



FY2019 Annual Report



Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

1 Fenn Street, Suite 201, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Telephone (413) 442-1521 Fax (413) 442-1523

Massachusetts Relay Service: TTY: 771 Or 1-800-439-2370

www.berkshireplanning.org

In Memoriam



Charles Driscoll

1932-2019

The FY2019 Annual Report is dedicated to Charles Driscoll. Charles was the second chair of BRPC from 1967-1969.

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
1 FENN STREET, SUITE 201, PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201
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KYLE HANLON, Chair
JOHN DUVAL, Vice-Chair
SHEILA IRVIN, Clerk
MALCOLM FICK, Treasurer

THOMAS MATUSZKO, A.I.C.P.
Executive Director

August 18, 2019

Chairman's Comments

2019 completed the full transition of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to its third director since its inception in 1966. I can confidently report that there were no problems and OUR commission is as organized, busy, and responsive as it has ever been. In fact, the web of our commission's involvement with our member communities has grown significantly in the last few years. I've stated this in the past, and it bears repeating; the universe hates a vacuum and in Berkshire County there are a lot of needs that would go un-met were it not for our Commission's staff stepping up to fill the voids in services coordination on the county level.

Data collection and analyzing, maintaining an accurate GIS data bank and supplying data upon request has become quite a large part of daily operations as has helping smaller communities meet public health requirements and supporting their efforts to provide inspection services.

Transportation historically has been, and will continue to be, one of the largest, most labor-intensive activities of our commission's staff. Behind the scenes our interaction with Mass DOT is never ending and preparation of regional traffic improvement plans and unified planning work programs are always being updated to meet state and federal deadlines.

The Public Health staff is working towards improving the health of Berkshire County residents and preventing opioid abuse.

Community planning needs and municipality DLTA requests are taken care of on a weekly basis, as are independent requests for demographic and geographic data.

Environmental issues are always a concern for all our members and the Environmental Review Committee handles all formal reviews, but just as importantly, much information is researched, distilled, and disseminated to members through the Regional Issues Committee.

My point in listing the many facets of Berkshire Regional Planning Commissions daily, weekly, monthly and yearly work is to ask all our member communities to encourage their respective delegates and alternates to attend as many meetings as possible. The volume of topics, policies, data, and concerns we are faced with seems to grow every year and BRPC provides a knowledgeable, trustworthy source for our communities to learn about new issues and prepare responses to a changing environment and world.

In addition to attending meetings and bringing new knowledge back to their communities, I invite all delegates and alternates to volunteer for committee work at the commission. We are always looking for committee members. If time constraints pose a problem, and volunteering is not possible, at least consider attending a committee meeting. Pick a topic that interests you or is important to your community and attend a meeting. Everyone's input is valued and encouraged, and you may not know what you bring to the conversation unless you show up.

This is my final year as chairman, and it's been a real blessing to be able to meet and work with so many interesting and engaged community members. I'll cherish the memories and look forward to continuing with the commission in other capacities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyle Hanlon", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kyle Hanlon

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September 17, 2019

Comments from the Executive Director

Fiscal Year 2019 was my first full year as the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Executive Director. I can report it has been a full year!!! We had over 100 active projects and have worked in-depth in and with most of the communities in Berkshire County.

The entire BRPC policy leadership, from the Chair, Officers, Executive Committee members and Delegate and Officers has been extremely supportive of my efforts and the efforts of the staff. In FY 2019, by design, we maintained much of the Commission leadership to assist with my transition to Executive Director. I am greatly appreciative for their support.

The BRPC staff has continued its high level of performance. BRPC Program Managers, again seasoned veterans, have continued to assume more responsibility in their areas of expertise. Two long-time staff were promoted to Principle Planners in recognition of their expertise in their field. We added several new staff who have integrated nicely into the organization and brought a new perspective and skill set. As I have stated in numerous occasions, we have a strong staff.

BRPC continues to be meaningfully engaged in some of the most pressing issues in Berkshire County. I'd like to highlight some, but certainly not all, of the key accomplishments of the programs over the year.

The topic of housing has consistently in the statewide news. On the housing front, our Community and Economic Development Planning Program has been actively involved with housing rehabilitation through the Community Development Block Grant Program. In FY 2019 we expanded our efforts in new communities of Cheshire and Otis.

Economic development is an important need in Berkshire County. Related to economic development we continued to provide shared economic Planner services to Adams, Great Barrington, Hinsdale, Lanesborough and Richmond. In addition, we prepared a reuse study for the Lanesborough Mall and assisted Great Barrington and Lenox with Cultural District designations.

We continue to provide leadership to Public Health Emergency Preparedness activities. In 2019 we worked to update plans to reflect the increasing need to plan for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) and advanced family reunification after disasters efforts.

As the effects of climate change become more impactful, in FY 2019, we worked with 3 communities: Dalton, North Adams and Sandisfield to conduct vulnerability risk assessment through the Municipal Vulnerability Program. We also worked in Adams, Dalton, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Sheffield, Washington and Williamstown to develop local Natural Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.

Population decline is a major concern in the County. In addition to providing GIS mapping support and county-wide data updates, primarily through Berkshire Benchmarks, a major effort related to our Data and Information Services was planning for the 2020 US Census. A Complete Count Committee was formed to ensure that everyone responds to the 2020 US Census.

Transportation is always cited as a concern in the county. In FY 19, we were actively engaged in several key transportation initiatives in the county, including the Berkshire Flyer, East West Rail Study and I-90 interchange study while completing a required Regional Transportation Plan. We continued to assist communities making their streets more pedestrian and bicycle friendly with Complete Streets Prioritization Plans for Stockbridge and Lanesborough.

BRPC continues to be a county-wide leader on opioid abuse prevention through our efforts with the Berkshire Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative. In 2019 we expanded and broadened our efforts to provide direct services, evaluate pain management programs and promote HIV prevention.

Our public health program continues to support the Berkshire Public Health Alliance. In FY 2019 the Alliance provided comprehensive inspectional services to Becket, Egremont, Peru, Washington and Windsor, and occasional or specific services to Adams, Hancock, Pittsfield, Richmond, Sheffield and West Stockbridge and comprehensive public health nursing services to Clarksburg, Cheshire, Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, North Adams, Peru, Washington, Williamstown and Windsor.

Our Brownfield Program continues to be involved with some of the key re-development projects in the County, including, in FY 2019, a \$330,000 loan to Greylock Works LLC, toward remediation work needed at the Greylock Mill in North Adams.

The Community Planning Program assisted Lenox with the development of a Master Plan, North Adams, Clarksburg and Cheshire with zoning projects and numerous other communities through the District Local Technical Assistance Program.

As the population of the Berkshires ages, we continue to lead the Age Friendly Berkshire movement. In 2019, we advanced the Villages concept, assisted with Age-Friendly zoning for housing and assisted Dalton with an Age-Friendly exercise park.

