



Provided by Ron Mattocks

Crawford County Planning

Annual Report

January 2019- December 2019

Mission Statement

Crawford County Planning is committed to providing solution oriented services through community development + planning to facilitate the growth of the local economy, enhance the quality of life, and preserve the natural environment for current and future generations.

Vision

Planning for the future and preserving the past while building strong communities for a thriving Crawford County.

Core Values

Communication- We strive to reach as many people as possible by utilizing every possible media available to us to connect with residents, elected officials, appointed boards, and community groups.

Community- We promote places that have an identity and inspire a sense of belonging, which often stems from the physical character of a place as well as the people who live there.

Engagement- We aim to include everyone in the planning process since multiple perspectives lead to a more diverse conversation and successful result.

Integrity + Ethics- We are driven to conduct our business with the highest standards of professional behavior, which include transparency, honesty, and respect in all our interactions.

Sustainability- We encourage and support projects that maintain or improve the economy, environment, and equity of Crawford County.

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CRAWFORD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Francis F. Weiderspahn, Jr., Chairman
John Amato, Vice Chairman
John Christopher Soff, Secretary/Treasurer

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

John Lawrence, Chair
Michael Krepps, Vice Chair
Maria Anderson Dreese, Secretary
Dick Astor, Treasurer
Robert Klasen
John Frye
Ronald Mattocks
Mark Nickerson
Scott Sjolander

PLANNING OFFICE STAFF

Zachary Norwood, Planning Director
Thomas Gilbertson, Assistant Planning Dir. of Com. Planning
Victoria Kapopoulos, Assistant Planning Dir. of Com. Development
Bob Hopkins, Land Use Planner
Peter Grella, Land Use Planner
Samantha Travis, Community Planner
Karen Peterson, Planning Secretary¹
Ellen Byham, Administrative Grant Assistant
Phil Baranyai, GIS Manager

COMMISSION STANDING COMMITTEES

Agriculture and Environmental Concerns Committee

Scott Sjolander, Chair
Maria Anderson Dreese
Michael Krepps
John Frye

Transportation Committee

Dick Astor, Chair
Robert Klasen
John Lawrence
Mark Nickerson

Planning Initiatives Committee

John Lawrence, Chair
Maria Anderson Dreese
Robert Klasen
Ronald Mattocks

Personnel Committee

Mark Nickerson, Chair
Dick Astor
Michael Krepps
Scott Sjolander

AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

In 1968, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 247 known as the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. The law empowers boroughs, cities, counties, and townships to plan for the future of their communities by ensuring orderly development and growth, establishing of various governmental boards, as well as outlining the legal actions/proceedings or time-frames associated with these authorized powers.

¹ Retired in 2019

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Crawford County Planning is pleased to provide this annual report for 2019 calendar year. Over the past year, the Planning Commission and Office have laid the groundwork necessary to further our mission. I'm confident that we'll continue to build off this groundwork to enhance the quality of life, economy, and natural environment of our many communities through solutions-oriented planning.

A large amount of the Planning Office's work program for 2019 was spent on completing the county's highly anticipated Housing Plan. Beyond the extensive public outreach conducted by the Planning Commission and Office over the past two years for the project a considerable amount of staff time was dedicated to the development of actionable strategies for communities and partners to undertake. Over the next year, Crawford County Planning will review our 2014 Comprehensive Plan to better align its vision for the future with the needs of our communities. In order to be successful in 2020, Crawford County Planning will take a lead role in prioritizing the implementation of these plans, but we will need the help of many partners to accomplish the goals set forth for our county.

I'm a strong believer that good things happen because of good people. The Crawford County Planning Commission, Planning Office, and the numerous communities throughout the county are filled with good people. Therefore, I'm confident that good things are on the horizon, and I encourage you to partner with us to make Cultivating Crawford Growing a Community's vision a reality.

Zachary Norwood, Planning Director
Crawford County Planning Office



Comp. Plan Report Card

In 2018 Crawford County Planning initiated a method, the Comp Plan Report Card, to monitor the implementation of the County's 2014 Comprehensive Plan, Cultivating Crawford- Growing a Community. The Comp Plan Report Card identifies key strategies from the 2014 plan and tracks the Planning Commission, Planning Office, and citizenries success at achieved those actionable items. In order to align the County's efforts with the long-range vision created by our citizens, this report along with future initiatives will directly link to the County's comprehensive plan and the report card. The report card is broken into the following categories.

