Report on Activities of Flood Recovery Task Force Staff, 1972-1974?

Adm. Council

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, January 22

January 22

MEETING of Committee on Flood Control

Present: Churnetski, Corbett, MacDonald, Morgan, Reid, Ross, Slattery, Souchik; B. Schechter

Souchik said that Col. Prentice of the Army Corps of Engineers now believes construction of upstream dams will mean that the local area's dikes need be raised only three feet. Souchik warned, however, that it will be a long time before the combination of upstream dams and local dikes the Corps sees as an adequate flood control system will be in existence.

The question of how areas presently unprotected will be protected against future flooding was raised. Morgan expressed the opinion that the Susquehanna River Basin Commission will eventually address this problem through the vehicle of eminent domain.

It was agreed that Morgan should send a letter to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission urging Basin-wide definition of the flood-plain and prompt, positive action on the dams and resevoirs projected in the Susquehanna River Basin Study.

Slattery reported that a meeting of the long dormant Susquehanna River Basin Association held on January 20th resulted in a decision to revitalize the corporation and a resolution authorizing him to examine the organization's charter and recommend amendments he thinks are called for. Slattery added that to function productively the Association will require the services of an executive director, and that as soon as it is back in action EDC will prepare an application for an EDA grant to the organization. Slattery noted that a nominating committee will report to the next meeting of the Association which is scheduled for February 24th.

Discussion of the Wilkes-Barre Redevelopment Authority's tentative plan to use part of the Barney Farm as a recreation area brought out that use of that area for recreation purposes depends on construction of a protective dike system. Corbett expressed the opinion that use of such flood-prone areas should be regulated by strict building codes.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission is scheduled for February 8th. The next meeting of the FRTF Committee on Flood Control will be held on February 26th.

January 23

MEETING of Combined FRTF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Planning and Development Committee re Final Report on Sketch Plan for the Wyoming Valley, prepared by Wilbur Smith and Associates and presented by Dick Miller, Hotel Sterling, 12:15 p.m.

Present: Bierly, Boltz, Brown, Conyngham, DePolo, Halesey, Hardwick, Kilburn, Lashford, Masoner, McCole, Michelini, Pearsall, Roth, Schechter, Shapiro, Smith, Sordoni, Stettler, Turner, Weiss, Williams; Jim Fegelson, Dick Miller (Wilbur Smith and Associates); Howard Grossman, Len Ziolkowski (EDC); B. Schechter, Shaw

January 23 (continued)

Grossman opened the meeting by noting that the Sketch Plan aims at presenting an "overview" of the Wyoming Valley against which specific plans for its development can be measured. He introduced Dick Miller who began his report with observations on specific aspects of the Sketch Plan. These included:

Transportation: Many school facilities are sub-standard, or, due to the flood, unuseable.

Flood Control: Current planning for areas unprotected by dikes is inadequate.

Population:
a. Present population in study area is approximately 257,000; it is expected to be 268,000 by 1977, and 316,000 by 2000.
b. Median age of present population is 36.3, roughly 8 years older than the national average.

Housing:
a. 82.3% of the local housing stock (as compared with 40% of the national housing stock) was built before 1940.
b. To have a healthy housing market, the study area needs a larger number of housing units and a better range of housing choices.
c. The percentage of income paid in the study area for housing, 7.5%, is unique; the national average is 20%.
d. Local approach to purchase of housing is equally conservative; while the nationwide purchase price of a house is twice the buyer's yearly income, here it is 1.25 times his yearly income.
e. Area's conservative purchase policy combined with higher construction costs may result in many purchases of mobile homes.

Economy:
a. The Flood accelerated a pre-flood trend to diversification of the economy and a pre-flood decline in number of young people leaving the area. Since it also decreased the labor surplus, the emphasis in attracting new industry should be on quality rather than on quantity.
b. The wage structure is changing rapidly.
c. Generally speaking, economic development in the study area is on the right track.

Miller listed the study area's main assets and liabilities as follows:

Assets

1. the developing transportation network, especially the highways
2. proximity to markets and sources of raw materials
3. general geographic location - area is close to older urban centers; it has a good concentration of industrial parks.

Liabilities

1. fragmented approach to industrial recruitment
2. area appearance - action to improve the environment is called for
3. lack of choice and variety in housing opportunities
4. government structure - 45 governments in 300 square mile area has many disadvantages - among them the difficulties involved in living in an area

January 23 (continued)

governed by one set of regulations and laws and working in another area governed by another set of regulations and laws.

5. image - the outside world still sees this area as a problem-ridden coal mining region. Action should be taken to project a realistic image.

Miller made recommendations in the following areas:

Economic development

1. Participants in the economic development process (those involved in technical education, basic economic research, Chambers of Commerce, employment services, and human resource agencies) should mount a coordinated effort aimed at developing a true, "nuts and bolts", picture of the economy. This effort should include a labor census, a young people's attitude survey, and economic monitoring designed to detect trends and indicate need for remedial action.
2. Coordinated approach to:
   a. attracting new industry
   b. professional support
   c. technical education (learn needs of industries area wants to attract)
3. Support for:
   a. existing industry and
   b. community systems

Government

Inventory should be made of necessary government services with a view to providing them in a coordinated, more efficient, and less costly way.

Urban Renewal

The 20 urban renewal projects funded by roughly $200 million should be coordinated in such a way as to ensure provisions for open spaces, areas for commercial redevelopment, multiple residential choices, and expansion of existing school playground spaces.

Land Uses

1. The Valley's traditional emphasis on the neighborhood as the basic unit of development should be preserved.
2. New construction should be in tune with historic, interesting aspects of old construction.
3. Environment of existing neighborhoods should be enhanced by provision of "open spaces" within them.

NOTE: The complete Sketch Plan is available at FRTF headquarters. Wilbur Smith and Associates will distribute summaries of the Sketch Plan soon.

January 24

LUNCHEON MEETING re Briefing for visiting Japanese dignitaries on how emergency phase of Wyoming Valley recovery effort was handled, Hotel Sterling, 12:30 p.m.

January 24 (continued)

Present: Kiyoshi Mimura, Seihi Ohta, Takashi Sato, Tomiyo Tanaka, Toshiaki Terui, Sho Watanabe (representatives of Japanese government, Japanese Red Cross, and Japanese counterparts of OEP, SBA, HEW); Frank Crossin, Bernard Gallagher, Max Rosenn, Michael Solomon, Con Salwoski, Nick Souchik, Frank Townend; Craig Williams (Pennsylvania Civil Defense); Betty Schechter

Townend chaired the briefing. His remarks and those of others who participated included the following:

1. On the role of the Red Cross - Civil Defense and the local Red Cross organization had a standing arrangement that the Red Cross would take charge in the case of any isolated problem, but would be responsible only for shelter (defined as housing, food, clothing, and registration) in the case of a major disaster. Registration, keeping track of where displaced persons could be found, turned out to be a far more difficult task than anticipated. In this, as well as in other aspects of shelter, volunteers did much of the work. Of the 60 to 80,000 persons made homeless by the flood, the Red Cross fed approximately one-half (the others were eating with friends). The food for those fed by the Red Cross came from the Department of Agriculture in the form of 28,000 rations most of which were delivered by plane.

The last shelter closed at the end of July. It was learned that the best way to keep flood victims in shelters from being overwhelmed by their troubles is to give each of them a task such as leading children in games.

2. On the role of the OEP - OEP was in charge of emergency clean-up operations. Cross-Valley traffic was not permitted until five days after the flood. Except for police, fire, medical, and public utilities personnel, traffic going into flooded areas was permitted only between 5 and 8 a.m. and out only between 5 and 8 p.m. for a month. Since there were no attempts at the large-scale looting that had been feared, the 8 p.m. curfew that was put into effect immediately after the flood was probably not as necessary as was originally thought.

Gallagher noted that though it had been feared that a scarcity of sandbags would hamper last-minute volunteer efforts to raise the height of the dikes, the public supplied plenty of plastic garbage bags and pillow cases. He also noted that Wilkes-Barre city officials borrowed money to start hiring and paying clean-up contractors on the theory that government funds for this work might be slow in materializing.

On the subject of volunteer work in the emergency period, Townend noted that young people who helped elderly and infirm flood victims by doing necessary shovelling work worked harder when they were volunteering than later when they were being paid $20 a day. He paid tribute to the large number of fire-fighting personnel from other parts of the state who came to the flooded areas to pump cellars as volunteers.

3. On the role of HUD - Plans for emergency housing were originally based on the belief that of the 24,000 displaced families those with water damage only on the first floor could be expected to live in their homes while repairs were being made. At one time there were between 14, and 15,000 applications for temporary housing. Hud eventually delivered approximately 10,000 trailers.

January 24 (continued)

Although by September 15 an ample supply of trailers was on hand, between August 1st and September 15th, those in charge of temporary housing were plagued by a great many complaints about the order in which the trailers were assigned.

4. On the role of SBA - The SBA program initially put into effect in the Valley was a holdover from the one used for relief of victims of the February 1971 earthquake. By its terms the first $2500 of the loan was "forgiven". During July the forgiveness feature was increased to $5,000 and the time allowed for repayment set at "up to 30 years". That there were too few contractors to supply the demand for repair work resulted in both excessively high charges for contractor work and poor quality of work done.

January 25

January 26

MEETING called by Secretary Wilcox re Modernizing Local Government, Holiday Inn, 8 a.m.

Present: Greg Bielawski (Hazleton Chamber of Commerce); Howard Grossman (EDC); John Hibbard; Frank Knorek (President, Nanticoke Chamber of Commerce); Min Matheson; Andrew Shaw; William Wilcox (DCA)

Those present decided that the Department of Community Affairs would negotiate a contract with the Pennsylvania Economy League to compile data on local government services and to present options designed to improve delivery of these services. The structure of a steering committee who would work closely with PEL as it develops data on government services was discussed. No consensus on the size and composition of this steering committee was reached, so Grossman and Shaw were asked to prepare a "minimum and maximum" list of individuals and interest groups who could be part of the committee.

A meeting was scheduled for February 13th, at which time final decisions will be made on the structure of the steering committee.

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, January 1

January 1

New Year's Day

January 2

MEETING re Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company, 8 a.m., Hotel Sterling

Present: Edward Boltz, Thomas Kiley, Horace Kramer, Max Rosenn, Eugene Roth, Frank Townend; Andrew Shaw

Several proposals for action to ensure continuing operation of the Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company were made. Among them were: creation of a municipal authority, formation of a non-profit corporation, a lease-back arrangement, transfer of the Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company subsidiary of International Service Industries from the Middle District Court to a local receiver.

It was decided that those present would serve with a representative of the City of Wilkes-Barre and a representative of the Industrial Development Authority on a committee charged with the responsibility for finding a satisfactory solution to this problem.

MEETING re Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company, 4:30 p.m., City Hall

Present: members of the Wilkes-Barre City Council, Eugene Roth, Andrew Shaw

Discussion centered on a need for legal counsel to represent the interests of the people of Wilkes-Barre City and of the Industrial Development Authority and its members in the litigation resulting from the bankruptcy of the parent company of the Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company, ISI (International Service Industries). Roth said that CEO will pay legal fees for this purpose from OEO funds.

It was decided that the committee working to resolve the problems connected with the Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company will meet shortly after the court hearing, scheduled for January 8th, on the bankruptcy proceedings. (This meeting has subsequently been reset for January 12th at 12:15 at the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce office.)

January 3

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE RECONSTRUCTED NORTH STREET BRIDGE

Present: Governor Milton Shapp, Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation Jacob Kassab, William Conner, State Senators Martin L. Murray and T. Newell Wood, Representative Bernard O'Brien, City Manager Bernard Gallagher, General Frank Townend; officials of Luzerne County, Wilkes-Barre City, West Side communities; representatives of DOT, Federal Highway Commission, Pennsylvania Transportation Commission, PennDOT, EDC, Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, Wagman Construction Company; citizens of Wyoming Valley, representatives of FRTF

January 3 (continued)

After Governor Shapp officially opened the bridge by cutting a ribbon stretched across it, he held a press conference at the Hotel Sterling at which questions, chiefly on transportation matters, were put to him, Secretary Kassab, and Mr. Conner. A festive luncheon sponsored by FRTF, and hosted by Wyoming Valley Motor Club, David N. Schooley, member of the State Transportation Commission, and several members of the Wilkes-Barre business community, followed. The speed with which the bridge was repaired and reopened to traffic was attributed by those who spoke at the luncheon to excellent cooperation between the FRTF Transportation Committee, Federal and State officials, and the Wagman Construction Company.

January 4

MEETING re January 15th deadline for applications for SBA loans and other problems confronting flood victims

Present: Keith Caudle (SBA); Betty Greenberg, Mike Kostelanski, Min Matheson (FVAC); Andrew Shaw

Caudle tried to answer objections raised by FVAC members to the January 15th deadline and said that it would not be enforced in the case of flood victims for whom it is patently a hardship. He also clarified SBA regulations and procedures and urged homeowners with specific problems relating to loans to come to his office and discuss them with him or members of his staff.

MEETING of Committee on Planning and Development, noon, Hotel Sterling re Presentation of Downtown Wilkes-Barre Urban Renewal Project by Robert Ducik of Direction Associates

Present: Badman, Brown, Halesey, Kiley, Koff, Michelini, Rosenn, E. Schechter, Shapiro, Stettler, Williams; Case, Poerio (Wilkes-Barre Redevelopment Authority); Ducik, Godfrey (Direction Associates); Grossman (EDC); B. Schechter, Shaw (FRTF)

Introducing Ducik's presentation on the downtown project, Case said that of Wilkes-Barre's three urban renewal projects this one is the most dramatic, and that approximately $58 million of HUD monies has been approved for its funding. He also said that, with final HUD acceptance, work on the project can begin in March and construction can be underway by the end of 1973.

Ducik told the group that, although the broad outlines of the plan for Downtown Wilkes-Barre that his firm has drawn up have been approved by HUD, the plan is still fluid and subject to refinement. With the aid of a series of slides, he presented the plan and emphasized the following points:

a. pre-flood shopping areas in the Valley left much to be desired from an environmental point of view
b. there is a substantial market for office space both in Wilkes-Barre and in Kingston
c. an important element of the plan for Downtown Wilkes-Barre is reduction or elimination of traffic on South Main Street and

January 4 (continued)

establishment there of an up-to-date pedestrian mall

d. the plan presently contemplates two-way movement of traffic on Union and Northampton Streets, together with clockwise loop movement around the outer rim of the Square core
e. the plan includes provision for expansion of Wilkes College, improvements to the River Common, new parking garages to serve renewal areas, a new hotel, and new residential and commercial areas

Ducik said that a series of meetings to present the plan to the public is scheduled.

To a question on how the plan contemplates dealing with the problem of rush hour traffic on South and North Franklin Streets, Ducik replied that its short-range solution is traffic patterns that encourage increased use of Pennsylvania Avenue, and its long-range solution, traffic patterns that direct rush hour traffic to the still to be constructed Downtown Distributor highway. To a question pointing out that the traffic pattern shown in the Plan does not provide access from South Street to Pennsylvania Avenue, he replied that such access will be provided for as soon as the Downtown Distributor is open. After Ducik added that completion of the Distributor is not expected before 1980, discussion brought out that PennDOT has not started work on its design because the state legislature has not yet acted on the state budget, which includes planning monies for the Distributor.

Discussion was then diverted from the Plan to the problem of how to answer flood victims who want redevelopment funds to be spent on acquisition of their damaged homes rather than for such community-betterment purposes as shopping malls. Ducik and Case reported that they have been having a great deal of difficulty convincing such flood victims that

1. the law does not allow redevelopment monies to be spent on direct assistance to homeowners and
2. shopping malls, widening of streets, etc. are not "unnecessary frills" but, instead, community improvement measures vital to the interests of every resident of the particular redevelopment project, and, in the case of the Wilkes-Barre Downtown Urban Renewal Project, vital to the interests of all Valley residents.

It was agreed that there is a pressing need for an easy-to-understand explanation of these matters that can be printed and distributed widely. It was also agreed that the Task Force will work with the Redevelopment Authorities to develop such an explanation.

The Planning and Development Committee will meet again soon to consider further specific aspects of the Plan Ducik presented.

Wed 9/27

Dr. ~~Mike~~ -

Andy Shaw will make
out this report in a week
or so.

follow up

Mike

OK
he did

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

George Washington Room
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18703

22 September 1972

MEMO TO: Mrs. Frank W. Anderson
Mr. Roy E. Morgan
✓Dr. Francis Michelini
Rev. Lane O. Kilburn
Mr. A. J. Sordoni, III
Mr. Edward J. Boltz
Mr. Edward Schechter
Mr. Harold Rose
Andrew Hourigan, Jr., Esquire
Mr. Thomas Kiley
Joseph A. Quinn, Jr., Esquire
Mr. David DeCosmo

FROM: Andrew Shaw, Jr., Executive Director

RE: Committee Profiles

In order to keep members of the Task Force informed of the work of committees other than their own, we plan to compile and distribute to committee chairmen a brief summary of the organization, objectives, current activites, and plans for the near future of each committee.

May we ask you, therefore, to make out a report on these four points and send it to us as soon as possible.

ASJR/are

WILKES COLLEGE
RECEIVED
SEP 26 1972
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Education Cmte
Stan Weiss
John Conyngham
Ruth Shockley Davies
Mrs Stanley
Mary Reamer

F L O O D R E C O V E R Y T A S K F O R C E , I N C .

George Washington Room

Hotel Sterling

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

WILKES COLLEGE
RECEIVED
SEP 26 1972
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

25 September 1972

MEMO TO: Executive Committee of FRTF, Inc.