The topic of energy is important for its cost implications and impacts to the environment. In 2019, BRPC worked with 5 communities toward becoming designated Green Communities under the state's Green Communities Program.

We continue to assist communities to provide services to their residents. For the 2019 burn season, 7,783 permits were issued through the 19 participating communities in the online burn permit program we administer. We assumed administration of the Berkshire Regional Group Purchasing Program, as it

transitioned from the City of North Adams. We supported the Berkshire County Education Task Force to improve educational opportunities for our youth.

And finally, but certainly not the least, the professional planners are supported by a strong administrative staff, who administer the agency finances beyond reproach.

I continue to be honored and privileged to be the Executive Director of BRPC and look forward to working with the region's legislators and municipal, non-profit, civic and business leaders to continue to advance the quality of life for Berkshire County residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas Matuszko". The signature is stylized with a large, prominent "A" at the end.

Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission provides leadership and assistance to the County's municipalities, organizations and citizens in achieving County-wide inter-relationships, prosperity, opportunities, quality of life, strength and vibrancy.

BRPC'S VISION

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, as an indispensable source of support and leadership to municipalities, organizations and citizens, effects positive change through its collaborative efforts to achieve Sustainable Berkshires principles and a high quality of life for County residents, including greater economic growth, sustainable resource management, environmental, social and economic equity, and effective governmental and educational services. BRPC is recognized as the primary:

- Source of trusted, reliable Berkshire County data and analysis
- Provider of technical assistance to Berkshire municipalities and organizations
- Convener of interests seeking to seize opportunities for and confront challenges to the Berkshires
- Advocate on behalf of the collective interests of Berkshire County

BRPC's VALUES

- Enhance the Berkshire's human, environmental and developed resources, including its sense of place and built heritage.
- Provide the highest quality information and analysis is the basis for our work.
- Actively seek, engage and respect varying voices to ensure all viewpoints are considered prior to reaching decisions or providing guidance.
- Engage diverse people, organizations and interests within and outside Berkshire County who can effect change in the region.
- Balance competing public interests.
- Nurture and rely upon partnerships and collaborations to provide optimal outcomes.
- Be responsive and open to change and innovation.
- Respect the contributions of staff, community members, and organizations.
- Act with integrity and the highest ethical standards.



**Berkshire
Regional
Planning
Commission**

Approved January 19, 2017

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Projects of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission FY2019

Community and Economic Development



The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) currently forms the backbone of BRPC's Community Development Program. Along with performing affordable housing studies/initiatives and assisting municipalities with ADA self-evaluations and transition plans, BRPC staff have been successful in winning CDBG grants allowing numerous Berkshire County municipalities to address a variety of community development issues. These include funding for the design and construction of large drainage and infrastructure projects, design and implementation of streets and sidewalk construction projects, and the design and construction of Architectural Barrier Removal (ADA Accessibility) projects.

BRPC staff assists municipalities by working with the town officials and citizens to determine the scope of CDBG grants to be applied for, coordinating all public meetings and required Public Hearings, assembling all documentation required for the grant, and drafting and submitting the grants.



BRPC staff also provides guidance on all aspects of the resulting projects, including assisting the towns with developing designer selection procedures, coordinating municipal selection committees, procurement of designers and construction contractors, managing consultants, monitoring Massachusetts Prevailing Wage implementation by contractors and monitoring Davis Bacon laws, which pertain to federal wage rates. BRPC administers each grant on

behalf of the municipality, submitting the required reports in the Massachusetts Grant Management System (GMS), filing claims and managing the flow of funds into the municipality from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

In recent years, grants have also included large housing rehabilitation programs in Sheffield, Great Barrington, New Marlborough, Monterey, Otis, Becket and Cheshire. Through the CDBG housing rehabilitation program BRPC staff have assisted approximately 60 low to moderate income homeowners in making long needed repairs to their homes, by managing projects to replace roofs, weatherization, heating systems, plumbing, electrical, failing septic systems, while also adhering to the Massachusetts and federal lead paint hazard testing, remediation and reporting requirements.

Each individual home rehabilitation construction project requires an intense level of services by BRPC, including determining household income and the eligibility of the applicants, inspection of the home and development of work specifications by an individual familiar with home improvement best practices and building codes (the Housing Rehab Specialist), management of the procurement process and subsequent contracts, and maintenance of a high level of documentation for each phase of the project.



Managing this many individual projects, while also coordinating the work of other grant activities, such as ABR design projects as mentioned above, requires a knowledgeable and dedicated staff. BRPC currently

has 2 full-time and 1 part-time staff on hand to accomplish these duties, and the program expects to add additional staff as the new, \$1.2+M, FY 2019 Sheffield-New Marlborough-Otis grant is implemented.

In addition, managing the Housing Rehabilitation Program has required that BRPC maintain construction escrow accounts for each lead municipality receiving the grant, whereby funds can be drawn from CDBG grants to pay contractors for the work. In order to provide the necessary level of expertise to maintain these accounts, considerable assistance has been provided by the BRPC Financial Administrator. It is due to the cooperative efforts of Community Development staff and the Financial Administrator that the CDBG grants managed by BRPC are able to succeed.

By coordinating with BRPC staff providing services in the economic development sector, and adding additional staff, the BRPC Community and Economic Development Program hopes to increase its impact in all of Berkshire County in the next year or two by providing research, coordinating meetings of stakeholders, providing forums for public involvement, and developing a Regional Housing Plan to address the needs of all members of the community.

Regional Economic Development

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

After successful submission of the 2017-2022 CEDS to the EDA, BRPC and the regional CEDS Committee completed the 2018 performance report, a document required each intervening year between 5-year CEDS cycles. This process involves updating demographic and economic data for the County, as well as a review of all CEDS Priority Projects, including those initiatives affecting the entire region and physical development projects within the County's northern, central, and southern subregions.

Shared Economic Planner Program

During FY19, five towns participated in the Shared Economic Development Planner program: Adams, Hinsdale, Great Barrington, Lanesborough, and Richmond. Each Shared ED Planner contract is tailored to the town's budget and priorities. Projects included:

Adams—work on communications tools for Greylock Glen in Adams, including a new website and social media accounts; collaborating on an Opportunity Zone Symposium, at which communities with designated OZs networked with developers and potential funders, and promotional materials for additional redevelopment sites in Adams.

Hinsdale—continued refinement of the town's new WIX website, geared toward increased usability and adherence to Open Meeting Law regulations. In addition to timely information about board and committee meetings, a gallery of historic Hinsdale images was added to the site, with an invitation for viewers to contribute images from their own archives.

Great Barrington—successful completion of a Cultural District application to Mass Cultural Council, making Great Barrington the 45th Cultural District in the Commonwealth and the 4th in Berkshire County. After designation, BRPC worked with the District's steering committee to develop a new logo, which was then incorporated into window decals, brochures, and social media accounts for the District.

