

2020 Annual Report

Franklin County Planning Commission



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2020 Planning Commission Annual Report

The guiding principles of the Franklin County Planning Commission are to foster the proper growth of Franklin County to ensure the enjoyment of life by each citizen in a pleasant, healthful and harmonious environment. The guiding principles of the Franklin County Planning Commission include:

- Promoting economic development to revitalize communities,
- Sustaining open space and the aesthetic and historic characteristics of the County,
- Protecting farms, forests, and streams, and;
- Safeguarding our recreational and valuable natural resources.

The Planning Commission intends to maintain these principles by:

- Providing guidance and sound community planning advice to local governments,
- Emphasizing regional cooperation in planning efforts, and;
- Fostering growth and development that will complement existing infrastructure.

The 2020 Annual Report was prepared in compliance with the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) Section 207 which stipulates a report of the Planning Commission’s activities be completed by March 1st each year.

Over the last year, the Planning Commission met twice (due to COVID-19) and was provided with reports from staff on the accomplishments in the Planning Department. This included updates on agriculture preservation, subdivision and land development reviews, CDBG, housing and transportation initiatives, and goals for the coming year. The current members of the Planning Commission are listed below:

Franklin County Planning Commission		
Member	First Appointed	Term Expires
Dr. Jack Benhart	1996	2023
Cindy Lawver	2000	2023
Dr. George Pomeroy	2012	2023
David Mackley	2009	2021
Chris Ardinger	2018	2021
Andy Paszkowski	2018	2021



Franklin County Planning Commission Annual Report – Introduction

What can I say about 2020 that has probably not already been said a hundred times? Crazy. Unbelievable. Stressful. Unprecedented. Despair. Hope. Strength. Unity. The adjectives have been used more than we are able to count, but in their own way they each embody and encapsulate a year that will live on in our memories for decades to come. And while the news would have us focus on the negatives, I believe this year's Annual Report is an opportunity to focus on all of the positives in 2020. Within the report you will find the successes and accomplishments of the Planning Department over the past year, including a HOME Grant in Waynesboro, continued CDBG investments in local communities in dire need of clean drinking water, preservation of prime agricultural lands, and the adoption of the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The pages contained within this report highlight many of the positive activities undertaken by the Department and I'm excited for you to learn more.

I also want to clearly and openly say how extremely proud I am of the work and obstacles that the Planning Department staff has overcome in the last year. They rose to the challenge on more than one occasion and displayed their resilience, their ability to adapt, and determination to do their jobs to the best of their ability. And now, as we reflect on another year gone by, we all can't but help to shift our focus towards the coming year and future of the department. Over the coming year, we will be engaging in many efforts to move forward, including an update to our County Comprehensive Plan, preparing for our Solid Waste Plan update and looking to move more of our services to a virtual platform. The goals and tasks we have before us are almost too many to list but we are excited about what the future holds for us and can't wait for you to join us in our adventures.

