Pres. Barbara Underwood called the May 26, 2011 Adams County COG meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following members were present: **Boroughs:** Abbottstown, East Berlin, Littlestown **School Districts**: Conewago Valley, Gettysburg **Townships:** Conewago, Cumberland, Hamilton, Hamiltonban, Highland, Huntington, Straban, Tyrone   **County:** Adams County.

Others present were: Skip Strayer for State Senator Richard Alloway, Al Penksa, Adams County Manager, John Eline, Adams County Director of Emergency Services, Judy Chambers, Penn State Extension Office.

PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: A MOTION WAS MADE BY FRIDENVALDS (HUNTINGTON TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY GORDON (HAMILTONBAN TOWNSHIP) TO APPROVE THE APRIL 28, 2011 MINUTES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

TREASURERS REPORT: Lori Duncan presented the Treasurer's report which showed a balance of $5,036.20. There was no activity in the past month. **THE TREASURER'S REPORT WAS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED ON A WHEELER (LITTLESTOWN) MOTION SECONDED BY FRIDENVALDS (HUNTINGTON).**

PRESENTATION ON TORNADO WARNING SYSTEM: John Eline, Adams County Director of Emergency Services, addressed the COG on the County's tornado warning system. When a warning is issued by the National Weather Services, the County activates all sirens countywide. The tornado alert is a steady 3-minute tone. While not all portions of the county are covered by the sirens, it is an important warning device. Eline explained that some fire companies have stopped maintaining the sirens, and he asked municipalities to take over the responsibility if needed. Eline will send a list of currently non-operational sirens to the COG, along with a flyer describing the alert tones.

OLD BUSINESS:

       Emergency Services Committee: Sharon Hamm (Straban) reported that the first meeting with municipalities and fire companies was successful in launching discussion, and a second meeting is being planned.

       Citizen Planners Roundtable: Chambers (Penn State Extension) reported that she is delaying the launch of this program until a new County Planning Director is in place, since participation from the Planning Office will be critical.

       Uniform Construction Code Enforcement: Wheeler (Littlestown) said 10 municipalities have responded to the survey, which asks about bidding inspection services. He urged COG members to talk to their governing bodies and respond to the survey. The link can be found on the COG website.

       Legislative: nothing to report at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

       County Classification: County Manager Al Penksa spoke to the COG about the County's anticipated change from 6th class to 5th class. Major implications include an elected controller to replace the current system of 3 auditors. 38 counties currently use this system. While the county awaits the Governor's certification of the census count that will cause the change in classification, a discussion is underway to determine if Adams has the option of remaining a 5th class county. Penksa also described his duties and responsibilities as county manager. While he has responsibility for all day-to-day operations, any department director may go directly to the commissioners if he/she chooses to do so.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Adams County: Commissioner George Weikert reported that the county is looking into the problem with oversized paper ballots in the primary election. Elections personnel had to manually trim ballots to get them to fit in the readers. The elections board conducted several spot-checks of manual counts against the readers, and found the readers were accurate. The County is talking with the ballot vendor but does not anticipate paying for the ballots. Apparently other counties had similar problems with the ballots. Weikert said he thinks excessive moisture while the ballots were sealed and stored was a contributing factor.

Adams County Boroughs Association: no report

Township Supervisors Association: Stephanie Egger (Hamilton) announced the next workshop will be held on September 29, featuring training by the same legal firm that presented in the spring. Borough officials are also invited to attend.

School Districts: Brad Hunt (Gettysburg) noted that districts are working on budgets but still waiting to learn what the state budget will provide. He also reported that bids were opened for a new Tech Prep building, to be shared by Gettysburg, Upper Adams and Conewago valley school districts, and they are hopeful that construction will be completed this winter. Hunt also noted that Dr. Mark Sewell, superintendent of Fairfield School District, has retired.

EIT/Act 32 Committee: Dave Wheeler (Littlestown) reported that the committee is still deciding how to proceed, and discussing three options. The committee meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7 pm at the EMS building. Wheeler says more municipalities need to send their representatives to the meeting, as these are critical decisions.

Extension Community Educator,   Judy Chambers asked if there was interest in a tax fairness workshop for local officials. COG members suggested offering this to the general public. members also said there would be a need for some municipal training on EIT, cash flow and budget implications once the new system is in place.

Other: Sharon Hamm (Straban) asked about the sign inventory management system that municipalities have been mandated to implement by 2012. She has not found very many municipalities who are actually implementing management systems. COG members discussed whether there is a move afoot for regulatory reform at the federal level. Chambers will check with Todd Platts' office to find out more about this.

Skip Strayer (Senator Alloway's Office) reported that the PA House passed a budget with changes to line items but with the same bottom line as proposed by Governor Corbett.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WHEELER (LITTLESTOWN) AND SECONDED BY GORDON (HAMILTONBAN) TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:00 a.m. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Next meeting – 6/23/11 at 8:30 am at Adams County Emergency Management Building,
230 Greenamyer Lane, Gettysburg.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Judy Chambers, Penn State Extension