

Forward

This plan is 2.5yrs in the making! The Lycoming County Planning and Community Development Department embarked upon this plan in September of 2015. The planning process ran simultaneous with the update of six multi-municipal comprehensive plans that were also facilitated by our staff. Those six plans were all adopted and published by December 2017. This plan takes into account knowledge gained from those 26 urbanized municipalities as well as the remaining rural areas of the County.

This plan is an update to the 2006 County Comprehensive Plan which remains in force. **The 2018 Lycoming County Comprehensive Plan Update** focuses on validating the issues and concerns from the previous plan, identifying the root of the problems identified and finding solutions. The process did not spend a lot of time on visioning or developing goals and objectives since that was a significant effort undertaken during the 2006 process. However, the utilization of the 2006 and 2018 plans in concert with each other will provide a tremendous benefit and advantage to the County and its communities.

Extra-ordinary community outreach was a principle mission of creating this plan. A full range of community outreach types and techniques were embodied during this plan process from public meetings and events around the county to meetings with stakeholder groups and visits to all the school districts and colleges in the county, to interviews, surveys, focus groups and municipal summits. We took as many steps as possible to engage the public in order to learn what is happening in our county rather than primarily relying on updating data.

We used this input to help set priorities and validate the greatest concerns and opportunities facing Lycoming County at this time. The plan emphasizes what implications may occur if the issues are not addressed and it identifies a manageable number of strategic implementable projects, programs and initiatives that can address those issues in the next ten to twelve years. To that end, the 2018 Comprehensive Plan Update was developed under the following principles, defined by DCED's "Creating an Implementable Comprehensive Plan" guidance:

1. Focus the plan on real and relevant issues
2. Organize the plan the way local officials and citizens think
3. Devise practical and workable recommendations
4. Recruit partners and create capacity to implement the plan
5. Get local ownership of the plan and commitment to implement

This plan is intended to be used as a roadmap for future county investments and a tool to attract outside investment throughout the County. The ideas and recommendations identified herein cannot be done single-handedly; the County will undoubtedly need the partnership, support, buy-in and expertise of many far and wide to accomplish these great things and make long-lasting impacts on our economy and quality of life.

This is exciting stuff – Let's get to it!

Kim Wheeler, AICP

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