

FY2015 ANNUAL REPORT



BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
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NATHANIEL W. KARNS, A.I.C.P.
Executive Director

September 2015

Comments from the Chair:

During the past year, collaboration has been a growing strategy pursued by cities and towns with regard to education, health care, the environment, and energy.

Two proposed pipeline projects, with all of the complex impacts they can have on many communities, have helped to power these efforts to collaborate. BRPC has been at the center of these collaborative efforts.

The Connecticut Expansion Pipeline Project impacts Sandisfield primarily. The Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Energy Direct Project impacts a number of communities and has a broader potential impact. Short-term impacts could include impacts to roads and environmental resources. Long-term, impacts relate to a community's ability and readiness to respond to emergencies related to a pipeline and, in the case of the proposed compressor station in Windsor, to dramatically alter the character of the community.

In both cases, BRPC has been monitoring the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) licensing process. In addition the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is providing an opportunity for the cities and towns, including those in abutting Rensselaer County, NY, affected by the Kinder Morgan pipeline to work together with legal and technical assistance.

In the case of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline, and as was the case with the Rest of River Cleanup response, BRPC has supported collaboration among the affected cities and towns. This support of collaboration among aligned members is also evident in other initiatives:

1. The Berkshire Public Health Alliance. This alliance is a collaboration among 22 Berkshire Communities who have signed an Inter-Municipal Agreement to provide professional public health services and programs for its member communities. This program was initially established in 2011 but has expanded to meet the growing needs of its aligned communities. It includes public health inspection services, public health nursing services, and opioid abuse prevention services. In response to the growing opioid addiction problem in Berkshire County, BRPC is collaborating with other organizations to provide necessary services to this population.

2. BRPC, in partnership with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) is conducting a planning and public outreach process to explore interest in a new partnership with State and Federal agencies for 20 towns in northwestern Massachusetts. The hope is that the partnership could lead to a new designation that would allow for State and Federal funding to support forestry based economic development in these primarily rural communities.
3. In 2014 BRPC completed its three-year *Sustainable Berkshires* plan. Among other conclusions, the study provided some sobering data about population trends. BRPC has followed up the study by conducting surveys of both young and older residents to determine: why they leave, why they stay, and what they need to remain in the Berkshires. This data can help the region plan for supporting a diverse, sustainable population. Cities and towns facing a decline in school enrollment are beginning the difficult work of looking for ways to collaborate while maintaining a sense of individual identity.

In a time of constricted resources, BRPC has continued to provide assistance to its communities, sometimes on an individual basis, but often by providing opportunities for communities to align with one another in achieving common goals. As we work to create a sustainable region that balances economic development with quality of life, BRPC will continue to support its communities whether through assisting with rail trails or innovation centers...whatever we need to grow and thrive.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Irvin".

Sheila Irvin, Chair



SUSTAINABLE BERKSHIRES

Community Strategies For A Sustainable Future

PLANNING TO ACTION – 2015 IN REVIEW

- The Challenge of our Regional Demographic Profile – fewer children; lack of younger adults; growing aging population
 - ✓ Young Adults Survey – 2,900 valid responses – jobs, family, connections
 - ✓ Older Adults Survey – 2,500 valid responses – health, home, connections
 - ✓ Berkshire Initiative for Growth – attracting younger workers/families - 1Berkshire priority
 - ✓ Age Friendly Community Designation – Berkshire Age-Friendly Task Force
 - ✓ Berkshire Education Task Force – Mass Assoc. of School Committees Region 1

- Improving the Economy of the Berkshires
 - ✓ Improving the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem – 1Berkshire priority
 - ✓ Development of the Berkshire Innovation Center at the William Stanley Business Center – Pittsfield Economic Development Authority/City of Pittsfield
 - ✓ Replacement of Taconic High School, including strong technical training component – City of Pittsfield
 - ✓ Berkshire Brownfields Program – closed 2 sites; assessments for 8 sites; clean-up loans/grants for 3 sites - BRPC
 - ✓ Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership – in collaboration with Franklin Regional Council of Governments
 - ✓ Berkshire On-Line Building Permit Program - 14 towns
 - ✓ Initiation of Mass Broadband Institute’s Last-Mile Program – 10 unserved towns approved bond funding; 3 more have Town Meeting approval
 - ✓ Vibrant downtowns – major infrastructure investments in downtown Adams, Great Barrington, and Pittsfield; major private investments in downtown Pittsfield
 - ✓ Regional Economic Development Sites Study
 - ✓ Growth in Bio-Medical Related Manufacturing in Berkshires – plastics firms & medical devices; Nuclea Biotechnologies; Berkshire Sterile Manufacturing
 - ✓ Areawide Plan for Lee Mills
 - ✓ Apply for Economic Development District Designation by U.S. Economic Development Administration

- Improving the Supply of Quality Affordable Housing Across the County
 - ✓ Housing Rehabilitation Programs in Adams, Great Barrington & Sheffield
 - ✓ Multi-family Housing Renovation or Development, both market-rate and affordable, in Pittsfield & Williamstown
 - ✓ 40R District development (Adams, Great Barrington, Lee); Affordable Housing Committee (Richmond); Housing Needs Assessment (Adams, Becket, Richmond), Housing Affordability Plan (Dalton), and Housing Production Plan (Great Barrington)

- Improving Transportation Serving the Berkshires
 - ✓ Completion of Housatonic Railroad Passenger Rail Station Study
 - ✓ Purchase of Housatonic Railroad by MassDOT
 - ✓ Purchase of Adams Branch line by MassDOT and complete replacement of ties and rails

- Increasing Recreational Opportunities that Maximize Health & Economic Benefits
 - ✓ Funding construction of next northern leg of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in Adams
 - ✓ Designing Williamstown leg of the Vermont to Connecticut Trail
 - ✓ Planning for Vermont to Connecticut Trail segments in North Adams, Adams, and Lee
 - ✓ Open Space & Recreation Plans Updated in Lee, Lenox and North Adams
 - ✓ Complete Streets Context Sensitive Design for Berkshire Municipalities
 - ✓ Walkability Assessment & Plan for Egremont
 - ✓ Trail Linkages Project along Jacobs Ladder and Rte. 112 Scenic Byways

- Improving Land Use Planning & Practices
 - ✓ Overhaul Antiquated Zoning Bylaws/Ordinance in Cheshire, North Adams
 - ✓ Land Use & Zoning Study for Westside Neighborhood in Pittsfield
 - ✓ Zoning Audit in Sheffield
 - ✓ Home Occupation Bylaw in Washington

