basis. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend all meetings of the Planning Commission. Highlights of the 2000 monthly meetings include the following:

January

- Approved a Revised Master Plan and Phase I Final Land Development Plan for the South Williamsport Park.
- Approved an audit report for FY 98-99 showing that LCPC operations and cash flows for the year ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.
- Accepted, with regret, Maggie Emery's notice of retirement as Subdivision and Land Development Administrator.
- Received an update regarding Project Impact from Joe Neyhart, Bill Harris, and Allen Kaplan including a presentation of the new Project Impact web site.

February

- Approved three multi-lot subdivisions, including the Sylvan Glen 21 lot subdivision in Cogan House Township. Also approved a land development plan for A.C. Moore Retail Craft Store at the Lycoming Mall and tabled a plan for the Glenwood Retirement Village in Muncy Township.
- Approved the FFY 2000-2001 WATS Unified Transportation Planning Work Program.
- Reviewed, amended, and authorized distribution of the draft 1999 LCPC/EDPS Annual Report.

March

- Heard a request from South Williamsport Borough to remove a stipulation of approval regarding the use of the green field area behind the residences in South Williamsport Park. The Borough withdrew their request after an agreement was finalized between South Williamsport Borough and Armstrong Township during the meeting.
- Approved a preliminary Master Plan for the Glenwood Retirement Community with stipulations.
- Received an update regarding the Halls Station Area Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan.

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April

- Heard an overview of the Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway Project and endorsed one of the alternatives.
- Approved a letter to Federal and State legislators supporting continuation of the Federal and/or State gas taxes in order to maintain and expand roads and bridges.
- Approved a resolution formalizing the Planning Commission's commitment to the Census 2000 campaign.

May

- Received an update from staff and consultants regarding the Lycoming County Water Supply Plan. Reviewed draft population projections.
- Reviewed and approved the proposed LCPC financial reporting procedures
- Discussed the use of the Pine Creek Rail Trail right-of-way during emergency conditions for detour of Route 414 in the Cedar Run narrows and for official use, and requested a letter to this effect from the Executive Director to PA DCNR.

June

- Reviewed and approved comments to the Lycoming County Zoning Hearing Board regarding a Special Exception for Grizzly Industrial Products in Muncy Township.
- Approved the FFY 2001-2004 Transportation Improvement Program project for \$125 million over the next four years for sixty projects, including the Market Street Bridge project.
- Approved the \$1.2 million FY 2000-2001 LCPC/EDPS Work Program and Budget.

July

- Approved a land development plan, with stipulations, for Grizzly Inc. in Muncy Township.
- Heard concerns about stormwater management from an Armstrong Township resident and directed staff to follow-up.
- Received briefings about the status of the Pine Creek Rail Trail southern terminus and pending land use legislation.

August

- Received briefings about the County Solid Waste Plan update and the Halls Station Area Sewage Facility Plan.
- Discussed the LCPC Charter update.
- Endorsed grant applications for three Growing Greener watershed restoration projects.

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September

- Discussed Communication tower issues and a proposed zoning change in the City of Williamsport adjacent to the proposed Cinemaplex development.
- Granted conditional approval of a land development plan for Mountain Shadows Home & Garden, Inc. in Armstrong Township.
- Reviewed and endorsed the proposed Halls Station Area Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan.
- Received briefing about the County Water Supply Plan, including proposed County and municipal population forecasts.

October

- Approved comments regarding proposed Area Code changes to be submitted to the PA PUC and legislators.
- Endorsed a grant application for SEDA-COG to develop a Susquehanna Greenway Plan along the length of the Susquehanna River, contingent upon private sector representation.
- Received a Project Impact update, including a demonstration of the Flood Hazard Vulnerability maps and other information that will be available to the public on the Internet.
- Heard a report from Members and Staff who attended the PPA Annual Conference.

November

- Received an update about the Mt. Shadows land development project.
- Granted conditional approval for the Troy Musser multi-lot subdivision in Mifflin Township.
- Heard a report from Toner Hollick, Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee representative, regarding the Solid Waste Plan update.

December

- Approved three multi-lot subdivision plans.
- Endorsed the Lycoming County Solid Waste Plan Update contingent upon comments from DEP and the municipalities.
- Ratified testimony to the PUC regarding the proposed new area code.

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SUMMARY OF EDPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following is a summary of the major accomplishments of Lycoming County Economic Development and Planning Services (EDPS) during 2000:

Economic & Strategic Planning

- Completed a draft Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update for the Montoursville-Muncy corridor.
- Secured a \$4 million construction grant from US EPA to fund various Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) improvements primarily in the service area of the Williamsport Sanitary Authority. The County has allocated \$3.5 million for the Williamsport Municipal Sewer Authority West Plant expansion. Contracts have been awarded and construction is underway. The City of Williamsport also has a \$100,000 project to remove combined storm sewers in the Center Street corridor from sanitary sewage lines. Work on this project is expected to begin in early summer.
- The County was also awarded a \$2.6 million EPA Planning Grant which will investigate the combined sewer overflow related sewage problems in five municipalities and also assist the Sanitary authorities. When completed, the CSO Planning Grant will comprehensively analyze the entire Williamsport Sanitary Authority Service Area. Inflow and infiltration studies are underway in several communities, as well as a Feasibility Evaluation in Loyalsock Township on ways to reduce CSO overflow discharge to the river and preserve Sewage Treatment Plant capacity.
- The Lycoming County Planning Commission completed a draft Lycoming County Water Supply Plan, utilizing a \$100,000 grant from PA DEP. The study was developed with the assistance of a specialized professional consultant, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), and an Advisory Committee of water supply providers, municipal officials, Chamber of Commerce representatives, and agency officials. The purposes of the Plan are to:
 1. Evaluate existing community water system capabilities
 2. Project future water needs
 3. Identify service deficiencies
 4. Evaluate alternative solution strategies and
 5. Make recommendations to promote coordination and consistency with County and municipal planning efforts.

The Plan identifies potential cooperative arrangements between water suppliers and helps justify funding requests from State and Federal sources for water supply system

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improvements. The Plan will also provide guidance to the County Commissioners for CDBG allocations and other assistance. It will also include suggested Well Head and source protection language to be included in local Zoning Ordinances, as well as assisting with the delineation of Strategic Growth Areas where public utilities can be efficiently provided.

- Initiated a County Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan update to include the following:
 1. Survey of local needs and demands for recreation programs and park areas,
 2. Inventory of existing recreation programs and park facilities and their usage patterns, and
 3. Recommendations for priority in addressing needs for recreation programs and park facilities.