FROM: FRTF, Inc. Staff

The Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. has opened a checking account in the First National Bank. Those empowered to sign checks are Judge Rosenn, Thomas Kiley, Harold Rose, Andrew Shaw, Jr., and Betty Schechter. Each check will carry two signatures, but in no case will more than one member of the staff sign a check.

are

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, September 4

I. September 4 - Labor Day

II. September 5

A. MEETING
   1. Present - Rosenn, Major Robert Cook, Capt. Horridge (both of the Army Corps of Engineers), Ed Yarmey, Sordoni, J. B. Archer (Dept. of Labor), George Grace (OEP), Shaw
   2. Subject - lack of contractor co-operation in Mini Repair Program in WB; contractors claim that in WB they are harassed by red tape regarding licenses and permits
   3. Agreement that there is widespread misunderstanding of the roles of HUD and Army Corps of Engineers regarding sponsorship of this program
   4. Results:
      a. there will be spot radio and TV announcements making clear Army Corps of Engineers' overall responsibility for the Mini Repair Program
      b. Meeting between Army Corps of Engineers representatives and city officials set for 10 A.M., September 6 in Rosenn's office

B. Frank Slattery added to Flood Control Committee

III. September 6

A. MEETING at 10 A.M.
   1. Place - Rosenn's office
   2. Present - Rosenn, Army Corps of Engineers' Col. McElhenny, Lt. Col. Hewett, Major Cook, Capt. Sasser; for the city, B. J. Gallagher, L. A. Corbett; Oliver Taylor, Francis Carney, Shaw
   3. Subject - expediting Mini Repairs Program in WB
   4. Results:
      a. progress toward resolution of problem
      b. further meeting set for September 7th at 9 A.M. in City Hall

B. MEETING at 11 A.M.
   1. Place - Rosenn's office
   2. Present - Rosenn, Paul Caine, Francis Carney, Oliver Taylor, Paul Roysten, Shaw
   3. Subjects:
      a. services for mobile home sites
      b. long range planning for flood affected area
      c. police protection problems
   4. Meeting set up for next week between Harry Russ of the Governor's Justice Commission, Hibbard, Grossman, and Shaw

C. MEETING
   1. Present - Michael Solomon of FVAC, Shaw, and B. Schechter
   2. Subject - the FVAC's referral by Carlucci to FRTF for answers to questions on county and local matters referring to the flood
   3. Result - FVAC will outline their unanswered questions and relay them to Shaw and B. Schechter, who will arrange a meeting between representatives of FVAC and members of FRTF Executive Committee

IV. September 7

A. Work session with Wilkes-Barre City Council re Mini Repairs Program
1. Present - Rosenn, Mayor Solwoski, Members of WB City Council, City Manager Gallagher, Leo Corbett, Ed Hayes (City Building Inspector), Representatives of Army Corps of Engineers, Oliver Taylor, Rex Bronson, Shaw
2. Results:
a. news release resolving problem of impeded Mini Repairs Program in WB

V. September 8

A. MEETING
1. Present - Mrs. Anderson and members of Metropolitan Lutheran Council
2. Subject - MLC reviewed its volunteer work in flood area to date (i.e. 17,000th man-day of volunteer labor in flood area just completed, clothing distributed, small cash grants, etc.
3. Discussion about newly formed Interfaith Flood Recovery Council made up of MLC, Methodist Conference of Wyoming Valley, Scranton Diocese, Jewish Community Center, Wyoming Valley Council of Churches, etc.
4. IFC's aim is to identify need for volunteer work and supply it (such volunteer work as light carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work)
5. IFC will also receive and dispense material goods such as furniture
6. Further details can be had from Mrs. Anderson

VI. September 9

A. MEETING of State Aid Committee
1. Present - Hourigan, Raymond Lowery, Tarity, Shaw
2. Lowery reported on Pennsylvania Association of Redevelopment Authorities meeting in Lancaster

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, September 11

I. September 11

A. MEETING at 8 A.M.
1. Present - Rosenn, Kiley, McCole, Shaw
2. Subject - Activities of Task Force and its various committees
3. Discussed -
a. tax exempt status for Task Force - check this with Quinn, or, if too busy, Marshall Jacobson
b. legal staff for Task Force
c. letters to be written to David Baltimore and John Bendick appointing them to Committee on Local Government and Committee on Telling the Recovery Story respectively
d possibility of contest and award for new Recovery slogan

II. September 12

A. MEETING at 3:30 P.M.
1. Place - Judge Rosenn's Chambers
2. Present - Rosenn, Robb, Shaw

B. MEETING at 7:30 P.M. with reps of Flood Victims Action Committee
1. Place - Weckesser Hall
2. Present - Rosenn, Sailus, Hardwicke, Shaw, Michael Solomon, Bernard Newman, Andrew ~~Newman~~ Lewis Levy (FVAC), and Dan McGinley (Wyoming Observer)
3. Discussed-
a. Will flood victims receive more financial aid than the 1% SBA loan with $5,000 forgiveness?
Judge R: Task Force tried hard for more ten weeks ago; explained obstacles encountered; advised approaches to State on this score
b. Will extension on deadline for SBA loans be made?
Judge R: attempts being made to extend deadline to at least December 31st
c. Can special utility rates be arranged for flood victims?
Judge R suggested approach to individual utilities first and said that if they refuse he will approach Pennsylvania Utility Commission
d. How can hook-ups of mobile homes be speeded? General agreement that source of delay is not HUD, but individual contractor.
e. What is the status of redevelopment?
f. Do flood victims have to spend their SBA money within a certain amount of time? Mr. Sailus will find out.

III. September 13

A. MEETING at 12 noon
1. Present - Rosenn, Roth, Hourigan, Quinn
2 Subject - Legal Situation

B. Call from Ed Schechter on need for clarification of newspaper article on life of free bus service - clarification issued by HUD

C. Request from Paul Roysten for information on role of social agencies in flood recovery - Chuck Reynolds will get him that information

III. September 13 (continued)

D. Request from Linda Mallin, Federal Regional Council Public Relations Officer for information on FRTF; its purpose, objectives of its committees, geographical limits of its concern, statement, staff, functions - request filled

E. Search for 250 color transparencies of flood for "Life's" Miss Hollister - located at City Manager's Office - owned by Thomas W. Putney, 2636 Grubb Road, Wilmington, Delaware

F. Request from Sordoni for press release rebutting newspaper story about contractor getting "runaround" from HUD - request filled

G. Irate citizen arrived about failure to get SBA loan - sent him to see St. Jean at SBA

IV. September 14

A. MEETING at 8 A.M.
1. Place - Hotel Sterling
2. Present - Kiley, Quinn, Harry Russ, Shaw
3. Subject - Crime Commission's allocation of $500,000 to local police
4. Discussed how to co-ordinate police for flood region
5. Russ will arrange for Quinn, Shaw, Russ and John Radko (Police Chief of Hanover) to get together on this
6. Russ spoke of proposed study by Sanderson and Porter
7. Decisions:
   a. mobilize public support for unified services prior to public meeting
   b. Shaw and Quinn will meet with Russ and Radko
   c. ad hoc subcommittee of Local Government Committee should be set up to consider subject of sanitary authority

B. MEETING at 8 A.M. of Transportation Committee
1. Place - Treadway Inn
2. Tarity attended
3. Topics discussed:
   a. the establishment of a Transit Authority
   b. the progress of the Cross Valley Expressway
4. Action taken:
   a. North Street Bridge is going along nicely
   b. Cross Valley Expressway proposal is progressing rather well

C. MEETING at noon
1. Present - Rosenn, Hourigan, Roth, Shaw
2. Subject - Appointment of a legal staff for FRTF
3. Decisions:
   a. lawyers will serve task force on a voluntary basis except in case of litigation
   b. request for legal aid will be channelled through Attorney Al Aston, Chief Counsel

IV. September 14 (continued)

D. MEETING at 7:30 P.M. of Executive Committee
1. Place - Weckesser Hall
2. Minutes sent to each member

E. Subcommittees appointed:
1. Reception in honor of Mr. Carlucci - members are Mrs. Thomas Kiley, Mrs. Betty Kanarr Bierly, Mrs. Betty Schechter, Mrs. A. J. Sordoni, III, Mr. Edward Boltz, Mr. Robert Parker, Mr. Andrew Shaw
2. Relations with Flood Victims Action Committee - members are Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. Betty Kanarr Bierly, Mr. Charles Hardwicke, Mr. Andrew Shaw

V. September 15

A. MEETING at 8 A.M. between Kiley and Shaw

B. MEETING at noon of Planning & Development Committee
1. Present - Kiley, Lester Shapiro, Hibbard, Ben Badman, Tom Shelbourne, Geraldine Weiss, McCole, Betsy Parkhurst, Adrian Pearsall, Ed Schechter, Dave Koff, Grossman, Tarity, and Shaw
2. Agreement that committee's scope is whole spectrum of community development.
3. Hibbard spoke on EDC's responsibilities as regional clearinghouse
4. Schechter asked if EDC has overall plan for region and if its role is clearly defined
5. Discussion of flood-plain definition; desirability of flood-plain definition agreeable to Task Force
6. Next committee meeting set for Friday, September 22nd at 3 P.M. at EDC offices.

C. MEETING at 2 P.M. of Telling the Recovery Story Committee (1st mtg)
1. Present - DeCosmo, Larry Greenspon, Dorothy Baker, John Foster, Ann Wideman, Shaw
2. Discussed committee's role
3. Rejected idea of new slogan as not useful at this time
4. Pointed out need for part time public relations person on retainer basis

D. Request from Schechter on progress of Legal Committee

E. Request from Paul Roysten on possibility of schedule of regular bookmobile visits to mobile home sites; Betty Schechter brought to attention of Osterhout Board of Trustees; their reply: very interested in providing such service if, as Mr. Roysten indicated, Federal Government will provide bookmobile; asked to meet with Mr. Roysten to discuss details.

F. MEETING at 3:15 with Shaw and Hourigan at Hourigan's office

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, October 9

File

October 9

The phones were installed in the FRTF office. The number is 829-1981.

MEETING re Activities of Legislation and Equity Committee

Present: Rose and Shaw

Mr. Rose reported that his committee has met weekly and has taken up the following subjects:

1. SBA loans and procedures
2. Flood insurance approval for various municipalities
3. Flood insurance in regard to the proposed increase of coverage
4. Variable plans of arrangement for loan customers with banks and savings and loan associations
5. Urban renewal inquiries
6. Co-insurance restoration discussions
7. Analysis of possibility of private fund raising

Mr. Rose expects that his committee will continue to be active in these fields and that it will act on problems within its area of concern as they arise.

MEETING of Flood Control Committee, noon, Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce

Present: Rev. William Reid, Mrs. Kim Ross, Mr. George Bernard, Nick Souchik, Leo Corbett, Attorney Doran, Roy Morgan, Bob Moskin, Dick Cronin, Tom Shaunhessy, and Jim Tarity

Topics Discussed:

1. The availability of a Technical Assistance Grant to help in the reorganization of the Susquehanna River Basin Association
2. Desirability of Army Corps of Engineers playing more intensive role in area of flood control
3. Need for a clearly delineated Flood Plain. This would alleviate doubt and uncertainty presently felt by area homeowners.
4. Transferral of Levee System responsibility from individual municipalities to the Luzerne County Board of Commissioners

Action Taken:

Some members of the Flood Control Committee have attended meetings of the Susquehanna River Basin Association and are aware of major issues being considered and discussed by the Association.

October 10

MEETING of Family Service Association re New Information and Referral System

Present: Association members and Jim Tarity

Doroty Cohen discussed the newly created Wilkes-Barre Information System. It aims to do away with frustration experienced by persons needing social services who are mis-referred from one agency to another without contacting the appropriate one. The system will cover all of Wyoming Valley, except the Hazleton area.

October 10 (continued)

It is expected that data developed by this system will indicate trends and point up desirable changes in present social service programs and planning. Emphasis was placed on the United Social Services' obligation to respect the confidence and privacy of those seeking services from the various agencies.

The new W-B information system will keep the following hours:
weekdays - 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
weekends - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MEETING of FRTF Planning and Development Committee, EDC headquarters, 4:30

Present: Joe Williams (Wilkes-Barre City Council); Ralph Brown (President, Kingston Borough Council); Joe Halesey (Chairman, Hanover Township Board of Commissioners); Dick Traussi (HUD); Howard Grossman, Len Ziolkowski (EDC); Thomas Kiley, Betsy Parkhurst, Lester Shapiro, Thomas Shelburne, Wallace Stettler, Gerry Weiss (FRTF P&D); Andy Shaw, Betty Schechter

Mr. Shapiro reported that the Sanitary Authority went on record the day before as accepting a resolution stating, in effect, that it is resolved that the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority will enter into a contract for Feasibility Study to be funded by EDA and will incorporate a time schedule for secondary treatment.

It is the Sanitary Authority's understanding that the Environmental Protection Agency will accept this time schedule in order to release funds for all projects within the area served by the Sanitary Authority.

Mr. Traussi discussed questions on redevelopment put to him by Mr. Grossman. Information he gave included:

1. $1.2 billion for redevelopment in the areas hit by Agnes has been appropriated and HUD is waiting for Congressional action on its supplementary request for an additional $250 million.
2. The HUD Philadelphia Office will probably have between $300 million and $350 million to spend and of this, 50-60% is likely to come to Wyoming Valley.
3. Some proposed projects in Pennsylvania will probably have to be cut, but since Wyoming Valley was the part of the state most seriously affected by the flood, its projects are least likely to be cut.
4. Under a new approach to funding, HUD money will be released for the planning phase of redevelopment projects without a definite reservation of funds for their execution.
5. Pennsylvania Department of Community Affiars will determine which areas fall within "flood control projects."

It was moved that the FRTF Planning and Development Committee suggest to redevelopment authorities that they request permission to have local loan servicing agencies designated as appropriate for local loans. The motion passed.

October 10 (continued)

MEETING re Continuation of cooperation between FRTF and Flood Victims Action Committee

Present: Michael Solomon, Mike Kostelansky, Min Matheson, Andrew Lawrence, Walter Kinns, Sam Bosch, Joe O'Boyle, Bernie Newman (FVAC); Richard Traussi (HUD); Charles Hardwick, Andrew Shaw, Betty Schechter (FRTF); Mrs. Charles Hardwick

Mr. Hardwick and Mr. Shaw told the group that in response to questions raised at a previous meeting, they had:

1. discussed with Paul Cain of the FRC the desirability of
   a. extension of demolition period
   b. a check-list of the rights and responsibilities of owners of houses to be demolished

   Action on both is likely.
2. raised the question of the negative impact the federal government's wage scale is having on the area with Mr. Archer and Mr. Keil of the Department of Labor
3. discussed the problem of winterizing homes not slated to be rehabilitated until spring with federal representatives. Possibly as a result of this discussion, satisfactory action was taken promptly.
4. discussed with William Wilcox, Chairman of the Governor's Council of State Agencies possibility of additional assistance to the homeowner from the state.

Mr. Traussi pointed out that requests from Pennsylvania for funding of redevelopment projects far exceeds funds presently available or before Congress for approval. He added, however, that because Wyoming Valley was hardest hit by the flood, its projects are least likely to be cut back.

Mr. Newman and Mrs. Matheson said that a need for intermunicipality cooperation is urgent. Mr. Shaw said a move in that direction is expected to be a result of a meeting of representatives from each municipality set up for Nov. 16th. Another need pointed out was coordination of announcements on new developments in area of urban renewal and redevelopment.

The possibility of inequities in payments to homeowners who have suffered extensive damage was raised. Mr. Traussi said that HUD wants development of uniform standards. He also said that although the W-B City Redevelopment Authority could probably make the necessary delineations of redevelopment areas within a month, the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority will certainly take considerably longer because of inadequacy of staff and less intimate understanding of local needs.

Several FVAC members expressed the opinion that Rep. Flood's proposed co-insurance legislation is flood-victims' best hope of further financial assistance. Mr. Newman suggested that in this regard, contacts and cooperation with other flood-hit communities would be very valuable, since it could develop into an interstate crusade for support of the flood legislation. For those who wish to urge their representatives in Washington to support this legislation, it is National Disaster Insurance Act #HR 16926.

October 11

MEETING of Federal Regional Council, Hotel Sterling, 10 a.m.
Minutes available at FRTF office

MEETING re Roles of the four "umbrella" agencies (EDC, FRTF, IRA, PEL) in planning by municipalities receiving EDA grants, EDC headquarters, 2 p.m.

Present: Oliver Taylor (Presidential Staff); Howard Grossman, Bob Shephard (EDC); Andrew Shaw (FRTF and IRA); Bill Jonathon (PEL); Morton Harmel, Clifford Rossignol (EDA); Betty Schechter

1. Discussion of need to point out to officials of municipalities receiving EDA grants the roles to be played in their planning by the umbrella agencies.
   EDC - overall review and recommendations
   FRTF - citizen pressure
   IRA - training of personnel
   PEL - development of management systems
2. It was agreed that:
   a. No time can be lost in making it clear to local officials that professionally trained staff is a prerequisite of approved spending of EDA grants. If a municipality has already appointed unqualified personnel, IRA and PEL can provide appropriate training and management education. Mr. Shaw suggested tactful pressure on officials to develop adequate job descriptions for the positions to be filled.
   b. Clarification on this matter must not wait for the November 16th meeting of local officials planned by the FRTF to initiate coordination of planning. It was decided that EDA will set up an hour long meeting of grantees for 7 o'clock Wednesday evening, October 18th at EDC headquarters. Those asked to attend will be: one or more representatives of each municipality applying for an EDA grant (the "authorized representative" who signed the application), and as many others as the municipality wants to send; Presidential Representative William Conner or his representative; Secretary of Community Affairs William Wilcox or his representative; one or more representatives of the county government. The press will not be invited to attend.
   c. This October 18th meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to emphasize the worth to municipal officials of the services the umbrella agencies offer. Officials can be shown that by availing themselves of these services, they can improve their own positions. This, in turn, is likely to make them more receptive than they have been in the past to the idea of such a joint project as group purchasing. To allay old fears, such terms as "cooperative effort" should be used in this connection. It can be hoped that EDA funds and prestige will advance the cause of inter municipality cooperation that the umbrella agencies have long been espousing.

