



Partnership of Westmoreland County

Celebrating Five Years of

Improved Growth Strategies For Westmoreland County

2005 - 2006 Annual Report

Vision

Through the efforts of the SGPWC, smart growth principles and practices have been instilled into the governance and development of Westmoreland County. The SGPWC is recognized by the communities of Westmoreland County as a quality community resource for land use education and technical assistance.

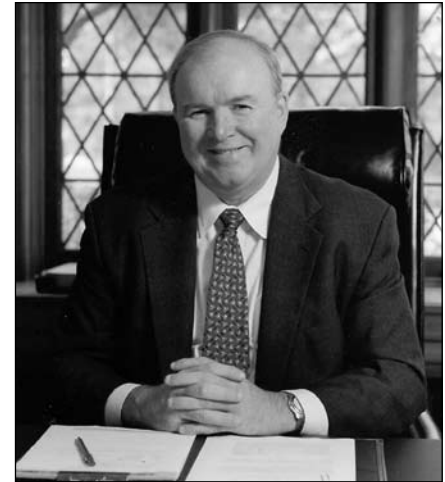
Dear Friends of the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County:

I am very pleased to send you a copy of the 2005-2006 Annual Report for the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County. The Partnership has now been in existence for some five years. It remains an outstanding example in Pennsylvania of how citizens can come together to positively affect their communities.

The Partnership, which is headquartered at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, includes business and political leaders, economic development experts, municipal and township officials, foundation leaders, and educators. It has been my honor to serve as chair of this remarkable organization since its inception. It began with a vision that our county could develop itself economically while maintaining a high quality of life. That vision assumed local government officials and the citizens they represent, armed with knowledge about best practices in land use planning, could and would make good decisions that promoted the creation of good jobs and livable communities while preserving the natural beauty and comfortable life style we all treasure.

Each year has witnessed great progress as Smart Growth pursued its educational programs, worked directly with local officials, and sought out fiscal resources to pay for needed planning activities. This past year state Senator Bob Regola partnered with Smart Growth to obtain a \$200,000 grant to address planning issues along the Route 30 corridor. Our very active Executive Director, Alex Graziani, and his able staff aided in obtaining major planning grants for Irwin and Rostraver as well as a joint project of Unity Township/Youngstown. All over Westmoreland County this past year there was ample evidence that public interest in the goals of the Smart Growth Partnership reached new levels of intensity.

I hope you find much of interest in this report. We welcome your comments and observations.



Sincerely,
Frank A. Cassell, Ph.D.
*Chair of the Smart Growth Partnership of
Westmoreland County Advisory Board*

10 Smart Growth Principles



- Mix land uses
- Take advantage of compact building design
- Create a range of housing opportunities and choices
- Create walkable neighborhoods
- Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place
- Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas
- Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities
- Provide a variety of transportation choices
- Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective
- Encourage community and stake holder collaboration in development decisions



Education

Objective: To increase the understanding and use of sustainable concepts of community planning among elected officials, planners, lawyers, developers, students and the general public.

5th Annual Smart Growth Summit

Friday, September, 16, 2005

This year's Summit focused on the issues related to the response to the Brookings Report "Back to Prosperity: A Competitive Agenda for Renewing Pennsylvania." The Summit profiled three different responses and plans for action to meet the economic challenges facing Pennsylvania and Westmoreland County.

The speakers included, Wendell Cox, principal of Wendell Cox Consultancy, Michael Young, Ph.D., managing director of Michael Young Strategic Research, and Ronald Bailey, AICP, executive director of the Campaign to Renew Pennsylvania.



Michael Young



Ronald Bailey



Wendell Cox



"The 5th Annual Smart Growth Summit was the only place across Pennsylvania where people were able to hear the three competing views and actions related to the Brookings "Back to Prosperity" Report. How our communities grow and develop is a passionate subject. The fact that we had disagreement was a good thing. We should be able to engage in a spirited debate over important issues. Too often we hear only from those who agree with us."