- Building a Healthy Region
 - ✓ Prevention of Falls and Diabetes
 - ✓ Opioid Abuse Prevention
 - ✓ Health Prevention – tobacco, teen age pregnancy, substance abuse
 - ✓ Improve Immunization Rates among Minority and Other Populations

- The Growth in Regional Collaboration
 - ✓ Berkshire Public Health Alliance – 21 communities are members; 8 use public health nursing services; 11 use public health inspection services regularly or for back-up
 - ✓ Rest of River Municipalities for PCB Clean-up of Housatonic River (Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Pittsfield, Sheffield & Stockbridge)
 - ✓ Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Energy Direct Working Group (Cheshire, Dalton, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Lenox, Pittsfield, Richmond, Washington, Windsor, 2 Fire/Water Districts, Rensselaer County, NY (and Nassau, Schodack, and Stephentown))

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Projects of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission FY2015

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Adams - Community Development Outsource Planning Support

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission assisted the Town of Adams, through the Department of Community Development to administer their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and assist with other community development activities with BRPC Outsource Planners.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Patricia Mullins

Advancing the Berkshires Economy Through Capacity Building

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission focused on building economic development capacity in the Berkshire region. The project also supports the on-going work of the Berkshire CEDS Committee to ensure the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy remains current and to maintain the region's eligibility for Economic Development Administration funding.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Brian Domina

Brownsfield Revolving Loan Fund

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has established a Revolving Loan Fund to lend funds for cleanup activities. This fund provides subordinated loans and sub grants to enhance the credit worthiness of conventional or other traditional loans and funds and fills funding gaps in the financial mix of a project.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Melissa Provencher

Berkshire Brownfields Assessment Program

The Berkshire Brownfields Assessment Program consists of Phase I, II and III assessments for sites across the region contaminated by petroleum and hazardous materials. Assessments at eligible sites approved by the Berkshire Brownfields Committee are conducted by a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) contracted by BRPC. This program assisted public, private, and non-profit property owners with initial assessment activities to uncover possible contamination and develop remediation plans.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Melissa Provencher

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Activities

Working with a committee, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission staff engaged in a comprehensive planning process to develop and update a comprehensive economic development strategy for Berkshire county.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Brian Domina

Dalton - Brownfield Clean Up Project

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission assisted the Dalton Redevelopment Authority to administer a Brownfields Cleanup Grant to clean up the abandoned site located at 339 North Street in Dalton. The site was sold by the DRA to a private developer this year.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Melissa Provencher

District Local Technical Assistance

The District Local Technical Assistance program enables Berkshire Regional Planning Commission staff to provide technical assistance to member municipalities. This assistance must focus on advancing municipal partnerships, planning for housing and planning for growth and is intended to encourage and enable municipalities to work together to achieve and/or enhance cost effective service delivery, or to create and sustain ongoing collaboration and consultation on issues affecting the municipalities, such as land use and planning for new economic and housing growth. Projects and activities should result in a measurable change in the municipalities, whether in law, regulation, program management, or practice.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Brian Domina

Economic Resiliency in the Northern Tier Program

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission worked with the Franklin County Community Development Corporation to identify the economic development needs of Northern Berkshire County and to investigate the various organizations that could be created to best fit those needs. Additional tasks included supporting project collaborators whose main focus was to provide business technical assistance to existing and emerging small businesses.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Brian Domina

Mohawk Trail Forest Partnership Project

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), in partnership with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) is conducting a planning and public outreach process to explore interest in a new partnership with State and Federal agencies for 20 towns in northwestern Massachusetts. The partnership could lead to a new designation by the State and U.S. Forest Service which could provide federal funds and technical assistance to expand forestry activities on privately owned land and to support tourism based businesses. This potential designation would focus on forest-based economic development like recreational tourism, forest management, and research on new forest related manufacturing technologies.

Project Manager: Assistant Director Thomas Matuszko

Lee - Brownfields Area-Wide Plan

The Town of Lee was selected by the USEPA as one of twenty nation-wide Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant recipients in 2013. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is working with the Town to develop a brownfields area-wide plan and implementation strategy for the industrial area just north of the downtown, where four former paper mills are located within 1.5 miles of one another. The project includes research on the existing conditions and infrastructure capacity, a market study, and community involvement through public meetings and a brownfields visioning session. These efforts are establishing a comprehensive framework for future action at the four brownfields catalyst sites. Key partners on this project also include the Lee Community Development Corporation and the Town of Lenox.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Melissa Provencher

Lee - Brownfields Clean Up Project

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission assisted the Town of Lee to manage the Brownfields Cleanup Grant to clean up the site located at 25 School Street in Lee.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Melissa Provencher

Mohawk Trail Historic Preservation Project

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is partnered with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to prepare National Register of Historic Places nominations for sites along the Mohawk Trail and to determine the feasibility of developing and administering a historic preservation revolving loan program.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Lauren Gaherty

North Adams – Distressed Properties

The City of North Adams and the Town of Adams have contracted with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to create a distressed properties database utilizing funding from the Attorney General's office. The database tracks properties that have been foreclosed, condemned, causing blight, etc. in hopes of determining areas that can be targeted for improvements.

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

Pittsfield Grant Application Assistance - Berkshire Innovation Center

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is preparing an application to U.S. Economic Development Administration for Public Works grant for infrastructure supporting construction of the Berkshire Innovation Center at the William Stanley Business Park on behalf of the City of Pittsfield, Pittsfield Economic Development Authority and the Berkshire Innovation Center, Inc.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Brian Domina

Regional Community Development Block Grant Project

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is serving as Grant Administrator and Housing Rehabilitation Manager for this FY14 Regional CDBG Grant (Community Development Block Grant) for the Towns of Great Barrington and Sheffield, which includes 15 housing rehabilitation construction projects for low to moderate income home owners in the towns, as well as engineering design for an infrastructure project in Housatonic Village in Great Barrington, and architectural design for removal of ADA barriers in the Sheffield Town Hall.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Patricia Mullins

Regional Priority Development Fund Project

The Priority Development Fund (PDF) currently supports housing related activities in Dalton, Adams, Great Barrington and Richmond, with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission serving as planning consultant to the towns. Work is focused on assisting the communities to develop goals and strategies for meeting present and future housing needs. Specific tasks include developing Housing Production or Action Plans, facilitating housing development through inclusive zoning, planning for greater density in a downtown or village center area (such as creating a 40R overlay district), and assisting the towns with disposition of municipal properties to be reserved for affordable housing. The project demonstrates that housing planning is most successful when conducted within the local context, but with the regional perspective in mind.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Patricia Mullins

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Dalton Master Plan

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is providing direction and guidance to assist the Town of Dalton to prepare a new Master Plan.