This project will also help address needs identified by local residents at the Our Towns 2010 Workshops, and has been recognized by the Greater Williamsport Area 2000 Alliance as a top priority which will enhance existing recreation programs and facilities and will foster increased cooperation and resource sharing between our County's local governments.

Funding from DCNR (\$30,000) and DCED (\$30,000) was secured in 1999. The project has been delayed due to staff vacancies but will resume in Spring of 2001 with the appointment of an Environmental Planner Project Manager (new position) and the selection of a specialized Recreation Consultant. An RFP has been prepared and will be advertised in the near future, pending final review and approval by DCNR.

- Completed a Comprehensive Update to the County Solid Waste Plan in conjunction with Lycoming County Resources Management and Cummings and Smith, consultant. Several Planning Commission members participated on the Plan Advisory Committee.
- Executive Director continued to serve on the Governor's Greenways Partnership Commission to help plan a major network of connected greenways. The Planning Commission endorsed a proposed Susquehanna Greenway Project to encompass the Main stem and North and West Branches.
- The County Commissioners approved the Grafius, McClure's, and Miller's Run Watershed Stormwater Management Plan and Ordinance in July, 2000, following extensive review by the Watershed Plan Advisory Committee, the Lycoming County Planning Commission, and Peer Review groups of engineers and developers/land owners. This Plan provides comprehensive stormwater management for the combined watershed located in the City of Williamsport and Eldred, Hepburn and Loyalsock Townships.

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Transportation Planning

Transportation Improvement Program

EDPS Staff assisted PennDOT and the Williamsport Bureau of Transportation in the development of the FFY 2001-2004 Transportation Improvement Program, (TIP) for Lycoming County. The TIP contains 60 highway, bridge and transit projects at an estimated cost of \$ 142 million. These projects were identified as high priorities by the Williamsport Area Transportation Study, Metropolitan Planning Organization based upon an extensive planning and public involvement process including outreach efforts with all 52 Lycoming County municipalities and other partner and stakeholder organizations. Major capital projects include (estimated completion date in parentheses):

- Approximately \$ 20 million approved for replacement of the Market Street Bridge. (2006)
- Approximately \$ 20 million approved to relocate the US 15 southbound lanes at Steam Valley Mountain necessary for Interstate 99 designation. (2005)
- Approximately \$ 1.2 million to conduct design studies to upgrade the US 220 section between Jersey Shore and Williamsport to four lane limited access highway necessary for Interstate 99 designation. (2008)
- Approximately \$ 7.2 million to complete the Interstate 180 / Lycoming Mall Road Full Interchange. (2002)
- Approximately \$ 7.8 million to construct a new access road to the Williamsport Regional Airport in conjunction with the Montoursville Flood Protection project. (2004)

EDPS Staff regularly prepared press releases for the Lycoming County Commissioners to announce funding for specific transportation projects in the municipalities targeted at each monthly public outreach meeting. The Federal Highway Administration issued final funding approval for all TIP projects in October, 2000.

The EDPS Transportation Planner continues to serve on the PennDOT Financial Guidance Work Group to implement an improved process for distribution of Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, (TEA-21) Federal highway and bridge program funding throughout Pennsylvania. The TEA-21 legislation provides significant increases in transportation funding to the Commonwealth and Lycoming County to address pressing transportation needs.

EDPS Staff updated the WATS Long Range Transportation Plan project listings. This plan serves as a planning tool to advance transportation priority projects to the Transportation Improvement Program for federal funding purposes.

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Rail Service

The EDPS Director continues to serve as a voting member appointed by the Lycoming County Commissioners to the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority. Industries served by the Lycoming Valley Railroad report improved usage and overall service quality in rail services since the Joint Rail Authority purchased the Williamsport Branch Lines between Jersey Shore and Muncy from Conrail in August, 1996. However, in 1999 a substantial deterioration in rail service to Lycoming County rail shippers resulted when Norfolk Southern assumed ownership of many rail lines formerly owned by Conrail in the Northeast United States, including the Harrisburg – Buffalo Mainline. These problems prompted the Lycoming County Commissioners to file a formal complaint with the Federal Surface Transportation Board requesting their intervention to help resolve these serious issues. Congressman Sherwood has also met with Norfolk Southern top management. As a result of these efforts, Norfolk Southern has instituted a corrective action plan to improve rail service delivery in the region. Norfolk Southern rail service has improved somewhat in 2000.

EDPS Staff has been working closely with the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority and Delta Development to explore funding options for replacement of the Lycoming Valley Railroad bridge over Loyalsock Creek in conjunction with the airport access road and Montoursville Flood Protection projects. The substructure pier has been recently repaired and the hydraulic waterway opening contributes to the flooding problem along Loyalsock Creek especially when flood debris is collected at the bridge.

In 2001, the Williamsport Area Transportation Study will submit a special study funding request to PennDOT to conduct an Intermodal Distribution Center Feasibility Study in partnership with SEDA-COG. If funded, this study will evaluate the overall need for a truck, rail and air freight distribution center in the SEDA-COG region based upon a thorough market assessment survey of manufacturing and distribution companies undertaken by a highly qualified consultant. The study will also evaluate potential sites and estimated costs for this type of facility, including public infrastructure needs to support the project. An implementation plan with funding strategies will be provided.

Bikeway / Pedestrian Initiatives

EDPS staff assisted the WATS MPO in ranking project applications for transportation enhancement program funding. In May 2000, the State Transportation Commission approved \$ 382,000 for the Phase 1 Susquehanna River Trail connecting the Loyalsock Township Bikeway with Susquehanna Park mainly along the Williamsport Dike-Levee and Lycoming Valley Railroad. In order to fully cover all anticipated construction costs, EDPS Staff also prepared a \$ 250,000 grant application to PA DCNR for this project. A funding decision is expected in March, 2001. The County will begin preliminary design studies in May, 2001 using Larson Design Group. EDPS Staff also assisted SEDA-COG in the preparation of a grant application

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to PA DCNR to initiate a feasibility study for the Susquehanna Greenway Initiative. This project consists of approximately a 200 mile greenway system along the Susquehanna River, including Lycoming County. The feasibility study should take about 3 years to complete. When completed, this project will provide an outstanding recreational / quality of life and economic asset for the entire region. EDPS Staff also assisted the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in using Larson Design Group to develop a concept plan for a southern trailhead facility in Jersey Shore Borough for the Pine Creek Rail Trail. The concept plan has been well received by PA DCNR. PA DCNR will undertake design of this facility in 2001 with construction anticipated in 2002 pending funding availability.