*Alex Graziani
Executive Director, Smart Growth
Partnership of Westmoreland County*

EDUCATION



"All of your events are wonderful and bring essential education and dialogue we all need in our communities. I was happy to see you bringing in diametrically opposing views. It is good to challenge the thinking we have on these issues and increase the dimensions of understanding."

"Thought provoking; the reason for attending the summit is to gain appreciation for issues of importance/priority/quality of life to county residents and leaders"



"Best Summit ever. Great to hear all the different sides."



4th Annual Smart Growth Awards Dinner



Thursday, May 18, 2006

The 4th Annual Smart Growth Awards Dinner, held at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, was a huge success with a record 180 attendees. Seven awards were presented in recognition of smart growth developments, plans and individuals/groups that have distinguished themselves by achieving the smart growth cause.

The Smart Growth Awards Dinner acknowledges those in our county who help to protect the character and vitality of our communities. It also raises awareness of new visions, trends, economic prospects and renewal in Pennsylvania.

2 0 0 6 A W A R D S

Marino Brothers

for the Park Lane Development, City of Greensburg

City of Jeannette

for the South 6th Street Revitalization Project

Homes Build Hope

for the Lloyd Avenue Project, City of Latrobe

Municipality of Murrysville

for the Murrysville Route 22 Streetscape Plan

Hempfield Township, City of Greensburg, South Greensburg, and Southwest Greensburg

for "A Plan for Our Community", a multi-municipal comprehensive plan

Ronald A. Magnuson

for Outstanding Service & Dedication, in forming and supporting the Smart Growth Partnership.

Irwin Project Student Advisors

for their Irwin Downtown Revitalization Video, "The Future of Downtown Irwin Starts Today."



EDUCATION



(l-r) Dan and Bob Marino, Developers



*(l-r) Alex Graziani, Ron Magnuson, Allegheny Energy,
Dr. Frank Cassell*



*(l-r) Anita Lengvasky, Dr. Frank Cassell, Jeannette
Mayor Michael Cafasso*



*Murrysville Mayor
Joyce Somers*



*(l-r) Jim Pillsbury, Southwest Greensburg; Emil Peterinelli,
City of Greensburg; Kim Ward, Hempfield Township;
Margie Hixson, South Greensburg*

“It was exciting to hear how other Westmoreland County communities were approaching revitalization. Their enthusiasm, coupled with the Smart Growth strategy, encouraged our committee and let us know that our challenges are not unique and can be quickly overcome with innovation and hard work.”

*Mark Fox
Scottdale Town Center
Revitalization Committee*

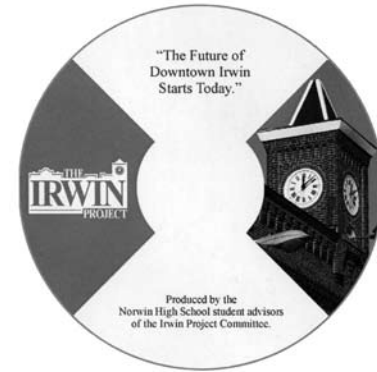
EDUCATION



Irwin project student advisors from Norwin High School (l-r): Kristin Odell, Angela Curcio, Chris Zentner, Dr. Frank Cassell and Tansy Michaud



(l-r) James Stewart, Homes Build Hope, Board President and Dr. Frank Cassell



"When we made the video, we had no idea it would reach so many people. It's been interesting to see what an impact it's had. This has been a wonderful learning experience for all of us. We had to learn about a lot more than just our p's and q's. Before we could learn about the ABCs of XYZ, we had to learn about PDC, DCED, CDBG, DCNR, C2P2, PHFA, CAT, LHHC, HRA, SGPWC, and to top it all off...PennVest, PennDot, and MUFFI. But it really has been great and I'm glad everyone who sees the movie enjoys it and hopefully gains a better understanding of what's going on in our downtown. People always seem to understand what you're trying to tell them if you use pictures rather than words."