Project Manager: Assistant Director Thomas Matuszko

Healthy Design - Complete Streets

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission developed context specific guidance to municipalities, especially the smaller more rural ones, about applying "Complete Streets" principles. BRPC assisted the Town of Egremont to apply those "Complete Streets" principles in their town. In addition, BRPC worked with the Town of Otis to promote healthy design principles in the development of their Master Plan.

Project Manager: Assistant Director Thomas Matuszko

Lee Bikeway Phase II

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is planning the design of the Lee Bikeway, a multi-modal path envisioned to travel through the town of Lee and connecting to neighboring Stockbridge and Lenox.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Lauren Gaherty

Lee - Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided direction and guidance to assist the Town of Lee in preparing an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) to meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (DCS).

Project Manager: Assistant Director Thomas Matuszko

North Adams Ashuwillticook Trail Extension

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is advancing the design of the Mohawk Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail, a multi-modal path connecting the Williamstown and North Adams downtowns. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is producing a detailed feasibility analysis that includes a community outreach committee for the entire design effort in order to keep affected property owners and other interested parties informed on project progress, deliverables and outcomes.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Lauren Gaherty

Otis Master Plan and Open Space & Recreation Plan Development

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is assisting the Town of Otis to prepare Master Plan and Open Space and Recreation Plan revisions and updates.

Project Manager: Assistant Director Thomas Matuszko

Rest of River

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is serving as the agent of the six Rest of River municipalities (Pittsfield, Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, and Sheffield), hiring and overseeing the work of the law firm Pawa Law Group to pursue litigation on behalf of the municipalities. The Pawa Law Group will pursue compensation for socioeconomic impacts expected to be experienced by the municipalities during the cleanup of the Housatonic River. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will also serve as the municipalities' fiscal agent.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Lauren Gaherty

Richmond - Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided direction and guidance to assist the Town of Richmond to prepare an Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) to meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (DCS).

Project Manager: Assistant Director Thomas Matuszko

RT 112 and Jacob's Ladder Trail Scenic Byways Trails Linkage Project

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is serving as the subcontractor to Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The project promotes linkages along the Jacob's Ladder Trail and Route 112 Scenic Byway regions. Project work includes development of the trail inventory and planning map, assessing the feasibility of trail linkages and developing an action plan to prioritize trail linkages.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Lauren Gaherty

Sandisfield Master Plan

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is providing direction and guidance to assist the Town of Sandisfield to prepare a Master Plan.

Project Manager: Assistant Director Thomas Matuszko

Sustainable Berkshire Regional Plan

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has completed working with a regional Consortium of cross-sector partners to develop a regional sustainability plan for the Berkshires. The three-year project developed a regional vision and supporting goals and strategies for energy, economy, agriculture, neighborhoods, housing, open space, recreation, transportation, health, infrastructure, and land use. The impacts of food security, rising fuel prices, climate change, and technology will be some of the emerging topics were integrated into the plan. Broad and diverse public outreach mechanisms were employed throughout the process to garner strong public input. The Plan was adopted on March 20, 2014. Implementation activities are underway in all the elements of the plan (see the first section of this Annual Report).

Project Manager: Assistant Director Thomas Matuszko

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

Berkshire Hazard Mitigation Plan Expansion

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission worked with six additional communities (Cheshire, Clarksburg, Hinsdale, Mount Washington, New Ashford, and West Stockbridge) to add them to the Berkshire Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, a comprehensive plan addressing natural hazards and ways to minimize impacts from them.

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

Mass Receiving Planning Phase II

The Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council is funding Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) to develop plans for evacuation service centers. The plan defines what an evacuation service center is, capacity and flow information, service capabilities, security considerations and integration with regional reception centers. Potential locations to serve as evacuation service centers are also identified.

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

Partnering for Emergency Preparedness with Faith Based Organizations Projects

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) in coordination with the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC) is working to engage the Faith Community and other community organizations in planning for emergencies as part of the Berkshire Community Organizations Active in Disasters (BCOAD) initiative. Integrating community groups and their resources into local emergency planning and response is part of a National strategy to enhance local capacity to meet the needs of all residents in an emergency. Establishing Emergency Rest Centers or warming/cooling centers during prolonged or severe emergencies such as ice storms or floods is just one of the resources being created by members of the BCOAD. FEMA invited BRPC to present this project at their Northeastern Conference in the spring of 2015. In addition, FEMA has invited BRPC to contribute information on Emergency Rest Center to its preparedness blog.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Sandra Martin

Public Outreach and Project Awareness

The Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council, through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), has hired the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to conduct public outreach on what the council does as well as provide awareness on the projects it conducts. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is working with the other RPAs in Western Massachusetts to develop the presentation material and then will conduct the presentation to various governmental organizations.

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

DATA & INFORMATION SERVICES

Adams - Outsource GIS Planner

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission staff is available to work in town / city halls under contracts with the local governments between ½ day to 3 days a week, acting as staff for the town – so-called “Outsource Planner”. Services vary by needs of each town. In fiscal year 2015, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided Outsource Planner services to the Town of Adams for Geographic Information System administration.

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

Berkshire Benchmarks

Berkshire Benchmarks is a collaborative effort to provide regional data and analysis. The Data Clearinghouse provides a one-stop-shop for data about the region and is intended to assist the decision makers, service providers, and others who need reliable data to inform their work. The Regional Indicators defines what we want for our future and then tracks progress in achieving these goals. Berkshire Benchmarks can be found online at www.berkshirebenchmarks.org.

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Data Collection Project

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission collects data on a variety of topics for the catchment area of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (portions of Berkshire (MA), Litchfield (CT), Columbia and Dutchess Counties (NY)).

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

Central Berkshire Regional School District Data Collection Project

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided data and analysis related to the Central Berkshire Regional School District, including enrollment trends and expenditures.

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

Regional GIS Services

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided GIS assistance to North Adams, by digitizing parcels and linking the parcels to the assessor’s database and coordinating address list standardization for MassGIS.

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY PLANNING

Berkshire Conservation Commission Training Program

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission continues to expand the Berkshire Conservation Commission Training Program. Through this program, BRPC teamed up with the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) to deliver 4 units of MACC's Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners Certificate Training Program to Conservation Commission members in Berkshire County.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Lauren Gaherty

Dalton - Stormwater Management

BRPC provides technical assistance and guidance to the Town Administrator and the Stormwater Management Commission to comply with NPDES Phase II requirements, implement the Town of Dalton Stormwater Management Plan, and enforce the Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Melissa Provencher

Pipeline Information

AECOM Technologies Corp. requested that Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provide information to them on various constraints as they prepare the permitting for the Northeast Direct Pipeline project.

