



Indiana County
Sustainable Economic Development Summit III
Reinventing Rural America

October 4, 2019 at the Rustic Lodge in Indiana PA

A presentation of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania



and

The Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force



Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force

The month following the first Sustainable Economy Summit in April 2017, the Indiana County Commissioners voted to establish the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force. The Task Force engaged in a year-long participatory process engaging local stakeholders, including local business people, members of grass roots organizations, and educators in a research and planning process. After a year of group meetings, the Task Force compiled their recommendations for sustainable economic development in a final report, which was presented at Summit II in September 2018. This year's Summit celebrates the efforts of the Task Force and its community to pursue the opportunities and recommendations outlined in the report. A panel of group leaders will share their successes and plans for future action. Guest speakers will highlight opportunities for promoting economic and workforce development, and citizen education, within each of the issue areas.

OUR VISION:

The Sustainable Economic Development Task Force will promote:

- **A sustainable economy providing cost savings through greater efficiency as well as reduced future environmental and human health related costs**
- **Innovation, forward-thinking education, practical training, meaningful employment, and citizen engagement**

MISSION STATEMENT:

To identify new opportunities in economic development, citizen education, and job training (workforce development) in the renewable energy sector, agriculture, building construction, and environmental restoration and stewardship.

Task Force "Big Ideas" and the Task Force report are available to view on
<http://sustainableindianacounty.org>

Today's event is being video recorded by a professional filmmaker. Videos of the speakers will be made available via the Internet to view and share with others. It is possible that you may be recorded. By being in the Groveside Room, you consent to recording of your words and/or image. Thank you.

Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Summit III

Rustic Lodge • Indiana PA • October 4, 2019 • 8:30 – 3:30

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| 8:30 a.m. | Registration/Sign-In | Light Breakfast and Exhibits |
| 9:00 a.m. | Welcome
Hon. Sherene Hess
Hon. Rodney D. Ruddock
Hon. Mike Baker | Groveside Room
Indiana County Commissioners
Indiana County Commissioners – Pledge of Allegiance
Indiana County Commissioners |
| 9:15 a.m. | Presentation and Panel of the Task Force
Molly Sarver , moderator
<i>Task Force Focus Group Panel</i>
Kay Snyder (Sustainable Agriculture),
Nicholas Zimny-Shea, Jonathan Warnock (Renewable Energy),
Josh Krug, Vera Bonnet (Sustainable Building Construction),
Cindy Rogers, Laurie Lafontaine,
Joe Trimarchi (Environmental Restoration & Stewardship) | Indiana County Office of Planning & Development |
| 10:30 a.m. | Break – (15 min.) | |
| 10:45 a.m. | <i>Keynote Speaker, Economic Development</i>
Emily Rhodes, AICP | Technical Assistance & Planning Manager,
Just Transition Fund |
| 11:15 a.m. | <i>Renewable Energy</i>
Greg Winks & Will Brown | Solbridge Energy Advisors |
| 11:45 a.m. | Break/Lunch – (30 min.) | View posters and exhibits, lunch is served |
| 12:15 p.m. | <i>Luncheon Speaker, Rural Broadband</i>
Sascha Meinrath, Ph.D. | Palmer Chair in Telecommunications at
Penn State University |
| 1:15 p.m. | <i>Sustainable Building Construction & Materials</i>
Matthew Mahoney | Western PA Program Manager, Keystone Energy
Efficiency Alliance |
| 1:45 p.m. | <i>Environmental Restoration & Stewardship</i>
Joey James | Senior Strategist, Downstream Strategies Inc. |
| 2:15 p.m. | <i>Sustainable Agriculture</i>
Chloe Drew & Jennica Hopkins | Mother Earth Farm PA |
| 2:45 p.m. | REFLECTION
Heather Harr , moderator
Cindy Rogers , moderator | Discussion with audience, exhibitors, task force
League of Women Voters of PA
Evergreen Conservancy |
| 3:15 p.m. | Next Steps
Hon. Sherene Hess | |
| 3:30 p.m. | Adjournment | |



LIST OF EXHIBITORS

Conemaugh Valley Conservancy

Evergreen Conservancy

Indiana County Office of Planning & Development

Indiana County Stormwater Education Partnership / IUP Geoscience Department

Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance

Solar United Neighbors

The Borough of Indiana

The Environmental Issues Committee of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County