Lanesborough—launch of a Town e-newsletter, issued monthly to staff and officials, business owners, and residents of Lanesborough. After a re-branding of the Town's website, the e-newsletter and other materials were revised to visually align with the new website. BRPC also worked with Lanesborough's

Economic Development Committee on a series of networking events and other initiatives inspired by their recently adopted Economic Development Plan.

Richmond—updates to multiple communication tools used by the Town, including a new Revize website, the weekly e-newsletter, and the Richmond brochure, all now aligned with the brand established during website migration. Conversion of online applications to writable PDF forms, and other upgrades to online user experience.

Additional Municipal-specific projects

Lenox Cultural District

During FY19, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission worked with the Town of Lenox along with other local partners to apply for Cultural District Designation through the Mass Cultural Council (MCC). This process included inventorying cultural assets, creating a map of proposed district boundaries, conducting multiple public engagement sessions, completing online and supplemental application materials, and hosting an MCC site visit. Lenox was awarded Cultural District status in May 2019.

Berkshire Mall Reuse Study

In June of 2019, BRPC completed an 18-month reuse study of the Berkshire Mall on behalf of the Town of Lanesborough. Elements of this plan include evaluation of current site, building, utility, and market conditions, research on reuse of mall properties and active developers in other markets, assessment of current zoning and regulations, solicitation of public input, and development of five potential redevelopment scenarios. Engineering and reuse concept development were conducted through Milone & MacBroom, Inc., of Springfield, MA and EDM Architecture, Engineering & Management of Pittsfield, MA. Funding for this project was provided by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and supported with a partial match by the Baker Hill Road District in Lanesborough. The full report is available on the Town of Lanesborough website at: <https://www.lanesborough-ma.gov/economic-development-committee/files/berkshire-mall-reuse-report>

Community Planning

Cheshire Planning Assistance

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) provided planning services to amend the town's zoning map to encourage industrial/commercial development in the town. In addition, this project revised zoning to encourage enhanced agricultural uses.

Cheshire Master Plan

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) provided limited direction and guidance to assist the Town of Cheshire implement a recently prepared Master Plan.

Clarksburg Planning Assistance

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) providing planning services to revise land use and zoning bylaws.

District Local Technical Assistance

The District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program enables Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) 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.

[Lenox Master Plan](#)

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) initiated work with the Town of Lenox to prepare an update to its 1999 Comprehensive Master Plan.

[North Adams Outdoor Theater Park](#)

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) assisted the City of North Adams conduct a site selection analysis for a new outdoor theater park in the city center. The park is intended to be used for activities such as concerts, plays, shows, dance and other performances. Topics focused on included available property, ease of pedestrian access, surrounding businesses, traffic counts, safety, available parking, and the physical environment as it relates to the human scale.

[North Adams Zoning Amendments](#)

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) assisted the City of North Adams with re-drafting sections of its zoning ordinance to eliminate split lots and update the zoning map.

[Peru ADA Plan](#)

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) assisted the town of Peru to prepare and ADA self-evaluation and transition plan.

[Rest of River](#)

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) is serving as the municipalities' fiscal agent for the five Rest of River municipalities (Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, Sheffield) addressing the cleanup of the Housatonic River in those communities.

[Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership](#)

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 establish a new partnership with State and Federal agencies for 21 towns in northwestern Massachusetts. This partnership would focus on forest-based economic development like recreational tourism, forest management, and forest land conservation. In FY 2019 the legislation establishing the partnership was passed by the state legislature and the partnership was formally established when enough eligible communities within the boundaries voted, by vote of their Select Boards, to participate in the partnership.

[Emergency Preparedness Planning—Public Health](#)

[Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding \(PHEP\)](#)

BRPC acts as the fiscal host and provides staffing for PHEP funding on behalf of the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association (BCBOHA) which, in turn, acts as the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition in the county. During FY 2019, the Coalition entered into its fourteenth year of PHEP funding through a contract with the Massachusetts Office of Planning and Emergency Management, with funds from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). BRPC completed three strategic National Stockpile (SNS) drills with each of the five regional Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) host communities, which include Great Barrington, Pittsfield, Dalton, North Adams, and Williamstown. BRPC also worked with each of the regional host sites to complete updates to plans to reflect the increasing need to plan for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs). Through the PHEP funding, BRPC also regularly

meets and plans with the other three western Massachusetts counties and other coalitions across the state, participates in emergency planning activities throughout Berkshire County, sits on the Steering Committee for the Health and Medical Coordinating Council (HMCC) and several Western Homeland Security Advisory Committee subcommittees.

[Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions \(NPI\) Planning](#)

Non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI) are interventions used in communities to help prevent the spread of disease that do not include medicines or vaccines. They may be as simple as washing your hands throughout the day, or as complicated as implementing school closures during the school year or canceling public events. With funding received from the Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC), BRPC staff are working with planners from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), and the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition to conduct an interview/discovery process to understand what communities in Western MA currently use for NPIs, if any, and what are the barriers to effectively using NPIs in their communities. A report will be generated during FY 2020, with a follow-up decision-making matrix and guide for implementation of NPIs.

[Functional/Access Needs and Daily Response Planning](#)

With funding received by WRHSAC, BRPC worked with other Western MA Planners from PVPC and FRCOG to conduct interviews with First Responders, Public Health Officials, State Agencies, Direct Service Agencies, and individuals with disabilities to understand the landscape of First Responders daily response experiences and needs when working with individuals with disabilities. BRPC conducted in person interviews and electronic surveys with organizations and individuals and worked with the other commissions to develop a report outlining the current state of training, needs, and gaps in serving individuals with disabilities during regular responses. In FY 2020, WRHSAC will hold an FNSS Conference to further build awareness for responders of the unique needs that people with disabilities have, and to training specific response disciplines to increase the efficacy of their daily responses to people with additional needs.

[Family Reunification and Spontaneous and Unaffiliated Volunteer online Trainings on Captivate](#)

With funding received from WRHSAC, BRPC worked with planners from PVPC and FRCOG to build online learning modules to help organizations complete and implement the Family Reunification after Disasters Planning Template developed in FY 2018. BRPC staff used Adobe Captivate, an e-learning software, to develop trainings. In addition, BRPC staff began work to transition the Spontaneous and Unaffiliated Volunteers Training, originally developed by BRPC staff in FY 2017, to an online learning format using Adobe Captivate software.

Regional Shelter Exercises

With funding from the WRHSAC, BRPC staff conducted Tabletop Exercises (TTXs) with the Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee (SBREPC) and the Central Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee (CBREPC) to test their Regional Shelter Plans. TTXs were hosted at the Regional Shelter sites that include Bard College at Simon's Rock and Berkshire Community College (BCC). BRPC staff additionally worked with Amalio Jusino from Emergency Response Consulting, and the Northern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee to conduct a functional exercise for their Regional Shelter Plan, which included testing communications with local transportation companies, and transporting individuals acting as evacuees from pick up locations to their regional shelter site, St. Elizabeth's Parish.



Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Berkshire and Franklin Counties

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units are made up of medical and non-medical volunteers trained to assist in emergency response. In FY 19, the Berkshire County Public Health Coalition took on oversight of Franklin County's MRC, in addition to Berkshire County. The day to day operations of the MRC units is subcontracted to Fairview Hospital.

Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA)



BRPC staff worked with the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) during FY 2019 to plan and host a Business Resilience and Preparedness event for local businesses and organizations. The event was held at the Hotel on North in Pittsfield, MA and equipped attendees with knowledge and tools, including a Business Resiliency Plan Template, to prepare for and recover from disasters.

Emergency Preparedness Planning—Environmental

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

BRPC is a certified provider for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program established by the Baker-Polito Administration to provide planning assistance and capital project funding to support resilient municipal infrastructure. In FY 2019, BRPC worked with 3 communities: Dalton, North Adams and Sandisfield to conduct vulnerability risk assessments and lead planning workshops in prioritizing hazard mitigation and resilience strategies. Upon completion of this process, all 3 communities have received designation as MVP Communities.

BRPC previously worked with Adams, Lanesborough, Monterey and Williamstown to receive designation. Following this work, BRPC aided the Town of Adams to apply for an MVP Action Grant for stormwater infrastructure assessment, which was awarded and completed in June 2019. BRPC is currently working with Great Barrington, Lenox and Windsor to receive designation by June 30, 2020.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

Hazard mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. It is most effective when implemented under a comprehensive, long-term mitigation plan. Local governments engage in hazard mitigation planning to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events. Mitigation plans are key to breaking the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

Developing hazard mitigation plans enables local governments to:

- Increase education and awareness around threats, hazards, and vulnerabilities;
- Build partnerships for risk reduction involving government, organizations, businesses, and the public;
- Identify long-term, broadly supported strategies for risk reduction;
- Align risk reduction with other state, tribal, or community objectives;
- Identify implementation approaches that focus resources on the greatest risks and vulnerabilities; and
- Communicate priorities to potential sources of funding.

Moreover, a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan is a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects. Ultimately, hazard mitigation planning enables action to reduce loss of life and property, lessening the impact of disasters.

In 2019, BRPC assisted the Towns of Adams, Dalton, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Sheffield, Washington and Williamstown to develop FEMA-approved Local Natural Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans. These plans are designed to serve as a tool to help town officials identify hazard risks, assess the Town's vulnerability to natural hazardous conditions, consider measures that can be taken to minimize hazardous conditions, and develop an action plan that can reasonably be implemented to mitigate the impacts of hazards in the region. BRPC also began work with the City of North Adams and the Towns of Great Barrington, Monterey and New Marlborough to prepare plans for FEMA approval by June 2020.

Data and Information Services

Data

Throughout FY 2019, one of the major efforts related to Data and Information Services has been planning for the 2020 US Census. Extensive planning for the outreach and education on the importance of the Census was begun and

a Complete Count Committee was formed. The Complete Count Committee (CCC), which covers the entire county, is comprised of a diverse set of community organizations, educational institutions, municipal officials and business leaders. The CCC is working to ensure that everyone responds to the 2020 US Census. In addition, BRPC provided technical assistance to municipalities for the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) which works to ensure an accurate list of residential addresses and oversaw the Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP) which reviews the census geographies within the county.

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Make the
Berkshires
Count!



BRPC continues to support Berkshire Benchmarks and released updated indicators on the economy and housing as well as updating several thousand data points in the data clearinghouse. Berkshire Benchmarks is a

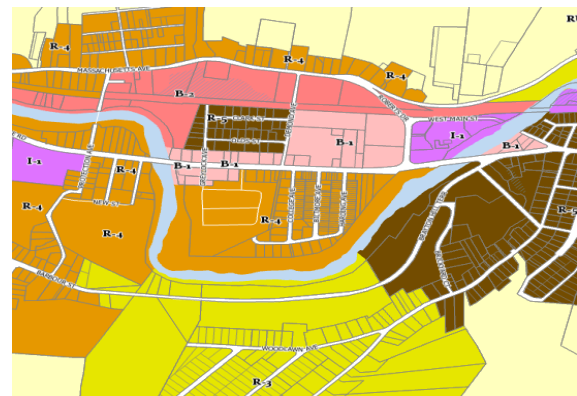
partnership between BRPC and the Berkshire United Way (BUW). BRPC supported BUW through providing data analysis on their three community impact areas—early childhood development, positive youth development and economic prosperity.

The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation also utilized BRPC’s data services for update data on their regional strategic priorities, specifically in providing data for their A Closer Look website.

BRPC has been working with the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts C4 Arts Collaborative to better understand the role of arts education in our public schools and how the arts can help improve academic performance. BRPC’s work has included research, data review and surveying of educators.

GIS

Through the Commission’s Local Technical Assistance program, grants and contracts, BRPC continues to provide maps to our local municipalities. Some of the requests this year that GIS staff have worked on include updating zoning maps for Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Great Barrington and North Adams as well as updating parcel maps for Great Barrington, Hancock and Windsor.



Inset of proposed North Adams Zoning Map

BRPC also provides technical assistance in GIS through our Outsource Program to the Town of Adams, which allows the town to have GIS mapping in house. Work that was performed for Adams include the development of a stormwater map app, which allows the town to see their stormwater infrastructure GIS data on a phone, a plan map app, which allows the town to review historic plans while they are in the field, saving time from going back into the office to review the plans, and assistance on developing their 40R bylaw.

IT

The Commission oversees the Berkshire Burn Permit program, which allows homeowners to apply for burn permits online. In 2019, almost 7,800 burn permits were issues over the 19 participating communities.

Environmental and Energy Planning

Green Communities

Since the inception of the State’s Green Communities program in 2010, staff have assisted Berkshire County cities and towns with becoming designated Green Communities and accessing funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at municipal facilities. In 2019, BRPC administered a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Grant funded through the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). During the past year, staff worked with 5 communities toward becoming designated Green Communities. The Town of Sandisfield received the designation in 2018 while BRPC will continue to assist the Towns of

Cheshire, Monterey and Peru for application in fall 2019. BRPC assisted the Town of Adams to complete energy efficiency projects under its first Green Communities Grant and apply for a Green Communities competitive grant in 2019. BRPC also supported existing Green Communities with annual reports and provided technical assistance as needed. To date, 15 of the 32 cities and towns in Berkshire County are Green Communities, with a total of over \$3.5 million in grant funds awarded to Berkshire County communities through the program. In 2019, BRPC applied for a Regional Energy Planning Assistance Grant from DOER to provide energy efficiency planning assistance to eleven Berkshire County Communities.