Wishing you all the best in 2021,

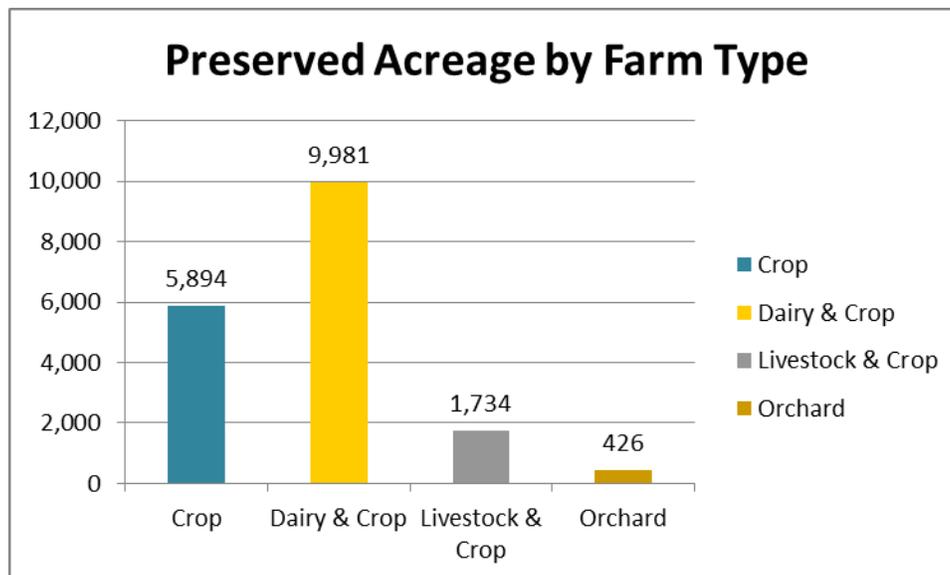
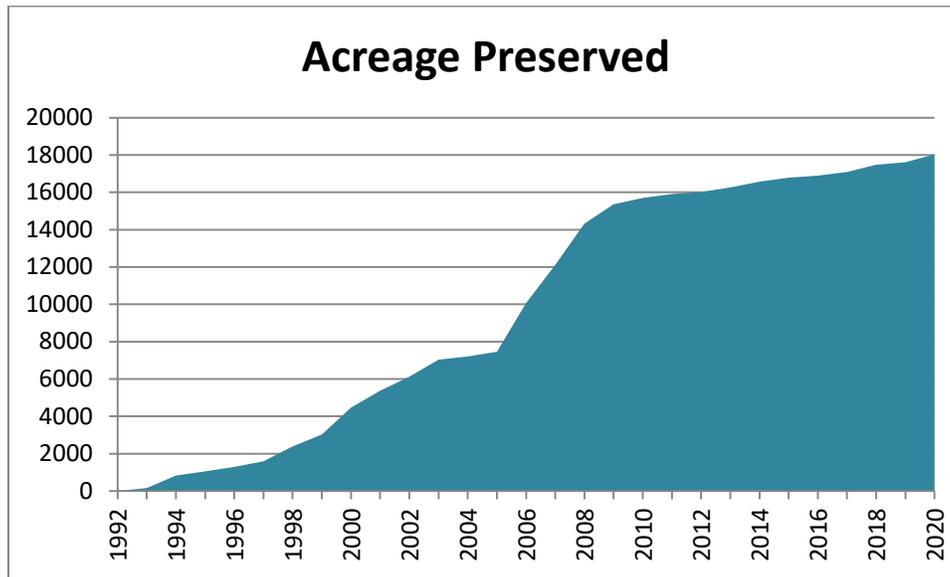
Steven J Thomas, AICP
Planning Director

Planning Department - 2021 Goals and Initiatives	
Goal 1:	Update Comprehensive Plan for adoption in 2022.
Goal 2:	Support the objectives in the Franklin County Greenway and Open Space Plan. Consider updates to the plans and involvement with other environmental initiatives. Continue to participate in the South Mountain Initiative. Facilitate and coordinate local efforts to ensure consistency and connectivity.
Goal 3:	Cooperate and provide support for new economic development initiatives that meet with the objectives of the Franklin County Comprehensive Plan and the vision for the future.
Goal 4:	Connect with municipalities to continue providing technical assistance.
Goal 5:	Encourage water resource planning by continuing to coordinate with County departments to facilitate the implementation of the Watershed Implementation Plan and stormwater management activities.

Franklin County Planning Department Activities and Accomplishments

Agricultural Land Preservation

Agriculture remains a leading industry in Franklin County, accumulating more than \$413 million in cash receipts annually. With continuing support of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, the Agricultural Land Preservation Board continued their efforts with the purchase of conservation easements on five farms in 2020 for a total cost of \$1,065,250.18. These five (5) farms comprised an additional 424.88 acres of farmland that will be preserved for future generations. The program received eleven (11) new applications for consideration for the 2020 ranking year and there are currently 130 farms on the waiting list.



Pennsylvania continues to rank first in the nation in the preservation of farmland with the preservation of 5,781 farms, comprising 589,109 acres. Franklin County currently ranks 10th in the state for the number of acres preserved through the Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The program has preserved 143 farms comprising 18,035 acres. The average farm size in the program is 126 acres. It is anticipated that during 2021, Franklin County will purchase easements on an additional six (6) farms comprising nearly 627 acres.