**Indiana County Sustainable
Economic Development
Task Force Steering
Committee Members:**

Vera Bonnet
Susan Boser
Peter Broad
Adam Cotchen
Heather Harr
Dana Henry
Sherene Hess
Mark Hillard
Donald Lancaster
Janis Long
Hilario Molina II
Eric Palmer
Tina Perdue
Cindy Rogers
Kay Snyder
Byron Stauffer Jr.
Jonathan Warnock
Nicholas Zimny-Shea

The Task Force Focus Groups

Sustainable Agriculture
Co-Facilitators:

Kay Snyder & Peter Broad

Contributing Members:

Barb Barker
Tom Beresnyak
Candace Bolger
Pam Bryan
Adam Cotchen
Bob Livingston
Darlene Livingston
Bob Madden
Amy Manko
Carrie Miller
Hilario Molina II
Season Petrovich
Leya Ramer
Andrew Sandeen
Kay Smith
Alysha Trexler
Ed Trexler
Marthe Weyandt

Environmental Restoration
Facilitator:

Cindy Rogers

Contributing Members:

Lynne Alvine
John Dudash
Tom Falcone
Linda Gwinn
Barb Hauge
Linda Jones
Laurie Lafontaine
Denise Liggett
Eli Long
Stacy Long
Tina Perdue
Walter Schroth
Ken Sherwood
Matt Smith
John Somonick
Sara Stewart
Maegan Stump
Joe Trimarchi
Judy Wanchisn
Cheri Widzowski

***Sustainable Building
Construction***
Co-Facilitators:

Josh Krug & Vera Bonnet

Contributing Members:

Tom Borellis
Kate Geiger
Linda Gibson
Heather Harr
David Janusek
Denise Jennings-Doyle
Trinity Martz
Michelle Reefer
Richard Rinkus
Gerald Smith
Hannah Uschock
Brandon Vick

Renewable Energy
Co-Facilitators:

Susan Boser &
Nicholas Zimny-Shea

Contributing Members:

Vera Bonnet
Dan Boone
Dave Brady
Matt Byerly
Ellen Chinn
Bill Darr
Randy Francisco
Tom Harley
Jim Lafontaine
Don Lancaster
Janis Long
Laurie Lubold
Kathy Maple
Steve McPherson
Adam Mundok
Tony Palamone
Sherry Renosky
James Struzzi
Jonathan Warnock
Tara Zirkel

SPEAKERS

Welcome

The Hon. Sherene Hess began serving as Indiana County Commissioner in January 2016 after a nearly twenty-five-year career in environmental resources conservation and management. Commissioner Hess's professional accomplishments include assisting agricultural producers in western PA in efforts to protect soil and water; expanding the county recycling center and programs; facilitating hundreds of water quality education projects across the state; and working with organizations to elevate awareness of the challenges and opportunities of the significant growth of the unconventional well production in PA. She also has held appointments on local and state advisory boards.

As a result of her position as county commissioner and her service as president of the League of Women Voters for fourteen years, Commissioner Hess understands the complex issues facing Indiana County, the region, and the state. In partnership with other elected officials and many government and nonprofit organizations, Hess' current efforts includes coordination and delivery of crucial human services that protect the most vulnerable and needy; expansion of the capacity for drug and alcohol and mental health services; provision for sufficient and continuous justice system operations and key emergency management services; and promotion of workforce development, and business and job creation in the county.

She led the initiative to establish the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force, which connects with existing economic development efforts to identify new opportunities in the renewable energy sector, sustainable agriculture, new building construction and renovation using sustainable methods, and environmental restoration and natural resources stewardship. Commissioner Hess earned a degree in environmental resources management through the College of Agriculture Sciences at Penn State University.

The Hon. Rodney D. Ruddock was elected for a fourth term as Indiana County Commissioner in 2015. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Indiana County Commissioners. He is a lifelong resident of Indiana, Pennsylvania. He completed 35 years in public education retiring as high school principal of the Indiana Area School District. He also completed 37 years of military service retiring as a Major General in the United States Army Reserve.

Mr. Ruddock graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Safety Education. He holds a Master's Degree in Counseling Education from Indiana University and a Secondary Administrative Certificate from Duquesne University. He completed an MBA Certificate Program from the IUP Eberly College School of Business.