*Tansy Michaud
Irwin Project Student Advisor*

Workshops Hosted

APA Audio Conferences:

Planning Livable Communities for the Elderly,
October 5, 2005.

Zoning for Transit-Oriented Development,
November 2, 2005.

Zoning Clinic, February 15, 2006.

Design Graphics for Planning, April 12, 2006.

Cooperative Workshops:

PMPEI Basic Planning Course – Irwin, October 18 & 25,
November 2, 2005

DCNR Southwest Planners County Greenways and Open
Space Training, September 20, 2005.

Local Government Academy Newly Elected Officials Training,
November 30, December 7, 14, 2005.

PennDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Planning and
Design Training, February 8, 2006.

Putting Conservation into Local Codes A Growing Greener:
Conservation by Design Workshop, presented by the Natural
Lands Trust, May 4, 2006.

Future of Westmoreland Agriculture

The program, developed by the Penn State Cooperative Extension in Westmoreland County, brings community members (farmers and non-farmers) together to create an action plan and implement steps for the future of Westmoreland County agriculture.

The FWA Farmer Education Series hosted eleven workshops between November 2005 and March 2006 where state and local experts provided valuable information on a variety of farm business topics including Business and Estate Planning, Marketing, Government Programs, Agri-tourism and Farm Networking.





Technical Assistance

Objective: Enhance the vitality of communities by assisting municipalities and developers in the use and adoption of smart growth practices



Municipal Projects or Communities Served

We provide ongoing technical assistance to numerous Westmoreland County municipalities. Some of those are highlighted below.



Alex Graziani; Rob Ritson, Hempfield Township Manager; Kenneth Klothen, DCED Deputy Secretary; Barb Ciampini, City of Greensburg Planning Director, Jim Pashek, Pashek Associates President; Fred Reddig, GCLGS Executive Director

Hempfield, Greensburg, South Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg Area Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan – The Smart Growth Partnership assisted Hempfield Township in initiating this effort in 2002, and the plan was adopted in January 2006. As a result of these efforts, the plan was the recipient of

a 2006 Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence for Innovative Planning and Sound Land Use Practices on April 12, 2006.

Westmoreland County Comprehensive Plan Implementation:

- Westmoreland County Open Space and Greenways Plan
- US Route 30 Master Plan
- Sewickley Township Zoning Ordinance Review
- Penn Township Comprehensive Plan Review

Unity Township – Smart Growth Priority Attention Area (Route 30 from Mountain View Inn east to Route 981) Visualization Project consisting of developing build-out scenarios and producing visual alternative development scenarios to graphically portray development choices.

The Irwin Project – Accepted into the PA Main Street Program

Ligonier Area Planning Initiative with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council Visualization Project

Rostraver Township – Long Range Planning Steering Committee

Vandergrift Improvement Program – Accepted into the PA DCED Main Street Program

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

West Leechburg Borough - Grant to update zoning ordinance

Donegal Area Multimunicipal Plan application preparation

Avonmore Borough – Facilitated town hall visioning session

Scottsdale Town Center Revitalization Committee – Completed draft LUPTAP narrative and budget

City of Greensburg, Westmoreland County Transit Authority & Seton Hill Transit Redevelopment Investment District (TRID) applications

Westmoreland County GIS user group

City of Latrobe Revitalization Committee – Facilitated Downtown Visioning workshops

“On behalf of the Latrobe Community Revitalization Program Steering Committee, we would like to thank all those who participated in our visioning meetings. A special thanks to Smart Growth for facilitating the meetings. In addition, they have provided essential assistance and guidance in helping Latrobe with a Pennsylvania Main Street Program application.”

*Rosie Wolford
Vice Chairman
Steering Committee*



Latrobe Downtown Visioning workshop

photo - Latrobe Bulletin

Conservation by Design Development, Murrysville

From its inception, the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County has looked for opportunities to provide technical assistance to developers willing to try Smart Growth concepts. One of those efforts is Rolling Ridge, located in Murrysville. This plan is being developed by DeMill Development, with initial assistance from Randall Arendt of the Natural Lands Trust and the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County in 2002. This Growing Greener development is situated on 105 acres and will contain 47 single-family homes. Seventy acres will be retained as open space for active and passive recreation, as well as woodlands.

