



# 2023 Annual Report Monroe County Planning Commission



## ***MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS***

John D. Christy, Chairman  
David C. Parker, Vice-Chairman  
Sharon S. Laverdure, Commissioner  
Robert J. Gress, Chief Clerk

## ***MONROE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF***

Christine Meinhart-Fritz, Director  
Eric Koopman, Lead Senior Planner  
Kim Borger, Planner/E911 Coordinator  
Julia Sherer, Community Planner  
Ryan Poust, GIS Analyst Planner  
Danielle Zuk, Planner



**MONROE COUNTY  
PLANNING**

### ***The Monroe 2030 Vision Statement***

***“The citizens of Monroe County will continue working together to sustain and improve our quality of life by ensuring that the County’s environmental, economic, and cultural assets are within reach of all its people.”***

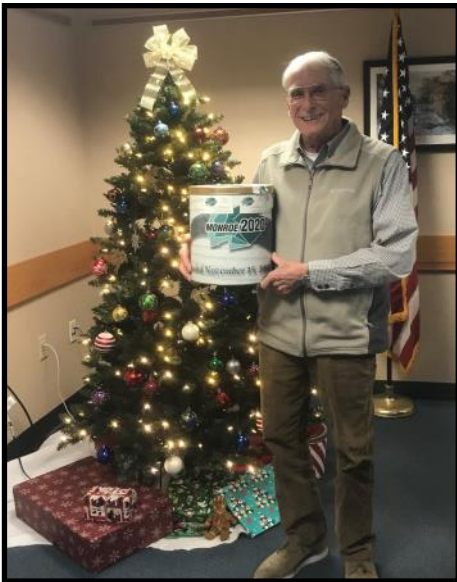
## ***DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE***

The Planning Commission lost an advocate and a leader when former Director, John Woodling passed away in October from a brief illness. Mr. Woodling, was a quiet, humble, patient man who guided many residents of Monroe County to an understanding of what it means to be involved in your community. John also guided staff members, many fresh out of college, to become community minded professionals. A phrase often used by John still resonates with his former staff, "Don't be sorry, be better." His legacy includes the award winning Monroe 2020 Comprehensive Plan, three Regional Comprehensive Plans, the Monroe County Open Space Bond, the Monroe County Litter Board, and the creation of the Farmland Preservation Board. We are all better for having John in our lives.

On December 31st, after 12 years of service, John Moyer retired as Commissioner of Monroe County. From the beginning of his first term to the last week of his last term, John has been a strong supporter of the Planning Commission office. Always there for guidance, John, who is fiscally conservative provided funding for the county's successful Farmland Preservation as well as approving the creation of the Open Space Mini Grant program. Many residents have benefited from the creation and continuation of these two programs. Enjoy your retirement John, and thank you for leadership.



Christine Meinhart-Fritz, Director



*John Woodling  
Director of the MCPC 1990-2012  
In Memoriam 1946-2023*



*John Moyer, County Commissioner 2012-2023*

### ***2024 AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD***

Glenn Beers, Chairman  
Richard Snyder, Vice-Chairman  
Russell Gould  
Mark Green  
Carl Heckman  
Mark Heckman  
Robert Serfass

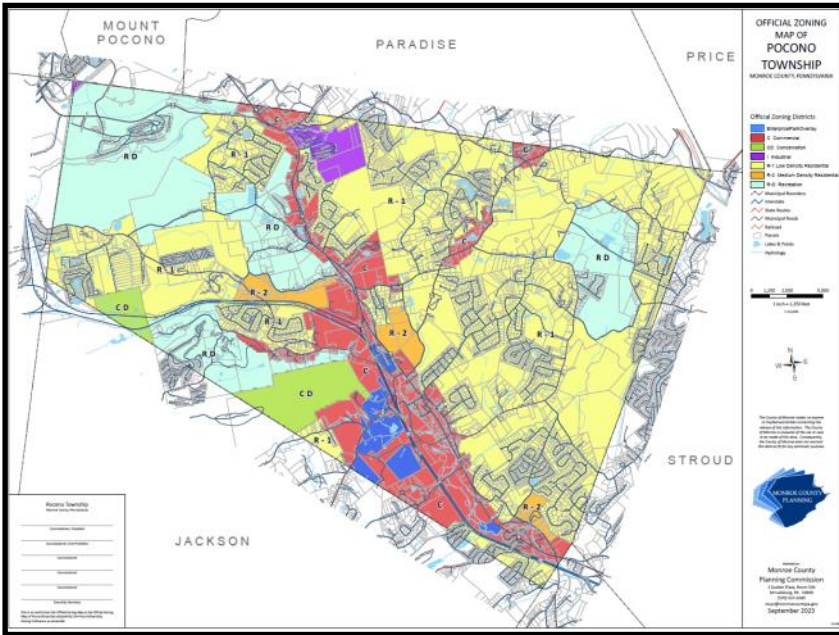
### ***2024 MONROE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD***

