

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
April 17, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 10 a.m., at the Young People's Community Center, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Vice-Chairman, Dr. Koren, called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Charles Koren
Paul Kundrod
Debra Orner
Ron Rovansek
Diane Waksmunski

ABSENT

Melissa Komar
Scott Eberhart
Danea Koss
Shawn Veneskey

STAFF

Mark Lazzari
Colleen Bukowski
Shanna Sosko
Jacob Zerby

GUESTS

Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was offered at this meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Kundrod, seconded by Mr. Rovansek, the March 20, 2025 meeting minutes were approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The April Treasurer's Report was read by the Executive Director and reviewed by those present. Mr. Lazzari reported the April 1, 2025 balances for the Commission's regular checking account as \$150,071.95 and the Money Market Account as \$25,519.29. After briefly reviewing anticipated revenues and expenses paid, Mr. Lazzari noted the listing of expenses to be approved for payment at the end of the month. There being no questions or comments on the report, Mr. Rovansek made a motion that the April Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Orner and passed unanimously.

Authorization for the Commission Chair to Sign a Grant Cooperation Agreement and Resolution by and between SAPDC, the CCPC, and the Counties of Bedford, Blair, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset for SAPDC submission of PA DCED Funding Application

Mr. Lazzari stated that this cooperative agreement between Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC), the CCPC, and the Counties of Cambria, Bedford, Blair, Fulton, Huntingdon, and Somerset would authorize SAPDC to submit an application to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development seeking funding to assist in the preparation of a regional Greenways and Open Space Network Plan. He explained that, at the request of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and to bolster future funding eligibility, the six counties comprising the SAPDC have agreed to update the 2007 Greenways and Open Space Network Plan. Mr. Lazzari noted that the plan, which will analyze each county's natural resources, recreation opportunities, and outdoor infrastructure, will assist in addressing recreation priorities and action items of the *Alleghenies Ahead* comprehensive plan. On a motion by Mr. Rovansek, seconded by Mr. Kundrod, authorization was given for CCPC Chair to sign the Grant Cooperation Agreement and Resolution pertaining to SAPDC's submission of a PA DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant application requesting funding for development of a regional Greenways and Open Space Network Plan. The motion was unanimously approved.

STATUS REPORTS AND PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Lazzari emphasized that the level of collaboration and partnership among CCPC staff and other local government, economic development, recreation, and community service organizations throughout Cambria County continues to expand. He commented that in addition to coordination activities with the five municipalities involved with the West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan, staff has also attended several municipal meetings in an effort to bolster communication between the CCPC and municipal representatives.

Commission staff provided updates on the following initiatives:

- JHA Choice Neighborhoods Project

Ms. Sosko apprised the members of coordination telephone calls involving the project consultant, JHA and CCPC staff, and City of Johnstown representatives wherein information garnered from community meetings and progress on plan development is discussed. She noted that website development is underway and action to identify community ambassadors and foster community outreach has been initiated.

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Zerby reported that, at the request of federal and state planning partners, language in the proposed 2025-2027 UPWP was revised to reflect current federal guidelines regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Environment Justice. He noted that the revisions did not represent a

substantive change and the document was resubmitted and is currently awaiting approval at the state and federal levels.

- Cambria County Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Program

Ms. Sosko stated that both she and Mr. Zerby completed the on-line video portion of the training required prior to in-person training sessions to be held later this month.

Commissioner Chernisky apprised those present of an upcoming information event (May 13 & 14) sponsored by Drone814 being held to inform the public of the capabilities of medical drones in addressing emergency response situations. He explained that the Drone814 project is designed to use drone technology to deliver medical supplies directly to people in need.

- West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Sosko stated that the Request for Proposals for the Plan has been posted on the CCPC website and advertised in The Tribune Democrat. She indicated that three proposals have been received and interviews will be conducted by CCPC staff and members of a selection committee composed of representatives from each of the participating municipalities. She and Mr. Lazzari stressed that coordination with the five participating municipalities is essential during all phases of plan development. In response to a question from Mr. Kundrod concerning budget constraints for plan preparation, Ms. Sosko explained that the RFP set a maximum budget of \$70,000. Mr. Lazzari noted that in an effort to keep within the budget constraints, CCPC staff will be providing technical support to the project manager during plan development.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Lazzari reported that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the provision of as-needed legal advice services to the CCPC has been advertised with a May 1st response date. He noted that all RFQs will be reviewed by Commission members and staff.

The Executive Director reported that a Request for Proposals (RFP) for preparation of a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, which will aid CamTran in providing better service to individuals in the County who rely on public transportation. He noted that all RFPs are due in early May and will be reviewed by Commission and CamTran staff before an award recommendation is presented to the CCPC Board of Directors for final consideration and approval.

Mr. Lazzari and Mr. Zerby reported that development of the Municipal Infrastructure Assistance Program, which has been designed by Commission staff to assist the Commissioners in allocating Act 89 and Act 13 funds for municipal transportation projects, is nearly finalized. Mr. Zerby stated that project applications are available to all municipalities via the CCPC website with initial applications expected to be ranked and

prioritized for funding consideration by mid-May. The Transportation Planner explained that the matrix developed to assist CCPC staff in ranking the projects considers infrastructure condition, traffic volume, emergency detour lengths, municipal commitment, and project readiness. Once the projects have been reviewed by both staff and CCPC members, funding recommendations will be presented to the County Commissioners. Mr. Zerby noted that PennDOT will be consulted to assure eligibility determination for recommended projects. Mr. Lazzari commented that program guidelines and application procedures were presented at a public meeting in Johnstown and at a recent meeting of the County Boroughs Association and Commission staff has also provided the information to several municipal engineering firms.

Mr. Zerby stated that Commission staff has completed the initial steps toward selection of a county bridge engineer and the final activities involved with this process rests with the County Commissioners. He noted that no decision has yet been made by the Commissioners.

Ms. Sosko commented that Commission staff intends to have lunch together once a month at various establishments throughout the County to gain insight into the local area and possibly connect with area residents. Mr. Lazzari commented that hopefully this will enhance the Commission's exposure in all areas of the County.

Mr. Lazzari stated that the financial audit of the CCPC for the year ending June 30, 2024 is expected to be finalized and delivered very soon. Copies of the document will be provided to each Commission member for review and comment.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Chernisky apprised those present of the Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority's Trailhead Challenge which will take place throughout 2025. He explained that the challenge was developed to enhance public awareness of the 23 trailheads located along the Ghost Town, C & I Extension, Path of the Flood, and Jim Mayer Riverswalk trails. Commissioner Chernisky touted the positive impact that outdoor recreation has on the local economy throughout Cambria County.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ms. Orner, seconded by Dr. Koren. Motion passed unanimously.