



2016 ANNUAL REPORT
PENNSYLVANIA
STATE PLANNING BOARD



West Reading, PA

Submitted to:

Tom Wolf, Governor
Joseph B. Scarnati, III, President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Mike Turzai, Speaker of the House



PURPOSE AND DUTIES

The State Planning Board is an advisory board within the Governor's Office. It was established by the Administrative Code of 1929 as re-enacted and amended. There are 25 members, including citizens, state department heads, and legislators.

The Board's duties include studying demographic, economic, and development trends, and preparing strategic plans to promote the welfare of the commonwealth. It was instrumental in creating the Pennsylvania Turnpike, planning the State Capitol grounds, establishing planning agencies in Pennsylvania's counties, and enacting the Municipalities Planning Code in 1968.

MEMBERS

Membership of the Board includes 15 gubernatorial appointees confirmed by the Senate serving four-year terms. It also includes secretaries from six commonwealth departments and four representatives from the General Assembly.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES (year term ends)

Chairperson – Alexander J. Graziani, Manager, Penn Township (2018)

Ronald Bailey, Professional Planner, Lancaster (2018)**

Helen Hanna Casey, President, Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, Pittsburgh (2018)

William B. Hawk, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Lower Paxton Township (2017)

Robert Hess, Bow Creek Farm & Cattle Co., Hershey (2018)

Susan G. Hockenberry, Executive Director, Local Government Academy, Pittsburgh (2014)*

Roger H. Krey, Town of McCandless (2018)

Allen McIntosh, Warren (2018)

Joan McMillen, Ex-Commissioner, Clearfield County, Clearfield (2017)

John Moyer, Commissioner, Monroe County, Stroudsburg (2017)

William Piper, Farmer, Carlisle (2017)

Kurt Schroeder, Gilmore Associates, Furlong (2018)

David Sciocchetti, Competitive Communities LLC, Wallingford (2018)

Kirk Stoner, Director of Planning, Cumberland County Planning Department, Carlisle (2017)

Jose Enrique Urdaneta, Lancaster (2013)*

CABINET SECRETARIES

Russell Redding, Department of Agriculture

Dennis M. Davin, Department of Community and Economic Development

Cindy Adams Dunn, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Patrick McDonnell (Acting Secretary)***, Department of Environmental Protection

Ted Dallas, Department of Human Services

Leslie S. Richards, Department of Transportation

LEGISLATIVE APPOINTEES

Rep. Seth Grove (R-York County)

House Democrat, *vacant*

Senate Republican, *vacant*

Senate Democrat, *vacant*

**Terms continue until their successors are appointed and qualified.*

***Resigned May 18, 2016. Seat vacant thereafter in 2016.*

****Patrick McDonnell was appointed Acting Secretary in May 2016 after the resignation of Secretary John Quigley*

ACTIVITIES

In 2016, the Pennsylvania State Planning Board received a charge from Governor Tom Wolf to prepare a report with recommendations in three areas: infrastructure, efficient government, and community revitalization. The full charge is shown to the right.

The Board spent the better part of the year working on the charge. Work groups were formed for each of the three subject areas. PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) staff provided information on each subject and research on best practices. The full Board reviewed issues and ideas reports from each work group. Toward the end of the year, the Board invited stakeholder input at a meeting and via written submission. The Board set a schedule to continue work in early 2017 and consider a draft report at its April 2017 meeting.



Bedford, PA

GOVERNOR'S CHARGE

Governor Wolf directs the State Planning Board to prepare a report with consensus recommendations for state policies and actions, including possible legislation, in three broad areas:

- **How can state and local infrastructure funding be better coordinated to provide incentives for regional planning, coordination between local units, right-sizing of services, and increased efficiency?** In particular, how can we influence decision-making about transportation, water, sewer, and stormwater investments, to promote these goals? Develop policy recommendations which can be implemented (or note needed legislative changes) to drive smart planning.
- **How does the fragmentation of government at the state, county and local level affect decision-making on issues such as school funding?** Pennsylvania has more than 5,000 governmental units, each of which has authority for specific functions. How does this decentralization of planning affect outcomes, and are there policy suggestions which could remedy problems or inefficiencies which are identified?
- **How can the state do more to support Pennsylvania's struggling older cities and towns?** Identify policies, including tax policies, which contribute to the divide between urban and suburban areas, and to the twin challenges of concentrated poverty and sprawl. Develop recommendations to level the playing field between urban and suburban areas.

MEETINGS



The Board adopted a regular meeting schedule in 2016. Quarterly meetings were scheduled for the second Friday of January, April, July, and October and were held at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg.

The Board held three regular meetings and one special meeting in 2016:

- **January 8** - Initial discussions were held on a charge from Governor Wolf. Also the Board discussed the outdated state of municipal zoning ordinances in Pennsylvania and how they can be modernized.
- **April 8** - The meeting was cancelled.
- **July 8** - The Governor's charge was officially presented to the Board and discussed at a high level.
- **October 14** - Three work groups — infrastructure, efficient government, and community revitalization — presented issues and ideas reports to the full Board for review and discussion.
- **December 1 special meeting** - The Board dedicated an entire day to taking stakeholder input on issues in the Governor's charge. Five panels of experts, 14 presenters in all, provided input to the board, answered questions, and engaged in discussion.



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