Annette Atkinson, Chairman  
Charles Vogt, Vice-Chairman  
Robert Baxter  
Chris Borger  
Roger McFadden  
Nicole Murray  
Rich Schlameuss

James Fareri, Solicitor  
Nate Oiler, Engineer

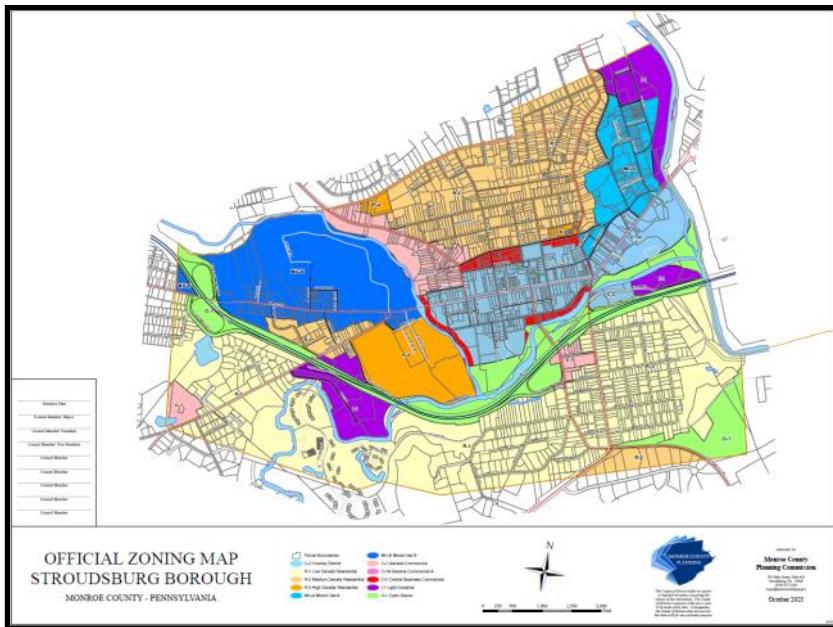


# MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS



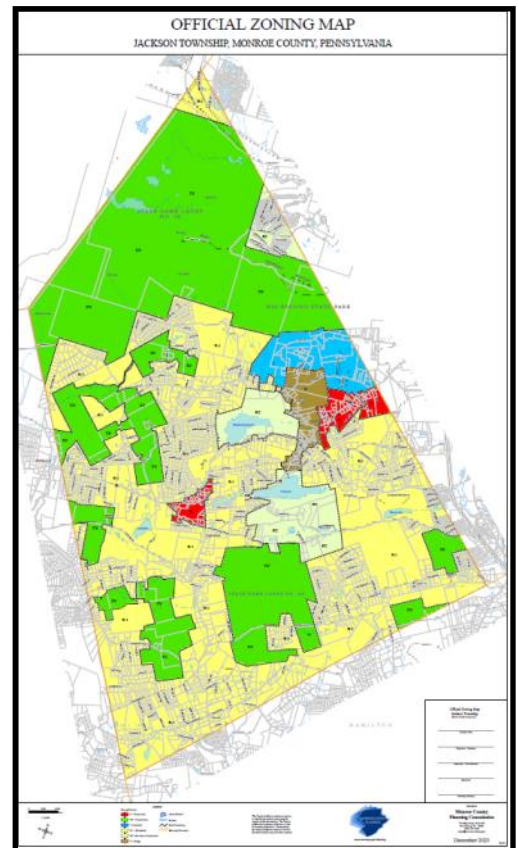
Pocono Township Zoning Map

Throughout 2023, the County Planning Commission has continued to work closely with local municipalities in regards to providing not only technical services, but mapping services as well. As per long standing intergovernmental agreements with the townships and boroughs, our office assists with planning related issues at no cost to the municipalities. Last year, a major form of this assistance was the preparation of updated zoning maps for numerous municipalities. Zoning maps were made specifically for Jackson Township, Tunkhannock Township, Hamilton Township, Coolbaugh Township, and Pocono Township, Smithfield Township, Stroudsburg Borough, and East Stroudsburg Borough. Incorporating the latest zoning changes into official zoning maps is essential to establishing clear and up to date land use regulation.



Stroudsburg Borough Zoning Map

Our office was also able to provide analysis mapping as well. This included potential development for commercial solar energy systems which used data such as parcel size, zoning, and proximity to electric utility lines and substations. Analytical mapping provides municipalities with the tools needed to make sound planning decisions and incorporate them into local ordinances. Our office looks forward to continuing to provide assistance with this and other professional services which would otherwise be a costly expense for municipalities.