EDPS Staff has made substantial progress in developing the Lycoming County Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plan. A Susquehanna Trail feasibility study is being prepared for Lycoming County by Larson Design Group under contract with the LCPC. In addition, the LCPC used Dan Burden of Walkable Communities, Inc. to evaluate the need for pedestrian facility improvements in Williamsport, South Williamsport, DuBoistown, Jersey Shore, Montoursville, Muncy, Montgomery, Hughesville, Old Lycoming and Loyalsock Townships. Mr. Burden provided numerous recommendations for each municipality including the use of roundabouts in lieu of traffic signals at certain intersections. LCPC Staff also participated in a tour in September 2000, with PennDOT and several local municipal officials to examine roundabouts recently implemented in Maryland. Mr. Burden's recommendations are currently being evaluated by LCPC staff and PennDOT for possible inclusion in the County Bike / Pedestrian Master Plan. This draft plan should be completed for public review in May, 2001.

Route 15 / Interstate 99 Corridor Improvements

EDPS Transportation Planner has continued to serve as President of the Route 15 Coalition and Secretary of the Appalachian Thruway Association. Both groups have had extensive involvement with PennDOT to promote the completion of US 15 and I-99 projects throughout Pennsylvania. The Route 15 Coalition and ATA held their annual meeting in November, 2000 in conjunction with the PennDOT ribbon-cutting ceremony for the \$ 55 million US 15 Bloss Mountain project. EDPS Transportation Planner also continues to serve on the PennDOT Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway (CSVT) Advisory Committee. This project consists of a new four lane limited access highway between Selinsgrove and I-80 in Snyder, Union and Northumberland Counties. The Route 15 Coalition, Lycoming County Planning Commission and Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce endorsed PennDOT's CSVT DA Modified Avoidance Preferred alternative with River Crossing No. 5. The Route 15 Coalition continues to meet with representatives in the Corning area and Senator Madigan to develop a cooperative strategy to secure an additional \$ 200 million for New York DOT to complete I-99 from the PA / NY Border to Corning NY, including construction of a new interchange with I-99 and I-86. I-99 will have significant regional economic development benefits as the first north-south Interstate highway system throughout Central PA. It is anticipated that I-99 support groups from PA and NY will meet with the Congressional delegations of both states in 2001 in an effort to secure a Congressional earmark to complete the I-99 section in NY. It is

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anticipated that I-99 will be full completed and designated between Bedford PA and Corning NY by 2010.

EDPS Staff secured \$ 60,000 in FHWA Supplemental PL funding to undertake a Phase I I-99 Land Use Planning Study in conjunction with PennDOT's I-99 project development schedule in Lycoming County. The two main corridors of focus in the study will be along US 220 between Jersey Shore and Williamsport and along US 15 north of Williamsport. The study will evaluate the economic opportunities available in these corridors due to the I-99 project and develop comprehensive and land use planning recommendations to ensure sound planning and maximized returns on investment. The study will commence in spring 2001 in conjunction with PennDOT's I-99 project development process.

Traffic Count Program

The EDPS Planning Technician / Analyst satisfactorily completed 72 traffic counts and related data collection and entry for PennDOT as part of the Highway Performance Monitoring System and Supplemental Count Programs. Special counts requested by municipalities or other groups were also undertaken at selected areas at the expense of the entity requesting the data. All count data is available through the Lyco-GIS transportation database. A recent PennDOT audit report revealed the WATS MPO HPMS data submission had the lowest error rate among the five MPO's audited in 2000.

Other WATS Planning Initiatives

The EDPS Transportation Planner continued to serve on the SEDA-COG Regional Transportation Planning Advisory Committee. In 2000, this Committee focused on development of a Transportation Improvement Program for the SEDA-COG region, selecting transportation enhancement projects, developing a scope of work for a US 15 Travel Demand Model to assess transportation network impacts resulting from full-build out of the Great Stream Commons / Lycoming County Industrial Park and other corridor land developments and bike/ped planning regional initiatives.

EDPS Staff prepared the WATS FY 2000-2001 Unified Planning Work Program describing all transportation planning activities to be undertaken in Lycoming County. EDPS continued performing all contract administration activities associated with the UPWP. EDPS also completed the required public involvement self-evaluation of MPO activities.

EDPS Transportation Planner continues to serve on the Americans with Disabilities Act local Advisory Committee. This Committee regularly meets with social service organizations and disabled consumers using the ADA paratransit services offered through the Williamsport Bureau of Transportation and STEP, Inc. Positive feedback has been received on this service. In addition, the EDPS Transportation Planner has also been serving on the STEP Welfare to Work Transportation Committee. This committee was formed to assist STEP, Inc in the

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implementation of a PennDOT Welfare to Work Demonstration Program Grant to facilitate public assistance clientele in their transition to work through partially subsidized public transportation service which is eventually phased-out over a one year period. It is anticipated that transit service extension to the PA 405 corridor employment areas will commence in early 2001.

EDPS Staff has worked extensively in 2000 with PennDOT District 3-0, Our Towns 2010, the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, City of Williamsport and Borough of South Williamsport regarding the Market Street Bridge Replacement Project. These groups are interested in using context sensitive design techniques to showcase the new bridge as a the major gateway to downtown Williamsport. Some features from the Danville-Riverside Bridge project are being considered for the Market Street Bridge project. In addition, WATS will apply to PennDOT for \$ 80,000 in FHWA Supplemental PL funding in February, 2001 to conduct a Market Street Bridge Land Use / Transportation Impact Study which will evaluate several specific major revitalization initiatives such as a convention center, ice sports rink, sports entertainment complex, riverfront recreation opportunities and housing needs. A portion of the federal funding approved for the \$ 43 million Market Street Bridge and \$ 3 million downtown streetscape project may be able to be leveraged to cover the local share for these various revitalization initiatives. It is anticipated the study will begin in April, 2001 using the County's economic development consultant Delta Development Group.

In December, 2000 EDPS staff, with assistance from PennDOT District 3-0 submitted funding requests under the PennDOT Congested Corridors Initiative for two Lycoming County highway corridors. The first corridor is US 15 between the Market Street Bridge and the South Williamsport / Armstrong Township line (including Southern Avenue between US 15 and the Maynard Street Bridge). It is necessary to evaluate congestion reduction measures needed along this corridor in response to alternate routing associated with construction of the Market Street Bridge in 2003-2006. The second corridor includes the 51 signalized intersections in the Williamsport Central Business District being upgraded to a closed loop system with a centralized controller with use of Intelligent Transportation Systems, (ITS) technology to monitor and automatically adjust signal timing to respond in real time to congested situations at a given intersection. Studies will be initiated by WATS in 2001 pending funding approval.