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

Pipeline Technical Assistance to Communities

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission facilitated an education and awareness program about the roles and responsibilities of local officials with regard to pipeline safety concerns and risks. This education and awareness program focused on the Tennessee Gas pipeline which currently exists and the proposed Tennessee Gas Northeast Energy Direct and Connecticut Expansion Projects. Local officials were provided with technical assistance to provide greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities from proposal through the lifetime of the pipeline and how to better understand and address where a pipeline failure could pose a significant risk to people or to unusually sensitive environmental areas. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission also worked with local emergency responders to increase their response capabilities so they can effectively deal with pipeline safety risks and potential failure. It is expected that as a result of this project the communities are better positioned to respond to stakeholders in affected geographic areas.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Melissa Provencher

Pipeline Working Group Pre-Filing Technical Support to Communities

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is providing legal and technical assistance to nine Berkshire municipalities, three New York municipalities, two Berkshire fire and water districts, and Rensselaer County, New York, related to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Energy Direct Project.

Project Manager: Assistant Director Thomas Matuszko

Stockbridge Bowl Watershed Assessment

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is providing assistance to the Town of Stockbridge to support implementation of the Stockbridge Bowl Watershed Assessment Grant, which is funded through the Mass DEP.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Lauren Gaherty

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Berkshire County Boards of Health Association (BCBOHA) Support Services

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission staff continues to provide services to Berkshire County Boards of Health Association (BCBOHA) programs such as Septic Installer Certification Courses, Chokesaver to restaurants and other educational and other programs/services and support as needed and requested by the Berkshire County Boards of Health and the BCBOHA Executive Committee.

Project Manager: Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross

Berkshire Public Health Alliance

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is serving as the Host Fiscal Agent for the Berkshire Public Health Alliance. The Berkshire Public Health Alliance is a group of 22 municipalities that signed an Intermunicipal Agreement enabling participating municipalities to share public health staff, programs and services to improve the delivery of public health services through regional cooperation.

Project Manager: Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross

Food Safety Assessment

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, on behalf of the Berkshire Public Health Alliance, is working to improve food safety in the region by supporting communities in joining the FDA Voluntary Program Standards and completing food safety self-assessment.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Sandra Martin

Gt. Barrington Enhanced Public Health Nursing Services

The Town of Great Barrington is receiving enhanced public health nursing services, including additional flu clinics and wellness programs such as Matter of Balance and public education programs.

Project Manager: Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross

Increase Immunization Rates

Through a grant from JSI Research & Training Institute, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Alliance is provided technical assistance to build capacity and facilitate systems change to address and ensure sustainable immunization equity by increasing immunization rates among under immunized populations. This includes identifying hard to reach populations, developing strategies and activities related to outreach and education related to immunizations, developing community based partnerships and collection of immunization data using MIIS.

Project Manager: Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross

Opioid Abuse Prevention

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, through the Berkshire Public Health Alliance is coordinating the Berkshire Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative. The Berkshire Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative is developing and implementing local policies, practices, systems and environmental changes to prevent the misuse or abuse of opioids, prevent or reduce unintentional deaths and non-fatal hospital events associated with opioid poisonings and increasing the capacity of municipalities to deal with the growing problem.

Project Manager: Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross

Prevention Wellness Trust Fund Planning

Berkshire Health Systems, acting as the coordinating partner, has received a Prevention Wellness Trust Fund (PWTF) Planning Grant from the Department of Public Health. PWTF is a unique partnership between clinical and community partners, designed to intervene in health conditions that can show a return on investment within four years. As a partner, the Berkshire Public Health Alliance/ Berkshire Regional Planning Commission are involved during the planning phase.

Project Manager: Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planning

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission acts as the fiduciary agent for the Berkshire Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition. The Coalition conducts emergency preparedness planning and response activities related to Boards of Health, such as responding to bioterrorism and pandemic flu threats.

Project Manager: Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planning - Volunteers

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission in coordination with the Western Massachusetts Medical Reserve Corps Advisory Group (MAG) serves as the fiduciary for the Berkshire Medical Reserve Corps (BMRC). The Berkshire MRC's mission is to build resilient and healthy communities by recruiting, training and deploying MRC volunteers.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Sandra Martin

Public Health Equipment

This grant allows the Berkshire Public Health Alliance to purchase needed equipment and supplies to enhance the inspectional services program, as well as to support the flu clinics offered in public health nursing municipalities.

Project Manager: Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross

Regional Public Health Inspection Program

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is serving as the fiduciary agent to the Berkshire Public Health Alliance to implement a regional Public Health Inspectional Program in selected Alliance towns.

Project Manager: Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross

Regional Public Health Nursing Program

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is serving as the fiduciary agent to the Berkshire Public Health Alliance to implement a regional Public Health Nursing Program in selected Alliance towns.

Project Manager: Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross

REGIONAL SERVICES

Burn Permits

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission coordinates and administers an on-line burn permitting program. This program, working with area Fire Departments, allows applicants wanting to get a permit for open burning to apply for that permit on-line.

Project Manager: Assistant Director Thomas Matuszko

Broadband Last Mile

FRCOG and the Mass Broadband Institute provided funding for Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to attend meetings of the MBI within Berkshire County as the last mile buildout was planned and to update maps on unserved communities.

Project Manager: GIS, Data and IT Manager Mark Maloy

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Berkshire Bike Path Council

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission serves as the fiduciary agent for the Berkshire Bike Path Council (BBPC) and administers BBPC funds in accordance with decisions made by the Council to promote the development of bicycle facilities in Berkshire County.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Doug Plachcinski

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Assistance

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provides assistance to the region's transit provider, the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA). The support activities which are provided to the BRTA include updates to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, performing Environmental Justice analyses, assisting with National Transit Database reporting, preparing the Transit portion of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and performing other transit related studies as requested.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Anuja Koirala

Coordinated Transportation Planning

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provides staff support to the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Documents developed and endorsed by the MPO include the Transportation Improvement Program, the Unified Planning Work Program, and the Regional Transportation Plan, as well as various special studies.

