

MINUTES
Cambria County Planning Commission
April 16, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 12 noon, at the Young Peoples Community Center, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Chairwoman Melissa Komar called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Melissa Komar
Charles Koren
Paul Kundrod
Scott Eberhart
Debra Orner
Ron Rovanseck
Shawn Veneskey
Diane Waksmunski

ABSENT

Heather McCloskey

STAFF

Mark Lazzari
Colleen Bukowski
Shanna Sosko
Jacob Zerby

There being no changes to the agenda, Ms. Komar called for continuation of the meeting as per posted agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Eberhart made a motion that the March 19, 2026 meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Waksmunski and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The April Treasurer's Report was read by the Executive Director and reviewed by those present. There being no comments or questions on the report, Dr. Koren made a motion that the April Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rovanseck and passed unanimously.

Cambria County Municipal Infrastructure Assistance Program (MIAP) - Round 3

Mr. Zerby reported that fifteen municipal applications were received for funding consideration under the County's Municipal Infrastructure Assistance Program. He stated that CCPC staff evaluated and ranked the projects according to established program criteria and developed three funding options for Commission members' consideration. Mr. Zerby explained that the funding option agreed upon by Commission members and staff will be presented to the County Commissioners for their approval and funding awards. Utilizing a hand-out detailing each of the three funding options, members discussed the merits and shortcomings of each option, focusing on matrix guidelines, full funding vs. partial funding of submitted projects,

realistic and timely completion of each project, and municipal financial commitments toward project completion. After discussions on each of the three options, Mr. Rovasek made a motion authorizing the Executive Director to transmit the project listing and respective financial awards detailed in Option A to the Cambria County Commissioners for their consideration and funding approval. The motion was seconded Mr. Veneskey and passed unanimously.

During discussion of the Municipal Assistance Program, several members suggested that staff consider revising the ranking matrix to factor in prior funding received through MIAP and if the project addresses a public safety issue.

STATUS REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES

West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Sosko reported that the community survey has been well-received with 774 responses received to date. She noted that staff continues to participate in both consulting team and focus group calls to further ongoing development of the plan. Ms. Sosko commented that Commission staff continues to promote and explain the purpose of the plan at various community events.

West Hills Regional Fire Commission

Ms. Sosko reported that the strategic plan for formation of the West Hills Regional Fire Commission has been completed and the final closing financial report to the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (CFA) has been submitted. Mr. Lazzari noted that payment in the amount of \$8,500 to Jerome Ozog Enterprises LLC, the consultant retained for this project, will be processed at the end of April. He also noted that administration of the CFA grant and direct staff involvement with representatives of the participating fire companies facilitated this cooperative venture.

Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

Briefing the members on staff involvement with the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan, Mr. Zerby stated that he and the Executive Director continue to participate in coordination and advisory committee meetings and stakeholder interviews/focus group sessions. He noted that vision and goal statements for the plan are being discussed and finalized. Commission staff indicated that outreach efforts to distribute and promote the county-wide transportation survey have been a priority during the past month.

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Career Fair Participation

The Executive Director commented that staff members attended career fairs at Penn Cambria Middle School, Westmont Elementary, and Greater Johnstown Middle School and job fairs at the Hiram G. Andrews Center and Penn Highlands Community College. He noted that these types of events often provide opportunities to explain and promote current survey participation, i.e., West Hills Comprehensive Plan and Public Transit Human Service Plan surveys.

Personnel Manual and By-law Review

Noting that the CCPC Personnel Manual was last updated in 2008 and the By-Laws updated in 2021, Mr. Lazzari stated that he has initiated an in-office review of these documents. The Executive Director commented that, as time permits, he will continue this review and will confer with the Commission's legal counsel before recommending any updates for the Board's consideration.

CamTran Local Funding Match

Mr. Lazzari stated that the Executive Director of the Cambria County Transit Authority (CamTran) continues to urge CCPC staff to provide a funding formula for municipal allocations to the Authority. He assured the members that, as per previous discussions on this issue, the local share (municipal) funding issue is not the responsibility of the CCPC; however, Commission staff will continue to seek funding alternatives for CamTran to retain a transportation planning consultant to develop a viable funding scenario. Mr. Zerby indicated that discussions have taken place among CCPC staff and PennDOT Central Office staff to secure funding for this initiative through a separate open-ended PennDOT agreement.

County Comprehensive Plan Update

The Executive Director reported that the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission has agreed to apply to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and/or the PA Department of Community and Natural Resources seeking funding to update the *Alleghenies Ahead* regional comprehensive plan completed in 2018. Mr. Lazzari noted that Cambria, Blair, Bedford, Fulton, and Huntingdon counties have agreed to support the funding application and work cooperatively to further this endeavor.

Other Discussion

Mr. Zerby commented that the County's GIS department and the CCPC have been notified that a major tech firm is interested in spotlighting Cambria County's use of drone and 360-degree camera technology. He noted that as more information becomes available he will share details with the Commission members.

There being no further business or discussion items, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Veneskey, seconded by Ms. Waksmunski. Motion passed unanimously.