MEETING of FRTF Executive Committee, noon, Hotel Sterling

Present: William Conner, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Bierly, Hourigan, Kilburn, Lashford, Morgan, Quinn, Moran, Betty Schechter, Shaw, Tarity

October 11 (continued)

The following subjects were discussed:

1. EDA grant to FRTF for staff, program, and studies
2. Proposal by William Wilcox for a Recovery Fair
3. Adverse effects on recovery program resulting from delays in processing of SBA loans to local businessmen
4. Burden uncertainty about redevelopment imposes on flood-victim homeowners
5. Meetings between representatives of FRTF and Flood Victims Action Council
6. Trip taken by members of FRTF to Biloxi

Minutes of this meeting are available at FRTF office.

October 12

MEETING re Funding of Redevelopment Projects, Need for coordination between municipalities, FVAC desire to mount support for Rep. Flood's proposed coinsurance legislation, noon

Present: Rosenn, Hardwick, Shaw, B. Schechter

Shaw reported that a special HUD Task Force has been formed to deal with urgent problems connected with redevelopment. It will be headed by Bill Scalia, will be based in Scranton and will hold its first meeting, at which each federal agency will be represented, at 9 a.m. Friday, October 13th.

Rosenn asked that a meeting of key labor people be set up for noon, Thursday, October 19th to consider:

a. status of federal funding
b. report that Washington thinks some applications for grants are asking for more than required for recovery
c. need to hurry with applications in order to "lock in" funds
d. guidelines for designation of redevelopment areas and for uniform releases of news on redevelopment

Hardwick suggested that at present, the flood victim's primary concerns are financial uncertainty and frustration due to not knowing how he will be affected by redevelopment and by official designation of "flood control areas." He added that the flood victim's troubles are compounded by conflicting advice he receives due to fragmentation of government and overlapping of agencies dealing with flood related problems. Mr. Hardwick thinks the following facts must be faced: unless strong action is taken, effective coordination of planning is very doubtful; without a massive campaign to support it, coinsurance is not likely to come into being; neither such a campaign nor one effective flood control can succeed without a much broader base of support than Wyoming Valley.

Hardwick recommended: action to secure voluntary, informal coordination between municipalities; FRTF leadership in forming a group representing all communities hit by Agnes and concerned with matters of mutual interest, i.e. flood recovery, flood control, co-insurance; the use of this group as a springboard for organization of similar groups in other disaster prone areas.

Shaw reported that a meeting between EDA and muncipalities for purpose of encouraging coordination is set up for next week and suggest that if municipalities

October 12 (continued)

are required to hire professionally trained planning personnel, they'll be more receptive to coordination than in the past.

Rosenn suggested presenting the idea of one application for funding from the entire Wyoming Valley at next Thursday's meeting on redevelopment problems. Such a unified application would have the advantages of coherence, possibility of pooling of resources, and uniformity of approach.

Shaw suggested a request to the State to attach requirement of coordinated planning to appropriation of funds. Hardwick suggested same request to federal government.

It was decided that FRTF will tell FVAC that it has already endorsed coinsurance, that it has commitments of support for it from Senators Stennis and Eastland, that sufficient support in the House is problematical and that FRTF will assist them in a campaign for wide popular support of the legislation by providing them with a list of congressmen and a draft of a letter explaining why the SBA program is inadequate in Wyoming Valley. Hardwick will draft the letter. It was also decided to advise the FVAC to support an association of Susquehanna River Basin flood victimized communities, and to emphasize to them that Bilox's experience points up the urgent need for coordiantion between disaster-struck communities.

It was also decided to call a meeting between Wilcox, representatives of unions, representatives of the federal government, Sordoni and members of his committee, for next week to discuss acute labor problems.

MEETING re EDA meeting with municipalities as set for October 18

Present: Clifford Rossignol (EDA) and Shaw

In light of a FRTF meeting with HUD and Redevelopment officials scheduled for October 19th, Shaw suggested that EDA postpone its meeting in order to take advantage of any favorable developments that might be forthcoming from the Task Force meeting. EDA indicated reluctance to change the date of its meeting because some municipalities have already been informed of its plans to hold its meeting on the 18th.

October 13

REVISIONS to page 5 of Weekly Report dated 10/2/72, 10/5 meeting of Transportation Committee

The brief minutes of the October 5th meeting of this committee deserve some amplification to avoid misinterpretation. In paragraph 4, the minutes recorded the "Decreasing role of the Federal Government in local highway and bridge projects." This brief mention summarized a lengthy conversation in which the Chairman's emphasized that although the Federal Government was primarily responsible for financial assistance in the construction of highways and reconstruction of the flood related damage, the efforts of our committee should best be directed towards cooperation with PennDOT, who has primary responsibility for implementation of approved highway projects. The Chairman made specific reference to cooperation which had been received from Federal highway administration.

October 13 (continued)

In item 5 the minutes record, "The need of a high level meeting of the Transportation Committee with Federal and State officials." This was a matter of discussion only because the Chairman and several other members felt it useful that this citizens group, as well as the professional people working in this field, should have periodic meetings to discuss and air the status of various programs and allow us, where we were capable of doing so, to aid the Federal and State agencies in their work.

MEETING of Transportation Committee, 8 a m., Treadway Inn

Present: Bigler, Conyngham, Corbett, Kiley, Radomski, Schechter, Jack Smythe of Boles and Smythe, consulting engineers and traffic consultants to the city of Wilkes-Barre and the Redevelopment Authority.

1. Radomski reported progress on the North Cross Valley Expressway, section 1 Final draft of the EIS and 4F application forwarded to FHWA on 9/11 has been returned this week to PennDOT for minor revisions and rewording. Working with a new procedure to expedite inter-departmental receipt of EIS, Radomski feels the final application now be re-submitted promptly and given quick attention in Harrisburg and Washington.

2. The question of the removal of the E-L tracks crossing North Street and through Wilkes-Barre city, was again discussed. It was agreed that the FRTF would review status of this matter with Wilkes-Barre city Redevelopment Authority and PennDOT.

3. Smythe and Corbett discussed pending traffic improvements of Immediate Action and emergency nature. Corbett predicted paving problems in Wilkes-Barre city indicating that the Steam Heat company would probably not be able to complete excavation on Washington and Northampton Streets until after it becomes too cold to lay additional asphalt. Thus, serious traffic and maintenance problems will result on those streets during winter freeze-thaw. Unless action is taken quickly the same will be true on Franklin Street.

MEETING of the Council of State Agencies, CYC

Present: 25 members, Secretary William Wilcox, Chairman, Jim Tarity, Mrs. Katherine McKenna, Director of United Services Agency (presided)

Topics discussed:

1. Background and future of United Services Agencies
2. Legal base - U.S.A. is a part of the State Department of Public Welfare and has entered into a contract with Luzerne/Wyoming County Commissioners to provide all social services previously provided by the Counties
3. U.S.A. is funded by a Federal Government 1115 Demonstration Grant.
4. U.S.A. intends to expand existing social services programs and create needed new ones with a very large increase of staff expected (doubling of each agency's staff).

October 13 (continued)

MEETING re SBA loans, Wilcox office, CYC

Present: Wilcox; Conner; Finch (SBA); Grossman (EDC); Matheson, Solomon, Lawrence, O'Brien, O'Boyle, other members (FVAC); Shaw, B. Schechter

After heated discussion between Conner, Wilcox, Finch, Matheson, and several other flood victims, it was agreed that there are problems in connection with SBA loans and that they include:

a. homeowner resentment of October 31st deadline for loan application in light of lack of information about redevelopment plans on which to base decisions.
b. belief shared by many flood victims that application for loans to cover personal and property losses must be made at same time, and that $5,000 "forgiveness" must be spent within one year.
c. delays in processing loans resulting in financial hardship for some applicants
d. wide differential between estimate of cost of necessary repairs made by homeowner contractor and that made by SBA

Conner indicated that Carlucci and staff are aware of need for clarification on redevelopment, and are working at high speed on resolution of problem. They expect that definite announcements on subject will be made within two weeks. He added that uncertainty about how much money Congress will appropriate is largely responsible for delay in making such announcements. He promised to communicate both to Carlucci and to lower levels of federal operations the sense of urgency flood victims feel about need for extension of deadline on SBA loans.

A representative of the state government suggested that forms indicating that an application for a SBA loan can be kept open for a year be distributed to flood victims. Conner replied that the idea sounded reasonable and that he would look into it.

Finch (SBA) said that a flood victim may apply for a loan to cover personal losses and delay applying for a loan to cover property losses. He also said that although SBA instructions ask for expenditure of $5,000 forgiveness within a year, they allow a flood victim who finds this difficu to apply for and receive an extension of the expenditure period. He expressed surprise that one of the flood victims present, O'Boyle, had not yet received loan he had applied for in July, and promised to investigate the matter.

O'Boyle (FVAC) said that many elderly flood victims in the mobile home park where he lives are badly confused about SBA instructions and requirements. Finch said that he would send someone from SBA to the park to make the necessary explanations.

Finch addressed himself to the complaint that there is often a wide difference between estimate made by flood victim's contractor and that made by SBA. He said this may be due in part to SBA requirement that loan can cover only those repairs needed to restore a house to pre-flood condition, and in part to a tendency on the part of some contractors to put too high a price tag on repairs.

Flood Recovery Task Force file

Minutes - Executive Committee Meeting. FRTF - 9/14/72

Present: Judge Max Rosenn, Attorney Joseph Quinn, Attorney Andrew Hourigan, Mr. Edward Schechter, Dr. Francis Michelini, Mr. Edward J. Boltz, Mr. Harold Rose, Mr. Charles Hardwicke, Mr. Thomas Kiley, Mrs. Betty Kanarr Bierley, Mr. Roy Morgan, Mrs. Carol Kregan, Mr. Andrew Shaw, Mr. James Tarity, and Mrs. Betty Schechter

1. Extension of deadline for filing of applications for SBA Loans

Announcement has been made of an extension of the deadline to October 31st. According to Mr. Carlucci, the administration will support legislation on flood insurance, which may have sharp teeth in it. Mr. Carlucci would welcome comments on this legislation.

2. Trip to Biloxi

Those going to Biloxi will leave Sunday morning, October 1st and return either Monday night or early Tuesday morning. The trip down and back will probably be made in an Air Corps plane. Mr. Lashford will make the arrangements for the trip.

3. Meeting between representatives of the FRTF and representatives of the Flood Victims Action Committee

This meeting produced the following results: The Flood Victims Action Committee found that it has objectives in common with the FRTF; in response to a request from the FVAC for FRTF support on further efforts to secure co-insurance, Judge Rosenn suggested that they contact Representative Flood in this regard, as he is best equipped to help them in Washington; Judge Rosenn told the FVAC that at present the FRTF believes that emphasis should be placed on obtaining help from Harrisburg for efforts to secure more financial support for flood victims.

A motion was made and passed to the effect that a joint committee made up of a subcommittee of the FRTF and another of the FVAC be formed to work on expediting the repairs of homes of flood victims.

4. State Legislation

Attorney Hourigan reported that he and Mr. Shaw will meet with Senator Murray to map out an approach to Lt. Governor Kline. The following suggestions on topics to be considered in Harrisburg were made:

1) getting highway projects on the capitol budget
2) relief for flood victims with respect to income tax
3) grants in aid for particularly hard hit flood victims
4) reinstatement of previously endorsed tax relief: percentage of loss with deduction of amount received from the federal government

5. Legal Staff

Judge Rosenn reported that seven attorneys have indicated their willingness to serve the FRTF as a legal staff. He added that requests from members of the Task Force for legal assistance will be channelled through a still to be designated chairman of the legal staff.

6. SBA Loans on property owned by the Chamber of Commerce and under mortgage to PIDA

It was agreed that Mr. Morgan would follow up reports that applications for SBA Loans from people leasing Chamber of Commerce owned property under mortgage to PIDA are being turned down.

7. Housing for Displaced Persons

Mr. Shaw reported that difficulties of contractor-HUD relationships are under control.

8. FRTF Staff

A motion was made and passed to ratify the hiring of:

Andrew Shaw ($12,000) ... as of September 5th
Betty Schechter ($9,000) ... as of September 5th
James Tarity ($7,000-7,500)... as of September 7th
Alice Ellman ($5,980-6,500)... as of September 19th

9. Reception to honor Mr. Carlucci

It was agreed that the Task Force host a reception at the Treadway Inn to honor Mr. Frank Carlucci some time in October. Spouses of Task Force members will be invited and the reception will be financed by tickets sold to Task Force couples. Attorney Quinn suggested that invitations be sent to the county commissioners, city officials, Senators Schweiker and Scott, and other appropriate people. A motion was made and passed that a committee be formed to set a date for the reception and make the necessary arrangements.

10. FRTF relations with EDC

Judge Rosenn reported that Mr. Theodore Robb is interested in knowing the exact nature of the FRTF-EDC relationship. It was agreed that action be taken at once on formalizing this relationship.

11. Sanitary Authority

Mr. Kiley reported that Attorney Quinn will appoint an ad hoc committee to look into this subject in depth. Mr. Morgan reported that it is his impression that Mr. Goddard considers the drainiage of mine acid a serious problem and thinks the FRTF should press for a solution. Mr. Schechter and Mr. Kiley indicated that they believe it is not desirable for the FRTF to get involved in this controversy because the question of primary versus secondary treatment is not directly related to the flood.

12. Recovery Fair

Judge Rosenn reported that Secretary of Pennsylvania Community Affairs Wilcox suggested a summer celebration of the area's recovery from the flood. Agreement was reached to notify Secretary Wilcox that his suggestion is being considered and to explore the possibility of a joint FRTF-Fine Arts Fiesta

Recovery Fair (continued)

project if, after what is expected to be a very difficult winter, it is agreed that there is cause to celebrate.

13. Discussion of whether a new slogan for the recovery effort is needed

Suggestions were made that the slogan now in use be replaced by "Better Than Ever" and that a lapel pin bearing a heart be devised. No agreement was reached.

14. Discussion of action needed to guard against widespread hardship in the event of "blizzard crises" this coming winter

Mr. Kiley suggested that a list be compiled of people who are willing to take into their homes temporarily those people whose heating systems fail. Judge Rosenn asked Mr. Shaw to talk to Mr. Roysten and Mr. Carlucci about devising such "blizzard" contingencies as a supply of extra mobile homes. It was agreed that the FRTF will work on this project jointly with the Flood Victims Action Committee. Attorney Hourigan suggested that Mr. Shaw ask federal government officials to guard against a possible winter failure of heating contractors' inventories.

15. Susquehanna River Basin Association

Mr. Morgan suggested that the FRTF be ready to react to the plotting of "flood-plain guidelines."

FRTF

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, February 19

February 19

February 20

MEETING re Recreation Program for Mobile Home Parks, Welfare Planning Council, 1:30 p.m.

Present: Charles Reynolds and members of his staff; Andrew Shaw

Discussion of a need for furniture and equipment for the community buildings being erected in the mobile home parks brought out:

a. CEO will make $10,000 available for this purpose if supervision of the buildings while they are in use is supplied
b. DCA and HUD disagree on which agency should be responsible for this supervision and are presently working to resolve the problem
c. in the meantime, the FRTF Human Services Committee has asked CEO to assign the Task Force to handle the $10,000

February 21

MEETING re Application for Federal funding of a secondary treatment plant for the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, Wyoming Borough, 7:30 p.m.

Present: members of the Authority; a representative of Michael Baker, Jr., Inc., consulting engineers; Clifford Rossignol (EDA); Andrew Shaw

A representative of Michael Baker, Jr., Inc., consulting engineers, reported that, after an economic feasibility study of methods the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority could use to effect secondary treatment of sewage, the firm had decided to recommend one involving activated charcoal absorption.

The group was told that an application for Federal funding of implementation of the Baker firm's proposals had been filled out in the interest of having it ready to file by March 1st, the deadline set for securing a place on a priority list which would assure early funding. Rossignol, urging board members to authorize filing of the application, emphasized that by so doing they would not be committing the Authority to secondary treatment. They would not be committed to it, he said, until such time as they sign a "Federal offer of grant".

Copies of the consulting firm's proposals were distributed to board members of the Authority who decided to delay authorizing of filing the application until they had had the opportunity to study them.

MEETING re Training of police personnel on a regional basis, Civil Defense headquarters

Present: Nicholas Souchik, Walter Wint (CIVIL DEFENSE); Andrew Shaw

It was agreed that a logical follow-up to the comprehensive communications network now becoming operative would be provision of training for police on a regional basis. Development of such training programs was discussed.

February 22

MEETING re Citizens for County Government Study petition campaign, FRTF headquarters, 9:30 a.m.

Present: Gwyneth Hughes, Tom Moran, Andrew Shaw, Betty Schechter, Thomas Shelburne

Those present made plans for what will be known as Petition Day. Newspaper stories and radio and television interviews on the subject of county government study will set the stage for a major petition-signing effort on March 3rd. On that day campaign workers will man petition booths at major county shopping centers assisted by workers carrying petitions who will cover other parts of the shopping centers. Area chairmen will ask local churches and temples to make petitions available to their congregations and will arrange for speakers to address local organizations on the subject of government study. On February 27th local college students will be briefed on the campaign and given petition assignments.

February 23

MEETING re Reorganization of Susquehanna River Basin Association, 105 North Main Street, 2 p.m.

Present: Rev. E. L. John, Robert Laux, Charles Morgan, Roy Morgan, Louis Shaffer, Myron Shoemaker, Robert Slaff, Frank Slattery, Leroy Supplee; Betty Schechter

Slattery announced that the meeting had been called to:

1. formulate an agenda for the organizational meeting of the Association scheduled for the following day, and
2. suggest officers for the Association and discuss make-up of its Board of Directors, committees, and staff.