HOUSING



COMMERCE & DEVELOPMENT



TRANSPORTATION



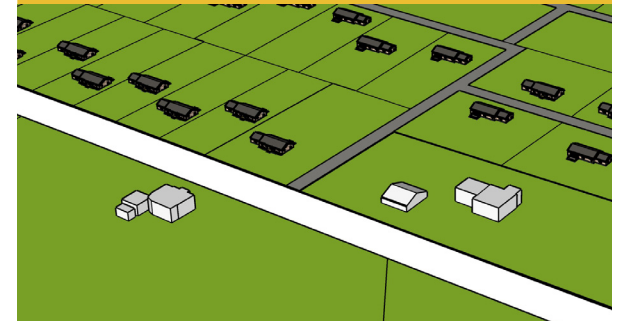
AGRICULTURE



RECREATION



LAND USE

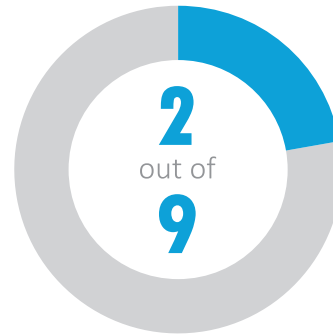


Agriculture



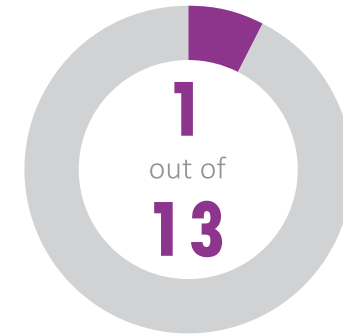
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Commerce & Economic Development



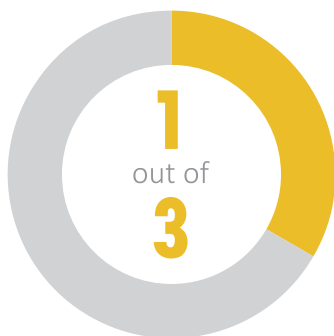
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Housing



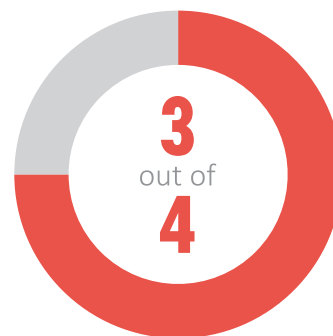
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Land Use



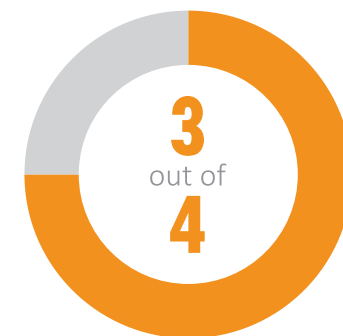
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Recreation



RECOMMENDATIONS
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Transportation



RECOMMENDATIONS
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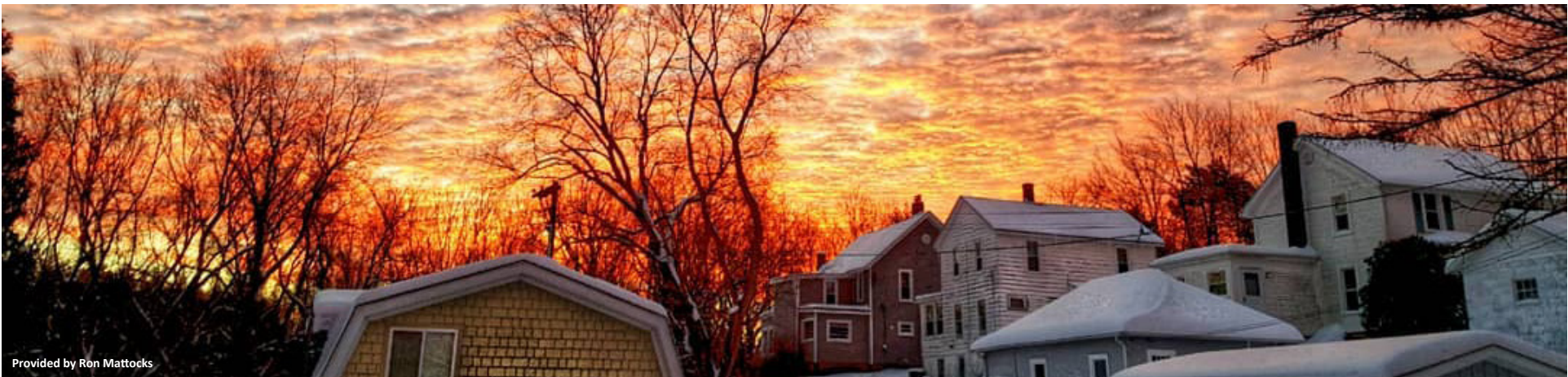
Exploring our Communities