Jackson Township Zoning Map

# RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMIT AND REVIEWS

During 2023, the municipalities in Monroe County issued a total of 189 permits for new single family homes. The average price in 2023 for homes built was \$328,596 a slight decrease from 2022 when the average price was \$344,609. The number of building permits issued decreased from 203 in 2022.

## 2023 NEW BUILDING PERMITS

## SUBMITTED PLANS FOR 2023

Municipality	Total
Barrett	5
Chestnuthill	10
Coolbaugh	34
Delaware Water Gap	0
East Stroudsburg	0
Eldred	5
Hamilton	9
Jackson	7
Middle Smithfield	12
Mount Pocono	2
Paradise	4
Pocono	5
Polk	14
Price	12
Ross	6
Smithfield	3
Stroud	11
Stroudsburg	0
Tobyhanna	36
Tunkhannock	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>189</b>

Municipality	Minor Subdivisions	Major Subdivisions	LDPs
Barrett Township	6	0	1
Chestnuthill Township	5	0	1
Coolbaugh Township	10	0	2
Delaware Water Gap Borough	0	0	0
East Stroudsburg Borough	1	0	4
Eldred Township	1	0	1
Hamilton Township	6	0	0
Jackson Township	3	0	4
Middle Smithfield Township	1	0	1
Mount Pocono Borough	0	0	1
Paradise Township	1	0	0
Pocono Township	2	0	5
Polk Township	16	1	1
Price Township	0	0	0
Ross Township	3	1	10
Smithfield Township	1	0	1
Stroud Township	6	0	6
Stroudsburg Borough	0	0	1
Tobyhanna Township	4	0	2
Tunkhannock Township	0	1	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>35</b>

## E-911 READDRESSING

From the inception of the Readdressing Project in 2010, the hired consultant, L.R. Kimball estimated at the time the project should expect approximately 10,000 calls for address assignments or corrections. As of today, the project call log status is approaching 29,050 calls and continues to rise with approximately 750 entered for 2023. The majority of the incoming calls are now related to receiving a copy of the original Address Notification Mailer. However, calls are still received with concerns about structures that require additional addresses for mail delivery or 9-1-1 purposes. The project is also responsible for assigning addresses for all new construction and works closely with the Monroe County Control Center in the maintenance of the MSAG. (Master Street Address Guide) The original objective of the project was extremely successful: that being the addressing system and signage has reduced the response time of emergency providers in dire times of emergencies.

Sample Readdressing Form

## **MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN 2023**

Proposed commercial and industrial development continued at a steady pace in 2023. Notable proposed developments include over 1,500,000 s.f. of warehouse/distribution space in Tunkhannock and Jackson Townships, two Starbucks coffee shops, two Wawa convenience stores, employee housing at Great Wolf Lodge, a 10 acre solar energy facility in Chestnuthill Township, and a 368 unit townhouse development in Pocono Township.



*St. Luke's Hospital Addition*



*New Hotel Construction in Pocono Township*

## **ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS FOR 2023**

Municipality	Zoning Amendments	SALDO Amendments
Barrett Township	0	0
Chestnuthill Township	2	0
Coolbaugh Township	2	3
Delaware Water Gap Borough	2	0
East Stroudsburg Borough	5	0
Eldred Township	0	0
Hamilton Township	0	1
Jackson Township	1	0
Middle Smithfield Township	2	0
Mount Pocono Borough	2	0
Paradise Township	0	0
Pocono Township	2	1
Polk Township	0	0
Price Township	0	0
Ross Township	0	0
Smithfield Township	2	0
Stroud Township	1	0
Stroudsburg Borough	0	0
Tobyhanna Township	1	0
Tunkhannock Township	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5</b>

A total of 27 amendments to municipal Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances were reviewed in 2023. These two ordinances are the mechanism for townships and boroughs to regulate land use. All 20 municipalities in the county have their own Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances. The following are some of the more notable amendments that have been submitted in the previous year.

*Short Term Rentals – Mount Pocono Borough and Jackson Township*

*Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update - Delaware Water Gap Borough*

*Warehouse Amendments – Pocono Township, Jackson Township, Coolbaugh Township, and Mount Pocono Borough*

*Solar Energy - Smithfield Township, Chestnuthill Township, and Middle Smithfield Township*

This chart is a breakdown of proposed ordinance amendments the MCPC reviewed in 2023.



