

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo courtesy of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership.

Residents Envision a Revitalized Western Clinton County

On Thursday, January 15, 2015, Over 90 residents and representatives from local organizations gathered at the Renovo Fire Hall to discuss ways to revitalize and market Western Clinton County as a great place to work, visit, and call home. The meeting focused on five municipalities including Renovo Borough, South Renovo Borough, Noyes Township, Chapman Township, and Leidy Township.

The meeting opened with a community mapping exercise which gave residents a chance to identify community assets that they valued and those that they felt needed improvement. After a series of short presentations, residents were divided into four focus groups to further discuss projects specific to marketing the area, housing and economy issues, riverfront connections, and improving the business district. Issues relating to riverfront access and recreation, improving the community image, and attracting new industry surfaced as major priorities.

"We have been working for a long time to get the communities to work together. A community visioning process was completed many years ago and now it's important that we move that forward," said Alice Tarr, a representative from Chapman Township, The Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, and the Greater Renovo Area Heritage Park. "The river towns program will be a testing ground to prove to others that Western Clinton County can work together and that we can take on larger regional projects."

The meeting was organized by Preserve, Renew and Revitalize, a new non-profit organization in the Greater Renovo Area, and the [Susquehanna Greenway Partnership](#). SEDA-COG Economic Development and Community Development Departments are also helping the Renovo Area move forward with its vision by providing technical assistance with infrastructure and economic based grant opportunities. In fact, with the support of the Clinton County Commissioners, SEDA-COG is developing a Community Development Block Grant application for improvements in the Ontario Street area. The \$750,000 application includes street and pedestrian facility improvements, infrastructure upgrades, removal of blighted structures and, in combination with the Susquehanna Greenway funding applications being considered, river access.

Moving forward, all five municipalities are working to complete River Town Program applications which include an application form, a municipal resolution, a community leader list, and a planning document list. The feedback from the public meeting will be used to prioritize community based projects and to identify potential funding sources to implement these projects.

Any further questions can be directed to Zach Pyle, SGP River Towns Program Coordinator, at 570-522-7339 or zpyle@susquehannagreenway.org.

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