County Liquid Fuels Administration

EDPS Staff assisted the Lycoming County Commissioners in undertaking three County-owned bridge replacement projects in 2000. Preliminary design studies were completed by Larson Design Group for the Ralston Bridge Replacement and Ralston Flood Hazard Mitigation projects. (Both projects are being designed and constructed concurrently to ensure a cost-effective project with minimal disruption to the local community.) The County Commissioners held two public meetings on this project during 2000. The anticipated bid letting date for project construction is scheduled for June 7, 2001. All construction activity should be completed by December 2002.

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The County Commissioners hired Larson Design Group in August, 1999 to perform design studies for replacement of the County-owned bridge at Texas Creek, Pine Township. Preliminary design is approximately 50% complete. The Commissioners presented their preferred alignment alternative at a public meeting held in Pine Township in October 2000. Construction of the new replacement bridge is scheduled for 2003.



The Commissioners also hired Larson Design Group in December, 1999 to initiate design studies to replace the County-owned bridge serving New Tribes Institute. Preliminary design is 22% complete. A public meeting will be held by the Commissioners in Spring, 2001 to review the preferred alternative. Construction of the new bridge is anticipated in 2003. The FHWA has approved \$ 200,000 for the replacement of the County-owned bridge near Tivoli, however preliminary design studies have not yet been initiated due to PennDOT workload constraints. It is anticipated that design studies will begin in late 2001 or early 2002. All County-bridge replacement projects are approved for PennDOT funding which provides 95% of total project costs.

EDPS Staff continued to administer the Lycoming County Bridge Inspection Program. All 37 municipalities owning bridges requiring Federal inspections are participating in this program. A

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total of 35 bridges with posted weight limits and/or other critical deficiencies were inspected by Larson Design Group in 2000. This County service is valuable to municipalities in several ways. An inspection report for each bridge under their ownership is provided at no cost to the municipality. Federal NBIS and County Liquid Fuels funds pay for the inspections. EDPS and LDG staff provide free technical assistance and advice to municipalities as well as exploring funding sources to help implement the report recommendations. Bridge inspection information is used by EDPS staff to prioritize local bridges for funding on the PennDOT 12 Year Program and WATS Transportation Improvement Program.

EDPS staff assisted the Lycoming County Commissioners in administering the overall County Liquid Fuels Funds including managing the formula allocation to municipalities and the Lycoming County Liquid Fuels Grant Program. The Commissioners approved \$73,156 in grant funding for the following municipal projects:

- \$ 38,500 for the Loyalsock Township Supervisors to install a new traffic signal at the East Third Street / Old Montoursville Road intersection.
- \$ 32,100 for the Pine Township Supervisors to undertake a dust abatement project along English Run Road.
- \$ 2,556 for the Woodward Township Supervisors to install drainage improvements at the intersection of Pine Run Road / New Road in conjunction with a PennDOT safety project.

The Commissioners approved release of approximately \$ 160,000 to all municipalities for road / bridge projects using the population / road mileage formula approach and also assisted municipalities by reimbursing their costs to install State road name signs in compliance with the County Readdressing Program as PennDOT policy assigns this responsibility to local municipalities.

EDPS Staff assisted the Commissioners in applying for a PA DCED grant for the Central Area Fire Chief's Association to develop a regional emergency training facility in the City of Williamsport. PA DCED approved \$ 25,000 towards the project. EDPS staff will provide additional grant assistance to the Commissioners on this project in March, 2001.

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County Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance Administration

The Lycoming County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance was enacted on December 26, 1972. One of the principal functions of the Lycoming County Planning Commission, as delegated by the Lycoming County Commissioners, is to review and take official action on subdivision and land development applications for those municipalities under jurisdiction of the County SLDO. The purpose of the County SLDO is to provide for the harmonious development of the municipality and County by ensuring that proposed developments meet the standards of the Ordinance for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Examples of standards include stormwater management, traffic safety, road construction standards, erosion and sediment control, sewage disposal, and adequate water supply.

The Planning Commission also recommends periodic updates to the Ordinance. Staff completed a draft comprehensive update of the County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, which will be reviewed by the LCPC in 2001.

The County provides full-time, professional administration and legal support for the Ordinance. This service is currently being utilized by 24 municipalities as shown by Annex 1 at the end of this report. Following is a summary of subdivision and land development activities in 2000:

- Accepted 85 new applications (plus 4 submissions were carried over from 1999). Processed and granted final approval for 77 subdivisions and 6 land development plans. Three plans were submitted for reapproval and 2 applications were withdrawn; no subdivision plan was denied. Subdivision plan approvals decreased by 18 from 1999. Land development plan approvals decreased by 4 from 1999, primarily due to a decrease in 2nd principal residence land developments. The Graph below depicts the subdivision approval trends over the last ten years.
- A total of 117 new lots were created within the municipalities under jurisdiction of the County SLDO, an increase of 37 from 1999. See the following chart "LCPC Final Subdivision Approvals and Sewage Determination, 2000" for more detailed information.

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Insert sub chart

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County Zoning Partnership

Land Development Plans were approved for the following:

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Use/Size (square feet)</u>	
Muncy	A C Moore	Commercial	20,940 sq. ft.
Cogan House	L. Landon	2 nd Principle Res.	11' x 34'
Muncy	Crown American (Grizzly)	Commercial	221,155 sq. ft.
Muncy	Gander Mountain	Commercial	31,080 sq. ft.
Armstrong	Mountain Shadows	Commercial	6,750 sq. ft.
Muncy	S. & J. Kauffman	2 nd Principle Res.	30' x 40'



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County Zoning Ordinance Administration

The County/Municipal Zoning Partnership was started on December 31, 1991 with the enactment of the Lycoming County Zoning Ordinance following numerous meetings with municipal officials, the development community, and other interested parties. The County provides full-time professional zoning administration and legal support at a net overall cost savings. Municipalities provide representatives to the County Zoning Hearing Board on a rotating basis, and are solicited for comments on all actions beyond routine Zoning Administrator reviews, such as zoning amendments, variances, and special exceptions.