Slattery noted that examination of the Association's 1962 Charter has shown it to be entirely adequate to the needs of 1973.

Roy Morgan pointed out that the dams now in construction are all in Pennsylvania and all serve and protect New York. For this reason, he said, New York should be pressed for land east of this area needed for construction of dams to protect Pennsylvania. This led to agreement that a prominent place among the Association's officers should be reserved for a representative from New York.

Slattery suggested that the Association's Board of Directors include about 20 Pennsylvanians, fifteen New Yorkers, and ten Marylanders, and expressed the hope that from such a board a working Executive Committee would be chosen.

Slattery said that as soon as the Association is formally reorganized it will apply for an EDA grant with which it will be able to hire an executive director.

Shoemaker expressed the opinion that the reorganized Association should set a target date no later than 1985 for completion of an adequate system of flood protection for its three member states.

February 24

MEETING re Reorganization of the Susquehanna River Basin Association, Wilkes College Center for the Performing Arts, 10 a.m.

Present: Bernard Gallagher, Joseph Williams, William Reid, Edward Heiselberg, Charles Bankes, Leonard Ziolkowski, Frank Slattery, Robert Slaff, George Savory (Vestal, New York), Joseph Misavage (Binghamton, New York), Roy Morgan, Andrew Shaw, Myron Shoemaker (Laceyville), Stewart Wright (Ithaca); others interested in the Association from Pennsylvania and New York

Slattery, president of the original Association, presided. The following officers and directors were elected:

President:	Robert Slaff
Vice Presidents:	Joseph Misavage and Roy Morgan
Treasurer:	George Savory
Secretary:	Andrew Shaw
Directors:	Myron Shoemaker and Stewart Wright

Louis Shaffer, Robert Laux, Myron Shoemaker, Robert Slaff, Roy Morgan, and Charles Morgan were named a nominating committee and Shaffer was appointed its chairman.

Slattery reviewed the Association's history, pointing out that it was organized in 1961 and that its first goal, to have a study made of the Susquehanna River Basin, was achieved in 1969 when such a study was made by the Army Corps of Engineers. Slattery also noted that a four-way agreement uniting the interests of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the U. S. government became law when President Nixon signed the Susquehanna River Compact in 1970.

Joseph Misavage and Stuart Wright, both of New York, spoke of a need to promote basin-wide understanding of the flood-protection interdependence of residents of the three states that are party to the Compact.

It was agreed that Association officers and members of its nominating committee will meet within a week's time to complete the board of directors roster.

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, February 12

February 12

MEETING re Clarification of HUD policies and procedures, HUD headquarters in Scranton, 10 a.m.

Present: Francis Haas, Richard Traussi (HUD); Andrew Shaw, Betty Schechter

Shaw pointed out difficulties redevelopment authorities expect to have in meeting the HUD deadline of June 30th for having redevelopment projects in execution, and asked if the deadline could be extended. Haas replied that HUD understands the difficulties but cannot extend the deadline because the law authorizing the funds to implement the projects expires on June 30th. He added, however, that the preliminary deadline of March 31st can be stretched in certain instances as much as two or three weeks.

Discussion of redevelopment problems brought out that SBA policy on whether or not a homeowner can bring his house up to local code standards with SBA monies if this would mean an improvement of its pre-flood condition is not yet clear. Haas and Traussi said that they hoped a way could be found to acquire houses in which SBA money had been invested without penalizing their owners for having made repairs.

Pointing to the housing shortage in Wyoming Valley, Shaw expressed the hope that some of the houses acquired by redevelopment authorities would be repaired rather than demolished. Traussi said that although as a rule only houses that cannot be repaired are acquired, it sometimes happens that houses in relatively good condition are acquired because they are surrounded by others that are structurally unsound. In such cases, he said, if rehabilitating the houses in good condition does not interfere with the planned use of the area, the houses in good condition can be rehabilitated.

To a question from Shaw on the moratorium on new housing announced by HUD, Haas replied that he expected a "thaw" in the moratorium in this area because of its disaster status.

MEETING re Organization of citizens' group for charter study in Luzerne County, Hotel Sterling, 7:30 p.m.

Present: representatives of League of Women Voters, Flood Victims Action Council, Flood Recovery Task Force, Luzerne County Civil Defense, Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre Kiwanis, CEO, WNEP-TV, King's College, EDC, Hazleton Chamber of Commerce, Wilkes-Barre Jaycees, Woman's Club of West Pittston, District 12, American Legion

The petition procedure was explained and it was pointed out that at least 6,000 signatures are needed and that petitions must be filed by March 16th.

The proposed organization of the petition campaign contemplates at least five area chairmen, a captain for each municipality, and ten assistants for each captain.

February 13

MEETING re Proposed DCA sponsored study by Pennsylvania Economy League of governmental reorganization, Holiday Inn, 8 a.m.

Present: Howard Grossman, Charles Hardwick, John Hibbard, Roy Morgan, Ellsworth Salisbury, Betty Schechter, William Wilcox

It was agreed that the proposed study of possible advantages of governmental reorganization is not likely to be completed in time to be useful in supporting a petition campaign to get the question of a government study commission on the May 15th ballot. It also agreed, however, that should a study commission be elected, the PEL study would be helpful both to the commission in its deliberations and to the public in weighing the commission's recommendations.

Discussion of the make-up of an advisory committee charged with consulting with PEL in the course of its study followed. It was agreed that:

1. The contract between DCA and PEL should be so written as to make it a DCA agreement with PEL and an advisory committee.
2. Invitations to serve on this advisory committee should be issued by the signatories of the letter to Secretary Wilcox proposing a study of governmental reorganization.
3. Charles Hardwick will chair and Betty Schechter will serve as secretary to a committee charged with organizing the advisory committee.
4. The name of the advisory committee will reflect its county-wide orientation.

MEETING re Petition campaign for Government Study Commission, 3 p.m., Hotel Sterling

Present: Tom Doty, Charles Hardwick, Gwyneth Hughes, Tom Moran, Andrew Shaw, Tom Shelburne, Bob Shepherd

The meeting was devoted to making plans for press conference on February 15th to announce petition campaign and for organization of campaign. It was decided that Madge Benovitz (League of Women Voters) will make the announcement and that Tom Doty (FVAC) and Andrew Sordoni (FRTF) will be with her at the time. It was also decided that the campaign will be divided as follows:

Hazleton	Back Mountain	West Side
Mountaintop	East Side	Pittston-West Pittston
	Nanticoke	

Those present accepted assignments to seek chairmen for these areas.

February 14

February 15

PRESS CONFERENCE re Announcement of campaign to create government study commission, Hotel Sterling, 10 a.m., called by League of Women Voters, Flood Recovery Task Force, and Flood Victims Action Council

Present: Madge Benovitz, Gwyneth Hughes, Andrew Sordoni, Tom Doty

Madge Benovitz explained the provisions that Pennsylvania legislature's Act 62 makes for study of local forms of government and announced that the League of Women Voters, with the support of "virtually every civic group in Luzerne County", is undertaking a campaign to petition the County Commissioners to place the question of a government study commission on the May 15th ballot. She emphasized that the campaign's main object is to make a thorough study of the county form of government possible, and she pointed out that if such a study is made, the county's citizens will have an opportunity to either accept or reject its results.

Mrs. Benovitz's answers to questions from the press clarified the petition process.

February 16

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, February 5

February 5

MEETING re Local Government, Hotel Sterling, 8 p.m.

Present: Mike Barski (Wilkes College); Tom Bigler, Bob Carroll (WNEP); Rose Fiorani (WPTS); Betty Greenberg (FVAC); Charles Hardwick, Marcia Hardwick; Gwyneth Hughes (League of Women Voters); Min Matheson (FVAC); Tom Moran, Tony Mussari; Ellsworth Salisbury (Hazleton Chamber of Commerce); Betty Schechter, Edward Schechter, Thomas Shelburne; Bob Shephard (EDC)

Discussion centered on the opportunity offered to Pennsylvanians by Act 62 of their legislature to create commissions to study their local forms of government and make recommendations either to make or not to make changes in their structure and/or scopes of authority.

It was agreed that it would be in the best interests of the residents of Luzerne County for a group of interested citizens to initiate a campaign to petition the County Commissioners to put a question on the May 15th ballot which would enable the voters to indicate whether or not they want to elect a commission to study the county form of government. It was also agreed that those present would contact leading civic groups in the county, enlist their support for such a campaign, and ask them to send representatives to an organizational meeting to be held soon.

MEETING re Possibility of use by the Task Force of the services of a firm of consultants, Hotel Sterling, 12:15 p.m.

Present: Charles Hardwick, Betty Schechter, Andrew Shaw

It was agreed that should the Task Force decide to employ a firm of consultants, it would direct it to recommend course of action leading to::

a. coordination of the redevelopment plans submitted by the various flood-affected municipalities, and
b. improvement of the quality of services provided by local governments.

February 6

February 7

MEETING of Municipal Administrators of flood recovery programs in Wyoming Borough

In accordance with the Task Force function of coordinating recovery programs, Shaw met with municipal administrators to discuss problems they have in common.

February 8

February 9

MEETING re Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, EDA headquarters, 9 a.m.

Present: Edgar Lashford; Henry Levi (Executive Director Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority); Richard Levy (Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority); Clifford Rossignol (EDA); Bob Shephard (EDC); Bonnie Smith (HUD); Betty Schechter; representatives of Michael Baker, Jr., Inc., consulting engineers

The consulting engineers presented the results of the feasibility study they had made for the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority on secondary treatment requirements. They pointed out that for various reasons, including recent revisions of population projections and a new law requiring that communities plan for combining storm and sanitary sewers, they do not recommend expansion of the Authority's facilities, but do recommend up-dating them.

The engineers outlined two methods of providing secondary treatment, and that the cost of treatment, using either, would be approximately $16,000,000.

Completion of this study makes it possible for the Sanitary Authority to apply for priority project approval and federal funding in the amount of approximately 75% of the cost. It was pointed out that to file an application does not commit the Sanitary Authority to proceed with any secondary treatment operation. It was also pointed out that if application is to be made it should be filed by March 1st to receive priority listing.

The two methods of providing secondary treatment recommended by the engineers are:

1. activated carbon absorption process
2. pure oxygen activated sludge process

Details relating to both of these processes are on file at FRTF headquarters.

FRTF

Dr. Mike

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

HOTEL STERLING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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1st Vice Chairman
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2nd Vice Chairman
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Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Executive Director

2 February 1973

WILKES COLLEGE
FEB 5 1973
President's Office

MEMO TO: FRTF Executive Committee and
Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Andy Shaw

RE: Important Meeting on Flood Control

On Saturday, February 17th, at 1:30 p.m., a meeting at which the Luzerne County Commissioners will consider the Corps of Engineers plans to control flooding in the Wyoming Valley will be held in the Commissioner's meeting room at the County Courthouse.

The Corps' current plans call for raising the dikes 2 feet above the 2 feet they will be raised by next spring, and for raising or rebuilding several bridges, and the Corps estimates that their implementation will cost approximately $62 million. The Corps expects the Federal Government to pay half of this cost and the State and County to pay the rest.

The meeting will provide opportunities to discuss these plans and how funds will be found to finance their implementation.

Since these are matters of vital concern not only to members of the Committee on Flood Control, but also to the Task Force as a whole, I hope you will be able to attend.

are

FRTF file

Minutes of Combined Meeting of FRTF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Planning and Development Committee, Tuesday, January 24, 1973, Hotel Sterling

Subject: Final Report on Sketch Plan for the Wyoming Valley, prepared by Wilbur Smith and Associates and presented by Dick Miller

Present: Bierly, Boltz, Brown, Conyngham, DePolo, Halesey, Hardwick, Kilburn, Lashford, Masoner, McCole, Michelini, Pearsall, Roth, Schechter, Shapiro, Smith, Sordoni, Stettler, Turner, Weiss, Williams; Jim Fegelson, Dick Miller (Wilbur Smith and Associates); Howard Grossman, Len Ziolkowski (EDC); B. Schechter, Shaw

Grossman opened the meeting by noting that the Sketch Plan aims at presenting an "overview" of the Wyoming Valley against which specific plans for its development can be measured. He introduced Dick Miller who began his report with observations on specific aspects of the Sketch Plan. These included:

Transportation: The highway network proposed for the area is sound.

Education: Many school facilities are sub-standard, or, due to the flood, unuseable.

Flood Control: Current planning for areas unprotected by dikes is inadequate.

Population:
a. Present population in study area is approximately 257,000; it is expected to be 268,000 by 1977, and 316,000 by 2000.
b. Median age of present population is 36.3, roughly 8 years older than the national average.

Housing:
a. 82.3% of the local housing stock (as compared with 40% of the national housing stock) was built before 1940.
b. To have a healthy housing market, the study area needs a larger number of housing units and a better range of housing choices.
c. The percentage of income paid in the study area for housing, 7.5%, is unique; the national average is 20%.
d. Local approach to purchase of housing is equally conservative; while the nation-wide purchase price of a house is twice the buyer's yearly income, here it is 1.25 times his yearly income.
e. Area's conservative purchase policy combined with higher construction costs may result in many purchases of mobile homes.

Economy:
a. The flood accelerated a pre-flood trend to diversification of the economy and a pre-flood decline in number of young people leaving the area. Since it also decreased the labor surplus, the emphasis in attracting new industry should be on quality rather than on quantity.
b. The wage structure is changing rapidly.
c. Generally speaking, economic development in the study area is on the right track.

Miller listed the study area's main assets and liabilities as follows:

Assets

1. the developing transportation network, especially the highways
2. proximity to markets and sources of raw materials
3. general geographic location - area is close to older urban centers; it has a good concentration of industrial parks

Liabilities

1. fragmented approach to industrial recruitment
2. area appearance - action to improve the environment is called for
3. lack of choice and variety in housing opportunities
4. government structure - 45 governments in 300 square mile area has many disadvantages - among them, the difficulties involved in living in an area governed by one set of regulations and laws and working in another area governed by another set of regulations and laws
5. image - the outside world still sees this area as a problem-ridden coal-mining region. Action should be taken to project a realistic image.

Miller made recommendations in the following areas:

Economic development

1. Participants in the economic development process (those involved in technical education and basic economic research, Chambers of Commerce, employment services, and human resource agencies) should mount a co-ordinated effort aimed at developing a true, "nuts and bolts", picture of the economy - this effort should include a labor census, a young people's attitude survey, and economic monitoring designed to detect trends and indicate need for remedial action.
2. Coordinated approach to:
   a. attracting new industry
   b. professional support
   c. technical education (learn needs of industries area wants to attract)
3. Support for:
   a. existing industry
   b. community systems

Government

Inventory should be made of necessary government services with a view to providing them in a coordinated, more efficient, and less costly way.

Urban Renewal

The twenty urban renewal projects funded by roughly $200 million should be coordinated in such a way as to ensure provisions for open spaces, areas for commercial redevelopment, multiple residential choices, and expansion of existing school playground spaces.

Land Use

1. The Valley's traditional emphasis on the neighborhood as the basic unit of development should be preserved.

2. New construction should be in tune with historic, interesting aspects of old construction.
3. Environment of existing neighborhoods should be enhanced by provision of "open spaces" within them.

NOTE: The complete Sketch Plan is available at FRTF headquarters. Wilbur Smith and Associates will distribute summaries of the Sketch Plan soon.

FRTF

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, January 15

January 15

January 16

MEETING re Critical shortage of nursing home beds, Welfare Planning Council, 1 p.m.

Present: Margaret Anderson, Bill Desciak, Peg Ferry, Charles Reynolds, Shaw

The meeting was called to draft a letter to Pennsylvania legislators alerting them to the region's urgent need for additional nursing home beds for welfare patients.

Agreement was reached on a letter recommending the following:

1. extension to Lackawanna County of the waiver of compliance with State and Federal safety regulations already granted to Luzerne and Wyoming Counties
2. an increase in State reimbursements to nursing homes for care of welfare patients
3. acceleration of the projected 1976 starting date for "reasonable cost" reimbursements to nursing homes to the present

The letter will be sent to Senators Murray, Wood, and Lee.

January 17

MEETING re April 28th DCA-REGION II 5th Annual Conference, EDC, 10 a.m.

Present: Robert Lipscomb, Joe McGowen, Ed Sites (DCA); Howard Grossman (EDC); Betty Greenberg, Min Matheson (FVAC); Betty Schechter (FRTF)

Sites explained that the general purpose of DCA's annual regional conference is to acquaint local officials, planners, and development people with services the Department of Community Affairs offers them. These services include acting as liaison between local government and appropriate State agencies for purposes of problem solving, assistance in comprehensive planning, involvement in funding of urban renewal projects, and providing seed money for non-profit housing. He added that, because of the recent flood, this year's conference will discuss topics related to recovery from the effects of floods and other natural disasters, and will be sponsored by the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Flood Recovery Task Force, and the Flood Victims Action Council as well as by DCA.

A tentative program for the conference prepared by DCA was discussed. It was decided that the specific topics of discussion will be:

1. National Catastrophe Insurance
2. Natural Disaster Preparedness
3. National Flood Insurance Program

Several suggestions for moderators and panelists other than those listed on the tentative program were made, and it was decided that those present would meet again to consider revisions to the program.

The conference will be held on April 28th at King's College Gymnasium from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and it will include a luncheon in the Sheehy Student Lounge. The key speaker at the conference will be Representative Dan Flood.

January 17 (continued)

MEETING of Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Hotel Sterling, noon

Present: Anderson, Aston, Burnside, Conyngham, DeCosmo, Hardwick, Hourigan, Jones, Kenny, Kilburn, Kiley, Lashford, Montz, Morgan, Quinn, Rose, Rosenn, Rubinstein, Sailus, Schechter, Smith, Sordoni, Turner; Shaw, B. Schechter

Rosenn opened the meeting with an expression of regret at having to resign the chairmanship of the Task Force, a tribute to the effective, dependable response with which members of the Task Force met the flood recovery challenge, and an expression of gratitude for the support each of its members gave him.