[Brownfields Site Assessment and Cleanups](#)

BRPC continues to be a resource for communities seeking financial and technical assistance for redevelopment of properties with known or suspected sources of environmental contamination.

In FY 2019, BRPC continued work under its U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant for Phase I & II Environmental Site Assessments (ESA) and remedial action planning. Under this grant, BRPC has undertaken Phase I & II ESAs for the Dalton Hardwood property. BRPC has also initiated Phase II ESAs for Stockbridge Motors, the J.B. Paper Factory site and the former Stetson Cleaners in Pittsfield and Connie's Cleaners in Adams. BRPC has also completed Hazardous Building Materials Surveys for the Tyler Street Fire Station in Pittsfield and the Housatonic School in Great Barrington.

BRPC operates the Berkshire Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), seeded with EPA grants, as a source of gap financing for public and private environmental cleanups. In FY 2019, BRPC was awarded \$450,000 in Supplemental RLF Funds from EPA. In 2018, BRPC executed a \$150,000 loan to Powerhouse Square LLC toward remediation work needed at 34 Bridge Street in Great Barrington. In 2019, BRPC executed loans totaling \$330,000 to Greylock Works LLC, toward remediation work needed at the Greylock in North Adams.

BRPC also continues to support Berkshire communities with grant writing and grant management for EPA Brownfields Grants. BRPC is providing grant management services to the City of North Adams and the Towns of Adams, Great Barrington and Lee to conduct community-wide assessments under funding awarded by EPA to each of the communities. BRPC is also providing grant management services to the Town of Adams for their EPA Cleanup Grant for the Hoosac Valley Coal & Grain site.

[Stormwater Management](#)

The 2016 Massachusetts Small MS4 General Permit became effective July 1, 2018. Commonly referred to as NPDES Phase II, the Permit requires regulated municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) operators to implement programs and practices to control polluted stormwater runoff to the maximum extent practicable for six "minimum control measures": public education and outreach; public participation and involvement; illicit discharge detection and elimination; construction site runoff control; stormwater management in new development and redevelopment; and good housekeeping and pollution prevention for permitted owned operations.

The City of Pittsfield and the Towns of Dalton and Lanesborough have been required to comply with the program since the original permit was finalized in 2003. Pittsfield, Dalton and Lanesborough must now comply with the 2016 Permit. The Towns of Adams and Cheshire are newly regulated under the program. In 2018 BRPC aided all five regulated communities within Berkshire County to prepare a Notice of Intent to obtain coverage under the Permit. BRPC has continued to work with Adams, Dalton and

Lanesborough to develop Stormwater Management Programs as required by the program. BRPC continues to work with the communities in 2019 to assist in meeting their obligations under the Permit.

Public Health Programs

Overview

In FY 19, the Public Health Program grew to five full-time, on-site employees: The Public Health Program Manager, a Principal Planner, a Senior Planner, a Planner and an Associate Planner. In addition, the Public Health Program had several off-site employees, including a full-time Senior Inspector, several part-time back-up inspectors, three part-time Public Health Nurses (one lead, two back-up) and a retired Senior Planner who continues to assist on special projects.

Berkshire Public Health Alliance

The Berkshire Public Health Alliance (Alliance) celebrated its eighth year in FY 19. The Alliance, with 24 municipal members, covering more than 90% of the county's population, was formed through an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) in 2011, between the municipal members and BRPC as fiscal host. The IMA allows, but does not require, the Alliance members to share public health services. In addition to the Inspectional Services Program and the Public Health Nursing Program, the Alliance applies for, implements and administers public health grants on behalf of its member municipalities.

Inspectional and Environmental Health Services

In FY 19, the Alliance provided comprehensive inspectional services to the towns of Becket, Egremont, Peru, Washington and Windsor, as well as occasional or specific services to Adams (Title 5), Hancock (housing), Pittsfield (Title 5), Richmond (camps, food inspections), Sheffield (camps, some housing/food) and West Stockbridge (housing). Several small grants helped the Alliance move toward standardizing office policies and procedures: one from the Mass Health Officers Association (MHOA) and the other from the Center for Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing at the Kansas Health Institute.

Food Protection

Thanks to several grants from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) the Alliance was able to continue working with member municipalities on food inspection training, meeting FDA standards and on-line permitting.

Public Health Nursing

The Alliance Public Health Nursing Program provided comprehensive public health nursing services to ten municipalities in FY 2019: Clarksburg, Cheshire, Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, North Adams, Peru, Washington, Williamstown and Windsor. These services include the daily monitoring of the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN) for reportable infectious disease and follow-up as needed, on-going disease surveillance, flu and other vaccination clinics and wellness programs. Thanks to a grant from Elder Services of Berkshire County, the nurses were also able to offer Matter of Balance (MOB) classes, an evidence-based fall prevention program.

Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention

Berkshire Opioid Addiction Prevention Collaborative (BOAPC)

The Berkshire Opioid Addiction Prevention Collaborative (BOAPC), through a seven-year grant from the Department of Public Health, disseminates education to clinical providers and the public regarding prescription medication misuse, promotes safe medication and syringe storage and disposal, promotes

access to care, provides harm reduction information (including naloxone (NARCAN) training and HIV/Hepatitis C and other prevention training) and supports the establishment of harm reduction services throughout Berkshire County. Additional funding from a legislative line item in FY 19 allowed BOAPC and three community partners (Railroad Street Youth Project, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, and the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office) to further BOAPC initiatives as well as to provide direct service/outreach and other community supports.

[Berkshire County Opioid Response Program \(BCORP\)](#)

BRPC received a \$200,000 one-year planning grant from The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) which provided funding to BOAPC, Volunteers in Medicine-Berkshires (VIM), Northern Berkshire Community Coalition (NBCC), and the Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to facilitate comprehensive data collection, evaluation, and planning activities related to prevention, treatment, recovery, and wrap-around services connected to opioid misuse. Specifically, the funds supported a comprehensive evaluation of the VIM non-opioid pain management program(s), planning activities related to supporting the establishment of comprehensive drug user services for the south county region, increased medication assisted therapies (MAT) for those with opioid use disorder (OUD), reviewed potential transportation programs to support those who need to access OUD services, and facilitated the establishment of Beacon Recovery Community Center in North Adams.

[Berkshire HIV Engagement Program \(B-HIVE\)](#)

A \$5,000 grant from the Massachusetts Getting to Zero Foundation funded The Berkshire County HIV Engagement Program (B-HIVE) to build upon existing outreach networks, for prevention and harm reduction programs to coordinate and implement prevention messaging, and strategic peer/street outreach promoting HIV prevention, testing, and connections to care.