Mr. Ruddock is a gubernatorial appointee to the Pennsylvania Constables' Education and Training Board. His professional organizations include the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP). Mr. Ruddock was recently reappointed by the County Commissioners Association as Chairman of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee and was also chosen to serve on the CCAP Assessment and Taxation Committee. He has served as Chairman of the CCAP Economic Advisory Committee, Chairman of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Regional Policy Planning Committee. He continues to serve as board member of the Research Institute at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Ruddock is also a board member of the Regional Industrial Development Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Ruddock serves on the Board of Fellows for the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics, currently Co-Chairs the Educational Committee and recently served as a Co-Chair of the Water Resources subcommittee on the Shale Gas Roundtable. Mr. Ruddock serves as the Chairman of the Tri-County Workforce Development Board serving Armstrong, Butler and Indiana Counties.

During his military career General Ruddock was awarded the following: the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Gold Hourglass Device, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and Vietnam Service Medal with four Service Stars.

Mr. Ruddock resides in Indiana with his wife Ellen. They are both members of Grace United Methodist Church of Indiana, Pa. Their family includes son, Dana, wife Michele and granddaughter, Reagan and grandson Owen; and son, Darin, granddaughter Andrea and grandson Daniel.

The Hon. Mike Baker was appointed to office in 2014 and was elected to a four-year term in November 2015. He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Prior to coming to the Commissioners' office, he served two terms as Indiana County Coroner and 22 years as Chief Deputy Coroner. He is a lifelong resident of Indiana County and a graduate of Blairsville High School. He holds an Associate degree in Computer Network Management, a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, and Master's degrees in Employment and Labor Relations and Forensic Science. He currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the Technology Committee of the County Commissioners' Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) and is member of the Board of Trustees of PCOMP, which provides Workers' Compensation Insurance for 47 PA counties and county-related entities. He was recently appointed to CCAP's EMS Taskforce.

He is the Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board of Directors of the Center for Organ Recovery & Education (CORE) in Pittsburgh and immediate Past-Chairman of CORE's Community Outreach & Professional Services Committee and is a member of the Executive Board of Directors of the Indiana County Public Safety Academy. Commissioner Baker is a former coal miner for R & P Coal Co. He served as Paramedic Division Supervisor for Citizens' Ambulance Service and as a Helicopter Flight Paramedic with STAT MedEvac of Pittsburgh. His priorities include public safety and economic development. He has been married to Karen since 1983 and has four children and four grandchildren.

Task Force Groups Panel

Moderator: Molly Sarver was the Sustainability Coordinator for the Task Force in 2019, and is the Senior Land Use Planner at Indiana County Office of Planning & Development.

Sustainable Agriculture

Kay Snyder is a Co-Facilitator of the Sustainable Agriculture Focus Group, a member of the League of Women Voters Indiana County Board of Directors, Co-Coordinator of the Indiana Community Garden, and the point of contact for the Indiana Local Foods Local Places initiative.

Renewable Energy

Nicholas Zimny-Shea is a Co-Facilitator of the Renewable Energy Focus Group and a Planning & Zoning Official for the Borough of Indiana.

Jonathan Warnock, Ph.D., is a contributing member to the Renewable Energy Focus Group, a member of the Solar United Neighbors Advisory Board, an assistant professor in the Department of Geoscience, and a Co-Director of Sustainability Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Sustainable Building Construction

Josh Krug is Chief Planner in the Planning Section of the Indiana County Office of Planning & Development.

Vera Bonnet serves as chair of the Environmental Issues Committee of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County, and helped organize the first Sustainable Economy Summit.

Environmental Restoration & Stewardship

Cindy Rogers is the Facilitator of the Environmental Restoration & Stewardship Focus Group, Vice President of the Board of Directors for the League of Women Voters of Indiana County, and President of Evergreen Conservancy.

Laurie Lafontaine is a contributing member to the Environmental Restoration & Stewardship Focus Group, President of the Indiana County Planning Commission, and a member of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County Board of Directors.

Joe Trimarchi is a contributing member to the Environmental Restoration & Stewardship Focus Group, and Manager, Public Sector at First Commonwealth Bank in Indiana.