A discussion of Task Force by-laws, led by Aston, followed. A motion was made and accepted that the by-laws be accepted as presented with an amendment to the effect that determination of qualifications for membership in the Task Force be referred to a committee to be appointed by the chairman.

Speaking for the Task Force as a whole, first vice-chairman Kiley traced the organization's beginnings, expressed its members' deep appreciation of Rosenn's selfless leadership of the recovery effort, and accepted his resignation with regret, together with anticipation of his continuing participation in the Task Force's work. A motion to accept Rosenn's resignation with regret was made and passed.

Rose reported that the nominating committee had recommended the unanimous appointment of Andrew Sordoni, III, as chairman. A motion to that effect was made and passed.

Sordoni expressed gratitude for the opportunity he has been given to serve as chairman of the Task Force and said that, although the emergency phase of the recovery effort is over, the organization still faces a vital challenge to work for progress of the community. He suggested that it would be fitting for the Task Force to mark the June 23rd anniversary of the flood by sponsoring an inter-denominational service of Thanksgiving.

Shaw raised the question of whether or not Task Force grant monies should be used to provide financial assistance to Project Area Committees formed as vehicles for citizen participation in the various municipalities' redevelopment planning. A discussion of the uses to which Task Force monies should be put followed. It was agreed that, before making decisions on this, the Task Force should determine its specific goals on the basis of detailed knowledge of the organization's financial situation. A motion was made and passed to the effect that Task Force financial information be sent to Board members and to members of the Executive Committee.

Sordoni appointed Hardwick, Rubinstein, and Turner a Committee on Membership, and Michelini, Morgan, and Rose a nominating committee for the election of Task Force officers.

Rose announced a decision by SBA that it would stretch its January 15th deadline for applications for loans in the cases of applicants who have "good reasons" for failing to make the deadline.

January 18

MEETING re Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company, Hotel Sterling, 8 a.m.

Present: Thomas Kiley, Horace Kramer, Arthur Podesta, Max Rosenn, Andrew Shaw, Frank Townend

It was reported that some progress had been made towards resolution of the problems created by the Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company's bankruptcy. Suggestions were made for alternate approaches to the problems, and it was agreed that these should be explored.

MEETING re Regulations governing EDA grants

Present: representatives of EDC, EDA, IRA, PEL, Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce; Andrew Shaw

EDA requirements regarding periodic reports from grantees were reviewed, and procedures for making monthly applications for grant monies were discussed.

MEETING re Susquehanna River Basin Association, Frank Slattery's office, 2:15 p.m.

Present: Richard Cronin, George Galosh, Roy Morgan, Andrew Shaw, Frank Slattery

The group agreed on a format for the meeting of the Association scheduled for January 20th at Wilkes College and on the actions that should be taken at the meeting.

MEETING re Clarification of redevelopment procedures and requirements, Wilkes-Barre Redevelopment office, 3:30 p.m.

Present: Leon Case, Tom Torbik (Wilkes-Barre Redevelopment Authority); Vic Galgano (Candeub, Fleissig and Associates); Min Matheson (FVAC); Andrew Shaw, Betty Schechter

Discussion of the South Wilkes-Barre Project area brought out the following:

1) The initial Authority plan for this project area, which included a medium-rise housing unit on Charles Street and appropriate parking facilities and traffic flow measures, was approved by the Project Area Committee (PAC group). A poll of residents of the neighborhood by the PAC group, however, revealed strong opposition to redevelopment that would change the pre-flood one family/lot residential character of the neighborhood. Alternate plans were presented and one reflecting "no change" won substantial support.

If further polling of neighborhood residents by the Authority shows that "no change" is, indeed, the prevailing sentiment, the Authority will present both its original plan for the neighborhood and the one preferred by its residents to City Council. It will tell Council that it considers the first plan the most favorable for the city as a whole, but will not oppose the one preferred by the neighborhood's residents. The final decision will rest with Council. If residents of the neighborhood in question oppose Council's decision, they will probably be able to delay its implementation.

January 18 (continued)

2) Contrary to widespread belief that a redevelopment project should and can avoid benefiting one flood-victim resident of the area more than another, this is impossible. The Authority is required by law, by HUD regulations, and by funding limitations to operate in ways which preclude more than passing consideration to what is just and equitable.

3) Two possible sources of additional HUD funds for redevelopment in Wyoming Valley should be explored:

a. It should be determined how much in HUD Agnes disaster monies New York State, which suffered far less flood damage than Pennsylvania, received. If, as has been reported, New York was allocated a sum similar to Pennsylvania's, objections could be raised and an adjustment might be made.

b. A question should be raised with HUD on whether or not Western Pennsylvania was allocated an unduly large percentage of the $400 million in HUD monies allocated to the entire state.

January 19

January 20

MEETING of Susquehanna River Basin Association, Wilkes-College Center for the Performing Arts

Present: 30 citizens including at least one from New York State

Frank Slattery noted that since many of the Association's Board members have died since the organization's inception, the organization must be revitalized if it is to have a positive effect on the development of the Susquehanna River Basin.

A series of motions were adopted as a first step in the restructuring of the Association. It was decided that the next meeting will be held within a month's time.

Andrew Shaw offered the Association the Task Force's facilities and administrative capabilities to assist it in the reactivating process.

WILKES COLLEGE
JAN 20 1973
President's Office

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FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

BUDGET

Budget Category	Expenditures to 12/31/72	Authorized Budget	Unexpended Appropriation
Personnel	$11,482	$ 72,500	$ 61,018
Consultants & Contract Services	1,200	150,000	148,800
Travel	223	5,000	4,777
Space Costs & Rentals	72	10,600	10,528
Other Costs	3,772	20,900	17,128
Miscellaneous	10	2,000	1,990
	$16,759	$261,000	$244,241

NOTE:

1. The EDA Grant is for a one year period which began September 15, 1972. The life of the Grant may be extended beyond one year upon written request; however, no additional monies will be allocated beyond the amount of the original authorization.

2. The $244,241 in unexpended appropriation does not represent cash on hand, but a reservation of funds. The initial allocation totalled $26,000. Further allocations will be made monthly, based on estimated expenditures submitted by the Task Force.

3. Space Costs and Rentals were minor for the first three months because the Task Force was quartered with the Federal Regional Council and did not have to pay for equipment or rent. As of January 1, 1973 rent for office space and equipment will be approximately $300 per month. (The Grant does not permit purchase of equipment.)

4. "Other Costs" are basically F.I.C.A. and Federal Witholding .

FRTF

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FRTF

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, January 8

January 8

January 9

MEETING of Human Resource Development Committee, EDC, 9:30 a.m.

Present: Allan Bacon (CEO); Mike Kendall (Department of Public Welfare); Bill Desciak, Howard Grossman (EDC); Margaret Anderson, Charles Reynolds (FRTF); Peg Ferry (Health and Hospital Planning Council); Howard Hall (USA); Andrew Shaw

The first part of the meeting was taken up with discussion of Valley manpower programs and the need to develop the kind of training programs that will ensure a continuing supply of workers with the training this area needs.

Extensive discussion of the nursing home situation followed. It was reported that in the 15-county area (including Luzerne County) only 18 of the 97 nursing homes have been approved for medical assistance. In Luzerne County, only three, Whitehaven, Valley Crest, and Hampton House, have medical assistance certification. It was noted that efforts are being made to secure an extension on the time limit imposed by Federal and State agencies for nursing homes to meet their standards. It was also noted that present plans call for a "reasonable cost" basis for State reimbursements to nursing homes, and it was agreed that there is a need for a clear definition of "reasonable cost."

It was agreed that the Committee will send a letter to local legislators alerting them to the serious situation regarding certain categories of nursing home care.

MEETING of Planning and Development Agencies of Wyoming Valley re Report, presented at previous meeting, on the Wyoming Valley Recreation, Open Space, and Historic Preservation Planning Program, EDC

Discussion of the report, brought out that Environmental Design Associates, the firm that prepared it, is preparing additional data on a neighborhood basis in response to a request by the Luzerne Planning Commission.

It was announced that the Wyoming Valley Sketch Plan under preparation by Wilbur Smith and Associates will be completed on schedule.

Major Vick and, later, Colonel Prentice of the Army Corps of Engineers discussed the Corps' proposal for flood control in the Wyoming Valley. Colonel Prentice pointed out that the particular aspect of the proposal having to do with raising the bridges and levees is subject to modification and is in line with the effort the Corps is making to put forward as many alternatives as possible to serve as basis for local decision making.

January 10

MEETING of Committee on Planning and Development re Sketch Plan for Wyoming Valley, Hotel Sterling, 12:15 p.m.

Present: Badman, Brown, Epstein, Halesey, Kiley, Koff, Parkhurst, Pearsall, Weiss, Williams; Grossman, Ziolkowski (EDC); Heiselberg (Luzerne

January 10 (continued)

County Planning Commission); Bob Henry, Richard Miller (Wilbur Smith and Associates); Shaw

Prior to taking up the topic they were called together to consider, those present discussed 1) the Army Corps of Engineers' recently proposed plan for flood control in Wyoming Valley, and 2) the 18-month moratorium on federally financed new housing recently announced by Secretary of Housing and Urban Development George Romney.

Heiselberg commented on the Corps' proposal to control flooding in the Valley by a combination of measures which includes raising of the bridges and levees and construction of upstream dams. He noted that the total cost of these measures, $63 million, should be viewed within the context of the more than $800 million that will be spent for redevelopment in the Valley. He also pointed out that one half of the $63 million is to come from local sources which will include State monies and could, conceivably, also include some Federal monies from such agencies as the Federal Department of Transportation.

Discussing the HUD 18-month moratorium on new housing, Grossman said that the planning and development agencies in the area were sending a resolution expressing concern about the measure to HUD. He suggested that the Task Force adopt a similar resolution. Kiley said that to do this the Task Force would need more specific information about the purposes and projected effects of the moratorium on this area than was presently available. Grossman was asked to obtain this information.

Miller spoke to the group about the preliminary reports on various aspects of Wyoming Valley that his firm, Wilbur Smith Associates, has prepared. Discussion centered on the reports on Economic Growth Factors, on Housing, and on Local Government. Miller said that final reports would be completed by the end of the following week. He also said that a summary of the final reports will be printed and made available to interested citizens (8,000 copies).

MEETING of Recovery Fair Committee, Chamber of Commerce headquarters, noon, re Exchange of ideas with Ewan Dingwall, Consultant

Present: Dorothy Baker, Mary Barrett, Cy Chadwick, Leo Corbett, Richard Cronin, Ewan Dingwall, Paul Lauer, Jim McClelland, Roy Morgan, Bob Parker, Murray Popky, Bob Rafsky, Joe Williams, Jr., Walter Wood, Betty Schechter

Morgan outlined plans for a Recovery Fair that will incorporate the Valley's traditional springtime activities and emphasize the area's cultural, educational, and recreational assets and its potential for economic and industrial growth.

Corbett announced that the Cherry Blossom Festival portion of the Fair would include a children's contest to choose and crown Miss Cherry Blossom, a raft race, and an All-College event which would take the form of performance by College Glee Clubs and bands.

January 10 (continued)

Popky announced that the theme for the Fair suggested by Annie Bohlin, a rainbow over wavy "water" lines, has been accepted and that its name will be a RAINBOW RECOVERY FAIR. He also described traditional Fine Arts Fiesta activities and said that possibilities for special events for this year's Rainbow Recovery Fair include a performance of Ruddigore by a Gilbert and Sullivan troupe, a performance by a mime group, a performance by the Pennsylvania Ballet, ballet performances by Susan Hendle and Edward Villela, and a performance by pianist Thomas Hrienkiew. Popky added that a grant to fund two Philharmonic concerts has already been awarded.

Discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of locating some Fair activities in nearby off-Square auditoriums were discussed. Strong suggestions were made to the effect that all Fair activities should be located on the Square and traffic should be diverted away from the Square area during evening performances if possible.

Joe Williams, Jr. discussed plans for this year's Parade of Progress. He pointed out that the Parade of Progress will be the Fair's only profit-making feature.

Rafsky announced that a film director under contract to the Department of Community Affairs is in the area making a documentary about the Valley's recovery from the flood. He added that the documentary will be ready in plenty of time for showings at the Fair.

Wood said that plans for Fair's educational activities are not yet firm, but will probably include arts and crats and gymnastics exhibits.

McClelland said that the Recreation Board plans exhibitions in the Coal Street pool, and all-Valley Track competition, and displays of local arts and crafts.

Dingwall suggested that tourist interest in the Fair will be greatest if Fair activities flow throughout its time span without mid-week interruptions. At the close of the meeting he said that he believes the Fair as planned has great potential. He added that he has too many commitments to be able to serve as consultant to the Fair committee himself, but that he knows two well qualified consultants who might be available. He will explore these possibilities and let the Committee know the results.

January 11

January 12

MEETING re Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company, Chamber of Commerce headquarters, noon

Present: Allan Bacon, Edward Boltz, F. Campbell Collins, Ross Crumblish, Grant Irey, Thomas Kiley, Dave Koff, Horace Kramer, Wilder Lucas, Arthur Podesta, Max Rosenn, Charles Shafer, Frank Townend, Manuel Whitman, Andrew Shaw

January 12 (continued)

Irey and Crumblish briefed the group on the Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat's legal situation. After considerable discussion it was decided that action should be taken very quickly to identify a group, or an agency, or an individual who would purchase the Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company's assets in order to ensure continued operation.

Members of the FRTF will attempt to resolve the basic problem within the next fifteen days.

file

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, December 25

December 25

Christmas

December 26

December 27

COMBINED MEETING of Executive Committee and Planning and Development Committee, noon, Hotel Sterling re Committee Reports; Task Force statement on Frank Carlucci; "Sketch Plan for Wyoming Valley"

Present: Bierly, Boltz, Brown, DeCosmo, Epstein, Halesey, Hardwick, Hibbard, Hourigan, Kenny, Kilburn, Kiley, Lashford, McCole, Michelini, Morgan, Parkhurst, Rose, Rosenn, Rubinstein, Shapiro, Schechter, Shelburne, Stettler, Weiss, Williams; Dick Miller (Wilbur Smith Associates); Grossman, Ziolkowski (EDC); Moran, B. Schechter, Shaw (FRTF)

Schechter outlined the plans his Committee had made for a celebration of the official opening of the reconstructed North Street bridge on January 3rd: a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the bridge, a press conference, and a luncheon at the Sterling, sponsored by the Task Force and hosted by the Wyoming Valley Motor Club, David N. Schooley, member of the State Transportation Commission, and several members of the Wilkes-Barre business community. Reporting on the progress of LR 1052, the North Cross Valley Expressway, he said that PennDOT's schedule calls for completion of the project by the end of 1974. He added that, together, EDC and FRTF Committee on Transportation had prepared a justification of emergency, flood-related status for the Expressway to be used should the Federal government question the double work shifting that will be necessary if PennDOT's target date is to be met.

After a short discussion of attacks made by Jack Anderson in his column on Frank Carlucci's direction of the recovery effort as the President's representative, it was moved and passed that the Task Force issue a statement calling the attacks unwarranted.

Morgan reported that his Committee on Flood Control considers the work on the dikes done by the Army Corps of Engineers to be satisfactory. Speaking for the Recovery Fair Committee, he announced that the Fair will run from May 11th to June 3rd, will incorporate the Valley's traditional springtime activities and will also include features reflecting the area's cultural, educational, and recreational assets, and its potential for economic and industrial growth. He added that the Committee will soon be meeting with Ewan Dingwall, a consultant with extensive exhibition experience, who, it is expected, will recommend someone to work with the Task Force in planning for the Fair.

Sketch Plan for Wyoming Valley

As background to a presentation of the Sketch Plan by Dick Miller of Wilbur Smith Associates, Grossman traced the history of EDC's designation as lead agency for the Valley's flood recovery program and explained that the Sketch Plan will provide a framework within which EDC and the

December 27 (continued)

Luzerne County Planning Commission will jointly coordinate the various municipalities' development proposals.

Ziolkowski reported on a brief visit he had made to disaster-struck Rapid City, South Dakota. He attributed much of the substantial progress the city has made towards recovery to:

1. prompt delineation of the 100 year flood plain
2. a local decision to acquire and demolish everything within that plain
3. payment of post-flood value to owners of acquired homes
4. a ban on the use of SBA monies in the flood plain
5. the existence of a central, unified local government

Miller said that, in drawing up the Sketch Plan, he and his staff are considering two time spans, 1972-77 and 1977-2000, and that they are paying particular attention to gathering pertinent data on: flood control; economic growth; governmental organization; capital improvement; population and housing; transportation; land use. Miller then commented on several aspects of the study he and his staff are making and summed up his presentation by saying that the study aims at identifying alternatives, problems, and opportunities for the Valley.

December 28

MEETING of Transportation Committee, 8 a.m., Treadway Inn

Present: Bigelow, Bigler, Conyngham, Corbett, Moran, Radomski, Ramsauer, Schechter

The entire meeting was devoted to planning timing of activities and public relations for the ribbon cutting ceremony, press conference, and luncheon on January 3rd to mark the official opening of the reconstructed North Street bridge.

December 29

MEETING re Possible approaches to modernization of local governments in Wyoming Valley, Treadway Inn, 8 a.m.

Present: John Hibbard, Roy Newsome, Max Rosenn, Andrew Shaw, William Wilcox

Lengthy discussion led to a decision to send a letter, signed by Max Rosenn for FRTF, John Hibbard for EDC, Min Matheson for FVAC, and representatives of the Chambers of Commerce of Hazleton, Nanticoke, Pittston, and Wilkes-Barre to Secretary Wilcox requesting funding of a preliminary study of local government in Luzerne County.