## ***LAND DEVELOPMENT IN 2023***

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Land Use</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Details</b>
Tunkhannock	Route 115 Warehouse	Industrial	Warehouse	803,778 SF Warehouse
Coolbaugh	WGH Trucking LLC	Services	Repair Garage	8,000 SF Garage, 900 SF Office
East Stroudsburg	Starbucks & Future Retail	Commercial	Coffee Shop and Retail	6,400 SF Structure
Tunkhannock	Malanyuk Used Car Lot	Services	Repair Garage/Sales	1,612 SF Structure
Tunkhannock	Baykal Logistics	Industrial	Warehouse	16,000 Warehouse
Stroud	Drive Trough Starbucks	Commercial	Coffee Shop	1,250 SF Structure
Ross	Archa Vidya Gurugula	Religious	Guest Quarters	24 Units
Smithfield	Smithfield Gateway 1A-2	Commercial	Convenience Store	6,049 SF Structure
Stroud	KMB Plumbing	Services	Warehouse/Office	504 SF Addition
Eldred	GFL Environmental	Services	Office	1,680 Modular Building
Pocono	Great Wolf Housing	Residential	Employee Housing	54 Units
Pocono	Alaska Pete's	Commercial	Restaurant	5,600 SF Structure
Chestnuthill	Bush & Graham Solar Field	Utilities	Solar Energy Facility	10.5 Acre Site
Barrett	Bestway Lumber	Commercial	Storage & Truck Service	57,793 SF (4 Structures)
Polk	Gold Coast Penn	Services	Warehouse	12,260 SF Structure
Jackson	New Day Storage	Services	Self-Storage	9,600 SF (3 Structures)
East Stroudsburg	Tidal Wave Auto Spa	Services	Car Wash	3,910 SF Structure
Middle Smithfield	Geraldine Anamege	Medical	Personal Care Home	3,710 SF Structure
Jackson	Edgemont Terrace	Industrial	Warehouses	345,600 SF & 400,000 SF
Stroud	Chick-fil-A Drive-Thru	Commercial	Drive-Thru Upgrade	1,646 SF Canopy
East Stroudsburg	RTO America LLC	Services	Self-Storage	19,600 SF Structure
Tobyhanna	Mackes Road Warehouse	Industrial	Warehouse	364,000 SF Structure
Tobyhanna	RLE Towing	Services	Towing Garage/Office	10,240 SF (2 Structures)
Coolbaugh	Finish Line Auto Body	Services	Auto Body Shop	3,365 SF Addition
East Stroudsburg	Dunkin Donuts	Commercial	Coffee Shop	602 SF Addition
Pocono	Monroe County Career and Technical Institute	Institutional	Auditorium	16,780 SF Addition
Stroudsburg	609-611 Main Street	Residential	Apartments	4 Units
Mount Pocono	Maintenance Building	Municipal	Maintenance Building	4,476 SF Structure
Jackson	Modern Gas Sales	Commercial	Propane Storage	3,000 SF (3 Structures)
Pocono	Bartonsville Wawa	Commercial	Convenience Store	6,049 SF Structure
Stroud	Home Depot	Commercial	Parking Renovations	Convert to Storage
Pocono	The Ridge at Swiftwater	Residential	Townhouses	368 Units
Stroud	AutoZone	Commercial	Auto Parts Store	7,382 SF Structure

## ***PASSENGER RAIL UPDATE***



*Dansbury Depot in East Stroudsburg*

The reconnection of this rail link would have dramatic impacts on the local economy and the community itself. Planning for the opportunities the reconnection presents will be of great importance in the near future and progress will be closely monitored. Housing, tourism, and commuter patterns will likely be heavily affected and potential negative impacts will also need to be addressed. So far two stops are anticipated for Monroe County; one in Mount Pocono and the other in East Stroudsburg. One-way run times are estimated to be under three hours and three trips daily in each direction are currently proposed.

For decades the phrase ‘the train is coming’ has been a cliché in Monroe County, but in 2023 some real progress has been made to re-establish passenger rail service from the Poconos to New York City. The long abandoned passenger rail connection was accepted into the Corridor ID Program, and \$500,000 is being provided by the Federal Railroad Administration for the project to move forward. The Corridor ID program was created under the infrastructure law passed two years ago. The funding is the first of three phases of the program to study the scope of the project. Next steps include the creation of a service development plan, and then preliminary engineering.



*Legislative Luncheon Discussing Reestablishing Passenger Rail*

## ***COMMERCIAL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES***

2023 saw a marked increase in activity concerning commercial solar energy facilities. With improved technological advances in the industry, large areas of the state are now viable for utility scale solar energy production. Unfortunately, many municipalities are unprepared for this emerging land use and are utilizing outdated zoning ordinances. Our office has assisted a number of municipalities to update their ordinance standards in reaction to this growing issue. Of notable concern is where such facilities are to be located, as recent plans have proposed commercial solar in areas of forested woodlands and prime agricultural soils. Communities that have been affected by this development either through land development plans and/or zoning amendments include Chestnuthill, Smithfield, and Middle Smithfield Township. As this land use becomes more prevalent it is imperative to ensure that local municipalities are able to properly mitigate potential negative impacts while still promoting ‘green energy’ throughout the county. Our office will continue to provide technical and mapping assistance to reach this goal in 2024 and beyond.