[Young Adult Empowerment Collaborative \(YEAC\)](#)

BOAPC is a partner on the Young Adult Empowerment Collaborative of Western Massachusetts (YAEC) grant, funded via a 3-year, \$1M grant from the U.S Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention awarded to the Opioid Task Force at the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. This four-county, evidence-based collaboration will 1) develop and strengthen regional data systems serving young adults; 2) prevent and address young adult opioid misuse by creating and promoting evidence-based programming to support young people as they transition into the five stages of adulthood; and 3) engage families and communities in their roles to support young adults.

[Berkshire County Boards of Health Association \(BCBOHA\)](#)

[Septic Installer Certification Program](#)

The BCBOHA Septic Installer certification Program is staffed by BRPC. This program was designed many years ago, in response to the lack of required credentials for septic system installers in the state. In FY 2019, three installer recertification courses were held, including a Practical Skills, Techniques, and Education course hosted in both Lenox and Sheffield and a Composting Toilets, Design, Regulations, and other Types of Ecological Sanitation Course hosted in Williamstown. BCBOHA also offered a single day New Certification course for installers in Pittsfield in March 2019.

Board of Health Training

A Board of Health Orientation training was held for new Board of Health members in August 2018. Two Board of Health Dinners, with an educational component, were also held during FY 2019.

Age Friendly Berkshires

Tufts Foundation

Two two-year grants from the Tufts Foundation have supplied operational support for Age Friendly Berkshires. With the Tufts grant, BRPC staff have been able to develop and begin implementation of the Age Friendly Berkshire Action Plan, work with partners and gain traction in making “age friendly in all things” a regular part of the thinking, language and culture of Berkshire County.

Age Friendly Zoning

With support from the State Executive Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs (EOEEA) BRPC staff was able to work with Egremont and Sheffield on developing zoning and other housing policies or programs that allow for more housing alternatives as their populations age.

Dalton Age-Friendly Exercise Park

A grant from AARP Massachusetts allowed for the purchase of several pieces of adult exercise equipment and landscaping for the park directly behind the Senior Center in Dalton. The hope is that adults of all ages will use the equipment not only to exercise, but to socialize while exercising.



Villages

Villages are member-led communities of older adults who connect with and care for one another through an array of support services, social and wellness programs, cultural and educational activities and excursions. Through a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) BRPC staff completed the initial feasibility study of the implementation of the Villages concept in a rural, low income area (North Adams and surrounding towns) and worked with several forming Villages across the county.

County Health Improvement Planning

County Health Initiative

The County Health Initiative (CHI) is a group of medical, social service and community organizations that are working toward aligning systems and to improve the health status in Berkshire County by fostering a healthy lifestyle environment. In late FY 2019, BRPC became the backbone organization for the CHI, succeeding Berkshire Medical Center who had previously served as the backbone organization for many years. The CHI intends to work toward the development of a County Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in FY 2020.

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

A grant from the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program allowed BRPC and the CHI to hold a ½ day retreat to affirm mission and goals of the group and do some initial strategic planning. On March 25,

2019, in conjunction with the release of the 2019 County Health Rankings, the group held a public event at the Zion Lutheran Church in Pittsfield. The event was reasonably well-attended, but was also livestreamed on Facebook, achieving hundreds of additional views and attracting notice from media outlets and others.

[Governor's Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health](#)

The Governor's Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health was formed through an Act of the Legislature in 2016. Laura Kittross, Public Health Program Manager, served as the Western Mass Public Health Association (WMPHA) appointee to the Special Commission. She also served as the Chair of the Workforce Credentials Subcommittee. After two years of work, the Special Commission released its final report on modernizing the local public health system in Massachusetts in May 2019.

[Regional Services](#)

[On-line Burn Permitting Program](#)

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) coordinates and administers an online 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 online. For the 2019 burn season, 7,783 permits were issued through the 19 participating communities.

[Berkshire Regional Group Purchasing Program](#)

In FY 2019 the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) assumed administration of the Berkshire Regional Group Purchasing Program, as it transitioned from the City of North Adams. This program helps assist in the purchasing of road, energy and winter needs for the communities of the Berkshire Region. This consists of surveying communities for their needs, preparing bidding documents, advertising and bid solicitation, tabulation of results, issuing of awards and record keeping.

[Berkshire County Education Task Force](#)

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) is providing support to the Berkshire County Education Task Force which is working to develop and recommend solutions to the declining enrollments, rising operational costs, declining or flat municipal revenues, and reductions in the diversity and range of educational programs available to students across Berkshire County. The intent of the Task Force is to develop and recommend solutions to improve access, diversity, breadth and quality of educational programs, create economies of scale through new collaborations, advance new investments in collaborative solutions, maintain and honor the unique identity of each Berkshire community, and reflect age appropriate social and learning practices. In FY 2019, BRPC served as the fiscal agent for a legislative earmark through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to prepare a report on opportunities to improve educational quality in the region's schools.

[Transportation Planning](#)

BRPC's Transportation section provides staffing and support to the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO). The BMPO is responsible for carrying out the federally required metropolitan planning process creating a vision for the region and making decisions on how to allocate federal and limited state transportation funds on programs and projects for roadway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects which support the vision shared by all 32 cities and towns in Berkshire County.

Most recently, transportation planning staff completed work on three federally required plans; the 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and

the 2020 Berkshire Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). These plans serve to provide overall direction on transportation planning activities and project implementation within our region.

The 2020 Unified Planning Work Program outlines the transportation planning activities for the upcoming federal fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019 which BRPC staff will be working on. New activities and studies which are included in this year's UPWP include a feasibility study for intra county rail service on the Housatonic line, developing an electric vehicle charging station strategic plan, a micro-mobility viability study for bike and scooter sharing (including a demonstration project), updating the bike path implementation plan and performing a county-wide evaluation of traffic signals and related equipment. These activities are in addition to routine MPO activities. In total, the UPWP programs nearly six thousand hours of professional transportation planning work over the next fiscal year.

The FFY 2020-2024 TIP is a prioritized, financially constrained, multi-year program for the implementation of federally funded transportation projects in Berkshire County. The TIP, updated annually, implements the region's long-range transportation plan by programming federal-aid funds for transit, highway, bridge, transportation enhancement, bike paths, safety, and air quality improvements.

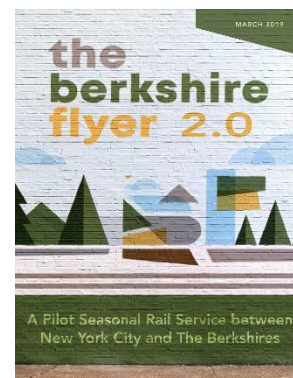


The 2020 RTP is the long-range plan for improving transportation in the Berkshires. The plan is updated every four years, with the last update completed in 2016. The RTP identifies potential transportation projects and supporting planning activities over a 20-year period—which then feed into the near-term TIP spending plan and UPWP. The RTP looks at all aspects of transportation in the region, including automobiles, public

transit, passenger rail, biking, and walking. Major recommended projects and study efforts in the updated RTP include several proposed passenger rail efforts, a new emphasis on regional culvert replacement to prepare for climate change, as well as completing the proposed countywide Berkshire Bike Path.