Crawford County Planning works diligently to educate citizens about how they can plan for the future success of their communities and to ensure that those potentially affected by community development projects are informed. The Planning Office does this daily by talking with the public at our reception counter, taking phone calls, crafting emails, and writing letters to both citizens and municipal officials. In addition to routine professional support, the Planning Office produces subdivision and land development review letters, letters of consistency for comprehensive planning, and special communications concerning topics of unique concern. Beyond typing away at letters and email correspondence, our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) section has prepared numerous web-map applications covering topics like local zoning or available tax sale properties which can be viewed online from the convenience of your home computer. In order to educate citizens, Crawford County Planning examines and synthesizes complex information for general consumption such as population, job, and housing trends.

Public Outreach + Engagement Process

Throughout 2019, Crawford County Planning reached out to citizens through a variety of methods. Most methods provided direct opportunities for public input. Outreach activities and accomplishments over the last year included:

207 Facebook Followers	83 Facebook Posts	43,757 Digital Reaches	30+ Articles + Notices	700+ Stakeholder Surveys
15 Public Meetings	150+ Meeting Attendees	7 Municipal Meetings	6 Association Meetings	3 Public Hearings



Provided by Ron Mattocks

Population Trends



Job Trends



Housing Trends



Providing Development Review Services

Consistency with the **Cultivating Crawford, Growing a Community** portion of the Act 247 review process for subdivisions, land developments, ordinances, and planning documents. In 2018, much of the proposed development and property changes occurred in rural townships including Bloomfield, Cussewago, East Mead, and Hayfield. A summary of applications for subdivisions and land developments follows:

Residential Proposals

↓ Residential proposals decreased from 10,628 sq. ft. of development in 2018 to 1,704 sq. ft. in 2019.

Non-Residential Proposals

↓ Non-residential proposals significantly decreased from 1,060,640 sq. ft. in 2018 to 467,372 sq. ft. of development in 2019.

Subdivision Proposals

↑ A total of 1,608 acres were submitted for a subdivision in 2019 through a total of 66 subdivision applications covering 114 parcels across 20 communities. An increase of 17 minor subdivision applications from 2018.

Partnering with Municipalities

In Crawford County local municipalities develop and implement the vision and tools for the future of their communities. In 2019 Crawford County supported local municipalities by providing technical assistance to communities which seek to update local plans, policies, and practices.

Comprehensive Planning

- In November of 2019, the county-wide Housing Plan was adopted as part of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan.
- Cambridge Springs Borough and Cambridge Township partnered with the Northwest Rural Electric Cooperative to develop a strategic plan for Cambridge Springs Borough.
- Conneautville, Linesville, and Springboro Boroughs have started a multi-municipal plan to identify a long range vision for a portion of western Crawford County.