KEYNOTE: Economic Development



Emily Rhodes, AICP, provides technical assistance and community planning support at the Just Transition Fund. With a background in urban planning, Emily's work has focused on resilience and land use planning throughout the Midwest. Prior to joining Just Transition Fund, Emily worked at Delta Institute where she provided technical assistance on community-based brownfield redevelopment, including in communities impacted by the transition away from coal. Emily also has a background in freight planning, previously working as a Senior Project Manager at the New York City Economic Development Corporation where she led multi-stakeholder planning projects focused on improving freight assets in the New York City region. Emily is a native Michigander and holds a B.A. in Anthropology and Sociology from Kalamazoo College and a Master of Urban Planning from New York University's Wagner School of Public Policy. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Renewable Energy



Greg Winks & Will Brown founded Solbridge Energy Advisors to make the process of going solar more straightforward and user-friendly, while creating opportunities for greater innovation and cost competition among service providers. As the only independent solar consulting and brokerage firm in the region, Solbridge offers end-users unbiased guidance in the broader marketplace of solar design and installation companies, utilizing a straightforward consultative approach to help homeowners, business owners, municipalities, and other non-profits take ownership of their electricity. Collectively, Greg and Will have over 20 years of experience in development, electric and utility infrastructure, solar engineering, logistics, environmental impact, project financing, and aggregation.

Mr. Winks has been working in the solar industry since 2011, with 25 years of experience in real estate and land development. He is also Vice President for the solar advocacy trade organization, Solar Unified Network of Western Pennsylvania.

Will Brown has worked throughout the sustainability and energy sectors since 2009, with a background in Environmental Science and Geology. Before entering the solar industry, Will spent nearly a decade in land conservation and stewardship, as well as plastics recycling.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER: Rural Broadband



Sascha Meinrath, Ph.D., is the Palmer Chair in Telecommunications at Penn State and director of X-Lab, an innovative think tank focusing on the intersection of vanguard technologies and public policy. Professor Meinrath is a renowned technology policy expert and is internationally recognized for his work over the past two decades as a community internet pioneer, social entrepreneur, and angel investor.

Prior to founding X-Lab, Meinrath was vice president of the New America Foundation, where he founded the Open Technology Institute in 2008 and built it into one of the largest public interest tech policy organizations in Washington, D.C. He also founded the Commotion Wireless Project, which works around the globe to strengthen communities by providing tools to build their own local communications infrastructures, and co-founded Measurement Lab, a global online platform for researchers to deploy Internet measurement tools that empower the public and key decision-makers with useful information about broadband connectivity.

Professor Meinrath was elected as an Ashoka Fellow for Social Entrepreneurship in 2012, and has been named to the Time Magazine "Tech 40" as one of the most influential figures in technology, to the "Top 100" in Newsweek's Digital Power Index, and is a recipient of the Public Knowledge IP3 Award for excellence in public interest advocacy. He is widely published in both academic and media outlets, including Critical Studies in Media Communications, International Journal of Communications, Journal of Communications Law and Policy, Journal of Internet Law, Journal for Community Informatics, IEEE Internet Computing Magazine, IEEE Spectrum, Foreign Policy, The Hill, Time Magazine, Politico, Slate, The Guardian and many others.

Mr. Meinrath has been a vocal public intellectual and a leading voice calling for accountability over the governmental spying programs, and is at the forefront of D.C. policy debates over how Congress and the White House should rein in the cybersecurity-industrial complex. He serves as a board member for the American Indian Policy Institute, Brave New Software Foundation; Defending Rights and Dissent Foundation; Acorn Active Media Foundation; and Fourth Amendment Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the advisory councils for the Calyx Institute, FreedomBox Foundation, Loomio, and Whistleblower Aid.

Meinrath's research focuses on broadband connectivity, distributed communications, Digital Feudalism, Digital Craftsmanship, telecommunications and spectrum policy, cybersecurity and privacy, and the impacts of disruptive technology, and is a testament to his lifelong commitment to promoting social and economic justice -- values he embraced while attending a rough inner-city school in New Haven, Connecticut. The son of an immigrant from Brazil, Meinrath has four vivacious daughters and he and his partner, Stephanie, split their time between State College, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C.

Sustainable Building Construction



Matthew Alan Mahoney was born and raised in Bairdford, Pennsylvania, a small coal town north of Pittsburgh. After graduating high school, Matt enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and studied Anthropology at Slippery Rock University. After completing his degree and a tour of duty in Iraq, Matt enlisted in AmeriCorps and went on to work for the Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania to assist homeless veterans.