Agricultural Preservation - 2021 Goals and Initiatives	
Goal 1:	Coordinate with local municipalities and provide assistance through education, tools and resources to continue to foster agricultural production in the County.
Goal 2:	Explore ways to supplement County funding for the agricultural preservation program. Additional upfront funding would enable the program to take better advantage of the State's match and preserve more farms within the County.
Goal 3:	Work with state, regional and local agencies to promote and enhance agriculture.
Goal 4:	Support Agricultural Land Preservation by promoting agricultural security areas and land preservation.
Goal 5:	Coordinate with NRCS and encourage easement owners to update their Conservation Plans in order to help maintain soil and water quality, which will also help achieve the goals of the County's Watershed Implementation Plan.

Transportation Planning

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is an entity with transportation policy-making and decision-making abilities that ensure decisions and spending are based on a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative process. Federal law requires the formation of an MPO to represent localities with an urbanized area over 50,000, as determined by the U.S. Census, which Franklin County reached in the 2010 census cycle. MPOs are composed of community members who represent transportation and business interests, and state and local governments.

MPO Updates

Throughout 2020, the MPO overcame several obstacles and accomplished many items on its to-do list and the goals established in the 2019 Annual Report. Staff, Policy Board, and Technical Advisory Committee members found themselves navigating virtual meetings and social distancing mid-pandemic and adjusting to a new normal. The MPO accomplishments include updating the MPO By-Laws and Public Participation Plan, adopting a Title VI Plan, adopting the 2021-2024 TIP, selecting Michael Baker as an on-call consultant, completing the annual Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) Sampling, and establishing a Technical Advisory Committee.

Public Participation and Title VI Plans

In April, the MPO updated the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and adopted a Title VI Plan. The PPP guides the MPO's efforts to offer early, continuous, and meaningful opportunities for the public to help identify



social, economic, and environmental impacts of proposed transportation policies, projects, and initiatives.

The Title VI Plan is a Federal Highway Administration requirement and states that the Franklin County MPO. The Title VI Plan assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, income, or limited proficiency in English be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity.

2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021-2024 TIP was the first time TIP documents were submitted fully electronically to PennDOT. This posed challenges within itself but was ultimately successful. The TIP is consistent with the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and is fiscally constrained. The MPO adopted the TIP in a special meeting on July 15, 2020, and submitted it to PennDOT on July 22, 2020.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

During the July special meeting, the MPO updated its by-laws which allowed for the creation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The goal of the TAC is to offer insight, advice, and recommendations to the MPO Policy Board on transportation projects and policies. The first TAC meeting was held in October and members represented different municipalities and interests across the County. The TAC will meet every quarter in 2021, one (1) month before the Policy Board meets.

Transportation - 2021 Goals and Initiatives	
Goal 1:	Continue to maintain positive correspondence and relationships wh PennDOT and FHWA.
Goal 2:	Continue to maintain positive correspondence and relationships wih local municipalities.
Goal 3:	Increase Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) outreach to municipalities.
Goal 4:	Develop and implement a Regional Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan in coodination with MPOs within PennDOT District 8.
Goal 5:	Begin planning process for the Long Range Transportation Plan.

CDBG Program

Each year the County receives entitlement funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The source of the entitlement funding is provided by the federal government, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). The County



Commissioners allocate funding to selected and approved projects that meet one of the following three national objectives:

1. Low-to-Moderate Income persons
2. Urgent Need
3. Blight

Over the years, the majority of the projects that Franklin County has funded address the first objective, with Low-to-Moderate Income Persons being identified by either the U.S. Census or by conducting income surveys. However, a variety of projects can be completed under this objective. Program funds can be used to ensure affordable housing, provide services and vital infrastructure improvements to the most vulnerable communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. This program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the Nation. A key part of this program's success is citizen participation, especially those that are low-to-moderate income. Citizens are encouraged to attend local meetings, review proposed activities, and provide feedback to identify how best to use the funds provided.