Land Use Regulations

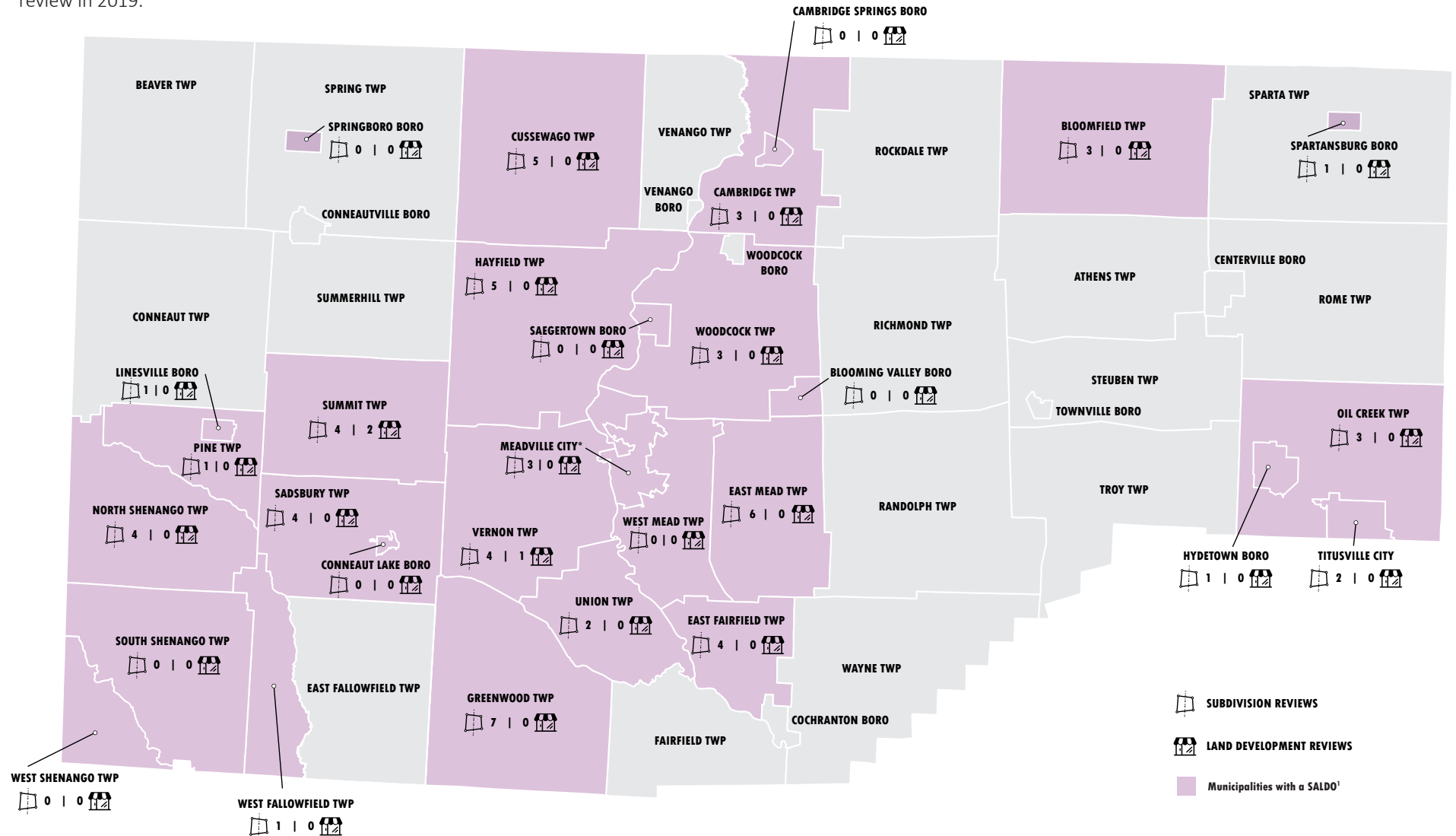
- The City of Meadille kicked off an update to their comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance utilizing grant funding. The Planning Office is providing technical assistance along with Allegheny College.
- Bloomfield, Sadsbury, and West Mead Township have contacted the Planning Office regarding their intent to update their zoning ordinances for review and comment.

Regional Planning

- The Northwest Commission the Regional Planning Organization (RPO) through coordination with multiple counties drafted the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, which is anticipated to be passed in 2020.
- Crawford County's Department of Public Safety initiated the 5-year update to the county's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Planning Office was requested to assist in the planning effort.

Subdivision & Land Development Summary Map

Communities that submitted subdivisions or land developments for review in 2019.



¹ Meadville has adopted a Subdivision Ordinance not a Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

Investing in our Communities

In order to work with citizens to prepare for the future, Crawford County Planning assists local communities with achieving the vision for that area. The Planning Office, through our community development section, supports local elected officials as they work towards completing items identify as priorities in planning documents. The Planning Office provides technical assistance in scoping projects, identifying possible funding alternatives, reviewing grant applications, and providing letters of support or consistency. Furthermore, on projects of county-wide significance the Planning Office will prepare and manage projects from funding applications through ribbon cutting on behalf of local communities. Beyond seeking external resources to achieve the vision set forth in the County’s comprehensive plan, Crawford County Planning also manages a series of local funding streams that aim to help communities tackle various subjects from poor bridges to improving the lives of low-income households. Many of these funds require technical assistance to comply with federal regulations along with long-term monitoring which is provided by the Planning Office.