MEETING re Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company, City Hall, 3 p.m.

Present: Richard Biscontini, Edward Boltz, Joseph Burns, Bernard Gallagher Grant Irey, Horace Kramer, Paul Lackey, Edgar Lashford, Wilder

December 29 (continued)

Lucas, Michael McHugh, Chester Morowski, William Reid, Max Rosenn, Eugene Roth, Frank Townend, Manuel Whitman, Joseph Williams, Andrew Shaw

The purpose of the meeting was to find mechanisms which would make it possible for the Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company to remain in operation at least until June 1st, 1973, the end of the current heating season.

The threat to local businesses and homeowners posed by a declaration of bankruptcy by ISI (International Service Industries), parent company of the Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company, was discussed: despite a $2.5 million State loan to the Wilkes-Barre company, the plant may not have sufficient funds to operate beyond mid-February.

It was decided that a committee made up of members of the Flood Recovery Task Force, and representatives of the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Industrial Development Authority of Wilkes-Barre would be formed and asked to work out plans for ensuring operation of the Wilkes-Barre Steam Heat Company throughout the heating season.

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.
~~HOLY CROSS HALL — KING'S COLLEGE~~ Hotel Sterling
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701

Minutes of combined meeting of Executive Committee and Planning and Development Committee, Wednesday, December 27, 1972, 12 noon

Present: Bierly, Boltz, Brown, DeCosmo, Epstein, Halesey, Hardwick, Hibbard, Hourigan, Kenny, Kilburn, Kiley, Lashford, McCole, Michelini, Morgan, Parkhurst, Rose, Rosenn, Rubinstein, Shapiro, Schechter, Shelburne, Stettler, Weiss, Williams; Dick Miller (Wilbur Smith Associates); Grossman, Ziolkowski (EDC); Moran, B. Schechter, Shaw (FRTF)

The meeting opened with a tribute to the late President Harry S. Truman by Rosenn and a prayer for the former President led by Father Kilburn. Next, Rosenn asked Schechter to report on recent activities of the Transportation Committee.

Schechter said that plans had been made to mark the official opening of the reconstructed North Street Bridge on January 3rd with a ribbon cutting ceremony on the bridge, and a press conference and celebration luncheon at the Hotel Sterling. He noted that the luncheon will be sponsored by the Task Force and hosted by the Wyoming Valley Motor Club, David Schooley, member of the State Transportation Commission, and several members of the Wilkes-Barre business community.

Reporting on the progress of LR 1052, the North Cross Valley Expressway, Schechter said that PennDOT's work schedule calls for completion of the project by the end of 1974. He added, however, that, since costly double work shifting will be required to meet this target date, it may be necessary to convince the Federal Government, which is sharing the cost of the Expressway's construction with the State, that the project qualifies for emergency, flood-related status. He said that to be ready for this eventuality, his committee and EDC had jointly prepared a statement justifying this special status.

Referring to attacks made by Jack Anderson on the way Frank Carlucci discharged his responsibilities as personal representative of the President in Wyoming Valley, Rosenn asked for a decision on whether or not the Task Force should reply to the attacks. It was moved and passed that the Task Force should issue a statement to the effect that it considers the attacks unwarranted.

Morgan reported that the Committee on Flood Control considers the progress made to date on repair of the dikes to be satisfactory. As Chairman of the Recovery Fair Committee he said that the Fair will run from May 11th to June 3rd, that it will incorporate the Valley's traditional springtime activities, and that it will also include features reflecting the area's cultural, educational, and recreational assets, and its potential for economic growth and industrial development. He added that, thanks to funds supplied by the Commonwealth, his committee will meet with Ewan Dingwall, a consultant with extensive exhibition experience, on Janaury 10th, and that he expects Dingwall to recommend someone to work with the Task Force in planning for the Fair.

As background to a presentation by Miller on the "Sketch Plan for Wyoming Vally", Grossman traced the history of EDC's designation as lead agency for the Valley's recovery program and explained that the Sketch Plan will provide a framework within which EDC and the Luzerne County Planning Commission will jointly coordinate the various municipalities' development proposals. He noted that Wilbur Smith Associates had been selected from the thirteen consulting firms that had bid for the job of preparing an overall plan for the Valley's recovery and future development. He added that they had undertaken the ambitious project of gathering the necessary data within the period of November 15th to January 15th.

Ziolkowski gave a brief report on a visit he had made to disaster-struck Rapid City, South Dakota. He attributed much of the substantial progress the city has made towards recovery to prompt delineation of the 100-year flood plain, a local decision to acquire and demolish everything within that plain, payment of post-flood value to owners of acquired homes, a ban on the use of SBA monies in the flood plain, and the existence of a central, unified, local government.

Speaking of the Sketch Plan for Wyoming Valley that his firm is preparing, Dick Miller said that he and his staff are considering two time periods: 1972-1977 and 1977-2000. In so doing, he said, they are paying particular attention to the following factors:

1. Flood control
2. Economic growth
3. Governmental organization and capital improvement
4. Population and housing
5. Transportation
6. Land use

Miller said that the area's housing market is unique in that, compared to the national average, a very low percentage of local residents' income is spent on housing, and he attributed this to a hangover from the severe economic problems the Valley experienced in the past.

As far as transportation is concerned, Miller said, the study will consider chiefly feasibility and location of a Wyoming Valley Freeway, and delineation of rights of way in Wilkes-Barre urban renewal projects. In addition, the study will comment on the area's transit system. Its consideration of land use in the Valley will concentrate on both short and long range planning strategy: for the short range, on flood recovery; for the long, on economic development. In sum, Miller said, the study aims at identifying alternatives, problems, and opportunities for the Valley.

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, December 4

December 4

December 5

MEETING of Committee on Flood Control, Chamber of Commerce, noon

Present: Richard Cronin, John Doran, Robert Laux, John McDonald, Roy Morgan, Robert Parker, Betty Schechter, Andrew Shaw, Frank Slattery, Nick Souchik, Frank Townend; Howard Flint (Defense Civil Preparedness Agency); Walt Chappel (EDC)

Townend outlined a report by Colonel Louis Prentiss of the Army Corps of Engineers slated to be made public at a meeting in Wilkes-Barre that evening. The report divides restoration of Federal flood control facilities into three phases: Phase I emergency repairs; Phase II work needed to restore projects to original design configuration; Phase III modification of existing flood control projects in Wyoming Valley to provide a higher degree of protection. Phase I is completed. Phase II is in process and is scheduled for completion in April. The question of how Phase III modifications of existing dikes will be done is still unsettled: essentially, the Corps recommends raising the dikes 12 feet as the best method of providing prompt protection against Agnes-type storms.

Townend indicated that his major criticism of the report has to do with timing: if it is to protect the region against a spring freshet, Phase II must be completed by the end of February. It was agreed that the Flood Control Committee will support the report as far as it goes and strongly urge earlier completion of Phase II and a spring start on work on Phase III.

On the subject of long-range flood control, Townend said that in his opinion land management is a relatively unimportant factor and that the best solution lies in a combination of dams, impounding basins, reservoir, and dikes.

Slattery suggested that letters be sent to officers, directors, and paid members of the Susquehanna River Basin Association, Inc., an organization that functioned during the 60's, telling them that a committee of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce is ready to reorganize the corporation. Morgan urged such action, saying that EDA has made it clear that it is ready to fund reactivation of the Commission. It was agreed that Slattery, as president of the Commission, will write the letters and the Task Force will attend to reproducing and mailing them.

Flint was introduced to the group as representing the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency, a federally sponsored organization interested in improving civil defense organizations all over the country. Flint said that one of the things he is most interested in is the local Civil Defense organization's impressive achievement in preventing loss of lives.

MEETING re Civil Defense

Present: representative of a Civil Defense Consulting Team from Washington, D.C., Howard Flint (Defense Civil Preparedness Agency); Andy Shaw

Flint's purpose in visiting this area was to determine how the Agnes disaster

December 5 (continued)

was handled here: his agency was impressed with the local Civil Defense's success in keeping loss of life so low. Shaw said that one of the major reasons Civil Defense in Wyoming Valley has been effective is because its personnel, particularly the volunteers, are always undergoing training, e.g. courses in light rescue, heavy rescue, emergency care, etc.

Shaw suggested that there should be a master plan under which, in a disaster, CD would be authorized to assume command for a certain period of time, during which time the Government and CD would be able to determine the magnitude of the disaster and then designate, under special edict, an agency to handle local government affairs (e.g. County Commissioners and small policy group of officials).

Shaw said that the name of CD should be changed to Civil Disaster Agency, or something similar in the interests of bettering its image. Such a change could be expected to bring National Disaster Insurance into the limelight.

MEETING of Committee on Recovery Fair, Chamber of Commerce, 4:00 p.m.

Present: Ted Levanthol, Roy Morgan, Murray Popky, Betty Schechter, Joe Williams, Jr., Walter Wood; Bob Rafsky (DCA)

Discussion of schedule of Fair events led to agreement that the Fair should open on May 11th and close on June 3rd and that the following tentative schedule of events should be accepted:

May 11	Fireworks display
12	Parade
12-13	Cherry Blossom Festival
13	Antique Auto Exhibit
14-16	Educational Activities
17-21	Fine Arts Fiesta
21-25	Sports and Recreation
28-30	Historical activities
May 31-June 3rd	Parade of Progress

It was also agreed to ask Public Square and Main St. merchants to display works of art in their windows during the period of the Fair; if this is done, it would, in effect, add a long-running art exhibit to the other features of the Fair.

Professional direction for Fair activities was discussed: Rafsky told the Committee that Secretary Wilcox will make $12,000 available for planning purposes, suggested that either a part-time consultant or full-time staff man be employed, and offered to look for people with exhibition experience who are available for such work.

It was agreed that Rafsky, Morgan, and McClelland would arrange to meet and discuss Fair funding.

December 5 (continued)

MEETING re HUD's rules and regulations, William T. Warne's office, 4 p.m.

Present: William T. Warne; Joe O'Boyle, Mrs. Joe O'Boyle, Min Matheson, Tom Doty, other representatives of FVAC; Roy Newsome (CSA); Shaw

The group discussed HUD's methods of gathering information, and, specifically, the Survey of Families in Temporary Housing. Matheson indicated that many mobile home park residents resent being asked questions, many of them personal in character, by interviewers, who do not explain why the information is needed. Warne explained that HUD needs the information as background for its efforts to find permanent housing for flood victims and he told FVAC members that HUD personnel conducting the survey will be instructed to explain its purpose.

Also discussed were problems experienced by flood victims in private parks, especially Lakewood. Warne said that HUD will try to relocate residents of these parks into publicly run parks in locations convenient to them. A need for improved bus service was also discussed.

Replying to complaints about discourteous park managers, Warne assured the group that such managers will be replaced and all managers will be instructed to keep the difficulties flood victims confront constantly in mind. He added that mobile home park residents should try to find solutions to their problems through the park manager and then, if not satisfied, refer them to HUD Management Relations Bureau.

Another topic of discussion was problems with SBA. A change in regulations has occurred as of 11/28/72 and some flood victims think the SBA is falling back into its old, unsatisfactory patterns. This problem might be due, in large part, to the fact that the personnel keeps changing. Warne said that these problems should be discussed with the SBA.

PUBLIC MEETING sponsored by Army Corps of Engineers re Restoration of Federal flood control facilities in the Wyoming Valley, Coughlin High School, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Col. Louis Prentiss, C. E. Shores, William Trieschman, Maj. Gerald Vick (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers); Representative Dan Flood; Min Matheson (FVAC); General Townend (Civil Defense); representatives of the Federal and State governments; representatives of local organizations; private citizens

Prentiss told the assemblage that the Corps of Engineers has divided the task of protecting the Valley against flooding into three phases: Phase I, already completed, called for immediate repair of parts of the dikes that were breached by the flood waters and for repair of damaged pumping stations; Phase II is concerned with restoration of existing flood control projects to original design configuration and operational capability; Phase III will implement decisions made as a result of presentation of a Corps study on the feasibility of increasing protection provided by existing projects to the public, Federal, State, and local agencies; review by the District and Division Engineers, the Chief of Engineers, the Governor of Pennsylvania, concerned Federal agencies, and the Office of Management and Budget; construction of a project will be dependent on authorization and funding by the Congress.

December 5 (continued)

Discussing Phase III, Prentiss said that of the possible methods of increasing protection the Corps recommends raising the levees 12 feet. He made it clear that the Corps is eager to hear opinions of the public and concerned organizations and to incorporate them as much as possible in the final recommendations for Phase III.

The meeting was opened to the floor. Representative Flood discussed the flood control bills he has introduced in Congress. General Townend said that the Civil Defense organization supports the major part of the Corps' plans but would like to see the rest of them explored further. He urged the Corps to advance the March 15, 1973 deadline for completion of Phase II lest repairs be made too late to contain the spring freshet.

Mrs. Matheson also urged an earlier completion date for Phase II and said that the Flood Victims Action Council will consider taking legal action if that part of the project is not finished "in time".

Anthony Mussari of the Wilkes-Barre School Board urged the Corps to expedite delineation of the flood plain in the interest of making it possible for flood victims to make sensible decisions on rehabilitation of their homes.

A number of borough and township officials expressed concern about the effect a substantial raising of the dikes might have on creeks in their areas. Prentiss said that he would arrange a meeting to discuss this matter.

December 6

December 7

MEETING re Rejection by Northeast region of the Governor's Justice Commission of application by Luzerne County for LEAA grant to expand and improve police communication service

Present: Price, Russ, Pinsky, Souchik, Townend; Shaw; representatives of consulting firm, IDA (Information Development Association); police officials of area municipalities

Nonconformity with study of area's needs by consulting firm was given as reason for rejection of the grant application. Lengthy discussion of the single comprehensive communications network supported by Civil Defense and local officials brought out strong differences of opinion between them and the consultants and doubts on the part of officials of thoroughness of the consultants' study.

It was decided that Russ should confer with Civil Defense officials with a view to ironing out what it was agreed were essentially minor differences. The grant application is to be resubmitted before the end of December.

MEETING re Symbol, colors, name for Recovery Fair, Task Force headquarters, noon

Present: Annie Bohlin, Murray Popky, Betty Schechter

December 7 (continued)

Decision made to recommend suggestion on theme put forward by Annie Bohlin: rainbow over schematic representation of water. Decision also made to recommend that Fair be named Rainbow Fair: this name believed eminently suitable in its evocation of the Bible story of Noah and the hope and promise for the future traditionally seen in a rainbow.

Discussion of possibilities for publicizing the Fair in terms of its symbol followed.

MEETING of West Side Council of Governments (COG), Wyoming Hose Company No. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Present: State Representatives Frank O'Connell and Fred Shupnik; William Wilcox (DCA); representatives and officials of six West Side municipalities; representatives of Wilbur Smith Associates; Jim Tarity

Wilcox addressed the group on the advantages of consolidation for small, fragmented communities. He noted that, due to a lack of coordination between its various governments, the West Side has failed to qualify for many recovery programs. He recommended that West Side communities recognize the drawbacks of functioning as entirely separate entities and consider alternate methods of providing services to their citizens.

The representatives of the municipalities in attendance went on record as opposing true consolidation: the consensus of their opinion was that effective flood recovery can be implemented through the existing Council of Governments.

O'Connell and Shupnik indicated support for use of COG as a vehicle for recovery of West Side communities and explained that, but so using it, each municipality can retain its perogatives and, at the same time, cooperate with the others in the recovery effort.

It was decided that COG meetings will be held twice a month.

Representatives of Wilbur Smith made a brief presentation on the Sketch Plan for Wyoming Valley that they are preparing.

December 8

MEETING re Wilkes-Barre Redevelopment Authority plan for redevelopment of downtown area of city, Hotel Sterling, 10 a.m.

Present: George Akahoshi (Real Estate Market Consultants); Peter Bohlin (Bohlin & Powell); Edward Boltz; Leon Case (WB Redevelopment Authority); Leo Corbett (WB City Engineer); Anthony Dunlevy (Direction Associates, Inc.) Robert Ducek (Direction Associates, Inc.); Howard Grossman (HUD); Sam Gutman (WB Planning Commission); Dave Koff; Horace Kramer (Chairman, WB Redevelopment Authority); Peg Krengel (HUD); Russell Lackie (Merchants Association); Edgar Lashford; Dick Powell (Bohlin & Powell); Jim Revie (Fowler, Dick & Walker); Robert Scalia (HUD); Bonnie Smith (EDC); Vince Szykman (Consulting Engineer); Tom William (WB Redevelopment); Len Ziolkowski (EDC); representatives of CEO, Direction Associates

December 8 (continued)

Inc., DCA, HUD, Lazarus Department Store, OEP, Wilbur Smith Associates, Andrew Shaw, Betty Schechter, Alice Ellman (FRTF)

Kramer opened the meeting by pointing out that the flood had greatly increased what had already been an urgent need for urban renewal of downtown Wilkes-Barre: every retail store was put out of business; many buildings, sub-standard before the flood, were damaged beyond repair.

Case told the group that, upon learning that a great majority of local merchants were willing to return to the business district, the WB Redevelopment Authority undertook a detailed study of the area which led to development of a Downtown Urban Renewal Area Plan, implementation of which could start in the spring of '73. To present the Plan, Case introduced consultant Bob Ducek of Direction Associates, Inc.

Showing a series of slides, Ducek outlined a comprehensive plan for the re-building and rebirth of the central city. He emphasized that certain project improvements such as the widening of Union Street and a re-patterning of city traffic are essential to its success.

Anthony Dunlevy, also of Direction Associates, discussed financing and relocation implications of the Plan: gross project cost is estimated at $65 million; implementation of the project will result in displacement of 152 families and a number of individual renters and roomers, 260 residential or office units, 12 industrial concerns and 19 non-profit, semi-public groups. He told the group that adequate quarters for individuals, families, and businesses to be displaced by project are either presently available or will be made available.