HUD determines the amount of each grant by using a formula that includes community needs, extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population growth lag in relation to other areas. For 2020, Franklin County will receive \$369,642.00 in CDBG funds from HUD through DCED to address various infrastructure, housing, and public service needs throughout the county. The following projects were selected for funding:

1. Quincy Township: Shoestring Hill Road Public Water Main Line Extension - **\$108,275.00**
2. Quincy Township: Shoestring Hill Road Extension - Lateral Assistance - **\$10,532.00**
3. CandleHeart Ministries Inc.: Housing Rehab - Transitional Home - **\$100,000.00**
4. CONTACT Helpline: PA 211 and Emotional Support hotlines - **\$9,300.00**
5. Franklin County: Architectural Barrier Removal - **\$75,000.00**

In addition to the normal CDBG application, HUD had released a second set of funding for 2020 through their Community Development Block Grant – Cares Act (CDBG-CV) program. This stems from The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act) and provides funds for any eligible community development activity that prevents, prepares for and responds to the coronavirus pandemic. The total grant amount awarded to Franklin County was \$166,152.00, and the following projects were selected:

1. South Central Community Action Programs (SCCAP): Rental and Utility Assistance - **\$76,063.00**
2. Waynesboro Community and Human Services (WCHS): Rental and Utility Assistance - **\$39,182.00**
3. Franklin County Area Agency on Aging: PPE and Supplies for reopening - **\$21,000.00**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there had been a dramatic increase in persons requesting homelessness prevention services within Franklin County. SCCAP, in the month of July alone, had seen 75 requests for assistance with rental payments. This was a staggering 720% increase over the same time frame last year. Because of this, utilizing the CDBG-CV to fund public service projects that prevent homelessness is crucial in providing stability during this uncertain time. In addition to the funds allocated above,

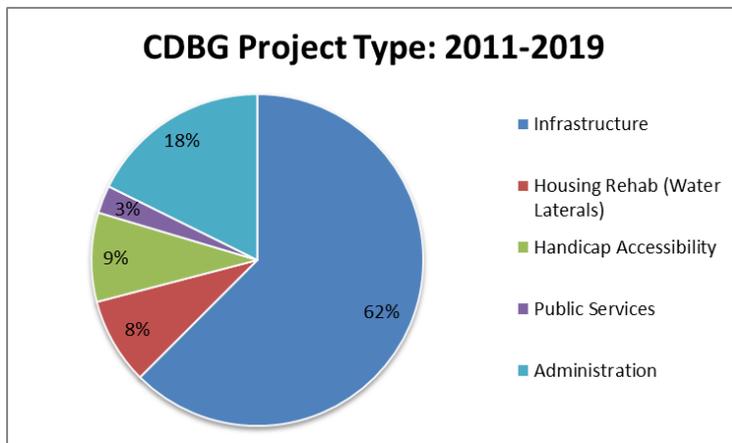


\$59,360.00 of Act 137 (Housing Trust Funds) were requested from the Franklin County Commissioners and approved to be used on our SCCAP and WCHS projects. These local funds were used to sure up the total budget of both projects and allow for more people to be provided assistance.

With this year’s normal CDBG application following the CDBG-CV program, we wanted to focus on continuing our efforts in Quincy Township to extend their public water line further and get clean, potable water to all LMI households along the line. However, given the stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to also allocate money for projects that would assist those that have been or could be affected. Our project with CONTACT Helpline will provide increased service for the PA 211 and Emotional Support helplines in Franklin County to connect LMI individuals to public services that they may need. Additionally, our Transitional House Rehab project with CandleHeart Ministries Inc. will provide additional rooms available to those in the county who are battling homelessness. Finally, we will use the remaining funds to complete necessary ADA accessibility upgrades to the Franklin County Courthouse Annex government building.

Currently, two projects within the 2015 and 2016 CDBG contracts, which were modified earlier in the year, had begun work toward the end of 2020. The first project, The Borough of Greencastle’s ADA curb ramp installation, was bid in late September and completed in early December. The second project, Quincy Township’s Tomstown Road main water line extension, began in late November and is still underway. This is currently our only active CDBG project, but 2021 will be more active with the addition of our CDBG-CV application projects.

From 2011 to 2019, Franklin County has received a total of **\$2,692,360.00** from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This was divided among various projects designated as public services, handicap accessibility improvements, housing rehab, and infrastructure improvements. In addition to these projects, 18% of each year’s allocation was used for administering the CDBG program. A breakdown of CDBG funds can be seen below.



\$2,692,361.00 of CDBG funds from 2011-2019:

- \$1,682,950.00** – Infrastructure Improvements
- \$233,621.00** – Handicap Accessibility Improvements
- \$227,055.00** – Housing Rehab (Water Laterals)
- \$72,800.00** – Public Services (SCCAP, PathStone)
- \$475,935.00** – Administration

Moving forward, the planning department has created a new outreach effort to communicate with other counties and organizations within PA to research new ways to utilize CDBG funds. This will give us a variety of new strategies to implement into our own program, allowing the County to use funds in ways we have not in the past. In addition to this, with the creation of our new comprehensive plan, we can better identify exactly where and how CDBG funds can be used to effectively benefit the citizens of Franklin County.

CDBG Program - 2021 Goals and Initiatives	
Goal 1:	Explore opportunities to utilize CDBG funds on projects other than infrastructure improvements.
Goal 2:	Complete outreach efforts to other counties that will identify new opportunities for CDBG funds. Identifying new strategies will increase the effectiveness of the program.
Goal 3:	Increase public engagement on project selection and implementation. Additionally, increase engagement from other municipalities and small communities within the County.
Goal 4:	Identify impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and utilize the CDBG program to fund eligible projects that alleviate those impacts.
Goal 5:	Pair CDBG funds with the HOME program to increase availability of affordable housing.

Housing

Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Grant

Throughout 2020, staff diligently worked on the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) grant officially awarded in June 2020. The proposed project includes the demolition of two (2) blighted structures located at 242-244 W. 2nd Street and 246 W. 2nd Street in the Borough of Waynesboro to construct two (2) single-family three (3)-bedroom homes for purchase by families who have incomes up to 80% of median income.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Significant coordination with the PA State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was conducted and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed by all parties to mitigate the adverse impacts to historic properties. The Environmental Review Record (ERR) was advertised on September 3, 2020 for the



required fifteen (15) day public comment period and no objections were submitted. The official contracts for the HOME grant between the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the County, and Luminest were executed in November 2020 and the project is currently underway.

Luminest, the project applicant, anticipates the project milestones to follow the schedule noted below:

- **December 2020-February 2021:**
 - Settlement on property.
 - Finalize Construction Plans, Specifications and Contract.
- **March 2021-August 2021:**
 - Achieve Land Development Approval.
 - Commence Asbestos Abatement
 - Demolition of Existing Buildings and Construction of New Homes (Estimated 6-month Term).
- **September 2021-November 2021:**
 - Occupancy Certification to be received.
 - Sale of Homes to eligible qualified buyers.
- **April 2022:**
 - If the homes have not successfully sold, rent out to qualified applicants.

Housing Trust Fund

During 2020, there were a few requests made through the Housing Trust Fund that were considered and approved by the Board of Commissioners. A description has been provided below for each item.

1. **Habitat for Humanity – \$50,000**
 - 3347 Williamson Road, Greencastle: \$25,000 (rehabilitation)
 - 140 Ritchie Road, Fayetteville: \$25,000 (new construction)
2. **Franklin-Fulton Mental Health HUD Match – \$14,541**
 - Cash match for the 2020/2021 HUD Permanent Supportive Housing Program and HUD Shelter Plus Care Program Grants
3. **Franklin County Housing Inventory and Analysis – up to \$20,000**
 - Partnership with the Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability to develop a housing assessment for the County.
4. **CDBG-CV Application – Fair Share Match – \$59,360**
 - Funds will be used on our SCCAP and WCHS projects through the CDBG-CV application. These local funds were used to sure up the total budget of both projects and allow for more people to be provided assistance.

Housing Inventory and Analysis

The Franklin County Planning Department and Shippensburg University Center for Land Use and Sustainability (CLUS) will be partnering to develop a housing assessment for the County.

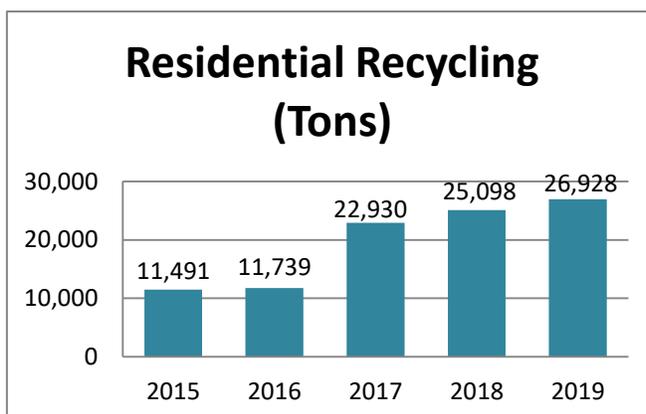
Project scope includes the following goals and initiatives:

- Review and research of existing data sources related to demographics, employment, economy, housing, etc.
- Gathering input from area organizations/agencies, stakeholders and residents.
- Preparation of data and documentation for use by Franklin County GIS.
- Preparation of an Arc Story Map and executive summary as the final products.
- Potential to use the information from this project in a future Strategic Housing Plan for the County in addition to our upcoming Comprehensive Plan update.

The project has received approval from the Board of Commissioners to use an allocation from the Housing Trust Fund not to exceed \$20,000 for the project. The contract with the Shippensburg University CLUS is currently under review and the project will begin in 2021.

Housing - 2021 Goals and Initiatives	
Goal 1:	Improve coordination with recipients throughout project implementation.
Goal 2:	Explore opportunities to create affordable housing throughout the County.
Goal 3:	Collaborate with CDBG Program Administrator to potentially fund housing projects in coordination with other federal grant funding sources.
Goal 4:	Work with local municipalities to identify housing needs in each community within the County.

Solid Waste and Recycling



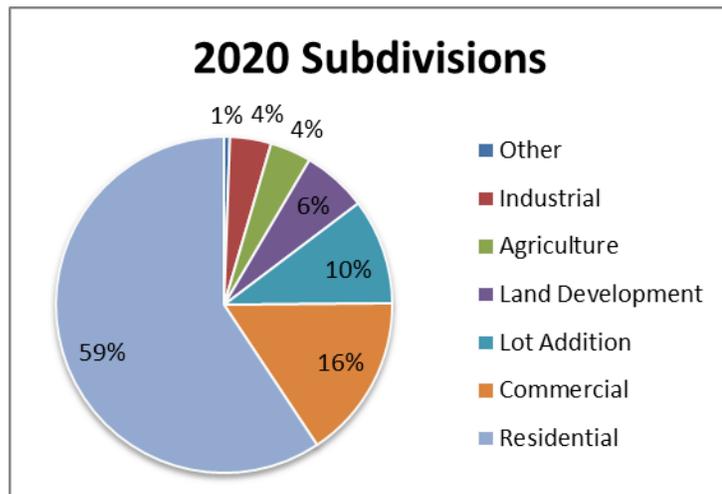
In 2019, (2020 reports are currently being compiled), Franklin County residents generated 109,060 tons of municipal waste and recycled 26,928 tons of material for a recycling rate of 24.6%. Increasing the recycling rate by focusing on capturing recycling data that is currently not reported remains as one of the objectives of the Franklin County Municipal Solid Waste Plan. The proper disposal of electronics such as televisions and computer

monitors, household hazardous waste, and glass recycling continue to be the primary solid waste issues within the County.

Subdivision and Land Development Reviews

In 2020, there were a total of 178 applications reviewed by staff. The majority of applications were received from Antrim Township. The applications reviewed were primarily for residential subdivisions, followed by commercial development within the County.

A goal for the Planning Department in 2021 is to explore the possibility of transitioning to a digital plan submission process which will include collaboration with the municipalities and surveyors.



2020 Land Development and Subdivision Annual Totals				
MUNICIPALITY	# OF LOTS	AREA (ac.)	FEE	# of Plans
ANT	116	875.71	\$4,743.20	21
CHA	19	31.59	\$2,263.15	14
FAN	12	371.60	\$864.16	8
GRE	54	257.09	\$13,691.54	16
GRN	1	0.08	\$250.00	1
GUI	26	62.46	\$1,103.00	11
HAM	27	238.27	\$1,460.00	20
LET	19	153.88	\$590.00	10
LUR	6	205.27	\$2,191.64	4
MER	2	0.18	\$70.00	1
MET	12	248.07	\$440.00	6
MON	30	407.80	\$1,719.60	20
PET	9	225.89	\$1,212.50	6
QUI	14	326.05	\$550.00	7
SHI	4	2.90	\$90.00	1
SOH	7	277.02	\$20,684.92	6
STT	12	65.70	\$470.00	6
WAR	3	19.10	\$210.00	3
WAS	222	5304.42	\$4,510.52	15
WAY	15	13.70	\$684.48	2
Grand Totals	610	9086.78	\$57,798.71	178

