

Press Release

Local Group Receives Governor's Award

HARRISBURG, Pa. – Lieutenant Governor Catherine Baker Knoll and Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Yablonsky presented the Rock Run Regional Visioning Committee with the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence Tuesday afternoon in Harrisburg. The group received the award in the area of Building Community Partnerships for the Rock Run Regional Visioning Project, a multi-municipal plan for economic development created by 17 municipalities in northern Cambria and southern Clearfield counties.

The committee was one of eight municipal organizations and nine local leaders from across the state honored during the 12th annual "Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence" award ceremony held Tuesday at the PA Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

"The most successful teams have players who work together towards a common goal," Yablonsky said of the award recipients.

The Lieutenant Governor noted her appreciation for those who serve on the "front line" closest to their constituents.

"Local government people simply have no place to hide from the high expectations of their friends and neighbors. They are the first line of offense and defense in the American system of government," she said. "Thank you for being so good at what you do."

Since the completion of the Rock Run Regional Visioning Project in September, the visioning committee has named themselves the Rural Opportunity Development Partnership (RODP) and is working on their incorporation as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. They have expanded their membership from 17 to 22 municipalities and are currently pursuing the development of an intergovernmental cooperation agreement. Additionally, eight of the boroughs involved in the partnership are applying to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for a Regional Main Street Designation.

The following municipal organizations and leaders were honored on Tuesday in the following areas:

Building Community Partnerships

- o Centre Region COG/Centre Region Recreation Authority, Centre County
- o Rock Run Regional Visioning Committee, Cambria & Clearfield counties
- o Sprignfield Township, Jacobus and Loganville boroughs, York County

Promoting Community and Economic Revitalization

- o Redevelopment Authority of the City of Erie, Erie County

Innovative Community & Governmental Initiatives

- o Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority, Lebanon County

Innovative Planning and Sound Land Use Practices

- o Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee, Lancaster County

Responding to Adversity

- o City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County

Intergovernmental Cooperation

- o Warren County Intergovernmental Co-Op

Individual Winners

- o Robert Anspach, Mayor, City of Lebanon, Lebanon County
- o Douglas K. Bowen, Whitehall Township Authority, Lehigh County
- o Peter A. Ferraro, Commissioner, Ross Township, Allegheny County
- o Joseph F. Giles, Chairman, Erie County Council
- o Charles "Bud" Graham, Supervisor, Harris Township, Center County
- o William C. Groves, Chairman, Cumberland Township, Greene County
- o David Perruso, Mayor, Wilson Borough, Northampton county
- o Barry Seymour, Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Dallas A. Dollies Award for Excellence in Planning

- o Anna Breinich