In addition to preparing these transportation plans, staff have also undertaken or participated in several other study efforts and initiatives over the past year, highlights are listed below:

- **Berkshire Flyer 2.0 Feasibility Study**—This study has instrumental in efforts to secure funding for a seasonal 2-year pilot program beginning in the summer of 2020.
- **Complete Streets Prioritization Plans for Stockbridge and Lanesborough**—BRPC staff continues to promote and assist our communities with Complete Streets. Since the inception of this program, over \$2.3M in funding has been received by Berkshire communities.
- **East/West Passenger Rail Study**—BRPC has a designated appointee to this committee which is tasked with determining the most beneficial improvements to establish passenger rail service from Western Mass to Boston. BRPCs participation will help ensure that this effort includes beneficial recommendations to improve rail transportation option for Berkshire County residents.
- **I-90 Interchange Study**—The Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) is an integral part of the regional transportation network. Since the start of this study, staff has participated in the study which seeks to identify the benefits and impacts associated with a new interchange between exist 2 and 3. This study effort is scheduled to conclude in December.



- North Adams Eagle Street Woonerf Feasibility Study—Transportation staff is finalizing work on a feasibility study which the City of North Adams has contracted with BRPC. The Eagle Street corridor is being evaluated to make this unique downtown corridor more appealing to pedestrians.
- Countywide entertainment tax revenue analysis—In conjunction with developing the RTP, an analysis was completed to look at non-traditional revenue sources to provide funding for local road improvement projects.

General Operations

General Services and Operations

BRPC's Local Assessments from our Communities allowed BRPC to provide service to our Communities not covered by funding sources from Federal, State, Local, Organizations or Non-Profits.

Educational Training

BRPC held two CPTC Workshops on the Introduction to the Subdivision Control Law and Zoning Exemptions. At our 5th Thursday Dinner the topic was How the 2020 Census Impacts you and how to get involved. Other Educational Training topics were the New Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Member Training and Municipal Actions on Short-term Rentals.

Environmental Reviews

The staff reviewed Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) reviews in Adams at Specialty Minerals which is a Quarry Minerals Management Area, the maintenance dredging of a pond on Alford Brook, and the Tel-Electric Mill Street Dam Removable in Pittsfield.

Grant Writing and Administration

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

Local Technical Assistance

Staff provided 140.9 hours of technical assistance to Berkshire municipalities, regional organizations, state officials, local business, investors, individuals and others.

Twenty-two out of thirty-two municipalities used Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's technical expertise.

Mapping

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) provided maps to Gt. Barrington, Hancock and Windsor as requested on a fee basis.

Sustainable Berkshires

Four years after the Plan was adopted a status report of the Sustainable Berkshire Plan was presented to the Commission in January 2019. BRPC hosted a workshop in Gt. Barrington for the Western Massachusetts Historic Commission Coalition on Adaptive Reuse of Historic Churches.

Commission Operations and Administration

The Commission met five times with attendance from 12 to 16 communities at each meeting; during the year, 21 of 32 communities participated; North Adams, Tyringham and Williamstown were represented at all BRPC meetings.

Six Common Ground newsletters were produced.

Berkshires Tomorrow, Inc.

Our Non-Profit received funding for the Berkshire County Education Task Force and Age Friendly Berkshires.

Finance and Administration

Finance and Administration—Fiscal Year 2019

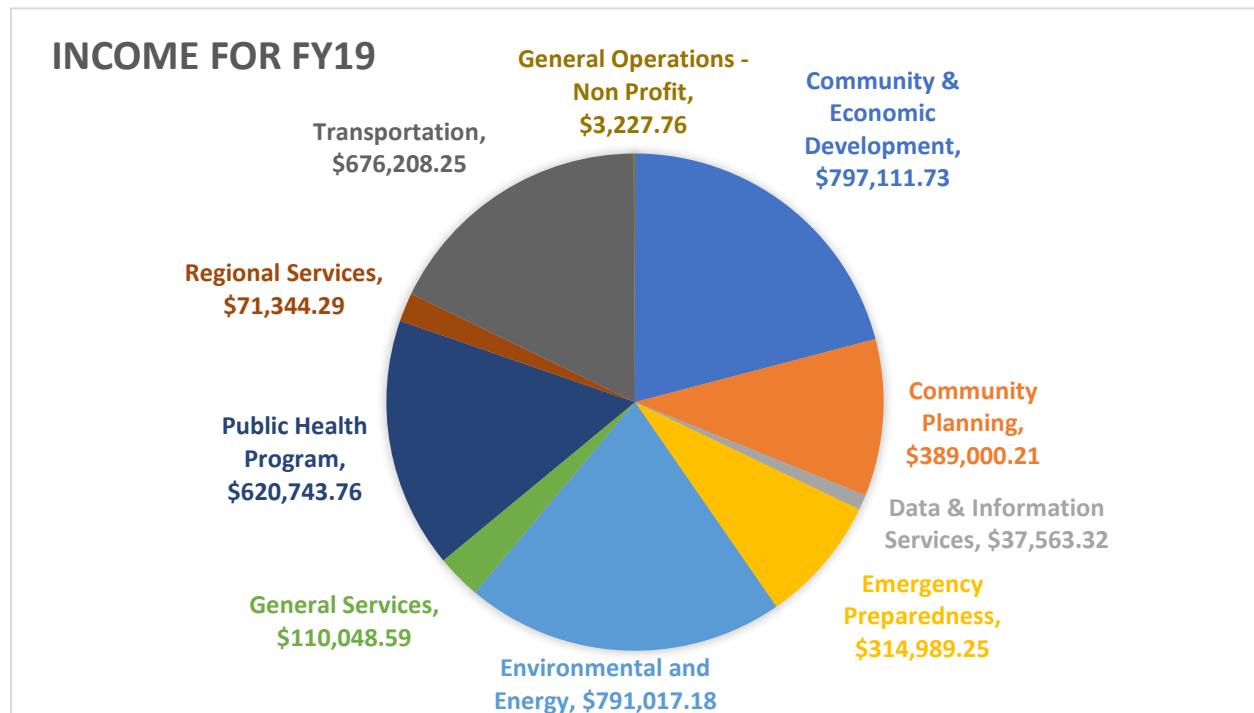
BRPC's closed our Fiscal Year 2019 in a strong position. FY 2019 Revenue of \$3.8 million dollars came from funding sources from Federal and State grants, Local, Organizations or Non-Profits agreements.

BRPC managed a total of 108 contracts in FY 2019.

BRPC's funds supported a broad range of services and technical expertise under each of our Programs. Our programs allowed BRPC to provide leadership and assistance to the County's municipalities, organizations and citizens in achieving County-wide inter-relationships, prosperity, opportunities, quality of life, strength and vibrancy.

