

# Annual Report

FY2020



Fiscal year 2020 is a year that all of us will remember forever. It was the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which dramatically and instantly changed how BRPC, along with other agencies, businesses, governments, and individuals functioned and operated. Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, Berkshire County was poised to “take-off” and make significant progress towards strengthening the economy and beginning to stem the population loss. There were numerous positive signs, including the investment that was coming into the county. BRPC was on a strong track and was integrally involved in those efforts as a key player. BRPC has many strong program areas and is leading or participating in many of the key initiatives, including the Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative, climate adaptation and mitigation work, the Berkshire Flyer and East – West rail initiatives, an outdoor recreation plan, Census complete count efforts, Rest of River clean-up settlement, efforts to improve education, housing rehabilitation – the list could go on.

Once the COVID-19 crisis hit, all things changed, as it did everywhere. BRPC was integrally involved in both the public health and economic response and the developing economic recovery. The Public Health Program, under the leadership of the Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross, successfully led the public health response to control the spread of the virus. Several staff were involved in other response and recovery efforts. The Community and Economic Development Planning Program, under the direction of Program Manager Patricia Mullins and with strong support by Senior Planner Laura Brennan, provided needed economic recovery support, thanks for BRPC being able to re-direct resources, notably DLTA funds, to support those efforts.

The COVID-19 crisis also changed BRPC operations. Following various government mandates and best practices to control the virus, since March the BRPC office closed and all staff were teleworking. BRPC was able to relatively quickly make the transition to telework such that there was only a minimal disruption to ongoing work efforts. BRPC staff quickly became familiar with video-conferencing and remote participation.

The outlook for Berkshire County changed post COVID-19 as well. The economic devastation the shutdown caused will take several years for Berkshire County to recover from. As the fiscal year end closed, BRPC had several pending funding requests, which if successful would make a significant difference towards long-term economic recovery.

Thomas Matuszko  
Executive Director

# Programs of BRPC

## Community & Economic Development

BRPC supports strategies, programs and projects that strengthen our local and regional economies through housing and economic development planning.

## Community Planning

BRPC assists in the development of master and comprehensive plans, zoning bylaws, and other land use projects including review of site-specific development projects.

## Emergency Preparedness Planning

BRPC guides emergency preparedness through multi-agency coordination for improved regional resiliency in two areas: public health, including public health emergency preparedness, and the natural environment, including hazard mitigation plans and municipal vulnerability assessments.

## Environmental & Energy Planning

BRPC supports strategies, programs and projects that strengthen and protect the natural and built environment through local and regional initiatives including Brownfields assessments and cleanups, stormwater management, climate adaptation and resiliency, clean and efficient energy, and Green Communities.

## Public Health

BRPC delivers public health and wellness support through coordination of regional partnerships such as the Berkshire Public Health Alliance and BOAPC.

## Regional Initiatives and Services

BRPC participates in regional initiatives related to topics such as public education and access to broadband, and operates a regional Group Purchasing Program.

## Transportation

BRPC performs regional transportation planning and assists communities with traffic studies, bicycle and pedestrian (Compete Streets) initiatives, conducts traffic counts, address safety issues and develops innovative transportation solutions to improve mobility for residents.

## Administration

BRPC's Administration staff provide financial management, support to Programs and Initiatives, and support to the Commission's policy body.

## 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. Services provided are Educational Training, Environmental Reviews, Grant Writing, Maps and Local Technical Assistance.

## Berkshires Tomorrow, Inc.

Our Non-Profit received funding for the Berkshire County Education Task Force, Regional Services for COVID-19 Emergency Response assistance and Age Friendly Berkshires.