In 2013, Matt shifted his focus to energy policy and began working with the Center for Responsible Shale Development, a nonprofit bringing shale developers and environmental groups to the table to mitigate environmental impacts of natural gas drilling. After realizing his passion was in clean energy systems, Matt went on to earn a Masters Degree in Renewable Energy and Sustainability Systems from Penn State. In 2018, Matt began working with the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA), a nonprofit committed to advancing the energy efficiency industry. Matt enjoys reading and traveling. He is married and a proud father of two.

Environmental Restoration & Stewardship



Joey James is a multi-disciplinary researcher specializing in sustainable economic development and planning for transitioning economies. He has professional experience in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors and has worked extensively in sustainable enterprise development, economic modeling, redevelopment planning, policy analysis, and GIS application development. His work is largely centered on the strategic reuse of underutilized land assets to grow local economies.

As the technical expert for the Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition, Mr. James has helped communities throughout West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio develop project plans, quantify impacts of potential projects, and secure implementation funding for transformational land reuse projects. Over two years, his work with the Reclaiming Appalachia Coalition has resulted in the award of over \$12 million for implementation of innovative projects on former mine sites across the Appalachian region.

Sustainable Agriculture



Chloe Drew & Jennica Hopkins are twin sisters who own and operate Mother Earth Farm PA. As farmers and owners, Chloe and Jennica focus on growing their produce using sustainable practices including no-till, on-farm inputs and locally sourced manure and food waste to enrich the soil. They believe that Mother Earth already has the resources necessary for growing food and enjoy sharing their growing practices with members of the community. Albeit a small-scale endeavor, Mother Earth Farm PA is in its sixth season and supports a small, but growing collective of families within the Indiana community with produce on a weekly basis.

REFLECTION – Discussion with audience, exhibitors, task force

Moderator: Heather Harr is Project Director of the League of Women Voters of PA. As part of her work, she is helping rural communities in Southwestern PA explore how to thrive in the sustainable economy.

Moderator: Cindy Rogers has been interested in the environment and issues related to it since her days of backpacking and canoe camping. She has been a member of Evergreen Conservancy since its formation in 2004, and president for over 10 years. Cindy also is active with the storm water education partnership, the Indiana League of Women Voters' Environmental Committee, as well as with Friends of Yellow Creek State Park. Cindy is a founding member of the Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force.

Summit III Presentations

Keynote: Economic Development

Emily Rhodes, AICP: *Economic Development in US Coal Communities in Transition*

Renewable Energy

Greg Winks & Will Brown: *The Future is Renewable: Policy, Practices, and Potential for Solar in PA*

Luncheon Speaker: Rural Broadband

Sascha Meinrath, Ph.D.: *Mapping US Broadband Connectivity: Results and Implications of Documenting Pennsylvania's Digital Divides*

Sustainable Building Construction

Matthew Alan Mahoney: *Pennsylvania's Energy Efficiency Economy*

Environmental Restoration & Stewardship

Joey James: *Making Assets of Liabilities: Innovative Land Re-Use in Central Appalachia*

Sustainable Agriculture

Chloe Drew & Jennica Hopkins: *Cultivating Community, Compost and the Small Scale Farm*

Notes:

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<http://sustainableindianacounty.org>

The Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Summit III is made possible with funding from the Colcom Foundation and The Heinz Endowments to the League of Women Voters of PA Citizen Education Fund.

Colcom Foundation

THE HEINZ
ENDOWMENTS

HOWARD HEINZ ENDOWMENT

VIRA I. HEINZ ENDOWMENT

The Task Force Report is supported with funding from the office of the Indiana County Commissioners.



The Indiana County Sustainable Economic Development Task Force Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from:

listed in alphabetical order

- Center for Community Growth
- Evergreen Conservancy
- Indiana Borough
- Indiana Community Garden
- Indiana County Center for Economic Operations, a consortium of:
 - Indiana County Chamber of Commerce
 - Indiana County Commissioners
 - Indiana County Development Corporation
 - Indiana County Tourist Bureau
 - Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Indiana County Conservation District
- Indiana County Office of Planning & Development
- Indiana County Technology Center
- IUP Sustainability Studies Program
- League of Women Voters of Indiana County and Pennsylvania