Project Manager: Transportation Program Manager Clete Kus

Sandisfield Procurement Assistance

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission assisted the Town of Sandisfield develop the bid package and conduct the bidding process to contract public works construction services for various parts of the approximately 5 miles of New Hartford Road from Sandisfield Road south to the Connecticut state line. This project, estimated at over \$500,000, will provide a rehabilitated road surface and drainage improvements that should last the community over a decade. The funding for the project is a combination of Chapter 90 state funding and Town funding.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Patricia Mullins

Road Management Planning Project

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has developed a program for pavement management. Staff has working with officials from Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Egremont, Great Barrington, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Lee, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield and Washington. In these towns, staff interviewed Town officials about past problems and future goals, along with the current issues affecting Town roads. Staff prepared a report summarizing the Town's needs and objectives, budget for road repairs, preferred road treatments and a five-year outline for road improvements.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Doug Plachcinski

Transportation Safety Initiatives

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission actively monitors the safety of our Region's roads. We work with our local, state, and Federal partners to make Berkshire roads safer for motorists, trucks, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Doug Plachcinski

Passenger Rail Station Location and Design Project

The Housatonic Railroad Company is working to re-introduce passenger rail service between the Berkshires and New York City. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission conducted a comprehensive planning study to evaluate the most feasible locations for up to six passenger rail facilities between the Connecticut state line and Pittsfield, prepare recommendations for facility upgrades at downtown Pittsfield's intermodal facility and to maximize opportunities for the directly affected communities and the entire Berkshires to benefit from station locations through increased economic, job and housing opportunities, as well as tax revenues. The project recommends stations in Pittsfield, Lee, Great Barrington, and potentially in southern Sheffield, if a preferred station location in Canaan, Connecticut, is not feasible.

Project Manager: Senior Planner Brian Domina

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Area of Critical Environmental Concern – Kamposoa Bog

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission assists the Kamposoa Bog Advisory Committee protecting this Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Clearinghouse Reviews

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission prepares advisory comments for the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and local permitting boards/commissions to projects subject to Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) review.

Educational Training Activities

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission hosts, sponsors, coordinates, conducts and presents training sessions for municipal board members, including the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative, on topics such as municipal planning and zoning, smart growth and environmental protection. Three or four times per year the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission hosts a training dinner for Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members, Building Inspectors, Planning staff and Public Health Officials.

Grant Writing and Administration

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provides technical assistance to local municipalities, nonprofit organization, and institutions to prepare, write and administer grant applications for a wide range of public or private funding sources.

Abutter Labels

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provided abutter labels to the town of Lenox for required public hearing notices.

Local Technical Assistance

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provides technical assistance to the region's municipalities about a host of planning related topics, ranging from procedural issues related to zoning, review of development projects, requests for demographic and land use information and request for GIS and other maps.

Mapping

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provides maps to the public as requested on a fee basis.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Projects FY15



Community & Economic Development

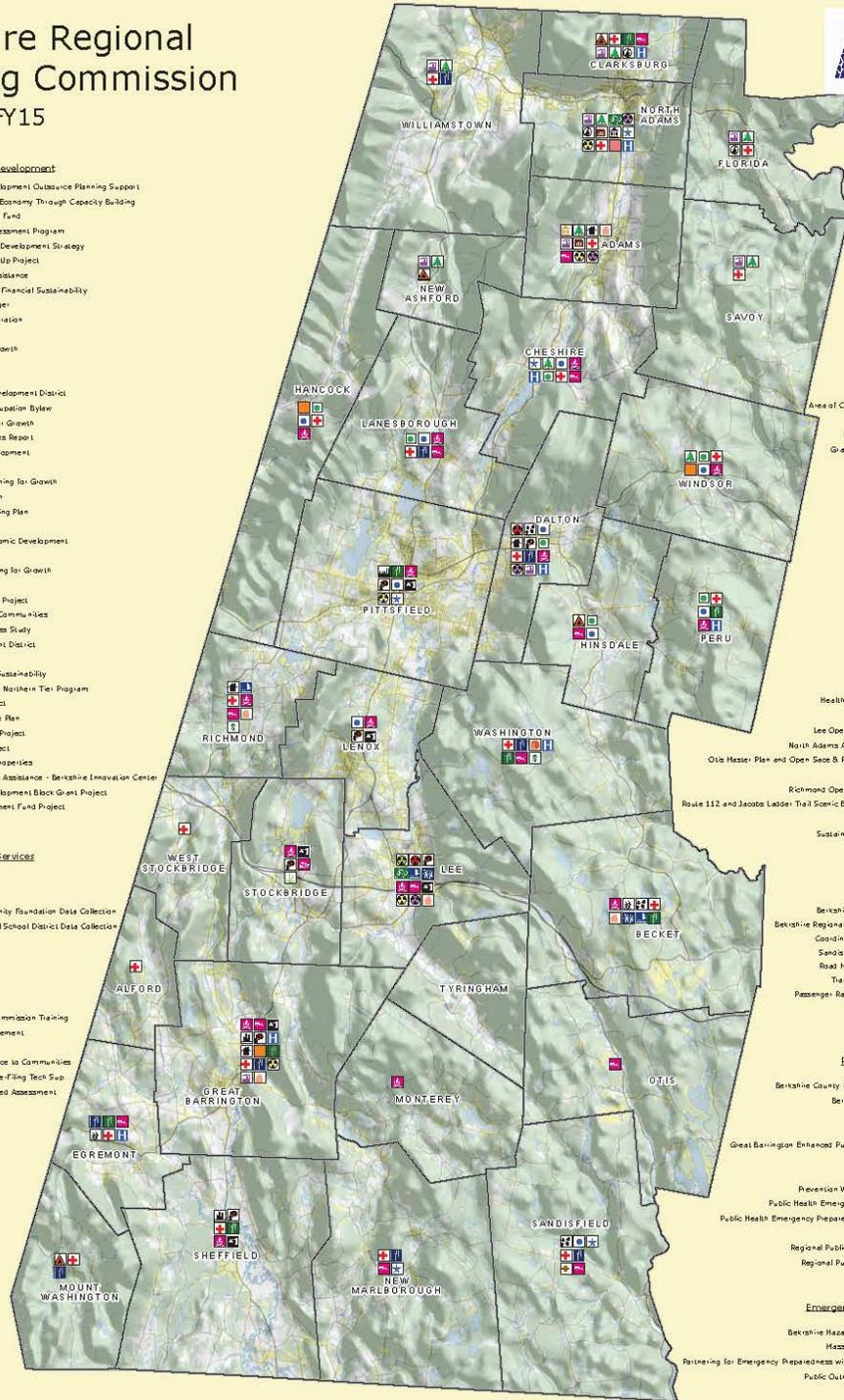
- Adams - Community Development Outsource Planning Support
- Advancing the Berkshires Economy Through Capacity Building
- Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund
- Berkshire Brownfields Assessment Program
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Dalton - Brownfield Clean Up Project
- District Local Technical Assistance
- Richmond Long Range Financial Sustainability
- Regional Energy Manager
- Housatonic River Restoration
- Adams Housing (4DR)
- Chester Zoning for Growth
- Otis Village Planning
- Regional IT Services
- Regional Economic Development District
- Washington Home Occupation Bylaw
- North Adams Zoning for Growth
- Regional Industrial Sites Report
- Dalton Economic Development
- Becket Housing
- Pittsfield West Side Zoning for Growth
- Richmond Housing Plan
- Great Barrington Housing Plan
- Dalton Master Plan
- Great Barrington Economic Development
- Lee Housing 4DR
- New Marlborough Zoning for Growth
- Otis Master Plan
- Northeast Gas Pipeline Project
- Regional Age Friendly Communities
- Regional Population Loss Study
- Regional Veterans Agent District
- Sandisfield Zoning
- Washington Financial Sustainability
- Economic Resiliency in the Northern Tier Program
- Forestry Partnership Project
- Lee Brownfields Area-Wide Plan
- Lee Brownfields Clean Up Project
- Housatonic Trail Historic Project
- North Adams Distressed Properties
- Pittsfield Grant Application Assistance - Berkshire Innovation Center
- Regional Community Development Block Grant Project
- Regional Priority Development Fund Project