George Akahoshi, real estate market consultant, discussed the office space, retail store and motor hotel potential of the Plan and said that there are both a market and funding ready to make them realities.

Carlo Poerio of Wilkes-Barre Redevelopment discussed citizen participation in the Plan. He said that officials and private citizens, merchants and public agencies affected by the Plan had been consulted both informally and formally, that strong sentiment in favor of the Plan had been expressed, and that the Authority plans to hold public meetings on the Plan as soon as the federal government commits the money needed to implement it.

Lashford, speaking for the Chamber of Commerce, endorsed the Plan and recommended its support. Also speaking in support of the Plan, Lackie, vice-president of the Merchants Association, urged development of a "merchandise mix" of complementary stores for the downtown area. He emphasized that implementation of the Plan can be expected to re-establish the city's tax base. Revie told the group that developers have a strong interest in Northeastern Pennsylvania because of its great potential for support of the expanding megalopolis. Koff indicated that if the necessary land is made available, the money, talent, and initiative needed to build a strong metropolitan area will be at hand. Boltz expressed the opinion that Wyoming Valley is the heartland of Northeastern Pennsylvania and said "all the players are ready to play".

December 8 (continued)

Responding for HUD to the presentation of the Plan, Robert Scalia said that he saw a need to compress scheduling lest imponderables delay or prevent full implementation. He stressed a need for sensitive understanding of problems confronting merchants who have rehabilitated their stores, only to learn that their properties are slated for acquisition. Scalia indicated that if the schedule for the Plan could be compressed HUD could make "special tools" available. He discussed methods of easing the financial burden on developers.

Peg Krengle, Citizen Particiaption Officer of HUD, Scranton, indicated concern lest the interests of small businessmen and residents of the area to be redeveloped be given less than full consideration.

It was announced that HUD will reply to the presentation of the Plan within two weeks.

A copy of the Downtown Urban Renewal Area Plan is available at FRTF headquarters.

Dear Mike —

WILKES COLLEGE
JAN 4 1973
President's Office

I thought you might be interested in my comments in the attached letter.

Happy New Year!

Joe W.

12/29

flood task force file

DR. F. J. MICHELINI

Ingersoll-Rand Company

WOODCLIFF LAKE, NEW JERSEY 07675

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

December 29, 1972

Mr. W. F. Goodfield,
General Tunnel Superintendent
Water Tunnel Contractors
378 Blauvelt Road
Pearl River, New York 10965

Ref: KINZUA DAM
Hurricane "Agnes" Flood Damages

Dear Billy:

Because you were the General Construction Superintendent on all of the tunnel and underground construction during the building of Kinzua Dam I thought you would be interested in the attached article.

I am only sorry that the late Larry Sowles who was the General Project Manager and your good friend and mine is no longer with us so that he would know that his hard work and managerial capabilities have paid off in the saving of life and property.

It is noteworthy that the City of Scranton, Penna. and the areas around Honesdale and Hawley, Penna. were similarly spared from flood damage from hurricane "Agnes" because of dams built in recent years at the headwaters of the Lackawanna River and other streams in that area.

Had the recommendations of the U. S. Corps of Engineers made about ten years ago been followed out, which called for dams on the headwater streams of the Susquehanna River, I am convinced that the terrible damage and loss suffered by people at such places as Painted Post and Corning, N. Y. and Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, Plymouth, Harrisburg and other Pennsylvania cities would not have occurred. Sooner or later someone will have to pound some sense into the heads of the "do-gooders" who in the name of environmental protection hold up such needed work not to mention elected officials in Washington, D. C. as well as at State Capitals who argue about approving and funding such projects.

W. F. Goodfield 12/29/72

I thought you would be interested in the attached and I am sending copies to others who I know will have an interest in this article.

Sincerely,
INGERSOLL RAND COMPANY

J. A. Wiendl
Vice President

PS I don't know whether I told y ou or not but the hurricane "Agnes" floods caused damage, still not finally determined, but presently estimated at at least $20,000,000 at our plants at Painted Post, N. Y., Athens, Pa. and Elkridge, Md.

and the government to correct the problem. Brienza went further in appeals for a federal government investigation of "stiff and continuous price increases and shortages of lumber, and particularly the disappearance of practically all plywood from the construction scene in this country."

Citing the possibility of heavy, unseasonable unemployment if the entire lumber difficulty is not corrected, Rajoppi stated that he supported Brienza's petition for federal government action. Rajoppi said a proposed planning program involving government, labor and management would not only help cool present conditions, but that such planning would go a long way in preventing recurrence of the situation in the future. In telegrams to U. S. Senators Clifford P. Case and Harrison A. Williams, and all New Jersey congressmen, Brienza emphasized that the industry "is in need of immediate relief, and that many of the state's key construction projects are in trouble already."

"The situation requires immediate action, both in the interest of the construction industry, the working men and the entire economy of the state of New Jersey," Brienza asserted.

Power Plants Planned For Jersey Coast

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—Executives of the Public Service Electric and Gas Co. and Offshore Power Systems met three miles out at sea recently, to sign a contract for two nuclear power plants to be built in the Atlantic Ocean. The $750 million contract, which was signed at the proposed plant site, was said to be the largest equipment contract in the history of the electric utility industry. The floating nuclear power stations will be in addition to the 11 proposed by the major power companies for construction in the Delaware River basin.

Construction of the floating plants, generating a total of 1.1 million kilowatts each, will begin on a Jacksonville, Fla. assembly line in mid-1975, where they will be built by OPS, a joint venture of Tenneco Inc. and Westinghouse Electric Corp. Once they are built, the plants will be towed to floating platforms which will be built on the site by PSE&G. They are expected to be in operation by 1980, at a total cost of $1 billion.

The plant site is nearly three miles off the mouth of the Little Egg Inlet, and about 12 miles northeast of Atlantic City. Each of the two floating platforms will be surrounded by a stone and concrete breakwater, officials said. The breakwater, measuring 300 feet wide at the top, will be "the largest and strongest structure ever built in the ocean." Officials said the plants would be able to withstand sustained hurricane winds of 156 miles an hour and tornado winds of up to 300 miles an hour. More than three million tons of material — enough to construct a two-lane highway 200 miles long — will go into their construction, it was stated. Each plant will measure about 400 feet square and will be 180 feet high with a draft of about 30 feet, according to the contract. In addition, the plants will contain living quarters for 100 persons, "in case weather makes it impossible to transport men back and forth from the plant to the shore."

Some 50 permits and authorizations will have to be obtained from local, state and federal agencies before actual construction begins. An Atomic Energy Commission hearing on the issue will be held some time in 1974.

Kinzua Dam Named Award Winner

WARREN, Penna.—The Kinzua Dam has been named the winner of the fifth Don Neal service award "for saving Pennsylvania and Allegheny River communities from Warren to Pittsburgh from over $200 million in damage during the June floods." Announcement of the award was made by W. LeRoy Schneck, president of the Kinzua Dam Vacation Bureau which sponsors the prize named for its first recipient and presented annually for outstanding service to Kinzua County. The dam, completed in 1966, spared western Pennsylvania $247,300,00 in flood damage from June's Hurricane Agnes. Designed to contain over twice the 1956 maximum flood level, the dam cost $107,700,000 to construct and has thus paid for itself, authorities said.

N.J. Contractors Form New Association

EAST ORANGE, N. J.—Formed earlier this year, the Associated Independent Contractors, 33 Evergreen Place, East Orange, recently installed Alfred J. Luciano of Farm Harvesting Co., Morris Plains, as its president. Other officers include Robert Michelson, Arges Construction Co., Lincoln Park, vice president; and Al Carlone, Carlone Construction Co., Morristown, Secretary.



A. J. Luciano

Now having a membership of over 100, the Associated Independent Conestructors includes firms active in land clearing, site development, utility installation, paving and heavy construction. Among its services are a "hotline" and an advisory council, through which a member firm can get immediate advice and information on matters pertaining to safety and environmental regulations and requirements, motor vehicle regulations, labor relations and other related subjects of prime importance concerning the operation of their respective firms.

Membership meetings for prime contractor, sub-contrator and associate members are held on the 4th Monday of each month. Prospective members are asked to conduct the AIC offices either by mail or at 201-677-1125.

NYC Tests Reclaimed Rubber

NEW YORK CITY—The New York City Dept. of Highways is presently testing a new hot asphalt mix containing reclaimed rubber in the resurfacing of the roadway on Murray Street, between 20th and 23rd Avenues, Whitestone, Queens. Commissioner Vincent J. Gibney said that the Highways Department will cover the existing 30 ft. wide roadway, which is badly deteriorated, with a two-inch thick layer of the rubberized asphaltic mixture. "Once the experimental area is resurfaced, highway engineers will conduct periodical inspections of the site to determine if the asphalt mix that utilizes discarded tires lengthens the life of the pavement and is more impervious to water and salt solutions from deicing compounds used in the roadway during winter," the Commissioner pointed out. To conduct this and other tests throughout the city, the Highways Department purchased 18,000 pounds of Ramflex, a powdered devulcanized rubber, from the U.S. Rubber Reclaiming Company of Vicksburg, Mississippi. About 300 tons of the rubberized asphaltic mix will be prepared at the agency's asphalt-producing plant in Flushing, Queens, and hauled to the resurfacing site by 18-ton capacity trucks. For each ton of asphalt mix, twenty pounds of the black powdered rubber will be introduced. The reclaiming company, in noting that there are approximately two billion old discarded tires presently littering the country's landscape, claims that asphalt, mixed with the special formulation of reclaimed rubber, can be laid down faster, drys more quickly, has lower maintenance cost because it requires less attention, and cuts down on rutting and ridging caused by heavy traffic.

(Continued on P. 97)

FRTF

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, December 18

December 18

December 19

MEETING called by Secretary Wilcox re Utilization of State monies appropriated for flood recovery, 4 p.m., Harrisburg

Present: Mark P. Widell (Justice); Phyllis Skok, John Woltin (Office of Budget); Clyde Cromwell (Small Business Administration); Michael C. Hough, Michael R. Kostelansky, William A. Rolland, Kenneth H. Ross; Andrew Shaw, James Tarity (FRTF)

The meeting opened with discussion of the feasibility of the State of Pennsylvania's giving flood victims a tax credit or some type of deferred annuity as a means of making it possible for them to retain monies made available to them by the state (as opposed to an outright grant which SBA would acquire to reduce a flood victim loan).

Some of the rules and regulations under which SBA operates were discussed, and it was pointed out that if a flood victim who had taken an SBA loan became disabled or suffered loss of income for another reason, SBA would suspend payment of principle. It was also noted, however, that, under those circumstances, when the individual in question died, SBA would acquire his property. The discussion then turned to the possibility of the State's developing a mortgage insurance program using approximately $20 million of the funds appropriated by the legislature for flood relief. The relative benefits of development and handling of such a program by the State and by private insurance companies were considered. It was pointed out that the contemplated insurance program would cover approximately 500,000 owner-occupied homes.

Secretary Wilcox asked Mr. Ross of the actuarial firm of Huggins and Company to develop cost guidelines for the kind of program that had been discussed. It was agreed that when those guidelines are available, another meeting will be held to determine what action should be taken.

Shaw told the group that Judge Rosenn and other memebers of the FRTF have been urging SBA to incorporate mortgage insurance into the national insurance program that cover military personnel.

December 20

MEETING re Citizenship participation in planning for redevelopment, FRTF headquarters, 10 a.m.

Present: Peg Krengel, Joe McNamara (HUD); Bill Conner; Betty Schechter

Preliminary plans were made for an information program through which the relative benefits to home owners of acquisition of their property by a redevelopment authority and rehabilitation of their homes with SBA loans monies would be made clear.

Krengel listed the kinds of evidence of citizen participation in planning that HUD looks for when reviewing plans for urban renewal:

December 20 (continued)

a) recognition by municipal officials of projected impact of improvements on operating budget
b) meetings between businessmen and SBA officials for the purpose of clarifying the effects of a move to a new location
c) consultations between redevelopment authority and businesses operating outside the redevelopment area on the effect the contemplated changes will have on them
d) a program of counselling and assistance to businesses which will relocate as a result of urban renewal.

An increasingly apparent need to dispel public uncertainty about areas of responsibility within the redevelopment process was discussed. FRTF staff gave Krengel a list of questions homeowners are asking aobut redevelopment and it was agreed that HUD would provide the answers and that HUD and FRTF will work together on presenting them to the public in easily understandable form. It was also agreed that the two organizations will cooperate to clarify the redevelopment roles played by 1) HUD, 2) SBA, 3) the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 4) the redevelopment authority, and 5) local municipal officials. The possibility of issuing a lexicon of sets of initials pertinent to the recovery effort, such as HUD, SBA, OEP, with a brief description of the function of each, was also discussed.

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December 21

MEETING of Transportation Committee, Treadway Inn, 8 a.m.

Present: Dave Weber (DOT); Gabrielle Ramsauer (EDC); Gerald Eddy (Luzerne County Transportation Authority); Ray Radomski (PennDOT); Cliff Bigelow, Tom Bigler, Jack Conyngham, Tom Kiley, Tom Moran, Ed Schechter, Jack Schmitt, Jim Tarity (FRTF)

Schechter outlined the arrangements that have been made for the January 3rd official opening of the temporary North Street bridge: an 11 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony on the bridge will be followed, first, by a press conference at the Hotel Sterling, and, then, by a luncheon reception in the hotel's Blue Room; the reception will be sponsored by the Flood Recovery Task Force, and hosted by the Wyoming Valley Motor Club, David Schooley, member of the State Transportation Commission, and several members of the Wilkes-Barre business community.

Schechter reported on the progress of the legal action against PennDOT taken by a citizens group opposing the widening and straightening of River Street. He said that the action went to trial on December 18th and that a verdict is expected soon.

Ramsauer distributed a third draft of the EDCNP report supporting emergency, flood-related status for the North Cross Valley Expressway, and various suggestions from committee members on how the report should be used when it is in its final form were discussed. It was agreed that as soon as the report is ready for distribution, it should be sent to Secretary Jacob Kassab of PennDOT.

December 21 (continued)

Radomski reported that work on the design of the permanent North Street bridge is progressing satisfactorily.

Schechter introduced Gerald Eddy, executive director of the newly formed Luzerne County Transportation Authority, to the committee. Eddy said that since starting his new job he had received a great deal of cooperation and encouragement from governmental and local agencies and individuals. Outlining the Authority's goals, he said that its immediate aim is to keep existing equipment running well until the new buses arrive and to run a dependable bus system. Looking to the future, he said, he hopes to see a substantial improvement in the county's transportation system by the end of 1973.

MEETING of Committee on Local Government, Treadway, 7:30 p.m.

Present: John C. Budjnoski, Walter Ruskoski (Hanover Area School District); John Para, William Shaughnessy (Jenkins Township); Ralph Brown, Ray Lowery (Kingston Borough); William F. Cutten (Kingston Township-Dallas); Stanley Glazenski, Mayor E. Edward Gork (Nanticoke City); Donald P. Schinski (Nanticoke Redevelopment Authority); Kathleen Bristol, Chris Canuto (Swoyersville Borough); Joe Pugliese (West Pittston Borough); S. Joseph Weiss (West Wyoming Borough); James Costegein (Wyoming Borough); Bob Rafsky (DCA); Howard Grossman, Bob Shephard, Leonard Ziolkowski (EDC); Peter Goobic, Paul Tweedy (PEL); Carey Burnett, R. J. Fagelson, Robert Henry, Richard Miller (Wilbur Smith Associates); Charles Hardwick, Wallace Stettler, Andrew Shaw, James Tarity (FRTF)

Shaw opened the meeting by announcing that it had been called by the FRTF Committee on Local Government at the request of many of those who had attended the first FRTF-sponsored meeting of local officials. He said that the most important benefit of such meetings lies in the opportunity it gives officials to raise questions about problems they have in common and to exchange ideas on solutions to these problems. Shaw urged those present to avail themselves of the services the "umbrella agencies", IRA, PEL, EDC, and FRTF provide, and added that a third meeting will be called only if officials indicate that it would be useful to them.

Grossman introduced Richard Miller of Wilbur Smith Associates, the consulting firm that is preparing the "Sketch Plan for Wyoming Valley." Miller explained that the Sketch Plan will serve as the background against which all urban renewal decisions will be made and outlined the categories in which his firm is gathering data in order to make the Plan.

A brief questions and answer period followed Miller's presentation. At its conclusion, Shaw introduced Secretary Wilcox's representative, Bob Rafksy, who described the Commonwealth's flood recovery program in Wyoming Valley.

Winding up the evening's program, Shaw emphasized to those present that the responsibility for making decisions vital to the Valley's future well-being rests with the various municipalities' elected officials. The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

* December 20

MEETING re "Sketch Plan for Wyoming Valley"

Present: Richard Miller and other members of the staff of Wilbur Smith Associates; Andrew Shaw

Shaw gave those present background information on local community organization and on such aspects of local government as structure, administration, personnel, and finance. He also spoke to them about the legal framework in which governmental organization and reorganization must operate. Then, the question of how best to disseminate the information Wilbur Smith Associates is gathering to local communities was discussed. Several alternative methods were proposed and it was agreed that these will be reviewed when the consulting firm's study nears completion.

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

At the end of November the Flood Recovery Task Force headquarters moved from the Hotel Sterling to Holy Cross Hall, King's College, in order to work closely with the representatives of the Federal Regional Council located there. The Council's work in Wilkes-Barre has now ended and, as a result, the Task Force headquarters will move back to the Hotel Sterling (next door to the Wide-Awake Book Shop) on January third. Our telephone number, 829-1981, will remain the same.