Rostraver Township

The Smart Growth Partnership is working with the Rostraver Township Board of Commissioners, its Long Range Planning Committee, and staff members including the township planner.

We began working with the township's Long Range Planning Committee in September 2005 to assist the group in updating the township's 2000 Comprehensive Plan. We have spent the past year assisting the township planner by facilitating the committee meetings, providing educational opportunities, and helping the township secure a LUPTAP grant of \$72,500.



Rostraver Township Municipal Complex

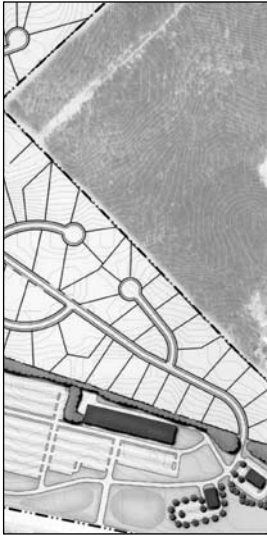
“The Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County (SGPWC) was instrumental in assisting Rostraver Township with our application to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development’s (DCED) Land Use and Planning Technical Assistance Program (LUPTAP) for a grant which will update the Township Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2000 and adopt smart growth development regulations and policies. The SGPWC made this possible by assisting Rostraver Township with grant writing/editing and educational outreach to the Rostraver Township Long Range Plan Steering Committee. Rostraver Township is a proud special event sponsor and advocate of SGPWC.”

*Tamira Spedalieri
Rostraver Township Planner*

Smart Growth Visualization Project

The Visualization Project consists of developing and graphically portraying alternative build-out scenarios. This tool of visualizing alternative development scenarios has portability and can

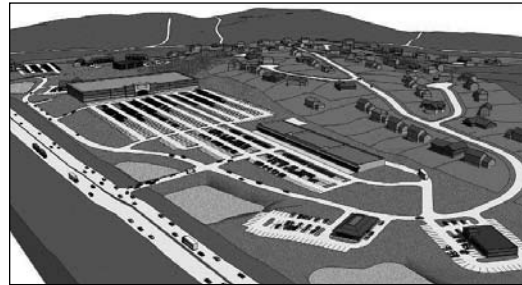
be utilized to model development scenarios, redevelopment scenarios of under-utilized suburban strip areas, or downtown revitalization.



Typical Development



Smart Growth Development

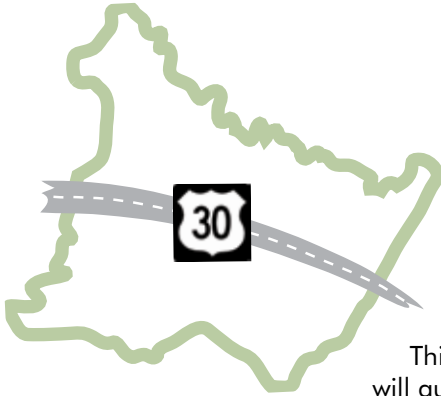


Typical Development



Smart Growth Development

US Route 30 Master Plan



The intent of this planning effort is to prepare an action-oriented land use and transportation plan for US Route 30 over its entire length in Westmoreland County.

This strategic blueprint will guide the cost-effective implementation of future community and economic development initiatives. It will include a comprehensive land use and transportation management strategy for the implementation of consistent development regulations and programming capital improvements along the approximate 40-mile corridor.

Grant Announcement

In October 2005, a press conference was held at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport to announce that the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County was the recipient of a \$200,000 Community Revitalization Program grant from



(l-r) Alex Graziani, Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County Executive Director, accepts a \$200,000 grant check to help develop a master plan for the US Route 30 corridor from PA Senator Bob Regola

the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). This funding will act as a catalyst to develop a master plan for the Route 30 corridor.