Data & Information Services

- Adams Outsource Planner
- Berkshire Benchmarks
- Berkshire Technical Community Foundation Data Collection
- Central Berkshire Regional School District Data Collection
- Regional GIS Services
- GIS Parcel Maintenance

Environmental Planning

- Berkshire Conservation Commission Training
- Dalton Stormwater Management
- Pipeline Information
- Pipeline Technical Assistance to Communities
- Pipeline Working Group Pre-Filing Tech Sup
- Stockbridge Dam Watershed Assessment



General Operations

- Area of Critical Environmental Concern
- Clean-House Review
- Educational Training Activities
- Grant Writing and Administration
- Local Technical Assistance
- Mapping

Regional Services

- Bulk Permits
- Broadband Last Mile

Community Planning

- Dalton Master Plan
- Healthy Design - Complete Streets
- Lee Bikerway Phase II
- Lee Open Space and Recreation Plan
- North Adams Ashwillook Trail Extension
- Otis Master Plan and Open Space & Recreation Plan Development
- Rest of River
- Richmond Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Route 112 and Jacobs Ladder Trail Scenic Byways Trails Linkage Project
- Sandisfield Master Plan
- Sustainable Berkshire Regional Plan

Transportation Planning

- Berkshire Blue Path Council Support
- Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Assistance
- Coordinated Transportation Planning
- Sandisfield Procurement Assistance
- Road Management Planning Project
- Transportation Safety Initiatives
- Passenger Rail Station and Design Project

Public Health Programs

- Berkshire County Board of Health Association
- Berkshire Public Health Alliance
- Food Safety Assessment
- Improve Food Safety
- Great Barrington Enhanced Public Health Nursing Services
- Improve Food Safety
- Opioid Abuse Prevention
- Prevention Wellness Trust Fund Planning
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planning
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Planning - Volunteers
- Public Health Equipment
- Regional Public Health Inspection Program
- Regional Public Health Nursing Program
- Williams College

Emergency Preparedness Planning

- Berkshire Hazard Mitigation Plan Expansion
- Mass Response Planning Phase II
- Partnering for Emergency Preparedness with Faith Based Organizations
- Public Outreach and Project Awareness

BRPC Activities

FY 2015

Commission Operations & Administration

- The Commission met eight times with attendance from 8 to 15 communities at each meeting; during the course of year, 19 of 32 communities participated; North Adams, Pittsfield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, and Williamstown were represented in at least six BRPC meetings.
- Held Special Commission meeting on proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Energy Direct Project with presentations by TGP staff and a representative of the Conservation Law Foundation.
- The Commission ended FY 2015 with revenues of \$2,364,996 and operating expenses of \$2,454,282.
- Six Common Ground newsletters were produced.

Local Technical Assistance

- Staff provided 122 hours of technical assistance to Berkshire municipalities, regional organizations, state officials, local business, investors, individuals and others.
- Eighteen out of thirty two municipalities used Berkshire Regional Planning Commissions technical expertise.

Local Planning Training

- CPTC Fall Workshops
 - Roles & Responsibilities of Planning Board & Zoning Board of Appeals Members (New Member Training)
 - Vested Rights & Nonconforming Structures & Uses
 - Reading a Subdivision Plan
- 5th Thursday Dinners
 - Planning for Healthy Communities
 - Municipal Considerations for the Short Term Letting of Rooms
 - Community Land Trusts
- Miscellaneous
 - Planning Board Resource Book (updated). We appreciate the financial assistance of the Berkshire Bank Foundation in updating the handbook. This was funded by the bank's foundation through Berkshires Tomorrow, Inc., our affiliated 501(c)3 non-profit established during 2015.

Environmental Reviews

- Connecticut River Expansion Project, Final Environmental Impact Report, Sandisfield & Tyringham
- Review of a Public Works Application to be submitted by the City of Pittsfield to the Economic Development Administration for Infrastructure and Other Equipment to Support the Berkshire Innovation Center.
- ENFs for Murdock Pond Dredging and Basin Pond Dredging (Great Barrington)

Berkshires Tomorrow, Inc.

- Completed the transfer of an inactive 501(c)3 non-profit organization to be under BRPC's auspices, received IRS approval for its renaming and adjustment in purpose
- Received first foundation funding for updating the Planning Commissioners Handbook from the Berkshire Bank Foundation
- Received funding from two private individuals to provide information to the Central Berkshire Regional School District's Long Range Planning Task Force

State & Federal Legislation & Policies

- Submitted joint letter from BRPC, the Cape Cod Commission, the Martha's Vineyard Commission, and Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission to MassDOT Secretary Pollack requesting that **seasonal populations** be included in future transportation funding formula.
- Submitted a letter of regional issues and concerns, with recommendations to the incoming Baker administration.
- Participated in rural western Massachusetts orientation tour and meeting with the new Undersecretary for Housing & Community Development and the Deputy Secretary for Policy and Communications in the Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development
- Briefed the Deputy Secretary for Policy and Communications in the Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development regarding Berkshire issues and initiatives
- Submitted a letter to the legislature regarding the latest **land use reform legislation**.
- At the request of Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development reviewed 13 **MassWorks applications** for major economic development and small town road projects in the Berkshires.
- Submitted comments to the New England Regional Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the proposed draft "remedy" regarding the **clean-up of PCB's from the rest of the Housatonic River**.
- Submitted comments to the New England Regional Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the draft **stormwater permit requirements** which affect Adams, Cheshire, Dalton, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Lenox, North Adams, and Pittsfield.
- Approved filing for Intervenor Status with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding the **Tennessee Gas Pipeline Connecticut Expansion Project**