# Finance and Administration

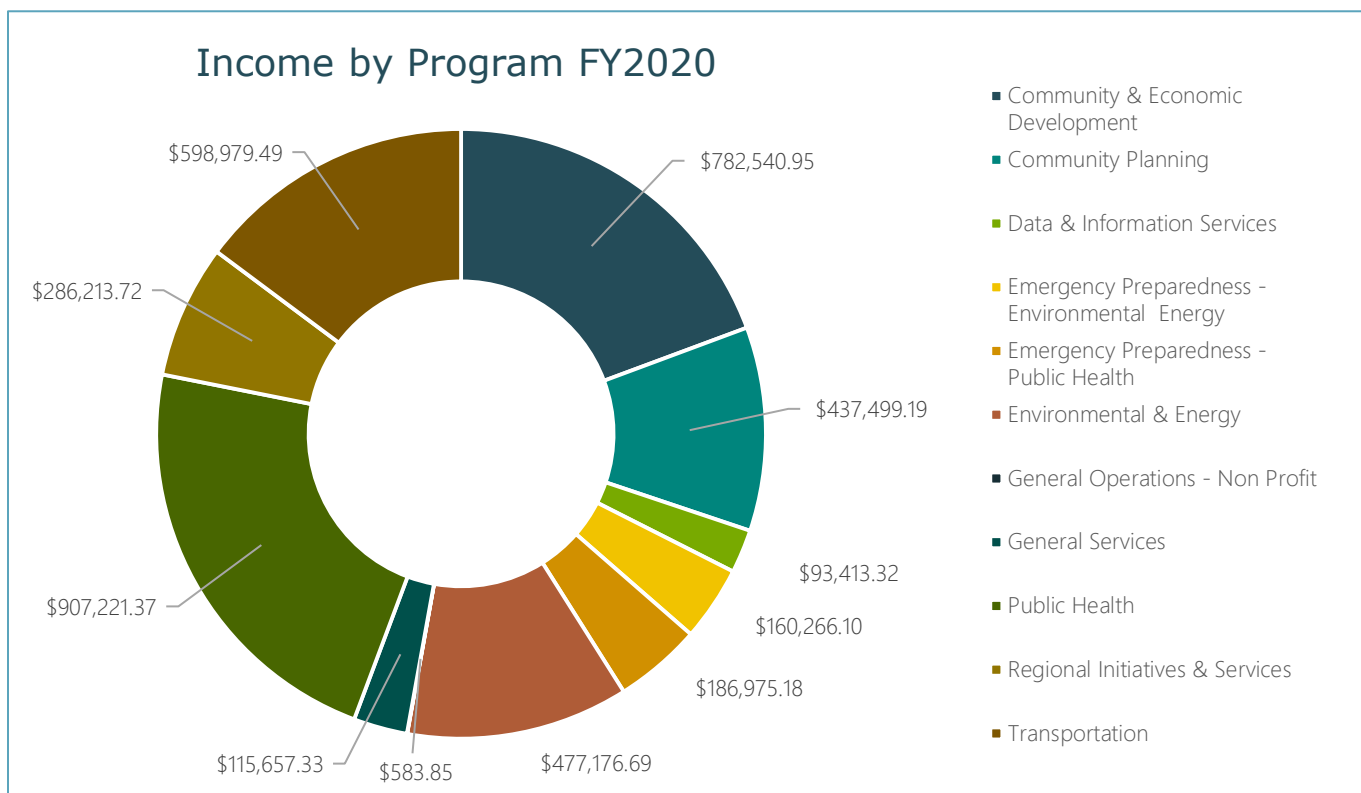
BRPC's closed our Fiscal Year 2020 in a strong position. FY2020 Revenue of \$4.0 million dollars came from funding sources from Federal and State grants, Local, Organizations or Non-Profits agreements.

BRPC managed 118 contracts in FY2020.

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 countywide inter-relationships, prosperity, opportunities, quality of life, strength, and vibrancy.

## Independent Audit

Our FY2020 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.



Income in FY2020 totaled \$4,046,527.19.

## Commission Delegates and Alternates

### Adams

Delegate—Lisa Gazaille  
Alternate—John Duval

### Alford

Delegate—Alexandra Glover  
Alternate—Shirley Mueller

### Becket

Delegate—Robert Ronzio  
Alternate—Alvin Blake

### Cheshire

Delegate —Peter Traub

### Clarksburg

Alternate—Ron Boucher

### Dalton

Delegate—Daniel Esko  
Alternate—John Boyle

### Egremont

Delegate—Ed Regendahl  
Alternate—Gregory Cherin

### Florida

Delegate—Jon Oleson  
Alternate—Cynthia Bosley

### Great Barrington

Delegate—Pedro Pachano  
Alternate—Malcolm Fick

### Hancock

Delegate—Christie Moran

### Hinsdale

Delegate—James Sullivan

### Lanesborough

Alternate—Gwen Miller  
Delegate—Barb Davis-Hassan

### Lee

Delegate—Buck Donovan  
Alternate—Matthew Carlino

### Lenox

Delegate—James Harwood  
Alternate—Pamela Kueber

### Monterey

Delegate—Nancy Marcus  
Alternate—Kenneth Basler

### Mt Washington

Alternate—James Lovejoy

### New Ashford

Delegate—Mark Phelps  
Alternate—Kevin Flicker

### New Marlborough

Alternate—Lonn Combs

### North Adams

Delegate—Kyle Hanlon  
Alternate—Lisa Blackmer

### Otis

Delegate—Harold Kobrin  
Alternate—Larry Southard

### Peru

Delegate—Samuel Haupt

### Pittsfield

Delegate—Sheila Irvin  
Alternate—CJ Hoss

### Richmond

Delegate—Pete Lopez  
Alternate—Fred Schubert

### Sandisfield

Delegate—John Field

### Savoy

Delegate—John Tynan  
Alternate—Bill Drosehn

### Sheffield

Delegate—Kenneth Smith  
Alternate—Rene Wood

### Stockbridge

Delegate—Kate Fletcher  
Alternate—Nina Ryan

### Tyringham

Delegate—Amanda Hamilton  
Alternate—Sarah Hudson

### Washington

Delegate—Don Gagnon  
Alternate—Michael Case

### West Stockbridge

Delegate—Dana Bixby  
Alternate—Eric Shimelonis

### Williamstown

Delegate—Alex Carlisle  
Alternate—Roger Bolton

### Windsor

Delegate—John Garcia  
Alternate—Doug McNally

# BRPC Committee Membership

## Executive Committee

Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

Kyle Hanlon, Chair (North Adams)  
 John Duval, Vice Chair (Adams)  
 Sheila Irvin, Clerk (Pittsfield)  
 Malcolm Fick, Treasurer & Finance  
 Committee Chair (Great Barrington)  
 Rene Wood, Commission Development  
 Committee Chair (Sheffield)

Roger Bolton, Environmental Review  
 Committee Chair (Williamstown)  
 CJ Hoss, Regional Issues Committee Chair  
 (Pittsfield)  
 Buck Donovan, At-Large  
 Sam Haupt, At-Large Transportation  
 Expert (Peru)

## Commission Development Committee

Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

Rene Wood, Chair (Sheffield)  
 Sarah Hudson (Tyringham)  
 John Duval (Adams)

Pedro Pachano Vice Chair (Gt. Barrington)  
 Buck Donovan (Lee)  
 Kyle Hanlon (North Adams) (Ex-Officio)

## Environmental Review Committee

Staff: Melissa Provencher, Program Manager

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

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

## Finance Committee

Staff: Marianne Sniezek, Office Manager

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

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

## Regional Issues Committee

Staff: Laura Brennan, Senior Planner

CJ Hoss, Chair  
 Sarah Hudson, Vice Chair (Tyringham)  
 Andrew Groff (Williamstown) (Non-  
 Commission member)  
 Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield)

Gwen Miller (Lanesborough)  
 Chris Rembold (Gt. Barrington)  
 Eleanor Tillinghast (Mount Washington) (Non-  
 Commission member)  
 Kyle Hanlon (North Adams) (Ex-Officio)

## **Berkshire Brownfields Committee**

Staff: Melissa Provencher, Program Manager

### *Voting Members*

Sheila Irvin, Chair, (Pittsfield)  
Jim Byrne, EPA  
Rebecca Ferguson or Donna Cesan, (Adams)  
Marilyn Hansen, Lee Community  
Development Corporation  
Nate Joyner or CJ Hoss, (Pittsfield)  
Ben Lamb, 1Berkshire

Tom Matuszko, BRPC  
Mike Nuvalle, (North Adams)  
John Olander, Berkshire County Boards of Health  
Chris Rembold, (Gt Barrington)  
Rebecca Slick or Ken Walto, (Dalton)  
*Non-voting Members*  
Caprice Shaw, MA DEP  
Rich Griffin, MassDevelopment

## **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee** Staff: Laura Brennan, Sr. Planner

Kyle Hanlon, Chair, (North Adams)  
Roger Bolton, Vice-Chair, BRPC Alternate  
(Williamstown)  
Laurie Mick, PERC  
Kevin Bechard, BCC Dean of Business Outreach  
Heather Boulger, MassHire Berkshire  
Workforce Board; Alternate Shannon Zayac  
Timothy Geller, Community Development Corp.  
of Southern Berkshire  
Keith Girouard, Mass. Small Business  
Development Center  
J. Michael Hoffman, TD Bank

Beryl Jolly, Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center  
Pam Kueber, BRPC Alternate (Lenox)  
Ben Lamb, 1Berkshire; Alt. Jonathan Butler  
Jim Lovejoy, BRPC Alternate (Mt. Washington)  
Mike Nuvalle (North Adams); Alt. Zachary Feury  
Cynthia Pansing, Berkshire Ag Ventures  
Ian Rasch, Alander Construction  
Chris Rembold, Town Planner (Gt Barrington)  
Deanna Ruffer, Dept. of Community  
Development (Pittsfield); Alt. Michael Coakley  
Ben Sosne, Berkshire Innovation Center

## **Commission Representatives to Related Groups**

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

**Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization**—Chair Kyle Hanlon (North Adams); Alternate Sam Haupt (Peru)

**Berkshire Brownfields Committee**—Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield)

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