The application, submitted directly to State Senator Bob Regola, was accompanied by support letters from Route 30 municipalities, as well as the Westmoreland County Board of Commissioners, Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation, Economic Growth Connection, and the Westmoreland Conservation District.



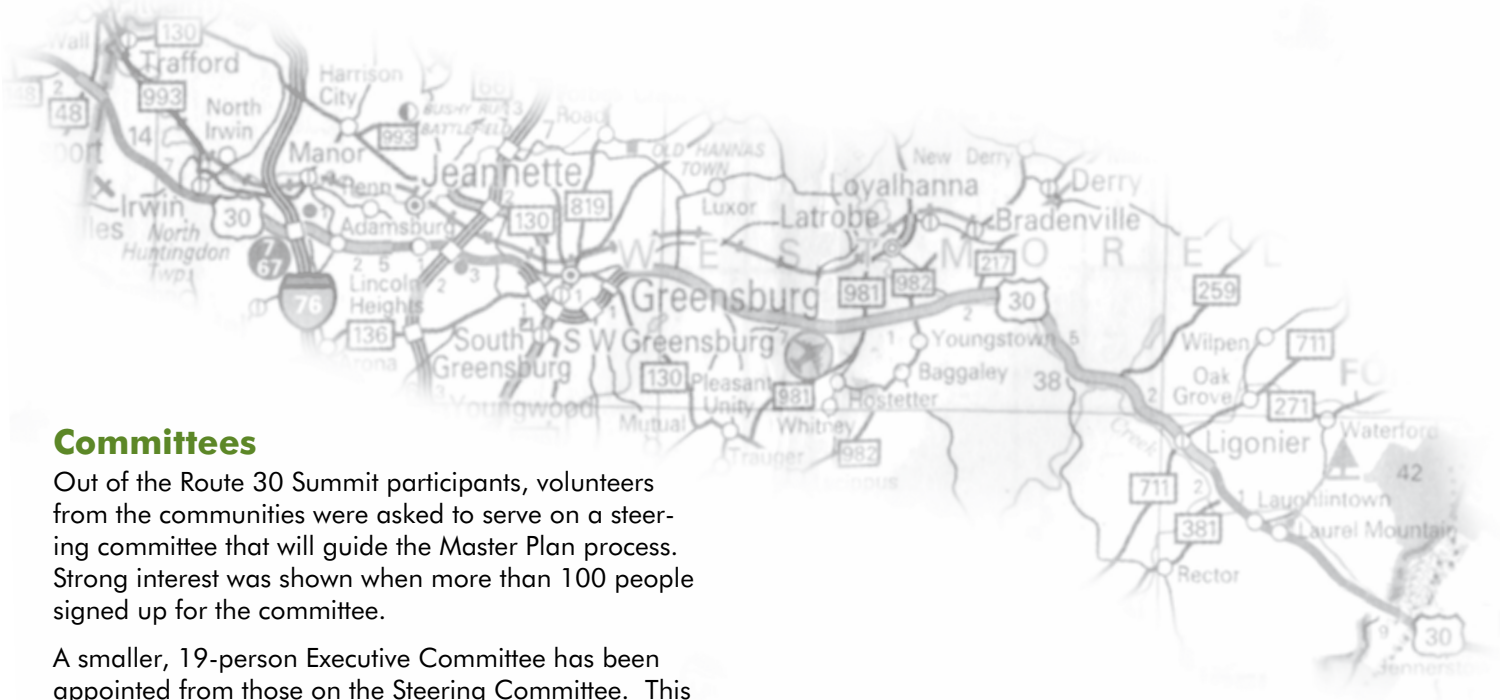
Route 30 heading east toward Latrobe



Route 30 Summit

To kick off the Master Plan efforts, the Route 30 Summit was held on January 27, 2006 at Gianilli's II in Unity Township. More than 150 people were in attendance. The purpose of the summit was to convene a meeting of business and community leaders along the Route 30 corridor to discuss the connection between transportation, land use and economic development. The Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation, Allen Biehler, served as keynote speaker for the summit.