Tourism and Quality of Life Enhancement Grant (TQLEG) Program

In 2020, the Franklin County Commissioners did not award additional grant funding through the Tourism and Quality of Life Enhancement Grant (TQLEG) program. Staff worked with existing applicants to facilitate the completion of projects and document progress throughout the year. In addition, staff began coordinating with existing applicants to visit sites that have received funding. These visits will continue through 2021 as the remaining projects are completed. The following TQLEG projects received extensions through December 31, 2021:

TQLEG Projects		
Funding Year	Project / Organization	Project Description
2016	Conococheague Institute	Walking Trail Improvements
2017	Greene Township	Canoe/Kayak launch, parking lot in Scotland
2018	MACWell	Installation of signage by Johnston Run Streamside Trail
2018	Conococheague Institute	Davis Chambers House Repairs
2018	Conococheague Institute	Walking Trail Improvements
2019	Allison-Antrim Museum	Museum Stabilization
2019	Capitol Theatre	Repair walls affected by moisture
2019	Ebbert Springs	Furnish 18th-century schoolhouse
2019	Franklin County Historical Society	St. Thomas Toll House No. 2 Renovations
2019	Fort Loudon Historical Society	Construction of Soldier's Barracks
2019	Mercersburg Historical Society (Zion Union Cemetery)	Maintenance and upgrades to the Zion Union Cemetery
2019	TWEP	Interactive touch screen installation
2019	Washington Township	Monterey Pass

The Planning Department has also been working to create a new digital application to use when this program is brought back in the future. This will create a more efficient submission and evaluation process for the grant program.



Conococheague Institute Walking Trail – September 2020



Highline Train Station – Greencastle – February 2020

Mosquito and Tick Borne Disease Control

Franklin County monitors mosquito and tick populations to mitigate the risk of mosquito and tick-borne diseases through surveillance, control, and education.

2020 Mosquito Season Synopsis

The 2020 mosquito season saw several administrative changes from DEP due to Covid-19. The program was restricted on the number of gravid traps and BG traps that could place per week. Additionally, due to Covid-19 the tire recycling event had to be canceled. While these may all seem like bad things for the program it actually allowed focus to be shifted to other areas.

In conjunction with Franklin County's GIS Department, an interactive public web page was created for citizens to report mosquito concerns and to keep up with what the mosquito program is doing throughout the County. This past year, the program focused much of their attention on larval surveillance and control, including expanded surveillance and treatment of storm water catch basins. Even though in person events were canceled this year, educational outreach to the public was still achieved. Articles were written and published on the topics of: Asian Tiger mosquitoes, mosquitoes of Penn National, Black-legged tick nymph, and West Nile Virus positives in Chambersburg Borough. West Nile Virus activity in 2020 was some of the lowest on record since the inception of the program. Overall it was a productive season even with the challenges of Covid-19.

The following tables show the mosquito data for 2020 as well as the percent difference in the appropriate categories for 2019 and 2020 data. The program saw some decreases in some areas due to Covid-19.

2020 Franklin County Mosquito Data			
Category	Number	Percent Difference 2019-2020	Explanation
Mosquito Sites	109	38% decrease	Total number of different locations a mosquito trap was placed in Franklin County.
Gravid Traps	500	22% decrease	Total number of Gravid traps placed. Used to catch female mosquitos who have already taken a blood meal and are looking to lay eggs.
BG Traps	30	56% decrease	Total number of BG traps placed. Used to catch mosquitoes seeking a blood meal, mostly used in response to complaint calls and nuisance mosquitoes.
Mosquitoes Collected	19,349	56% decrease	Total number of mosquitoes collected in traps.
Dip Samples	309	94% increase	Total number of mosquito larvae samples.
Larval Sites	82	44% increase	Total number of sites in which larval samples were taken.
Larval Controls	127	57% increase	Total number of larval control operations.
Adult Controls	11	21% decrease	Total number of adult control operations.
WNV Positives	3	50% decrease	Total number of pools of mosquitos that tested positive for West Nile Virus.
Complaint Calls	13	50% decrease	Total number of calls by citizens concerned with elevated mosquito activity in their area.

