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 BPRC 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.
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.
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Delegate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adams</td>
<td>Lisa Gazaille</td>
<td>John Duval</td>
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<td>Samuel Haupt</td>
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<td>Eric Shimelonis</td>
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<td>Alex Carlisle</td>
<td>Roger Bolton</td>
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<td>Windsor</td>
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BRPC Committee Membership

Executive Committee

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

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

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

John Duval, Chair & Treasurer (Adams)  
Sam Haupt (Peru)  
Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield)  
Malcolm Fick, (Gt. Barrington)  
Kyle Hanlon (North Adams) (Ex-Officio)  

Regional Issues Committee

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)  

Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Executive Director

Staff: Melissa Provencher, Program Manager

Staff: Marianne Sniezek, Office Manager

Staff: Laura Brennan, Senior Planner
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

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

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

**Staff:** Laura Brennan, Sr. Planner

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

**Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**Chair:** Kyle Hanlon (North Adams); **Alternate:** Sam Haupt (Peru)

**Berkshire Brownfields Committee**

**Chair:** Sheila Irvin (Pittsfield)

**Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Project Advisory Committee**

**Chair:** Kyle Hanlon (North Adams)

**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)