Independent Audit

Our FY 2019 independent Audit has yet to be completed. Our un-audited statements show BRPC's expenditures to be within budget with a surplus in our general operation fund.



Delegates and Alternates

Adams

Delegate—David Rhinemiller
Alternate—John Duval

Alford

Delegate—Alexandra Glover
Alternate—Shirley Mueller

Becket

Delegate—Robert Ronzio
Alternate—Alvin Blake

Cheshire

Delegate —Peter Traub
Alternate—Mark Weber

Clarksburg

Delegate—Audrey Matys
Alternate—Carl McKinney

Dalton

Delegate—Caleb Darby
Alternate—Edward Holub

Egremont

Delegate—Jared Kelly

Florida

Delegate—Jon Oleson
Alternate—Glenn Burdick

Great Barrington

Delegate—Pedro Pachano
Alternate—Malcolm Fick

Hancock

Delegate—Blake Johnson

Hinsdale

Delegate—James Sullivan

Lanesborough

Alternate—Jack Hickey
Delegate—Gwen Miller

Lee

Delegate—Buck Donovan
Alternate—Thomas Wickham

Lenox

Delegate—Pamela Kueber
Alternate—Kenneth Fowler

Monterey

Delegate—Pat Salomon
Alternate—Kenneth Basler

Mt Washington

Alternate—James Lovejoy

New Ashford

Delegate—Mark Phelps
Alternate—Kevin Flicker

New Marlborough

Delegate—Peter Tiso
Alternate—Lonn Combs

North Adams

Delegate—Kyle Hanlon
Alternate—Lisa Blackmer

Otis

Delegate—Harold Kobrin
Alternate—Gary Thomas

Peru

Delegate—Samuel Haupt

Pittsfield

Delegate—Sheila Irvin
Alternate—CJ Hoss

Richmond

Delegate—Richard Bell
Alternate—Fred Schubert

Sandisfield

Delegate—Roger Kohler

Savoy

Delegate—John Tynan
Alternate—Bill Drosehn

Sheffield

Delegate—Kenneth Smith
Alternate—Rene Wood

Stockbridge

Delegate—Marie Raftery

Tyringham

Delegate—Mark Curtin
Alternate—Sarah Hudson

Washington

Delegate—Marilyn Wiley
Alternate—Michael Case

West Stockbridge

Delegate—Dana Bixby
Alternate—Karen Zick

Williamstown

Delegate—Alex Carlisle
Alternate—Roger Bolton

Windsor

Delegate—John Garcia
Alternate—Doug McNally

BRPC Committee Membership

Executive Committee

Kyle Hanlon, Chair (North Adams)
Sheila Irvin, Vice Chair (Pittsfield)
Marie Raftery, Clerk (Stockbridge)
John Duval, Treasurer & Finance Committee
Chair (Adams)
Rene Wood, Commission Development
Committee Chair (Sheffield)

Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

Roger Bolton, Environmental Review
Committee Chair (Williamstown)
Sam Haupt, At-Large Transportation Expert
(Peru)
Malcolm Fick, At-Large (Gt. Barrington)

Commission Development Committee

Rene Wood, Chair (Sheffield)
Sarah Hudson (Tyringham)
John Duval (Adams)
Pedro Pachano Vice Chair (Gt. Barrington)

Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

Buck Donovan (Lee)
Pam Kueber (Lenox)
Kyle Hanlon (North Adams) (Ex-Officio)

Environmental Review Committee

Roger Bolton, Chair (Williamstown)
Mark Smith (Lenox), Vice Chair (Non-
Commission member)
Malcolm Fick, (Gt. Barrington)
John "Jack" Hickey (Lanesborough)

Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

Edward Holub (Dalton)
Sarah Hudson (Tyringham)
Eleanor Tillinghast (Mt. Washington) (Non-
Commission member)
Kyle Hanlon (North Adams) (Ex-Officio)

Finance Committee

John Duval, Chair & Treasurer (Adams)
Sam Haupt (Peru)
Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield)

Staff: Marianne Sniezek, Office Manager

Malcolm Fick, (Gt. Barrington)
Kyle Hanlon (North Adams) (Ex-Officio)

Regional Issues Committee

Andrew Groff (Williamstown) (Non-Commission
member)
Sarah Hudson (Tyringham)
Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield)
Pam Kueber (Lenox)
Gwen Miller (Lanesborough)

Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

Marie Raftery, (Stockbridge)
Chris Rembold (Gt. Barrington)
Eleanor Tillinghast (Mount Washington) (Non-
Commission member)
Kyle Hanlon (North Adams) (Ex-Officio)

Commission Representatives to Related Groups

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

Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization—Representative: Chair Kyle Hanlon (North Adams);

Alternate: Sam Haupt (Peru)

Berkshire Brownfields Committee—Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield)

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

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

BRPC Staff

TOM MATUSZKO
Executive Director

LAURA KITROSS
*Public Health Program
Manager*

CLETE KUS
*Transportation Program
Manager*

PAT MULLINS
*Community & Economic
Developmental Program
Manager*

MELISSA PROVENCHER
*Brownfield & Environmental
Program Manager*

MARK MALOY
GIS, Data and IT Manager

MARIANNE SIEZEK
Office Manager

JENNIFER KIMBALL
Principal Planner

ANUJA KOIRALA
*Principal Transportation
Planner*

LAURA BRENNAN
Senior Planner

EAMMON COUGHLIN
*Senior Transportation
Planner*

ALLISON HOPE EGAN
Senior Planner

LAUREN GAHERTY
Senior Planner

CAROLINE MASSA
*Senior Environmental &
Energy Planner*

CHRISTOPHER GRUBA
Senior Planner

JUSTIN GILMORE
Transportation Planner

MARGARET MCDONOUGH
Planner

MATTHEW DOVELL
Community Planner

ZACHARY FEURY
Community Planner

WILLIAM SIKULA
Planner

TAYLOR MCANDREW
Associate Planner

REBECCA HAIGHT
*Program Associate to
Associate Planner*

LAURA J DORR
Program Associate

LINDA LUDWIG
Finance Administrator

SUSAN NAWAZELSKI
Office Assistant

SANDRA MARTIN
Senior Planner-Offsite

JAYNE SMITH
Senior Inspector

JEFFREY KENNEDY
Inspector

CHARLIE KANIECKI
Inspector

LAUREN GAHERTY
Project Specialist

CYNTHIA BROWN
*Project Specialist-
DESE/BCETF19*

BRENDA J CHURCH
Housing Specialist

NAT KARNIS (PT)
Project Specialist

EMILY KIRBY
Associate Planner Intern

ALEXANDER VALENTINI
Intern



Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

1 Fenn Street, Suite 201, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Telephone (413) 442-1521 Fax (413) 442-1523

Massachusetts Relay Service: Tty: 771 Or 1-800-439-2370

www.berkshireplanning.org