The County Zoning Ordinance originally applied to the twelve townships which did not previously have zoning. Since that time, two additional Townships have joined the Partnership, bringing the total number of municipalities up to fourteen. In addition, six of the partnership Townships have rescinded their Floodplain Ordinance to come under the Floodplain regulations within the County Zoning Ordinance. Annex #2 at the end of this report contains a Zoning Ordinance jurisdiction map. The attached report summarizes County Zoning Activity in 2000, including County Zoning Hearing Board cases.

The following is a summary of Lycoming County Zoning activity in 2000:

300 Building/Zoning permits were approved for a total 575,330 square feet; including; 20 logging permits; 9 temporary permits and 4 sign permits. This is a decrease of 8 from last year's total of 308.

54 Certificates of Compliance or Occupancy were issued.

52 transactions were coordinated for Subdivision and Land Development.

11 Zoning Hearing Board case applications were received. 10 were heard including 9 Special Exceptions, 1 Variance request, and 1 was withdrawn. Eight cases were heard in 1999.

14 violations were resolved which included initiating construction without permits and setback violations.

<u>Type of Total Construction</u>	<u>New Construction</u>	<u>Building Additions</u>	<u>Accessory Buildings</u>	<u>2000</u>
Single Family Residence	55	30	166	251
Mobile Home	16	-	-	16
Non-Residential	14	5	3	22
Agriculture		4	11	15

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Residential Development Totals	123,698 sq.ft.
Residential Accessory Structures	100,976 sq.ft.
Non-residential Construction.....	327,320 sq.ft.
Agricultural Construction.....	25,479 sq.ft.

Municipal assistance was provided on an as needed basis. The Zoning Administrator assisted Township Secretaries and Permit Officers resolve questions concerning the administration of the zoning program.

Continued support to the Lycoming County Zoning Hearing Board involved staff duties for required public notices and set-up for the public hearings. An annual review of the previously approved family care units was made to assure continued compliance with the conditions of approval by the Board. Two new members of the Hearing Board were appointed by the County Commissioners. Carl Barlett of Muncy Township was appointed to replace Frank White, also of Muncy Township, who resigned after many years of service. Frank White was a charter member of the Board that was created at the adoption of the Ordinance in 1992. Robert Rabbuttinio of Cascade Township was appointed to fill the vacancy created when the term of Freeman Robbins of Jordan Township expired. Freeman Robbins was also a charter member of the Board.

Floodplain management reviews were completed in the three (3) Townships that continue to utilize County Zoning floodplain regulations. There were four (4) sites reviewed for compliance with floodplain regulations. Services were provided to property owners throughout Lycoming County concerning floodplains mapping interpretation and questions about regulations.

Administrative actions for the fiscal management of the County Zoning functions consists of responsibility for the operating revenues and expenditures, purchasing, and maintaining the fixed assets inventory. County Zoning budget development included preparation of the 2001 capital budget and the identification of the resources for a permit tracking system.

A permit tracking system had been previously identified as necessary for maintaining accurate records resulting from zoning permit activity. It would reduce the amount of hard copy that in the past had been generated and allow for the rapid retrieval of information relative to permit activity in the 14 townships covered by county zoning. The intent was to develop a database from spreadsheet information that would correlate the Register of Non-Conforming Uses with a permit tracking and monitoring system. The year 2000 saw a concerted effort to implement a program called GeoPlan. By the end of the year, the program had been installed and linked with assessment data and the tax parcel maps. This effort has brought about the integration of the County Zoning mapping in the Geographic Information System (GIS) graphics format. Further refinement of the database has opened a permit tracking and monitoring system for floodplains management, and subdivision and land development compliance, thus developing a fully integrated database for land use permits. Zoning information is being integrated into the

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GeoPlan permit tracking software. Assessment data information changes are continually being reviewed and additional recommendations will be made to maintain integrity of the assessment data for zoning purposes. The year 2001 will see continued training and a phase-in to fully utilize the capabilities of the GeoPlan program.

Zoning Hearing Board Cases

- 00-01 Cogan House Twp. Princeton Tower, Special Exception. Commercial use in a Resource Protection Zoning District. Construction of a 180-foot tall communications tower. **Approved** with conditions.
- 00-02 Washington Twp: Benjamin Lapp, Special Exception. Industrial use in a Countryside Zoning District. Construction of a planning/shaping mill. **Approved** with conditions.
- 00-03 Washington Twp. Special Exception. Stephen Fisher. Industrial use in a Countryside Zoning District. Establishment of a sawmill. **Denied.**
- 00-04 Muncy Twp. Crown America, Special Exception. Industrial use in a Regional Commercial Zoning District. Construction of a retailing/warehousing/call center complex. **Approved** with conditions.
- 00-05 Cogan House Twp. Palmer Wetzel, Special Exception. Industrial use in a Rural Center Zoning District. Establishment of a shaping mill/electric kiln. **Approved** with conditions
- 00-06 Cogan House Twp. Kevin Moore, Special Exception. Industrial Use in a Countryside Zoning District. Construction of a Mini-storage facility. **Approved** with conditions.
- 00-07 Washington Twp. Stephen Fisher, Special Exception. Industrial Use in a Countryside Zoning District. Establishment of a sawmill. **Approved** with conditions.
- 00-08 Muncy Twp. American Tower Corp, Special Exception. Commercial Use in a Countryside Zoning District. Construction of a 180-foot tall communication tower. **Approved** with conditions.
- 00-09 Muncy Twp. Pa. Cellular, Special Exception. Commercial Use in a Countryside Zoning District. Construction of a 180-foot tall communication tower. **Withdrawn.** Applicant co-located on American Tower.
- 00-10 Lewis Twp. Matthews, Variance. Residential use in a Countryside Zoning District. Subdivision of an already existing Nonconforming lot. **Approved.**

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00-11 Jordan Twp, Crown Communications, Special Exception. Commercial use in a Countryside Zoning District. Construction of a 180-foot tall communications tower. **Approved** with conditions.

NOTE: Of the 11 Zoning Hearing Board cases prepared in the year 2000, four involved communications towers. This number does not reflect the true number of inquiries that were received by the Zoning Administrator for information relative to towers, both in townships that are covered by County Zoning and townships that are not. Up until this past year, there had been no formal requests for tower construction in any of the 14 township under county zoning. As a result of this dramatic increase in interest, a revision of the text in the ordinance that will better control this proliferation of towers is being prepared for consideration by the County Planning Commission and our partner municipalities. The ordinance amendment should also be useful for municipalities in updating their own Zoning Ordinances.

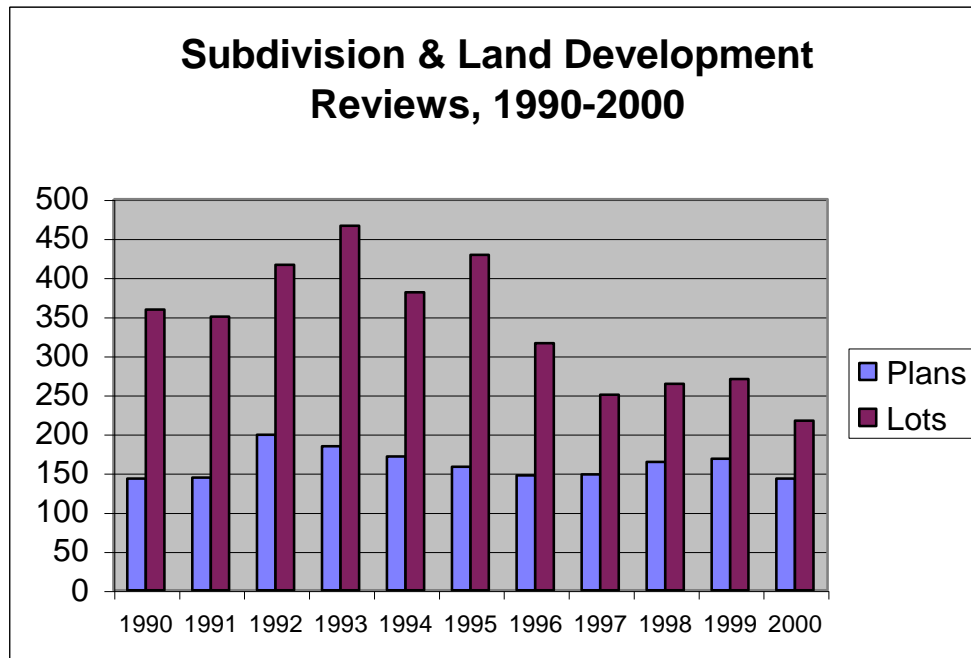
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insert Co. Zoning Permit Activity Chart

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Community Development Assistance

- Provided advisory review comments for 143 subdivision and land development plans, including 22 land developments, under local ordinance jurisdiction. This compares to 168 subdivisions, including 12 land developments in 1999. During 2000, the total number of plans reviewed was lower than in previous years (see Graph below), although there was a substantial increase in the number of land development plans reviewed. About half of these land developments occurred within the City of Williamsport indicating increased commercial and institutional activity within the City. The total number of lots reviewed throughout the year decreased from 270 in 1999 to 217 in 2000. The majority of subdivisions during the year involved single lots and addition-lots. Of the 217 lots, 71 were addition lots.
- Provided general zoning, subdivision, and floodplain assistance on a daily basis to municipal



officials, property owners, real estate professionals, bankers, insurance representatives, attorneys, surveyors, engineers, interested citizens, and the general public.

- Provided review comments for the following proposed municipal Zoning Ordinance amendments during 2000:
 1. City of Williamsport – Zoning Text amendment regarding Criminal Housing Facilities – June, 2000
 2. Jersey Shore Borough – Zoning Map amendment (R to I-2) – September, 2000

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3. City of Williamsport – Zoning Map amendment (R-2 to CC, W. 4th Street) – October, 2000
 4. Piatt Township – Zoning Text Amendment, Communication Towers – December, 2000
- Staff reviewed 12 proposed revisions to Municipal Sewage Facility Plans for consistency with Comprehensive Plans, Land Use Ordinances, and other planning programs.
 - The drafting staff provided mapping support to facilitate flood mitigation planning, water and sewer planning, municipal planning assistance contracts, zoning map changes and printing for individual municipalities.



Project Impact Status Report

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INITIATIVES

(As of January 19, 2001)

I. Formation and Organization

- Established and incorporated a non-profit group (with 501c3 status), Lycoming County Hazard Mitigation Partnership Inc., to bring together, organize and promote long-range mitigation planning efforts within Lycoming County.
- Established an Executive Committee and elected Officers.
- Instrumental in Lycoming County's selection to receive the "Year 2000 Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence." Lycoming County's selection in the "Responding to Adversity" category in honor and recognition of the County's lead role in promoting efficient, effective government by organizing the County/Municipal Hazard Mitigation Partnership to apply for and receive Stafford Act Funding to reduce disaster damages in response to the disastrous flood of 1996. The County also received the Local Government Excellence Award in recognition of the many Private/Public Partnership initiatives undertaken through "Lycoming County Project Impact" to make Lycoming County a safer place to live and work.

II. Acquisitions & Retrofitting

- Removed a total of 134 families "from harms way" in Lycoming County. (HMGP - in partnership with PEMA and FEMA)
- Removed 74 families "from harms way" by acquiring and demolishing 70 residential properties located in flood hazard areas of Lycoming County. (HMGP - in partnership with PEMA and FEMA)

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- Removed the threat of flooding for 30 additional families by acquiring and removing a 30-Unit Mobile Home Park situated in the floodway and converting it into a community park. (HMGP - in partnership with PEMA and FEMA)
- Presently working on the *Muncy Flood Mitigation Project* which involves flood damage retrofitting of utilities within 42 residences and 3 businesses in the repetitively flooded Historic Borough of Muncy. (HMGP - in partnership with PEMA and FEMA).
- Initiated the Ralston Flood Mitigation Project to reduce flood damages to the rural village of Ralston. This project involves acquiring and demolishing homes to reduce flood damages, and the lowering of flood levels by utilizing an over-bank flow channel, increasing conveyance capacity of a Township Bridge, removing a low railroad bridge, increasing conveyance capacity of a new County Bridge; and, repairing and improving the existing levee. (HMGP - in partnership with PA DOT, PEMA & FEMA).
- Retrofitted utilities within the Jersey Shore Borough Building to make it fire and flood damage resistant
- Electrical and plumbing fixtures such as the furnace, breaker panel, hot water heater, sewer pipe etc. were retrofitted or relocated and government records will be moved upstairs to reduce the likelihood of hazard damage.
- Secured FEMA and PEMA funding for removal of the Tivoli United Methodist Church “from harm’s way”.