Income Statement – All Departments

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION Income Statement - All Departments FY2015

	<u>FY 2015</u>
Cost of Labor	(\$1,041,062)
Benefits Expense	(\$418,194)
Operating Expense	(\$411,239)
Subcontractors Expense	(\$583,787)
Total Expense & Labor	<u>(\$2,454,282)</u>
Total Income & Revenues	<u>\$2,364,996</u>
Gross Difference between Income & Expense	<u>(\$89,286)</u>
GASB - Post Employment Benefits	\$74,906 *
GASB - Post Pension Benefits	\$23,612 **
Surplus Revenue	\$9,232
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year (excludes GASB)	(\$147,439)
Fund Balance at End of Year (excludes GASB)	<u>(\$138,207)</u>

Note: GASB Post Employment Benefits - records BRPC Retirement Benefit Liability
GASB Post Pension Benefits - records BRPC Pension Benefit Liability

Delegates & Alternates

FY2015

DELEGATE or ALTERNATE	COMMUNITY	FIRSTNAME	LASTNAME
DELEGATE	ADAMS	SANDRA	MODERSKI
ALTERNATE	ADAMS	JOHN	DUVAL
DELEGATE	ALFORD	VACANT	
ALTERNATE	ALFORD	LARRY	GADD
DELEGATE	BECKET	ROBERT	RONZIO
ALTERNATE	BECKET	ANN LOIS	KRAWET
DELEGATE	CHESHIRE	BERNARD	BATOR
ALTERNATE	CHESHIRE	ROBERT	CISKOWSKI
DELEGATE	CLARKSBURG	AUDREY	MATYS
ALTERNATE	CLARKSBURG	CARL	MCKINNEY
DELEGATE	DALTON	CALEB	DARBY
ALTERNATE	DALTON	LOUISA	HORTH
DELEGATE	EGREMONT	MARK	HOLMES
ALTERNATE	EGREMONT	CHARLES	OGDEN
DELEGATE	FLORIDA	THOMAS	BRULE
ALTERNATE	FLORIDA	CHRISTINE	DOBBERT
DELEGATE	GT BARRINGTON	MALCOM	FICK
ALTERNATE	GT BARRINGTON	CHRIS	REMBOLD
DELEGATE	HANCOCK	PATRICIA	HERRICK
ALTERNATE	HANCOCK	VACANT	
DELEGATE	HINSDALE	DANIEL	BROWN
ALTERNATE	HINSDALE	RICHARD	ROUSSIN
DELEGATE	LANESBOROUGH	BOB	RUBIN
ALTERNATE	LANESBOROUGH	JACK	HICKEY
DELEGATE	LEE	THOMAS	WICKHAM
ALTERNATE	LEE	BUCK	DONOVAN
DELEGATE	LENOX	MARK	SMITH
ALTERNATE	LENOX	THOMAS	DELASCO
DELEGATE	MONTEREY	ALAN	SALAMON
ALTERNATE	MONTEREY	WAYNE	BURKHART
DELEGATE	MT WASHINGTON	ROBERT	BOTT
ALTERNATE	MT WASHINGTON	JAMES	LOVEJOY
DELEGATE	NEW ASHFORD	VACANT	
ALTERNATE	NEW ASHFORD	KEVIN	FLICKER
DELEGATE	NEW MARLBOROUGH	JAMES	MULLEN
ALTERNATE	NEW MARLBOROUGH	PATRICIA	HARDYMAN
DELEGATE	NORTH ADAMS	KYLE	HANLON
ALTERNATE	NORTH ADAMS	GLENN	MALONEY
DELEGATE	OTIS	TERRY	COOK
ALTERNATE	OTIS	BRIAN	CRANDALL

DELEGATE or ALTERNATE	COMMUNITY	FIRSTNAME	LASTNAME
DELEGATE	PERU	SAMUEL	HAUPT
ALTERNATE	PERU	DOUGLAS	HASKINS
DELEGATE	PITTSFIELD	SHEILA	IRVIN
ALTERNATE	PITTSFIELD	CJ	HOSS
DELEGATE	RICHMOND	PAULA	PATTERSON
ALTERNATE	RICHMOND	RICHARD	BELL
DELEGATE	SANDISFIELD	GARY	BOTTUM
ALTERNATE	SANDISFIELD	ANDREW	SNYDER
DELEGATE	SAVOY	JOHN	TYNAN
ALTERNATE	SAVOY	DANIEL	LABONTE
DELEGATE	SHEFFIELD	MARIE	MASSINI REYNOLDS
ALTERNATE	SHEFFIELD	RENE C	WOOD
DELEGATE	STOCKBRIDGE	KATE	FLETCHER
ALTERNATE	STOCKBRIDGE	MARIE	RAFTERY
DELEGATE	TYRINGHAM	HOLLY	KETRON
ALTERNATE	TYRINGHAM	SARAH	HUDSON
DELEGATE	W STOCKBRIDGE	DANA	BIXBY
ALTERNATE	W STOCKBRIDGE	KAREN	ZICK
DELEGATE	WASHINGTON	MARILYN	WILEY
ALTERNATE	WASHINGTON	JAN	NELSON
DELEGATE	WILLIAMSTOWN	AMY	JESCHAWITZ
ALTERNATE	WILLIAMSTOWN	ROGER	BOLTON
DELEGATE	WINDSOR	VACANT	
ALTERNATE	WINDSOR	VACANT	

BRPC Committee Membership FY15

Executive Committee

Staff: Nathaniel Karns, Executive Director

Sheila Irvin, Chair (Pittsfield)
Kyle Hanlon, Vice Chair (North Adams)
Marie Raftery, Clerk (Stockbridge)
Charles Ogden, Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair (Egremont)
Roger Bolton, Clearinghouse Committee Chair (Williamstown)
Rene Wood, Commission Development Committee Chair (Sheffield)
James Mullen, Regional Issues Committee Chair (New Marlborough)
Samuel Haupt, At- Large (Peru) Transportation Expert
John Duval, At-Large (Adams)

Clearinghouse Review Committee Staff: Nathaniel Karns, Executive Director

Roger Bolton, Chair (Williamstown)
James Mullen, Vice Chair (New Marlborough)
Stephen McMahon (West Stockbridge) (Non-Commission member)
John "Jack" Hickey (Lanesborough)
Sarah Hudson (Tyringham)
Eleanor Tillinghast (Mt. Washington) (Non-Commission member)
Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield) (Ex-Officio)