At the summit, input was solicited from local government officials, business leaders and the county as to the desired vision and outcomes of the Route 30 Master Plan.



Committees

Out of the Route 30 Summit participants, volunteers from the communities were asked to serve on a steering committee that will guide the Master Plan process. Strong interest was shown when more than 100 people signed up for the committee.

A smaller, 19-person Executive Committee has been appointed from those on the Steering Committee. This group has already made, and will continue to make, important decisions concerning the Master Plan. The Executive Committee worked throughout the spring and summer on the work plan development, fundraising and consultant selection process.

The US Route 30 Master Plan is a three-stage, multi-phase project, over a period of three or more years. The three stages include:



“ PennDOT is very excited to be a part of the Route 30 Master Plan being championed by the Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County. We look forward to this unique opportunity to identify practices for more effective land use and transportation needs, and their ever-growing impact on the challenge of identifying, planning, programming, and financing these improvements. It is my hope that the study is developed in a manner that allows it to stand the test of time, and becomes a model for cooperation and collaboration of all parties involved, to effectively manage economic growth and transportation needs for the region.”

*Joseph Szczur P.E.
District Executive, PennDOT
District 12-0*

2006 Special Event Sponsors

We have created a new and unique opportunity for our community members, partners, businesses, and other supporters. For the first time, sponsors have been able to support SGPWC Special Events on an annual basis. Since launching this opportunity, the inaugural group numbered fourteen, many of whom were first-time sponsors. We are proud to announce these sponsors for the entire calendar year of events that they help to make possible:

First National Bank

Hempfield Township Municipal Authority

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.

Irwin Bank & Trust Company

Kacin Builders

Millstein Foundation

Murrysville Economic Community Development Corporation

Pashek Associates

Remington, Vernick & Beach Engineers

Rostraver Township



University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Millstein Library

Seton Hill University

URS Corporation

Westmoreland Conservation District

Westmoreland Professional Builders Association

Who We Serve...

Key Smart Growth Strategies

- **Targeted Marketing** – A targeted marketing campaign is creating ongoing awareness of SGPWC capabilities and priorities to strategic partners, targeted municipalities, and contributors.
- **Adaptability** – Through strategic partnerships, SGPWC will collaborate and leverage professional knowledge in ways that best improve the quality of growth and development in Westmoreland County.
- **Leadership** – Board and staff serve as thought leaders in shaping county and local government land-use policy through strategically participating in networks and partnerships.



Recognition of Irwin Project Student Advisors (l-r) Irwin Council President, Danyce Neal; Mayor, Tom Rose; Bob Michaud, Tansy Michaud, Angela Curcio and Kristin Odell



Visualization Project, Unity Township, site visit. (l-r) Jim Pashek, Kelleann Foster, Tom Maatta

Smart Growth Annual Awards Dinner (l-r) Jack Robertshaw and Lou Lazzaro



Blueprint COMMUNITIES



Representatives from 22 "Blueprint Communities" stand proud in Harrisburg



(l-r) Governor Edward Rendell, Bob Michaud and Jay Roy, President, FHL Bank of Pittsburgh with a "Blueprint Communities" banner for Irwin

Blueprint Communities is a new initiative to help community leaders plan for and carry out effective and comprehensive community revitalization efforts. It was launched in September 2005 by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh and 16 funding and program partners.

Irwin was one of 22 "Blueprint Communities" selected across the state to participate in the Blueprint Communities Revitalization initiative. They were presented with a banner in a ceremony on August 9, 2005.



Mary Benko, center, at a "Blueprint Communities" training workshop



Jason Shirley, seventh grade student, Norwin Middle School, winner of Blueprint Communities Essay Contest - Western PA Division. His essay was one of 142 entries.