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- The building was relocated in order to reduce flood damage to the structure and to reduce traffic hazards on Rte. 220. The location of the structure within S.R. 0220 right-of-way has created a significant traffic hazard. The relocation of the building out of harm's way will also reduce hazards related to poor sight distance when entering and departing the Church parking lot. Furthermore, the move opens the way for PennDot to replace the nearby bridge over Muncy Creek, improve the S.R. 0405/0442 intersection to enhance safety, and implement appropriate construction and stream restoration to reduce flood levels that frequently close the important S.R. 0405 lifeline to Muncy Hospital from points east. This project is being carried out in partnership with the Church, FEMA, PEMA, Shrewsbury Township, Picture Rocks Fire Company, and PennDot with additional partners to be recruited.

III. Technological Advances/Mapping

- Working in partnership with FEMA and the USGS on a Countywide Digitized Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) to improve flood hazard mapping for Lycoming County's 52 municipalities.
- This project involves using the Lycoming County Geographical Information System (GIS) base data, processing DEM data to produce detailed elevation data and providing it to FEMA, digitizing hydraulic & hydrologic study data provided by the USGS for the new Lycoming Creek Flood Insurance Study; and, working with the FEMA Contractor, Dewberry and Davis, to improve the accuracy of regulatory floodplain boundaries. (EDPS/FEMA/USGS Partnership).
- Provided an extensive benchmark database and GIS data to FEMA and the Army Corp of Engineers to establish 19 first order *vertical elevation benchmarks* throughout Lycoming County.
- These benchmarks will be used in assessing hazard vulnerability and as reference marks on the Countywide DFIRM (Digitized Flood Insurance Rate Map). The elevation benchmarks will also be valuable to homeowners and businesses implementing flood reduction actions, e.g. retrofitting existing buildings.
- Acquired a *vertical quality GPS* (error rate within a centimeter) to gather site specific elevation data and assist in determining site specific hazard vulnerabilities and risk reduction measures for municipal buildings, chemical storage sites, schools, police stations, utilities, public infrastructure, businesses, shelter facilities etc. In addition, the GPS is being used by EDPS Staff to verify and improve Geographical Information System (GIS) and Flood Hazard Mapping accuracy.
- Digitized Land Use Maps from the *County Comprehensive Plan* e.g. soils, steep slopes, zoning boundaries, forested land, groundwater aquifers, recreation areas, etc. to assist in determining hazard vulnerabilities within the County's 52 municipalities.
- Geo-coded and linked 371 Elevation Certificates, repetitive loss properties and accompanying damage data within the County (including structure photographs) to *tax*

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parcel numbers on the County GIS. This will allow permit officials and emergency services providers to have site specific land use, damage value and hazard related information available to him/her instantly.

- Using GIS Technology and contract consultant services to improve A-Zones boundaries (floodplains) depicted on National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Maps. This project will also establish Base Flood Elevations (BFE s) for approximately 400 miles of streams within the 13 municipalities of Lycoming County never having a Flood Insurance Study. A discount of approximately \$25,000 has been negotiated as a partner share from the consultant HSMM.
- Partnered and assisted the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Geological Survey in producing new Flood Insurance Studies for Lycoming, Loyalsock and Muncy Creeks.
- The VAMP Work Group and County GIS team gathered pertinent hazard information and feature information from many sources to produce a *Vulnerability Analysis Database* (VAD) Map for the 52 municipalities in Lycoming County. The Countywide VAD includes: flood of record inundation levels; transportation lifelines; police stations; fire stations; ambulance stations; emergency shelters; schools; school bus routes; hospitals; nursing homes; day care centers; Q3 flood data; sewage facilities; critical electric and communications facilities; one and five foot contour elevations; SARA Title III Sites (hazardous material sites); DFIRM data; County, State, & Federal stream and rain gauge locations; watershed boundaries; dams; churches; historic sites; municipal boundaries; parks; roads; and waterways. and other geo-coded sites relevant to each municipality. An inventory of the location of existing fire hydrants and dry hydrants; and, emergency generator needs, specifications and capabilities is being undertaken; and will be added to the VAD.
- The *Vulnerability Analysis Database Maps* that depict vulnerability and risk to critical facilities and public infrastructure were distributed to emergency service providers and all 52 municipalities to raise hazard awareness.
- The database is now also used basic to provide land use information pertaining to zoning, subdivision and land development, and floodplain management.
- In conjunction with the VAD, a “user friendly” Community Land Use Records and Permitting System, named GeoPlan is being developed in cooperation with Regional Planning Technologies, Inc. (RPT, Inc.)
- This system will utilize “GeoPlan” (GIS software) which allows geographical information and management information to be easily merged. The entire package is user friendly and it is envisioned that it will be owned by each municipality, should local officials be willing to invest in the hardware and software needed. A partnership agreement has been negotiated with the RPT, Inc. to discount software licenses from \$6500 to \$300 each for local municipalities, authorities, and County Departments.

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- Provided the three contiguous communities with the highest population in flood zones with GIS Work Stations and GeoPlan.

IV. Floodplain Management and Regulation

- Conducted a *Survey of floodplain management regulation administrative and enforcement practices within the 52 floodprone municipalities* of Lycoming County for use in preparing and recommending for adoption more effective land use regulations (including: Flood Hazard Area Construction Standards for inclusion in local building codes).
- Co-sponsored (with DCED and DEP) several “Floodplain Management & Residential Damage Reduction Workshops” held on October 20, 1999 and October 27, 1999.
- These sessions were designed to educate municipal officials, permit officers, engineers, surveyors, and the general public concerning methods of residential retrofitting and the requirements of the State Floodplain Management Act, the National Flood Insurance Program, and Pa’s Clean Streams Act.

V. Hazard Reduction Planning

- The Lycoming County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is being completed with the assistance of a contract consultant and will soon be distributed to municipalities for input.
- Conducted a Countywide Hazard Vulnerability Analysis Survey among +200 Project Impact Partners and Advisory Board Members, and the 52 local municipalities. Survey results will assist in identifying the County’s most troublesome hazard problems (emphasis on critical and public facilities) as input in developing hazard reduction priorities in a Countywide Hazard Reduction Plan.
- Working with contiguous communities within the Lycoming Creek watershed to develop a joint hazard mitigation plan

VI. Enhanced Warning

- Purchased a GIS Work Station to be used by the Lycoming County Department of Emergency Services in order to make all GIS vulnerability data and programs available for their use in responding to disasters
- An *Automated Telephone Notification System* is being developed under contract with AlertOne Services, Inc. Initially, this system will call to play a recorded voice message to warn municipal officials and early responders in the case of a disaster. Later, the system will be expanded to call residents of selected geographic areas to provide for early warning emergency notification.