Commission Development Committee

Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Assistant Director

Rene Wood, Chair (Sheffield)
Sarah Hudson (Tyringham)
John Duval (Adams)
James Lovejoy (Mt. Washington)
Jamie Mullen (New Marlborough)
Kate Fletcher (Stockbridge)
Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield) (Ex-Officio)

Finance Committee

Staff: Marianne Sniezek, Office Manager

Charles Ogden, Chair & Treasurer (Egremont)
Kyle Hanlon (North Adams)
Sam Haupt (Peru)
Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield) (Ex-Officio)

Regional Issues Committee

Staff: Nathaniel Karns, Executive Director

Jamie Mullen, Chair (New Marlborough)
Robert Bott, (Mt. Washington)
Kate Fletcher (Stockbridge)
Sarah Hudson (Tyringham)
CJ Hoss, (Pittsfield)
Caitlin Pemble (Pittsfield) (Non-Commission member)
Marie Raftery (Stockbridge)
Chris Rembold (Gt. Barrington)
Eleanor Tillinghast (Mount Washington) (Non-Commission member)
Andrew Groff (Williamstown) (Non-Commission member)
Thomas Wickham (Lee)
Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield) (Ex-Officio)

Commission Representatives to Related Groups:

Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee – Representative: Marie Raftery
(Stockbridge)

Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation & Development Area – no representative;
seems inactive

Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization – Representative: Chair Sheila Irvin
(Pittsfield); Sam Haupt (Peru); second Alternate: Jack Hickey (Lanesborough)

Berkshire Brownfields Committee – Jack Hickey (Lanesborough)

Berkshire Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee – Roger Bolton
(Williamstown)

Sustainable Berkshires Plan Consortium – Representative: James Mullen (New
Marlborough); Alternate: Roger Bolton (Williamstown)

Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Project Advisory Committee – Representative:
Kyle Hanlon (North Adams)

BRPC Staff FY 2015

Nathaniel W. Karns, AICP - Executive Director - NKarns@berkshireplanning.org

Responsible for overall operation of the agency, under the direction of the Commission. Represents the agency with local, regional, state and federal officials and agencies. Manages staff to ensure that the agency missions, as well as regional and local needs, are being met and that adopted regional policies are complied with. Leads staff efforts on major regional initiatives on behalf of BRPC and oversees agency budget and finances.

Thomas Matuszko, AICP - Assistant Director - TMatuszko@berkshireplanning.org

Assists the Executive Director in administration and budgeting. Supervises community and environmental planning staff. Oversees comprehensive planning activities, particularly in areas of land use, environmental and natural resources and community development planning. Oversees regional service delivery programs.

Laura Kittross - Public Health Program Manager - LKittross@berkshireplanning.org

Manages the public health program. Supervises public health staff. Provides leadership and guidance on technical aspects of public health programs. Develops and administers the Public Health Program budget.

Clete Kus, AICP - Transportation Program Manager - CKus@berkshireplanning.org

Manages the transportation planning program. Supervises transportation planning staff. Provides leadership and guidance on technical aspects of transportation planning programs. Develops and administers the Transportation Program budget.

Mark Maloy - GIS, Data and IT Manager - MMaloy@berkshireplanning.org

Manages GIS (Geographic Information System), data and information technology services. Manages Berkshire Benchmarks program. Provides oversight of BRPC's network, web page and computer hardware and software. Provides oversight of emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation planning.

Marianne Sniezek - Office Manager - MSniezek@berkshireplanning.org

Oversees office management and human resource functions for the agency. Supervises administrative staff. Provides support to the Commission and its committees. Assists in the agency financial management and reporting. Develops and implements BRPC personnel, operating policies and procedures.

Eammon Coughlin – Planner - ECoughlin@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a support staff person for local planning and implementation projects. Assists with community master, economic development and open space and recreation plans.

Brian Domina, Esq. – Senior Planner - BDomina@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as the lead staff person for land use projects, land use training and land use technical assistance requests. Additional areas of work include economic development planning, wind energy and broadband planning.

Lauren L. Gaherty - Senior Planner - LGaherty@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a lead staff person for complex regional and local planning and implementation projects, focusing on the environment, energy, scenic byways, open space and recreation.

Jennifer Kimball - Associate Planner - JKimball@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a support staff person for Berkshire Public Health Alliance.

Anuja Koirala, AICP - Senior Transportation Planner - AKoirala@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a lead staff person for transportation planning projects involving highway and transit planning. Responsible for development of Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan.

Linda Ludwig – Finance Administrator- LLudwig@berkshireplanning.org

Directs accounting activities related to daily business operations. Processes payroll, prepares bill payments, manages accounts receivable and prepares financial statements. Assists with audit by outside accountant.

Sandra Martin - Senior Planner - SMartin@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a lead staff person for complex Public Health Projects, including emergency preparedness planning activities and support to the Berkshire Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition.

Gwen Miller - Planner - GMiller@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a support staff person for land use, comprehensive planning and community development projects. Additional areas include regional performance measurement and management efforts.

Patricia Mullins - Senior Planner - PMullins@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a lead staff person related to community development, including affordable housing initiatives, infrastructure projects and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. Assists with energy efficiency projects.

Jaclyn Pacejo - Planner - JPacejo@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a support staff person for community development, including affordable housing initiatives, and land use and comprehensive planning projects. Assists with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects.

Diane Persson - Associate Planner - DPersson@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a support staff person for Berkshire Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition.

Henry (Doug) Plachcinski, AICP - Senior Transportation Planner - DPlachcinski@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a lead staff person for transportation planning efforts including those involving pavement management, corridor planning, bicycle and pedestrian planning and highway safety.

Melissa Provencher - Senior Planner - MProvencher@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a lead staff person for comprehensive regional and local planning and implementation efforts focusing on water quality, stormwater management, energy efficiency and conservation. Manages Berkshire Brownfields program.

Judy Wagner – Office Assistant - JWagner@berkshireplanning.org

Serves as a support staff person for agency administration and maintains the agency database, purchases supplies, conducts mailings, maintains agency inventory records and arranges advertising for open positions.

**BRPC Interns
FY 2015**

Shannon Zaleski – Administration Intern

Shannon Zaleski joined the Administrative staff in February 2012 as an intern from BCC under a work study grant. Shannon assisted all staff on projects. Shannon also organized all nonprofit documents to electronic storage. Shannon successfully completed her AA degree at BCC in the Business Program.