2020 Tick Season Synopsis

The 2020 Tick Season produced three main highlights. The program was able to identify areas with good Black-legged tick nymph population and caught 30 nymphs to be tested this year. Two sites that were surveyed produced Lone Star Ticks giving more insight on their range and habitat. One of the sites that was surveyed produced a Gulf Coast Tick. This is significant because only a handful of this specie of tick have been reported in Pennsylvania, and it was the first time one has been collected conducting field work.

2020 Franklin County Tick Data		
Category	Number	Explanation
Tick Sites	14	Total number of different locations a tick drag was conducted.
Tick Samples	59	Total number tick drags.
Black-legged Tick Adults	55	Total number of Black-Legged adults collected.
Black-legged Tick Nymphs	30	Total number of Black-Legged nymph collected.
American Dog Tick	62	Total number of American Dog Ticks collected.
Lone Star Tick	17	Total number of Lone Star Ticks collected.
Gulf Coast Tick	1	Total number of Gulf Coast Ticks collected. (first one ever collected in Pennsylvania)

2020 Black-Legged Tick Bacterial Prevalence Test Results		
Category	Number	Explanation
Black-legged Tick Nymph	30	Total number of Black-Legged tick adults collected.
+ <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	9	30% of the total number of nymphs collected tested positive for the bacteria that causes Lyme Disease.
+ <i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i>	1	3% of the total number of nymphs collected tested positive for a bacteria that causes co-infection.
+ <i>Babesia microti</i>	0	0% of the total number of nymphs collected tested positive for a bacteria that causes co-infection.

Mosquito Program - 2021 Goals and Initiatives

Goal 1:	Increase larval surveillance by 15%
Goal 2:	Develop an educational tick and mosquito page on the Planning website for Franklin County citizens.
Goal 3:	Survey and research the species of mosquitoes that inhabit mountains or foot of mountains. Utilize the data collected from the research to develop educational materials for residents who live in these areas of Franklin County.
Goal 4:	Offer Franklin County citizens a low cost tire recycling event (aids in reducing mosquito habitat).
Goal 5:	Reach out to municipalities to build a relationship and to let them know more about the mosquito and tick disease control program.



Figure 1: Discovery of a rusted out storm pipe in Washington Township producing thousands of mosquito larvae.



Figure 2: Conducting field surveys for ticks through a process called "Dragging"

Conclusion and Planning Department Goals for 2021

Although the COVID-19 pandemic caused the Planning Department to refocus goals and initiatives throughout the year, the staff was still able to accomplish a great deal as outlined in the annual report. A tenacious and persevering attitude on the part of the staff made the accomplishment of many goals a reality where there could have been many missed opportunities. The accomplishments over the past year have sought to enrich and improve the quality of life of the residents of Franklin County and assist them as they navigated the challenges of the pandemic.

As we look ahead to 2021, the Department has outlined and prioritized the projects and initiatives for the year as shown below.

Project	Statutorily Required	Priority	Staff Lead
Addressing Policy & Procedures		High	Rochelle
Ag Preservation - Program Review / Federal		Low	Rochelle
Annual Report	X	High	Nicole
Blight Remediation Plan		Low	Nicole
CDBG 2021 Application	X	High	Garrett
CDBG Funding Research		Medium	Garrett
CDBG / HOME Plan Updates	X	Medium	Nicole
Comprehensive Plan	X	High	Nicole
Coordinated Human Services Plan		High	Kenana
Cumberland Valley Rail Trail		Low	Steve
Desk Guides		Medium	Pam
Department Fact Sheet		Medium	Nicole
Digital Plan Submissions		High	Rochelle
Housing Inventory & Analysis		High	Steve
Long Range Transportation Plan	X	Medium	Kenana
Municipal Summit		Low	Pam
Recycling Efforts		Low	Rochelle
Return on Environment Study		Medium	Steve
Solid Waste Plan	X	High	Garrett
Strategic Housing Plan		Low	Nicole
TIP FY 23-26	X	High	Kenana
Tire Recycling Event		Medium	Jason
Tourism Grant Slides/Story Map		Low	Nicole
Website Updates		Low	Steve
Watershed Implementation Plan Assistance		Medium	Garrett