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VII. Community Outreach

- Assisted in the formation of the *Muncy Creek Watershed Association* and co-sponsored a *watershed clean-up day* with the MCWA to build partnerships and community awareness of the building disaster resistance program.
- The MCWA agreed to assist Lycoming County Project Impact with the implementation of flood mitigation measures in the Muncy Creek area. During the co-sponsored clean-up day, 50 volunteers removed truckloads of garbage and litter from floodplain areas and drainage facilities within the watershed. Participants also assisted in hazard risk identification. Lycoming County Project Impact (and its partners: Walmart, McDonalds, and Wolyniec Construction) provided resources and manpower to assist in the effort.
- Participated in the Hughesville Volunteer Fire Company “Open House” on October 16, 1999 to promote building disaster resistance to fire hazards.
- In partnership with the HVFC, Lycoming County Project Impact provided and installed smoke detectors to those in need. Other participants in the open house included the State Police, Red Cross, Forestry Department and Department of Public Safety. Smokey the Bear will be on hand for children’s photos. In addition to fire prevention, children were taught life saving techniques such as stop, drop and roll.
- Developed and launched Lycoming County Project Impact Web Site in partnership with Kolb Net Works. The web site will be used to educate the public concerning pre-disaster hazard reduction and is enabling flood hazard boundary maps and other hazard vulnerability maps to be viewed by the public.
- Flood vulnerability data can be accessed on this web site. A consultant, Rettew, has delivered these maps on the internet. The ability to provide hazard vulnerability and floodplain management information via the internet is made possible through the “Community Challenge Grant” provided by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).
- Provided public access to the Lycoming County Zoning Ordinance by publishing it on the web site.
- *Weather radios* with the S.A.M.E. (Specific Area Message Alert) function have been purchased and are being distributed to hospitals, nursing homes, schools, day care homes, senior citizen centers, hospitals, and places of group assembly .
- Have nearly completed taping of a “*How To Retrofit*” video for private residents.
- Near completion of a “*Road to Acquisitions*” video for local government officials considering acquisitions in their communities.
- Organized a display at *the Lycoming County Fair* 1998, 1999, 2000.
- Organized a display and a seminar at the *West Branch Builders Home Show* 1999, 2000.

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- Organized a display at *Family Fest '99*, 2000.
- Organized a display at *Techxpo.2000*.
- Hosted a Partner recruiting mentoring session with Debbie Reed from New Hanover County, NC.
- Recruited +147 Partners from government, business, industry, community groups, and private residents.
- Conducted a signing ceremony, which was attended by 114 people.
- Designed and distributed a *bi-fold promotional brochure*.
- Designed and distributed a *localized Project Impact Brochure*.
- Designed a new *Project Impact Logo* in the shape of Lycoming County.
- Created a display logo printed on a piece of hard wood 41" x 32" (1/2 inch thick).
- Designed and distributed a *Partner Decal* in the shape of our new logo.
- Developed a partnership recruitment video, explaining Project Impact. Distributed to 52 municipalities.
- Initiated development of a standard newspaper ad to facilitate development of Community Awareness.

Other Possibilities

- With damage reduction initiatives for residential, critical utilities and public facilities now underway, a demonstration of damage retrofitting or flood warning improvements for business and industry along Lycoming Creek will be explored by the VAMP Work Group. As an example, presently to predict the likelihood of flooding during heavy rainstorms, Stroehmann Bakeries Roll Plant sends its employees upstream to look at water levels. Situations like this (floods threatening business and industry) throughout the County, will be vastly improved with the County Flood Warning System Upgrade being undertaken.
- Implement uniform *floodplain building, subdivision and zoning* regulations for flood hazard areas and improve drainage regulations on a watershed basis.
- Improve township and boroughs standing in the *community rating system (CRS)*.

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- Develop *emergency preparedness education* initiatives.
- Assess vulnerability, and design measures to *flood-proof a private residence*.
- Conduct “*How to Retrofit*” seminars in conjunction with Partners.

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Geographic Information Systems

High Points of GIS Accomplishments in 2000

In the year 2000 the GIS division successfully began GIS deployment with the completion and unveiling of interactive flood zone and property mapping on the internet (www.lyco.org), GIS data on the intranet for use within the County, and completion of modifications to GeoPlan for use by staff and municipalities. The internet and intranet part of this was made possible by our competitive selection by ESRI for a \$25,000 grant in software. The deployment of GIS into our community has only just begun, and will continue in 2001. GeoPlan has replaced Arc/View for most staff applications.

The new official County road map was printed in Lycoming County and distributed through 19 locally owned businesses. 7,000 copies were sold.

Major support was given to Project Impact. New data was added, old data was cleaned, analyses were programmed, and hazard vulnerability maps were produced for every municipality and distributed. Seventy four bridges were measured and photographed for the flood modeling of areas not previously studied. The flood zones produced by HSMM/Watershed Concepts will help guide development away from dangerous areas. Staff also worked with the USGS hydrologist in measuring over 80 cross sections on Muncy and Loyalsock Creeks.

Our centimeter-grade global positioning unit (GPS) was used for hazard analysis in Tivoli and Jersey Shore. The sub-meter grade GPS unit was used for measurements at the Jersey Shore trailhead, at newly built structures for 911 locations, among other site uses.

The quality of the GIS parcel and building databases were evaluated using programs (scripts) written in-house. This will continue in 2001.

Displays and plots were produced for over 140 walk-in customers.

Staff changes: We welcomed two new hard-working and sharp contract employees: Mark Bletz a technician and John Kimport as our GPS surveyor.

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Administration & Interagency Coordination

- Had a clean audit without qualifications and findings and lowered our costing rate.
- The Lycoming County Planning Commission adopted a joint LCPC/EDPS FY 2000-2001 work program and budget of \$1,228,964 of which \$538,640 (43.8%) is net County funding support. The remaining funds are from State and Federal Government grants; development processing fees; and municipal service contracts. The FY 2000-2001 Work Program Budget includes \$343,422 for outside consultants and other direct costs (such as software and computer product acquisition).
- Bob Waltz, Bob Bauder and Ann Pepperman were re-appointed to the Planning Commission. Staffing changes included the retirement of Maggie Emery as Subdivision and Land Development Administrator. Amy Rankey was hired in June as her replacement but subsequently transferred to the Department of Public Safety. Clifford A. Kanz, AICP, started in January, 2001 as the Development Services Supervisor, an upgrade of the former Development Services Coordinator position.

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insert Subdivision Ordinance jurisdiction map – Annex 1

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insert Zoning Ordinance jurisdiction map – Annex 2