

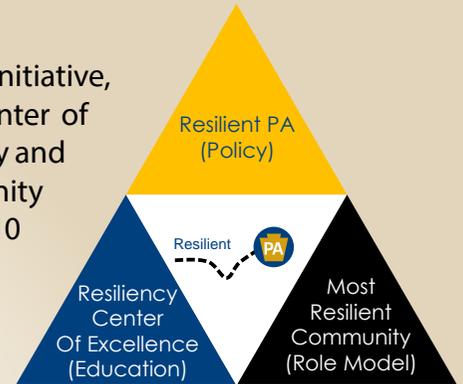


Greater Muncy Area Resiliency

January 2017 Update

Dear Resiliency Partners,

It has been close to a year since we first met to discuss the Resilient PA Initiative, the Greater Muncy Resiliency Plan and the Pennsylvania Resiliency Center of Excellence (COE). The core team (Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Lycoming County Planning and Community Development, and Muncy Borough) has been very busy over the past 10 months laying the foundation for these projects, and we think it's time to update you on the progress to date. We are gaining traction and momentum and intend to engage you more regularly with updates.



Resilient PA Initiative (Policy)

Resilient PA is a policy initiative with the goal of enhancing the resiliency of Pennsylvania's communities. The current working policy draft will eventually serve as the guiding document that ties together a three-pronged approach of policy, education, and best practices, to encourage greater inter-agency coordination and cooperation in order to foster a more resilient commonwealth, community and citizenry. The Resilient PA working draft follows the model outlined by Smart Growth America in their work Building Resilient States: A Framework for Agencies, 2015.

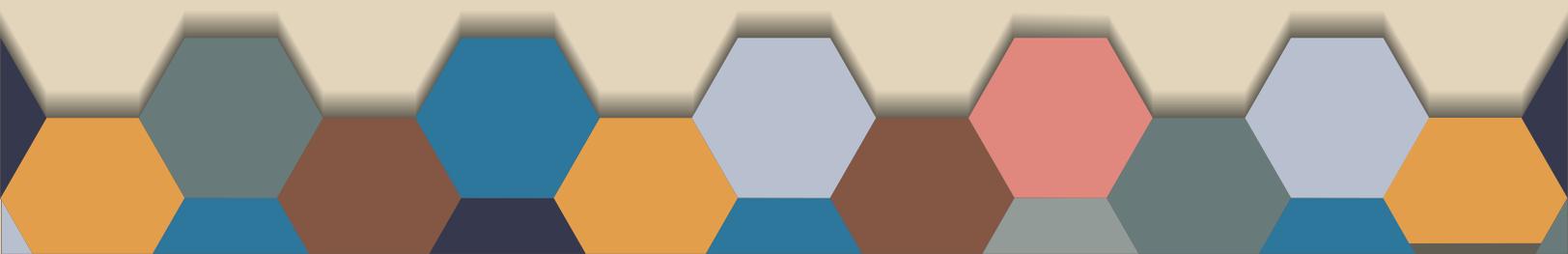
Update: The Resilient PA working draft has been forwarded through the Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Policy Office to the Governor's Policy Office.



Greater Muncy Resiliency Plan (Role Model)

The purpose of this project is to deliver a holistic study and plan of action that includes specific details for implementation of best practices for community resilience within the Greater Muncy Area of Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Muncy was selected because the borough best characterizes the economic stressors, population out-migration, natural hazard issues and transportation challenges that face hundreds of other rural communities across the commonwealth. The plan will identify all funding sources (federal, state, non-profit, institutional), and define the requirements for eligible activities and assign them to projects. The plan will also coordinate the efforts of partners, promote inter-agency cooperation, and establish timelines for completion of each project. The desired outcome is for Muncy to serve as the model for community resilience in Pennsylvania and to showcase how small-scale, rural communities can successfully leverage a whole-community approach and incorporate best practices of resiliency in developing long-term recovery plans.

Update: Lycoming County has secured \$250,000 in CDBG-DR funding for this. The County will soon begin work on a strategic plan and anticipates the hiring of a consulting firm to assist in the process. The plan is intended to be completed in collaboration with as many partners as possible including everyone receiving this newsletter. The County will then establish working groups to identify what specific issues Muncy faces and develop solutions utilizing the experience, knowledge and resources contributed by all the partners.





Greater Muncy Resiliency Plan (Most Resilient Community) (continued)

The County has also entered into an agreement with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to begin work on a study for nonstructural flooding solutions for the Greater Muncy Area. The study will include the development of a plan for watershed, floodplain, and riparian zone restoration; will analyze and develop recommendations to the Borough's stormwater system; and will analyze and develop plans for other resilience ideas such as low-impact development (LID) stormwater management.

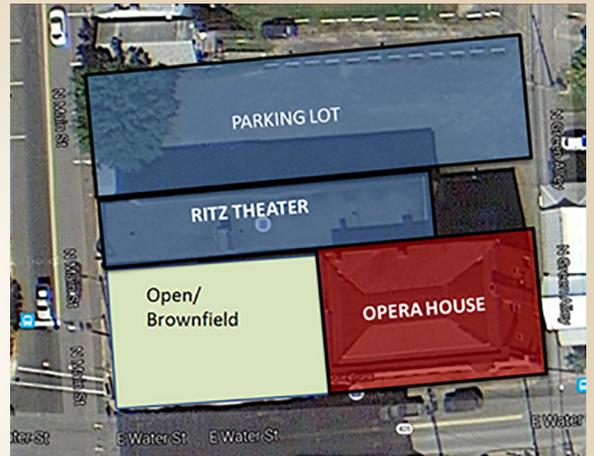
The County has secured an additional \$2,600,000 for the Lycoming County Floodplain Housing Remediation Program to conduct structural home elevations and basement evacuation within the Greater Muncy Area. The outcome of this work will lower flood insurance rates for local property owners thereby rendering those rates low enough for homeowners to be able to afford to stay in their homes. Other beneficial outcomes would include maintaining the tax base for the community and increasing community resilience.



Pennsylvania Resiliency Center of Excellence (Education)

The Pennsylvania Resiliency Center of Excellence will serve as a non-partisan center for research and leadership training on resiliency and related disaster prevention, recovery and mitigation issues in Pennsylvania.

Update: 1.) Muncy Borough Council has recently voted to accept the generous donation of the Mozley Opera House, from the John L. Bruch estate, for a three-year bridge ownership period. This bridge ownership period will allow time to establish a governing body for the Pennsylvania Resiliency Center of Excellence (COE). Borough Council previously acquired and demolished the Myers Auto Parts store directly west of the Opera House. However, the Ritz Theater is privately held and currently for sale. We are anxiously seeking funding to acquire this property as well.



Proposed site for the Pennsylvania Resiliency Center of Excellence (Muncy, PA)

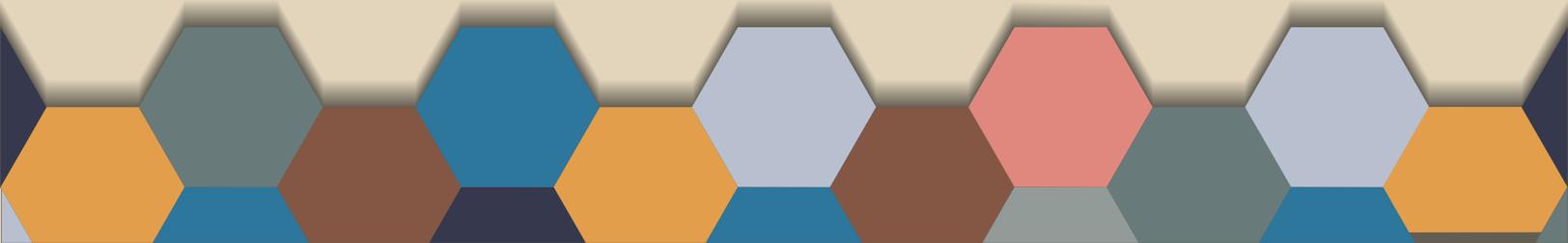


Muncy residents and Borough Officials interact with students as they discuss visions for the Pennsylvania Resiliency Center of Excellence

2.) Partnership with Penn State University

Over the Fall 2016 semester, the core team partnered with faculty and students from The Pennsylvania State University's Stuckeman School, Department of Architecture to develop concepts for the Mozley Opera House and Ritz Theater as a Resiliency Center of Excellence (COE). On December 8, 2016, 23 fourth-year students met with representatives of PA DCED, Lycoming County, and officials and citizens of the Borough of Muncy to deliver their formal presentations. The students showcased a number of innovative and outstanding concepts for the design of the Center Of Excellence.

Additionally, the core team met with Penn State's Rural Law Center to develop possible structures for the governing body of the COE. This team looked at everything from the entity being a Commonwealth of PA entity, a Penn State body, a foundation, or a 501.(c).(3). The core team also met with leaders from the PA Department of Agriculture's Center for Dairy Excellence to learn lessons from their experience and adopt best practices from them. We believe the best solution is to form a 501.(c).(3) entity through DCED with a governing Board of Directors representing state and local government, non-profits, foundations, and private industry. More to follow as that develops.





Pennsylvania Resiliency Center of Excellence (Education) (continued)

During this Spring 2017 semester, Muncy will be the focus of Penn State's Interdisciplinary Collaborative Design Studio, (CoLab.) Thirty-three students from the architecture, architecture engineering and landscape architecture disciplines will conduct feasibility studies for the proposed Resiliency Center Of Excellence.



Community Engagement



We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the Muncy community. The first community meeting was held on Thursday, November 17, 2016, at Myers Elementary School in Muncy and hosted by Muncy, DCED, and the Lycoming County Planning Department. Over 30 residents attended and provided a shared vision for the project moving forward. This meeting sparked subsequent sessions with representatives from Senator Gene Yaw's Office and Representative Garth

Everett's Office. This newsletter is intended to coordinate our collective vision and identify the role of each supportive partner as a prelude to our next community meeting.

Get involved! - Now is the time to commit.

One of the core objectives for the Resilient PA policy initiative is to improve coordination and cooperation among partnering agencies. The core team has worked hard during 2016 to create a successful foundation for the Greater Muncy Resilience project. In 2017, we will finalize our plans and begin to implement the development of the Pennsylvania Resiliency Center of Excellence in Muncy, PA. We will continue to seek input from subject-matter experts as we proceed with the \$250,000 CDBG-DR planning grant for this initiative.

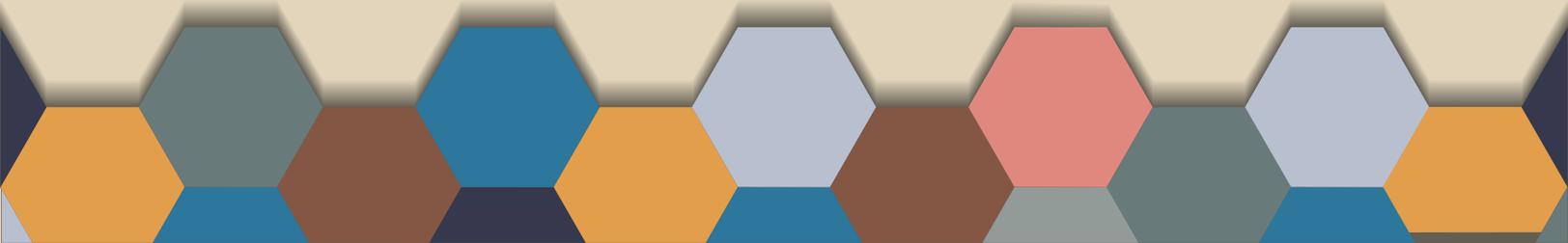
The Muncy Borough Council has acquired and demolished the Myers Auto Parts site and recently agreed to take ownership of the Mozely Opera House in order to begin the Center of Excellence project. The Muncy representatives have seen the enthusiasm and excitement from their community.

Muncy residents have made it clear that they want to be fully engaged in the Greater Muncy Resilience Plan and the implementation of the Resiliency Center of Excellence. The project team needs you! There are many present and future tasks that we cannot do alone. If you wish to become involved please see the contact list below.

Jeffrey Allen | Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Coordinator
PA Department of Community & Economic Development
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor | Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225
Phone: 717-214-7708 | jeffallen@pa.gov
dced.pa.gov | www.visitPA.com



Josh Schnitzlein
Hazard Mitigation Planner
Planning and Community Development
48 W Third St. | Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-320-2133
JSchnitzlein@lyco.org





Greater Muncy Area Resiliency Timeline

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Muncy Borough Historic District designated "At Risk" by Preservation Pennsylvania	✓					
DCED involvement	✓	—————				
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (Myers's Auto Parts)		✓				
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (Mozley Opera House)		✓				
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (Ritz Movie Theatre)		✓				
Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (Myers's Auto Parts)		✓				
Acquisition of Myers Auto Parts by Muncy Borough		✓				
Demolition of Myers Auto Parts by Muncy Borough		✓				
Phase II ESA (Mozley Opera House)			✓			
Muncy Resiliency Meeting/Kick-off meeting with agencies			✓			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assessment of structural portion of Resilience Plan Agreement Signed			✓			
Penn State Architecture - student studio (fall semester 2016)			✓			
Penn State Rural Law Clinic - foundation research (fall semester 2016)			✓			
First resident/community outreach meeting			✓			
Penn State CoLab student studio (Spring 2017)			✓			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nonstructural Flooding Study			✓			
Meet with state elected officials (House and Senate)				✓	—————	
Meet with Ag. Center for Dairy Excellence				✓		
Muncy Borough Council signs resolution supporting project				✓		
Acquisition of Mozley Opera House by Muncy Borough (pending)				✓		
CDBG-DR grant (\$250,000) secured to conduct Greater Muncy Resilience Plan				★	✓	
Penn DOT N. Main & Water Street Intersection Improvements				★	—————	
Mozley Opera House - fundraising				★	—————	
Mozley Opera House - design & engineering				★	—————	
Develop coalitions and working groups with agencies (intergovernmental cooperation)				★	—————	
Lycoming County Floodplain Remediation Program (structural home elevations and basement evacuation using CDBG DR/ PHARE funds. - \$2.6M)				★	—————	
Mozley Opera House - renovation					★	—————