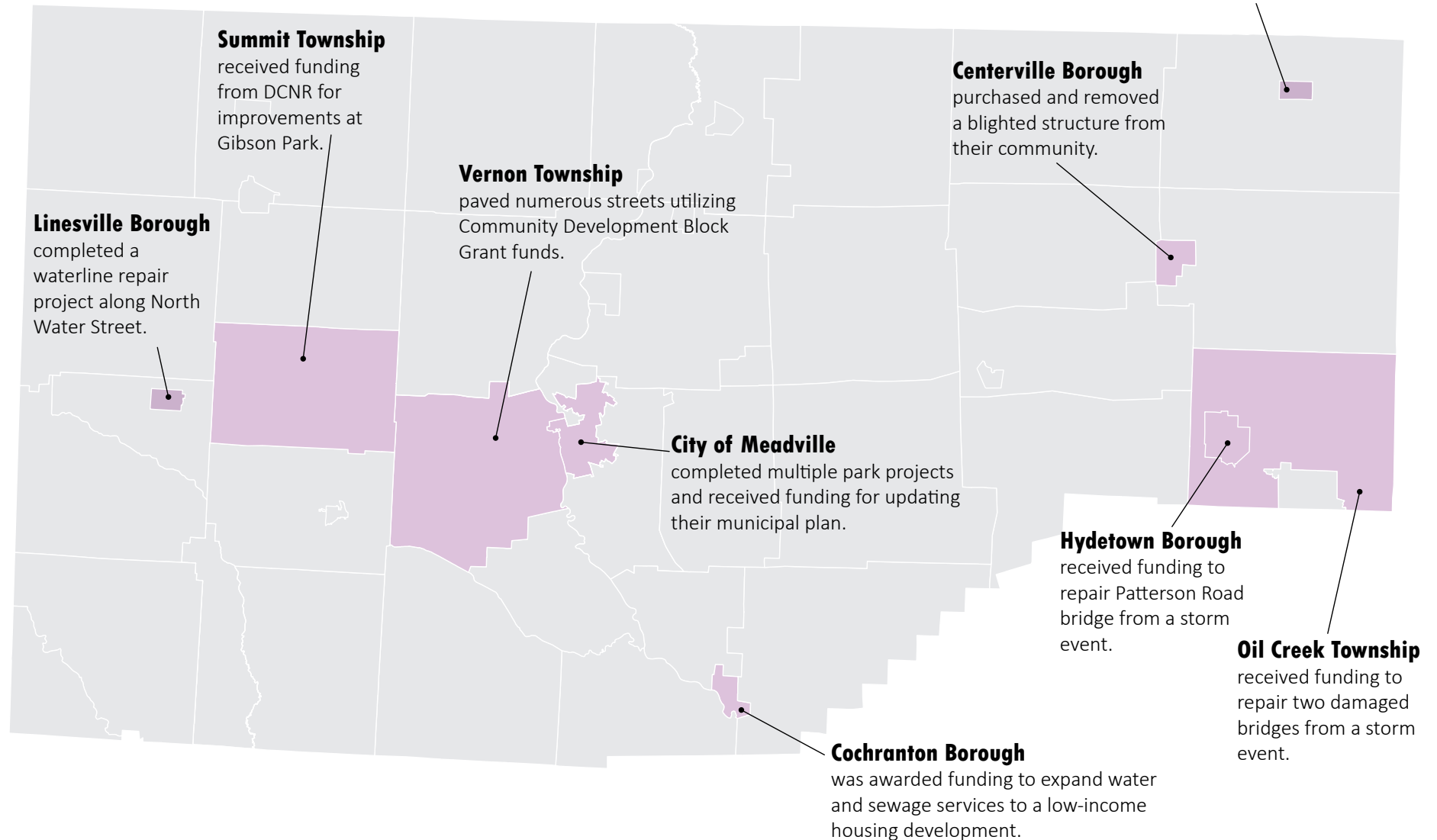
3 Grant Applications	\$384,491.00 County Funds Received	\$1,101,633.13 County Funds Disbursed ¹	13 Communities Assisted	4 Counmmunity Requests
6 Letters of Support	6 Trainings/ Conferences	\$4,317,030.00 Grant funds brought into Crawford County	11 Projects Completed	3 Closeout & Monitorings



¹ Funds disbursed by Crawford County are culmination of multiple years of awards.