*Established Solar Field at Pocono Raceway*



## GPS MAPPING UPDATE

One of the many services offered by the Monroe County Planning Commission is Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping. GPS uses satellites to pinpoint geographic location, a tool most of us are familiar with through various applications for travel and directions. Our office also utilizes this in a variety of ways with Trimble brand hardware and software. Last summer, the Monroe County Planning Commission dedicated efforts to improving the maps of five trails within Paradise Township. The project focused on the Nothstein Trail, Knauf Preserve Trail, Paradise and Price Preserve, Van Buskirk Farm Preserve, and Swiftwater Forest Preserve. GPS points were collected to update trail maps for local residents and visitors alike. These maps have been updated to incorporate newly added trails and to be useful to navigate the area. Brochures can also be found at these trail destinations.

Another GPS project occurred at the West End Fair in 2023. The West End Fair has been a large part of our community since it opened in 1920. It started off as a small event that continued to grow throughout the years. As with all things there were growing pains that led to multiple electric and water lines being added as the fair expanded to what we know today. Staff went out in June 2023 to GPS the underground electric and water lines. Since June our staff has been in contact with the West End Fair committee to provide a correct map of all the permanent buildings, property lines, electric and water lines.



*GPS Collection at the West End Fairgrounds*



*Trail Map Produced for Paradise Township*

Utility mapping was also conducted at the Monroe County Corrections Facility and Pleasant Valley Manor. Establishing the approximate location of water lines will be key to upgrading and improving water supply systems of these county properties. GPS provides a valuable tool for planning through numerous possible applications and our office will continue to provide such services for the county and local municipalities.

# VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM

The purpose of Monroe County’s Vector Control Program is to ensure the safety and health of residents and visitors via the mitigation of arthropod-borne disease and insect populations by which these diseases are transmitted. Pest species such as mosquitos and ticks pose great risks to human health in the state of Pennsylvania and across the continental United States. According to the PA Department of Environmental Protection’s 2023 West-Nile Virus surveillance research - a total of 19 Human WNV infections were reported in the state, and the amount of infected mosquitos collected numbered 2,582 mature mosquitos. Within the tri-county region consisting of Monroe, Pike, and Wayne Counties 24 WNV-positive mosquito pools were identified from various breeding-sites and other mosquito-rich habitats; the total number of adult mosquitos collected amounts to 8,243, and 15 discrete positive sites were identified in 2023. Over the course of history humans have made great strides in controlling/ eliminating infectious disease transmission from the environment; County Vector Control Programs and DEP researchers stand at the forefront of Local Governments’ missions to mitigate disease and keep residents safe and healthy.



Gravid Mosquito Trap

The main activities of the Monroe County Vector Control program involve routine, county-wide pest surveillance and trapping, the identification of infected populations, timely pesticide treatment, habitat reduction, and education. The program maintains a system for reporting nuisance mosquito populations which allows the investigation and treatment of mosquitos in areas such as private residences and businesses within the county where routine weekly/monthly surveillance is less feasible. This allows residents to take the first step in addressing pest-problems which pose risks to the safety and well-being of their families and neighbors, and broadens the ability of the program to eliminate problematic insect-pest populations.

## Fight the Bite

Prevent the transmission of mosquito borne diseases such as West Nile Virus by removing mosquito breeding sites.

- 1. Avoid**  
Remember to wear long, loose, and light clothing. Close windows if screens are not installed.
- 2. Repel**  
Use repellent containing DEET.
- 3. Eliminate**  
Eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. Empty all containers containing standing water, remove used tires, and clear gutters and drains.

**COMMON BREEDING SITES**

- BIRD BATHS
- CLOGGED RAIN GUTTERS
- OLD TIRES (DISCARDED TIRES)
- KIDDIE POOLS
- FLOWERPOTS
- SAUCERS UNDER POTTED PLANTS
- WHEELBARROWS/GARDEN CARTS
- WATERING CANS/BUCKETS
- ORNAMENTAL PONDS
- WOOD PILES
- CHILDREN'S TOYS
- TREE HOLES
- RAIN BARRELS
- LEAF PILES

Monroe County Vector Control  
701 Main St. Suite 405  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
Phone: (570)-517-3416  
Website: [www.monroecountypa.gov](http://www.monroecountypa.gov)



## ***OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS***

The Monroe County Open Space Development Grant program was created to distribute Act 13 funds to qualifying municipal and nonprofit landowners throughout the County. Act 13 of 2012 established the Marcellus Legacy Fund and allocated a portion of the funds received from the impact fee related to drilling to each Pennsylvania county for planning, acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and repair of greenways, recreation trails, open space, parks and beautification projects.

The 2022 program, funded by impact fees received from 2019-2022, offered grants up to \$40,000, with a 1:1 match, to support projects focused on increasing or improving public access to protected lands throughout the county. A total of \$242,098 was awarded to municipalities and qualifying nonprofit landowners, and leveraged an additional \$341,858 in matching funds. The grant program required all projects be completed by the end of 2023.

The following five projects were funded in part by the 2022 Monroe County Open Space Development Grant and were completed in 2023



*Polk Township Community Trail*

- *HJP Park Swale & Grading Project - Jackson Township*
- *Hauser Nature Center ADA Trail & Pedestrian Enhancement - The Nature Conservancy*
- *Polk Township. Community Trail- Phase 2 - Polk Township*
- *Wiley Nature Preserve Trail Project- Coolbaugh Environmental Advisory Council*
- *Echo Lake Park Trail Resurfacing – Middle Smithfield Township*

## ***BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE***

As part of the commitment to improving broadband infrastructure, the Planning Commission staff surveyed residents and completed mapping of broadband underserved and unserved areas of the county. Through the Federal ARPA grant the Commissioners provided \$300,000.00 in funding to Blue Ridge Communications to provide broadband fiber services to the unserved areas of the County which included the 447 corridor of Price Township, specifically in the Snow Hill development and School House Estates.

Kroucher Road, located in both Pocono and Jackson was also provided fiber optic service in 2023. The Kroucher Road residents of have been vocal for many years concerning the lack of broadband service, but there were many challenges concerning this very old subdivision that has made this project difficult. The planning office was able to provide mapping, ownership and right of way information to Blue Ridge Communications to be able to complete this project. This private public partnership has been a successful one for the residents in these older subdivisions.



*Installing Optic Fiber on Kroucher Road*



## ***AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION PROGRAM***



To ensure that preserved farms continue to operate in a manner conducive to agricultural production and activities, staff from the Monroe County Planning Commission and the Monroe County Conservation District jointly conducted annual inspections of 126 farms. Many of the preserved farmland signs provided by the county have been planted on the preserved fields. The Serfass farm pictured above is an excellent example of the pride farmers have in their lands.

In 2023, the Commissioners certified \$80,955 to the State to facilitate the Farmland Preservation Program in Monroe County. The state matched that amount through a 4:1 match of approximately \$794,142 resulting in an increase in the agricultural protection funds to well over 3/4 of a million dollars. In April 2023, fourteen applications were submitted to the program and were evaluated by the planning commission staff. The board was able to make an offer to two of the applicants which will result in an additional 111 acres of prime farmland preserved. One farmland tract was brought to settlement in 2023, increasing the number of preserved farms in the county to 126 farms which equates to 8,381 acres of farmland preserved. The details of preserved farms in Monroe County is summarized by municipality below:

Municipality	Number of Farms	Acres	Funding
<b>Polk</b>	39	2,474	\$7,045,952.00
<b>Eldred</b>	20	1,304	\$4,598,099.96
<b>Hamilton</b>	16	1,289	\$3,988,782.03
<b>Chestnuthill</b>	20	1,337	\$3,938,376.60
<b>Ross</b>	11	830	\$2,097,740.47
<b>Jackson</b>	11	748	\$2,021,308.88
<b>Stroud</b>	6	349	\$1,032,577.08
<b>Pocono</b>	1	34	\$604,440.00
<b>Tunkhannock</b>	1	114	\$228,808.00
<b>Tobyhanna</b>	1	24	\$67,760.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>8,381</b>	<b>\$25,703,431.58</b>

## ***2023 ECONOMIC SUMMIT***

East Stroudsburg University held their tenth annual economic summit in May. Speakers included Rick Siger of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, Ryotaro Tashiro of the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank, John Blake, District Director and Economic Development Specialist, and County Commissioners from throughout the four county region. Major topics of discussion included an update on reviving passenger rail service in the Poconos as well as housing underproduction in the region. The Economic Scorecard was also presented to illustrate and track economic trends over the last several years in comparison to the surrounding region. The specific categories included employment, earnings, healthcare, education, and others. The Economic Summit is held annually and will continue to offer a forum for the discussion of new ideas and to review past trends to forecast the future.



*Ryotaro Tashiro at the 2023 Economic Summit*

## ***MPO & TRANSPORTATION UPDATE***

The NEPA Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Schuylkill Counties develops and maintains the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Region’s Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The TIP identifies the region’s highest priority transportation projects, develops a multi- year program of implementation and identifies available federal and state funding for the programmed projects. The Long Range Transportation Plan identifies a framework of projects, programs and policies that will be needed for the next 25 years. During 2023, the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan was updated and subsequently adopted in December. Public participation and transparency is an important part of both the TIP and the LRTP update process. All four counties saw an increased interest by the public in transportation activities as evidenced by the attendance at the many Open House meetings. Gathering information, ideas and proposed projects from the public provides an opportunity to create a more concise document for the 4 county region.



*Long Range Transportation Plan Open House*

## ***GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS UPDATE***

In 2023, the MCPC continued working in coordination with the Monroe County Conservation District’s Internship Program in order to develop an online web mapping tool to provide information regarding issued permits for approved development. As the project moves forward, a permit inventory will be periodically updated, which will be able to be cross-referenced with DEP resources and scanned stormwater management plans. The goal of this project is to facilitate the maintenance of such stormwater controls and meeting Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) program requirements.

The county also received updated aerial photography, which was last performed in 2021. The newer photos provide a valuable tool for land use planning and mapping purposes for the county and its municipalities. This is incorporated into every review for land development and subdivision plans, as well as proposed zoning amendments.



*State Route 940 - Spring 2021*



*State Route 940 - Spring 2023*



## ***ANNUAL WATER QUALITY STUDY 2023***

The 2023 Monroe County Water Quality Study was conducted in coordination with the Monroe County Conservation District between March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>. The study included 39 sampling locations throughout the county with two sites being sampled twice for replication and quality insurance. Site locations were chosen based on watershed distribution and trend data collection. Three types of sampling were conducted to evaluate the streams:



*Pocono Creek Sampling site*

**Field Chemistry Sampling:** The field sampling was conducted using a hand-held YSI Professional Digital Sampling System (ProDSS) Multiparameter water quality meter. Temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen concentration, dissolved oxygen as percent, and conductivity were collected at each site using this meter.

Depending on the size of the waterway data was collected at the right bank, thalweg, and left bank. If the waterway was smaller then a reading was taken only at the thalweg (a line connecting the lowest points of successive cross-sections along the course of a valley or river).

**Laboratory Chemistry Sampling:** Water chemistry sampling parameters that were tested by Microbac Laboratories for analysis of the stream samples include total organic carbon, aluminum, calcium, iron, magnesium, nitrates, alkalinity, phosphorus, chloride, pH, and other measurements.

**Macroinvertebrate Sampling:** Macroinvertebrates were collected using a 12” 500-micron D-frame net that was held on the stream bottom. The collector thoroughly disturbed the stream bottom to dislodge any macroinvertebrates from the substrate. This process was repeated 6 times for Riffle/Run streams and 10 times for Multihabitat streams. The samples were delivered to Michael D. Bilger to attain 6 metrics including, Total Taxa Richness, EPT Taxa richness, Beck’s Index, Shannon Diversity Index, Hilsenhoff Biotic Index, and Percentage of Sensitive Individuals. These 6 metrics were then used to determine the Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) score for each system.

Additionally, physical habitat analysis was conducted at each site which assesses the instream habitat availability and condition that impacts the abundance and diversity of macroinvertebrates and fish. The Annual Water Quality Study has been conducted since 1985 and illustrates the MCPC’s commitment to preserving the integrity of Monroe County’s water resources. The 2023 Water Quality report will be available on the county website when finalized.

## ***GEOCACHING***



*Brodhead Falls Geocache Location*

The Monroe County Geocaching Challenge was created to encourage residents to get out and explore the County’s natural resources. Geocaching is a real-world outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache container hidden at that location. The Monroe County Forever Green Geocaching Challenge was launched at the 2017 Northampton Community College Earth Day Festival and received excellent feedback from both avid geocachers and first timers. Participants choose a geocache in the county and set out to tour a variety of preserved public lands. Those who find the geocaches will find a small tokens hidden within the cache and may select one item to take home. Participants are encouraged to contribute to the chest, leaving behind a token that is 1-2 inches in size for the next person to find. For more details on how to participate visit [www.monroecountypa.gov/planning](http://www.monroecountypa.gov/planning).