Making Smart Growth Work

Advisory Board

Dr. Frank A. Cassell, Chair of the Board
President, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Linda McKenna Boxx, Vice Chair
Chairman, Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, Inc.

John A. Robertshaw, Jr, Secretary
Chairman, Robertshaw Management, Inc.

Jennings F. Womack, Treasurer
President, Westmoreland/Frick Hospital Foundation

Allen G. Kukovich
Director, Governor's Southwest Regional Office

Larry J. Larese
Director, Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development

Ronald A. Magnuson (*left board May 2006*)
Vice President of Customer Affairs, Allegheny Energy

Kim E. Miller
President, Wolf Lake, Inc.

William E. Mitchell II
Assistant Director, Westmoreland County Department of Planning & Development

Michael J. O'Barto
Chairman, Unity Township Board of Supervisors

Gregory M. Phillips
Manager/CEO, Westmoreland Conservation District

Gary L. Sheppard
Extension Director, Penn State Cooperative Extension in Westmoreland County

John A. Skiavo
President and CEO, Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland County

Michael A. Walsh
Director of Administration, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

We depend on the support of our generous funders to be able to provide education and technical assistance at little or no cost.



Staff

Alexander J. Graziani, AICP
Executive Director

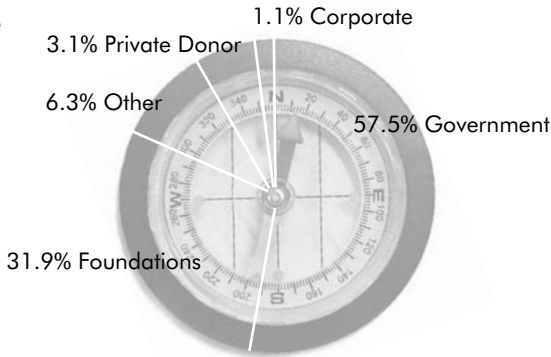
Carolyn V. Royse
Grant/Proposal Writer

Anita D. Lengvarsky
Extension Educator, Penn State Cooperative Extension in Westmoreland County, A Partnership Position

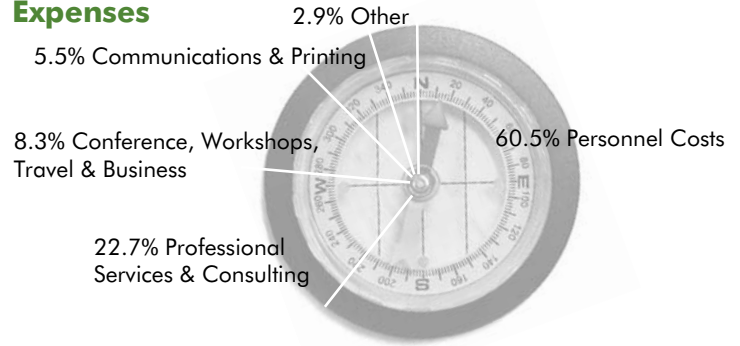
Beverly J. Poole
Office Coordinator

Finances

Revenue



Expenses



Thank You...

Funders

Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation

John A. Robertshaw, Jr.

Richard King Mellon Foundation

McCune Foundation

Sarah Scaife Foundation

Laurel Foundation

PA Department of Economic and Community Development

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Westmoreland County

Sony

Robertshaw Foundation

McFeely Rogers Foundation

Kim Miller – Wolf Lake, Inc.

Partners

University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Penn State Cooperative Extension in Westmoreland County

Westmoreland County Department of Planning
and Development

Westmoreland Conservation District

Economic Growth Connection

Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

PA Department of Community and Economic Development

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

PennDOT

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Westmoreland Collegium of Municipal Solicitors

Natural Lands Trust

Local Government Academy

Mission



Through education and technical assistance, improve the quality of growth through cooperative land use strategies in Westmoreland County. Our efforts enable communities to meet the challenges associated with growth and revitalization.



Partnership of Westmoreland County

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In partnership with the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg