



ORPC Oxford Region Planning Committee

Chair: Albert Jezyk Jr. Vice-Chair: Charles Fleischmann Treasurer: Robert Ketcham

April 3, 2025 Meeting Report

Date/Time: Thursday, April 3, 2025 - 7:00 pm via Zoom

Zoom Recording Link: <https://youtu.be/F8CJ4QnKiIY> Video Length 1:35:27

Meeting Recording: Just a reminder that we have included a reference to the time in the meeting when topics were discussed (ie, **1:08**). Please click on the YouTube link above and scan to the meeting time to hear additional content/more details.

← Homework: This symbol identifies homework that has been assigned to a member of the ORPC, the secretary, or the entire membership.

Reported By: Mark Gallant (with help from David Ross)

ORPC Representatives: Al Jezyk, Jr. – Elk Township; Joel Brown – Lower Oxford Township; Charles Fleischmann - Upper Oxford; David Ross - West Nottingham Township. No members were in attendance from East Nottingham.

Guests: Donna Crosson – West Nottingham Democratic Committee; Eileen Butler – East Nottingham Planning Commission; Blair Fleischmann – Upper Oxford.

Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC) Staff: Mark Gallant

☐ **Chair's Report** No report at this time.

☐ **ORPC Subcommittees:** *David and Blair*

Regional Volunteer Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) :29

The stakeholder's meeting was held on Monday, March 31st and "it was a great success!" There were over twenty presentations and great discussion in the face of a few large storms that were moving through the Region. As a result, many of the presenters, including Mark, attended virtually. We are pulling all of the collaborative information together and will have a report available soon. There was some additional discussion concerning Elk Creek State Park and the former director that, while not directly related to the purpose of the Stakeholder's meeting, may be of interest and can be accessed at **2:18** of the recording.

□ **Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan Update** *Mark Gallant*

Please note that I recommend those members of the ORPC that were not able to attend the February 26, meeting click on the recording at **11:45** to hear the full Comp Plan presentation.

Mark distributed a copy of the draft 2026 Goals and Objectives to the ORPC membership for their review and comment. Blair Fleischmann, Kathryn Cloyd, David Ross, Charlie Fleischmann, and Eileen Butler provided comments prior to the meeting and those were shared with the group for their feedback and perspective.

Chapter 2: Land Use and Housing **13:45**

In her comments, Kathryn Cloyd noted “I feel as though putting these two goals together is somewhat awkward. Should we consider separating them, and of course the corresponding objectives?” Mark agreed with Kathryn’s comments and will separate Land Use and Housing into two separate goals under the same chapter heading. There was an interesting conversation regarding the implementation of “transition zones” to reduce the possibility of conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural uses.

Chapter 3: Economic Development **25:01**

In reference to the first objective under economic development, Charles noted, there are studies on the cost of government services that point out that agriculture basically supports developed areas or at least mitigates the service burden/costs of development. Charles went on to discuss the details further in a conversation that included Eileen which can be accessed at **26:35** of the recording.

Development of the Goals and Objectives. Mark reminded the membership that they would have several chances to comment on the Goals and Objectives at this time, and as we move through development of the plan chapters. “They will continue to evolve.”

Chapter 4: Multimodal Transportation **32:54**

Comments on the Transportation Goal and Objectives were relatively minor and focused on text changes and word smithing.

Chapter 5: Community Facilities and Services **34:35**

Kathryn shared the comment, this [the first objective] feels like a lot for one objective; should it be broken out a bit more? Also, what do we mean by preventive measures? Do we want to say “in order to provide a rapid response?” (since we can’t actually provide a rapid response). Mark will break this objective out into multiple and more attainable objectives.

Charlie recommended that we include the following after Christianacare under the first objective (and any other healthcare provider).

Joel Brown responded to David's suggested objective regarding the development of a Regional Act 537 Plan which turned into a discussion with comments from Joel, David, Blair, and Eileen. This was an important discussion and can be accessed at **36:50** of the recording.

Charlie asked for a definition of "Human Services" and data that supports the phrase "growing senior population" in objectives four and five, respectively. Mark will look back at the 2012 plan to determine the meaning of human services and provide demographic data that will address the status of the senior population.

A short discussion took place regarding the term (and other communities) in objective 6 and can be accessed at **45:30** of the recording.

Chapter 6: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space 59:30

David asked about objective 7 regarding an "open space network" and if it is a recommendation or an objective which started a discussion about open space preservation in the Region that can be accessed at **1:00:30** of the recording.

Chapter 7: Natural Resources 1:09:08

Blair provided a reworking of the Natural Resources Goal.

Charlie suggested that we "emphasize storm water control at sources and that lead into a discussion about point and non-point sources and the ecosystems that can positively impact stormwater value and can be accessed at **1:09:42** of the recording.

Chapter 8: Cultural Resources 1:16:05

Blair suggested a reordering of the objectives and provided tweaks to the text that should bring the older objectives up to date. There was also short discussion about scenic roadways and how they are defined by the state.

Chapter 9: Energy Conservation 1:20:30

David spoke to the evolution of energy conservation and how the perspective has changed since the adoption of the 2012 Comp Plan. Mark responded by suggesting that the Region look at more recent energy conservation or sustainability plans (like one that was recently completed in the Phoenixville Region) for inspiration to bring the Region's objectives up to date.

The next steps: Mark will update the draft 2026 Goals and Objectives based on input from the ORPC membership and develop a 2nd draft for the ORPC membership to consider. Mark reiterated (perhaps too many times) that the Goals and Objectives will continue to evolve.

May Public Meeting

Why meet with the public now? To reengage the public and share the results of the public survey and draft Goals and Objectives. The possible theme: “Did we hear you?”

There were concerns regarding use of the Herr’s Visitor’s Center (where we held the public kick-off meeting last year). As a back-up, if no other venue works out, the ORPC does have a reservation for Herr’s on the 28th. Eileen suggested Redmann’s Hall in Oxford and contacting the school district to see if any auditorium may be available at the high school. Middle school, etc. David suggested the auditorium at Ware (Vista Ridge). Mark will follow up.

Mark hopes to present the exiting conditions for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space at the April 23rd ORPC meeting with the presentation of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space chapter in May.

☐ Public Comment

Next ORPC Meeting: March 26, 2025 via Zoom.