Community Development Assistance Map

Communities that received assistance from the Community Development Section in 2019.



HOUSING



2020 Priorities

Fresh off the successful establishment of the 2019 Crawford County Housing Plan, the Planning Commission will prioritize putting the Plan's recommendations to use by working to develop a direct financial incentive program for housing rehabilitation. The Planning Commission hopes to recapture the success of past housing rehabilitation efforts to create a program that will provide caring homeowners with the opportunity to rehab their properties for better function and blight elimination.

COMMERCE & DEVELOPMENT



Provided by John Frye

2020 Priorities

The Planning Commission will continue to prioritize educational events and workshops for municipal officials and the public on a variety of planning related matters. Educational workshops planned for 2020 include examining the local development review process, developing competitive project funding proposals, and a final session on a topic to be determined. These workshops will provide the opportunity for local administrators to share resources, ask questions to professional planners, learn the basics of handling property issues within their community.

AGRICULTURE



Provided by Mark Nickerson

2020 Priorities

Building off a tradition of support local farmers, the Planning Commission will prioritize efforts to promote the consumption of local agricultural products and expand presence of the Pennsylvania Agriculture Security Area program within Crawford County. While most of Crawford County's townships already participate in the Agriculture Security Area program, remaining townships containing many acres of agricultural lands will be encourage get on-board.

TRANSPORTATION



2020 Priorities

The Planning Commission will spend 2020 working to ensure that roadway improvement and safety enhancement projects currently listed on the Northwest Rural Planning Organization's Transportation Improvement Program and the Long-Range Transportation Plan are undertaken for the benefit of county citizens.

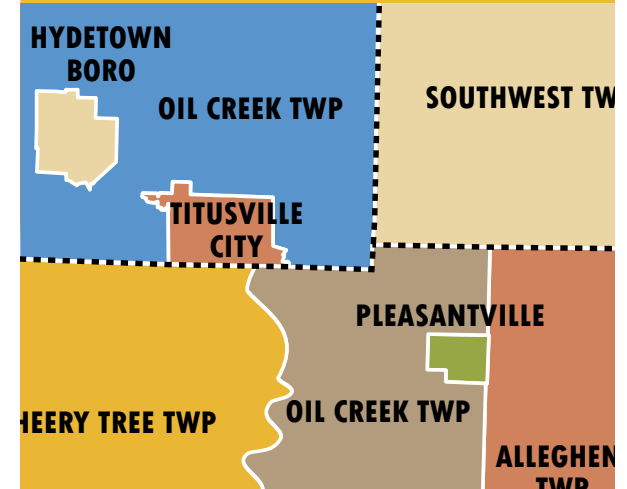
RECREATION



2020 Priorities

In 2020, the Planning Commission will work to support the efforts of local trail ownership and stewardship organizations as they continue to expand a network of recreational trails throughout Crawford County. Trails will ultimately tie together regional attractions and economic assets between communities through opportunities for active outdoor recreation.

LAND USE



2020 Priorities

To encourage land use practices that minimize existing conflicts and mitigate the potential for future issues between property owners and within communities, the Planning Commission will investigate the need and support for county-wide land use regulations. Crawford County remains as one of the few counties in Pennsylvania that does not employ a county-wide subdivision and land development regulation for the purpose of protecting public health, safety, and welfare of its citizenry.

Chairman's Message



Provided by Ron Mattocks

This has been a very busy and productive year for the Crawford County Planning Office and Commission. The staff has helped many of our local municipalities in a variety of ways. They've helped plan and secure grants for various major infrastructure projects and aided in eliminating blight. They've also helped guide the development of comprehensive plans when requested. The Planning Office and Commission have also been very active in promoting rural and urban transportation projects county wide, and working very hard to keep Crawford County on the PennDOT "to do " list.

The county-wide housing study is certainly a major accomplishment for this year having recently been adopted by the commissioners as part of the county comprehensive plan. The launching of the housing study was a text book example of the planning office and commission reaching out to the entire county.

Undertaking the 2020 Census project is yet another major undertaking that was started this year and will hit 2020 with a bang. All of this and more is done in conjunction with subdivision and zoning reviews that come on a regular basis. I would like to thank all of the commission members and planning office staff for their dedication and efforts for the betterment of Crawford County.

John Lawrence, Chair
Crawford County Planning Commission