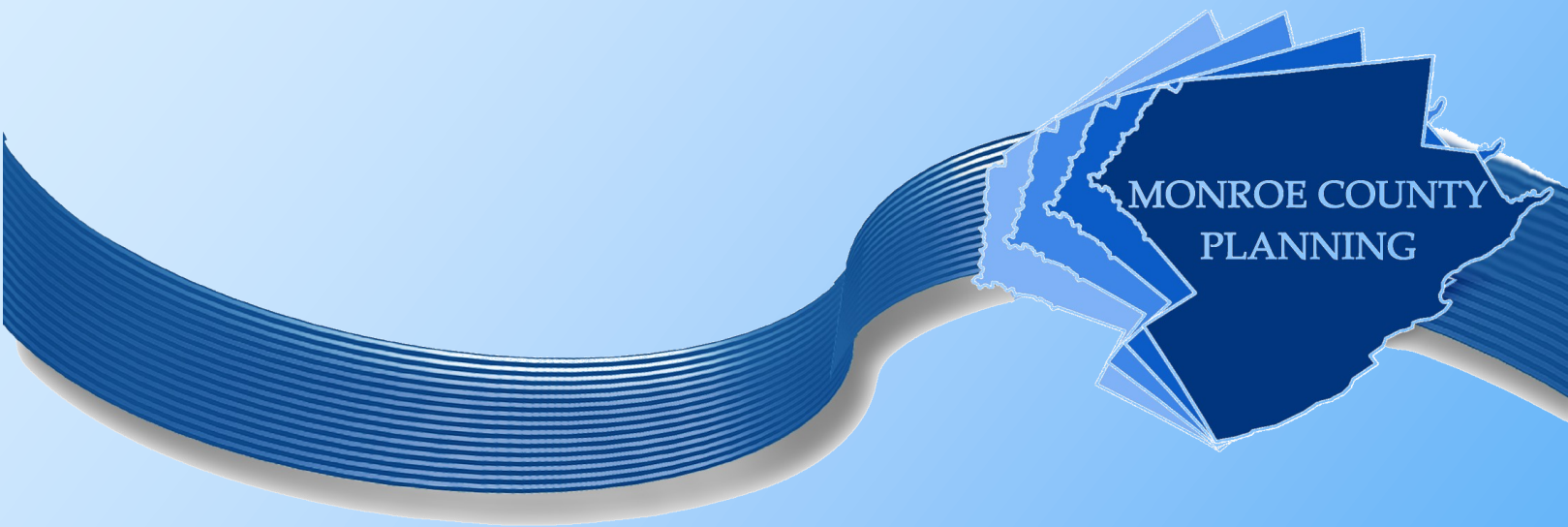
## 2023 Financial Support PMEDC Secured for Monroe County Projects

- 26 new Local Share Account Projects approved by the Commonwealth Financing Authority - \$3,831,226
- 51 Payment Requests submitted for various projects - \$8,445,349
- Pocono Day Tripper approved for Monroe County Small Business Loan - \$50,000
- FabPac Corporation approved for PA Industrial Development Authority Loans - \$654,935

## PMEDC's 2023 Highlights

- New Prospects: 65 Active Prospects: 10
- New companies: FabPac Corporation and Orange Pavers Corporation
- Expansions: Monroe County Historical Association Heritage Center and St. Luke's Medical Office Building at Smithfield Gateway
- New Construction expected or underway:
  - 300,000 SF industrial building in PMCC West, Coolbaugh Township
  - 1.2 million SF industrial building, Mount Pocono Borough
  - 702,000 SF industrial building, Pocono Township
  - 400,000 SF industrial building, Former Davis Property, Coolbaugh Township
- Completed New Construction: ○ 425,000 SF industrial building in PMCC East, Coolbaugh Township
- Infrastructure Projects Completed:
  - Natural Gas Line Extension along Corporate Center Drive in the Pocono Mountains Corporate Center East
  - Water Line Extension along Airstrip Road in East Stroudsburg, Smithfield Township
- Ongoing administration of 44 Local Share Account projects, 12 RACP projects, 1 MTF project, 1 PennDOT MTF and 3 Tax Increment Financing districts
- Smithfield Gateway infrastructure improvements – Phase I of SR209 Road Improvements
- Business Consulting Services in cooperation with Scranton Small Business Development Center monthly sessions available to Monroe County businesses at no cost
- Tobyhanna Army Depot Change of Command and Industry Day events
- NEPA Governor's Cup Award – For third year in a row Northeastern PA ranked in the Top Ten for Economic Development & the East Stroudsburg MSA (Monroe County) ranked in the top ten for communities with 200,000 or less in population (per Site Selection Magazine)

Visit [www.pmedc.com](http://www.pmedc.com) for more information



For further information, please contact the  
Monroe County Planning Commission  
701 Main Street, Suite 405  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
Phone (570) 517-3100  
Fax (570) 517-3858  
[mcpc@monroecountypa.gov](mailto:mcpc@monroecountypa.gov)  
[monroecountypa.gov](http://monroecountypa.gov)