FRTF

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WILKES COLLEGE
DEC 22 1972
President's Office

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, December 11

December 11

December 12

MEETING of Planning and Development agencies in the Wyoming Valley

Present: Grossman, Phelan, Smith, Ziolkowski (EDC); Cain (FRC); Scalia (HUD); Maj. Vick (U.S. Corps of Engineers); representatives of Wilkes-Barre and Luzerne County Planning and Redevelopment agencies; representatives of Kingston, Plains, Plymouth, Schickshinny municipalities; representatives of DCA, Environmental Design Associates, PennDOT, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Wilbur Smith Associates; representatives of Plymouth Flood Recovery; Shaw, B. Schechter (FRTF)

Dick Miller of Wilbur Smith Associates reported on progress of Wyoming Valley Sketch Plan. He said that his agency is making a study covering the 45 municipalities in the Valley on population, housing market, transportation needs, education, flood control and governmental organization, employment and expects to present final reports on many of these at the next meeting of this group. To questions on the Sketch Plan's scope, Miller replied that the Plan aims to present comprehensive background information and a generalized strategy on which to base redevelopment decisions.

The representative of Environmental Design Associates reported that the Wyoming Valley Recreation, Open Space and Historic Preservation Planning Program his agency is preparing will be ready by December 15th. He added that, although the agency hopes to provide for a "corridor" of open space running through the Valley, it aims to provide not detailed plans for individual municipalities but generalized suggestions that will be useful to the municipalities in making their final plans.

Major Vick of the Army Corps of Engineers outlined the 3-phase plan for construction of flood control projects the Corps made public the previous week. He added that the Corps is still evaluating the information it has gathered on the character of the Susquehanna and will announce decisions on flood plains only after it has developed a "profile of the river".

On the subject of reservations of funds for renewal and redevelopment projects, Scalia said: reservations will be made not only on the basis of percentage of structures damaged in a particular area, but also on the basis of other factors, such as amount of land to be acquired; HUD is reviewing each application very carefully because final reservations must be made by June 30th and the agency wants to avoid both under and overestimating; as far as Pennsylvania as a whole is concerned a secure reservation of $400 million in federal funds has been made.

December 13

MEETING re Citizen participation in urban renewal and redevelopment planning

Present: Peg Krengel (HUD, Citizen Participation Officer), Robert Scalia (HUD); Alice Ellman, Betty Schechter, Andrew Shaw (FRTF)

December 14 (continued)

Crews announced that he would be leaving the Valley on December 15th and thanked the Committee for its friendly cooperation. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the help Crews has given it.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on December 21st and will be devoted to discussion of the second draft of the EDC-prepared justification of emergency, flood-related status for the Cross Valley Expressway.

MEETING of Flood Victims Action Council, Coughlin, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor of Nanticoke, representative of Nanticoke Redevelopment; Warne (HUD); Ray Musto, representative of Hanover and Jenkins Townships, Joseph Halesey (Hanover Township); Representatives Fred Shupnik and Bernard O'Brien, Councilman Joe Williams; Representative Dan Flood; Howard Grossman (EDC); Jim Price (Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority); Secretary William Wilcox; Min Matheson, Betty Greenberg, Rosalyn Kleinman, Joe O'Boyle, Mike Kostelanski, Paul Kanjorski, Peter Kanjorksi (FVAC); Betty Schechter, Ed Schechter (FRTF)

The keynote speaker, Atty. Paul Kanjorski, made the following points:

1. According to HUD figures Luzerne County suffered 69% of the Agnes damage and its fair share of the $533 million redevelopment monies ($400 million federal plus $133 million state) is $365 million.
2. All the requests for redevelopment monies from Luzerne County municipalities added up to $300 million.
3. The county as a whole didn't request enough in redevelopment monies and it's best to understand that the government doesn't alllocate monies it hasn't been asked for.
4. Redevelopment authorities claim that they only asked for $300 million because they were given to understand by HUD Philadelphia that the $400 million won't really be allocated.
5. When questioned about this, Mr. Connor said that the $400 million will get allocated.
6. South Wilkes-Barre requested $58 million in August and has been told they'll only get $40 million. If they were to get the full amount requested several hundred more homes that suffered 80% damage could be acquired.
7. Altogether it looks as though the Valley will suffer a "loss" of $100 million or more.
8. The President's representatives in the Valley won't listen to the voice of the people.

Secretary Wilcox, the next speaker, said that Wyoming Valley's experience shows that national disaster insurance would be a better vehicle for assistance to victims of a disaster than SBA loans, that federal disaster teams should be organized to cope efficiently with future disasters, that the use of mobile homes for temporary housing is not desirable after disasters of Agnes magnitude, and that collapsible, easily transportable housing would serve the needs of victims of such disasters much better.

December 14 (continued)

Quoting figures that he said had come from Carlucci's office, Wilcox said that it looked as though 51% of the HUD redevelopment funds allotted to Pennsylvania would be coming into Wyoming Valley. He added that he was not convinced that pro-rating funds on the basis of amount of damage to structures is the best way to allocate funds and that in considering the Valley's needs it would be wise to remember that recovery of other flood-affected parts of the state is vital to its own recovery. He also said the flood-victim whose property is acquired for redevelopment purposes and who is paid its pre-flood value does not always have an advantage over the home-owner who rehabilitates his house with an SBA loan: the former must acquire a new home and if he needs a loan to do so he must borrow at normal commercial rates.

Min Matheson spoke next. She critized representatives of the Federal government, saying that they have "harassed" flood victims.

Representative Dan Flood spoke to the assemblage about the proposal on national disaster insurance he has made to Congress. He noted that its clause relating to retroactivity is the greatest obstacle to its acceptance.

Howard Grossman spoke on EDC's role in the recovery program.

December 13 (continued)

The purposes of the meeting were 1) to acquaint Krengel with Task Force activities and objectives and 2) to explore how the Task Force can assist municipalities fulfill HUD requirement of citizen participation in development of renewal and redevelopment plans.

Krengel and Scalia indicated effective implementation of a municipal plan requires careful consideration of the following factors:

a. statistics on number of people planning to resettle in project area and on amounts various segments of the population are willing to spend on rehabilitating homes and businesses
b. consideration by municipal officials of impact on operating budget of capital improvements
c. survey of social and economic impact of planned improvements both within and adjacent to the project area
d. proper zoning to protect planned new business district against pirating of businesses it counts on as tenants by competing shopping areas before planned new business district is ready for occupancy

December 14

MEETING of Transportation Committee, 8 a.m., Treadway Inn

Present: Tom Crews, Dave Weber (DOT); Gabrielle Ramsauer (EDC); Ray Radomski (PennDOT); Cliff Bigelow, Tom Bigler, Jack Conyngham, Leo Corbett, Ed Schechter, Jack Schmitt, Jim Tarity (FRTF)

The Committee unanimously passed a resolution supporting the State of Pennsylvania in the legal action brought against it by a citizens group opposing the straightening and widening of River Street. (Copy of resolution available at FRTF office.)

Schechter presented a report on the December 13th meeting of the Luzerne County Transportation Authority and noted that an early agreement with the Wilkes-Barre Transit Company on purchase of services is expected.

Radomski announced that progress on the temporary North Street Bridge is satisfactory and that the bridge is scheduled to be open for traffic before the second week in January. He also reported that bids for the Cross Valley Expressway approach embankment and substructure will be advertised at the end of December and the contract awarded by the end of January. Problems connected with relocation of people living in the section of River Street proposed for right of way acquisition for the Expressway River Street exchange were discussed, and Radomski agreed to work closely with the Task Force with a view to coordinating all relocation efforts.

It was noted that the reversion of Kidder and Scott Streets to two-way traffic had not yet produced appreciable traffic congestion. Bigler, however, said that this may be because many motorists are continuing to use the streets as a one-way system.

December 13 (continued)

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION ✓

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

Hotel Sterling

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

717-829-1981

WILKES COLLEGE
DEC 7 1972
President's Office

TO: CONCERNED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: JUDGE MAX ROSENN, Chairman, Flood Recovery Task Force.

A major problem facing this area is the shortage of nursing home beds due to destruction of facilities by the flood. The shortage was severe before "Agnes," as documented by the Rosenfeld Associates study of last spring. The shortage of manpower to staff existing beds, the threatened closing of additional beds due to stringent new safety standards and the low rates of state reimbursement for indigent patients are factors aggravating the shortage.

A committee of the Flood Recovery Task Force has made a careful analysis of this critical situation and has made the following recommendations to meet the needs of the immediate future:

1. That additional beds be opened at Valley Crest.

2. That the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital be encouraged to re-activate the beds in the nurses' residence that were utilized during the flood.

3. That Luzerne, Wyoming and Lackawanna Counties be designated a Pilot Project Area in which state reimbursement rates should be raised as of January 1, 1973.

We urge your immediate consideration of this report and welcome your comments and your support of its recommendations. The report and its recommendations already have the support of the Executive Committee of the Flood Recovery Task Force, the Welfare Planning Council of Wyoming Valley, the Health and Hospital Planning Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Adult Welfare Advisory Board and Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley.

Please send your response to Mrs. Frank W. Anderson, Chairman, Committee on Human Services, Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. 822 IBE Building 67 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701.

Max Rosenn/mcl

MAX ROSENN

F L O O D R E C O V E R Y T A S K F O R C E, I N C.

Critical Shortage of Nursing Home Beds

Concern for the safety and care of hospital and nursing home patients held high priority in the efforts of volunteers and officials during the flood. The damage to nursing homes, resulting in the loss of some, only aggravating the shortage that existed before the flood, presents a major problem at this time that requires equally concerted and effective action by our community.

The following is no routine report. It is a CALL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION by the Committee on Nursing Homes of the Flood Recovery Task Force.

DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM:

1. Effect of the flood-damage to nursing homes

"Five nursing homes in Luzerne County and one in Wyoming County with a total of 304 beds (298 skilled and 6 intermediate care) were evacuated. Two of these homes (one each in Luzerne and Wyoming) with a total of 178 beds (all skilled) are now operational at 90% capacity." (Department of Welfare, Region II Report of 10/23/72). Return to operation of the other four facilities is very much in question because of flood damage and stringent new regulations for such facilities.

2. Pre-flood shortage of beds

The loss of these facilities only emphasizes the shortage that existed before the flood. The hospital survey prepared by Rosenfeld Associates for the Wilkes Barre Area Health Planning Council (completed before the flood) concludes its section on long-term care: "Utilizing either the Pennsylvania State Plan (for Hospital and Medical Facilities, DPW 1971) or U.S. guidelines, there is a need for 711 to 826 intermediate or skilled nursing beds in the Wilkes Barre Health Region Center service area by 1975."

The report also points out the high percentage of persons 65 age and over in this area, notes that "the average household income level for this area is 6.5% less than the rest of the state, and comments "the high cost of care in proprietary nursing homes, where the range is from $59 to $103 * per week, prevents most of the 65 years of age and older residents in the service area from utilizing these facilities." It also notes the "relatively long waiting list for admission to Valley Crest, the 286 bed county facility." (As of 11/15/72 the waiting list was 49, according to the Division of Adult Welfare Services who handles admissions.)

3. Increasing need for beds

"Area hospitals (Luzerne-Lackawanna) project a minimum of 65 new patients each month from these facilities. This does not include the as yet undetermined number of persons currently living at home but requiring

* The Committee feels these figures are low. As of November 1972 in the Wilkes Barre area, the cost for routine nursing services was $17 per day ($119 per week). This does not include drugs, catheters, or other ancillary services.

nursing home care. This does not include the estimated numerous persons now living in boarding homes (currently unlicensed in Pennsylvania) who, in reality, are nursing home candidates. There are currently 46 patients in hospitals waiting placement in nursing homes." (DPW, 10/23/72).

4. Critical shortage exists in Lackawanna County

The shortage of beds in Lackawanna County has been compounded by the over-flow of nursing home patients from Luzerne due to the flood. "A survey in 1969 indicated and projected a need for from 500 to 700 modern nursing home beds in that county alone." (DPW Report 10/23/72). The DPW daily report of available beds in the three-county area this fall has consistently reflected only a handful of open beds, most of them for ambulatory and/or private-pay patients. The great majority of patients awaiting placement in hospitals are either DPA or Medicaid patients.

5. Problem of compliance with state standards

The Rosenfeld report reveals that as of last spring, there were 376 non-conforming beds in the Wilkes Barre Service area, that many nursing homes were not in compliance with the new Labor and Industry standards. Several hundred of these beds were judged "incorrectible." In the summer of 1971, a number of nursing homes that were non-conforming converted to rest home, or boarding home status (unlicensed) with many of their patients still occupying the same beds.

Because of Agnes, the deadline for compliance in the flood-affected area was extended and a number of nursing homes are now operating with provisional licenses. It is not known when the state will impose a new deadline for this area, or what its terms may be. The problem is complicated further by the shortage of skilled workmen to correct deficiencies to bring a facility into conformity with existing standards.

6. Problem of state reimbursement for indigent patients

The general term "nursing home" encompasses a wide variety of facilities providing varying levels of care. State reimbursement is geared to the level of care provided.

Levels of Care:

Extended care (ECF)- an extension of hospital care, highly skilled, full-time nursing care and related health services.

Skilled care- provides qualified professional supervision and observation for patients requiring 24 hour attention. Patient is under regular supervision of a physician.

Intermediate care- provides room, board, and some form of supervision and assistance with personal hygiene, diet and medication. Patient is under medical direction.

Custodial (or personal) care- (boarding, rest home)- provides room, board for patients otherwise independent who are no longer able to live independently for economic or social reasons.

Levels of Reimbursement:

Medicare- only for patients age 65 and over qualifying for extended care.

Medical Assistance- for those low-income persons 18 years of age and over who cannot handle heavy medical expenses. (medically indigent). Pays only for skilled nursing care at a rate of $15 per day for a maximum of 60 days. Patient pays for medication and physician. Reimbursement is paid directly to the nursing home and often takes 3-4 months to arrive. As with medicare, patient must come to nursing home from a general hospital after a 3 day hospital stay, or within 5 days of discharge from a hospital.

Public Assistance Grants- for those persons eligible for public assistance. Present rates: $15 per day for skilled nursing care, $10 per day for intermediate care. Is paid, monthly, to the patient, as need is certified. It covers medication and physician. Most institutions prefer these grants to Medical Assistance for obvious reasons.

7. Problems with Medical Assistance and Public Assistance Grants

a) The distinction between skilled and intermediate care is not always easy to make as a patient's condition may fluctuate back and forth. This is particularly true of the elderly patient. A Health and Hospital Planning Council Report on the nursing home situation 8/1/72 commented on this problem: "Retroactive denial of payment for services rendered at a level of care more skilled than that deemed necessary (by DPW), or reduction in payments for a patient for whom no alternative facility can be found, have made institutional personnel wary of specifically identifying patients who are inappropriately placed."

b) "Rates of payment for a variety of levels of care, which are not always explicitly differentiated, and sometimes virtually eliminated by waivers, are made more confusing by differing rates of pay for the same level of care in institutions either in compliance, or in substantial compliance with the Department of Welfare standards for skilled nursing homes. Some may participate in the Medical Assistance and Public Assistance programs. Others may qualify only for the latter." (HHPC-8/1/72)

c) Hill-Burton funds may be used for the construction of extended and skilled care facilities, but not for intermediate care facilities. The imbalance this creates has been illustrated since the flood when a number of entrepreneurs have inquired about the need for nursing homes but are interested only in building extended or skilled care facilities.

d) Reimbursement rates in Pennsylvania are substantially below those of neighboring states, particularly New York*, encouraging contractual agreements between nursing homes in this state with the state of New York. Pennsylvania's low rates also result in the construction of facilities for the higher paying private-pay and/or Medicare patient.

* New York pays $22 per day for skilled nursing care. Hence a number of New York patients are in Pennsylvania nursing home beds.

e) The $5 differential in reimbursement paid for intermediate as opposed to skilled care does not, according to nursing home operators, fairly or accurately reflect the differences in actual costs. It does result in a dearth of intermediate beds where the need is greatest.

8. The problem of manpower

Wages paid in nursing homes reflect the low rates of reimbursement. In the tight labor market of the post-flood period, local nursing homes are having great difficulty obtaining help. A startling example of this is the new 100 bed facility in Nanticoke which has operated all summer and fall at 50% capacity or less due to the inability to attract sufficient staff. This committee explored a variety of possibilities for expanded training programs but felt none were feasible because the existing wage scale cannot hope to hold staff.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Nursing Home Committees of the Flood Recovery Task Force has been defining this problem and exploring alternatives for solution since early October. It was unanimous in making the following recommendations and urges community support for their implementation as quickly as possible.

1) That efforts be exerted to open additional beds at Valley Crest

2) That the Board of Directors of the Wilkes Barre General Hospital be asked to reactivate the beds in the Nurses' Residence that were utilized during the emergency to augment the number of nursing home beds for the immediate future until new facilities can be constructed. (Several are planned, one is underway.)

3) The possibility of raising reimbursement rates in Pennsylvania is already being explored actively at the state level. A committee representing the County Home Association, the Health Care Facilities Association of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Nursing Homes, is working with the Department of Welfare to develop a schedule of phased increases in reimbursement rates based on a more realistic cost system. This report is due for completion by the end of November and will recommend the following increases:

1. Skilled nursing care from $15 to $18 per day.

2. Intermediate care from $10 to $17 per day.

Therefore, this committee recommends that Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Wyoming Counties be designated as a Pilot Project Area and that the implementation of these new rates go into effect in these counties as of January 1, 1973. The committee anticipates this would afford several opportunities to improve the critical situation in these three counties.

1) It would enable some marginal facilities which may no longer be able to qualify for skilled nursing care, to provide intermediate care at rates permitting them to stay in business.

2) It would make more monies available to nursing homes to correct deficiences.

3) It would enable nursing homes to pay better wages to attract and hold staff.

4) It should encourage the construction of facilities that will accept the non-private pay patient.

5) Cost related reimbursement would encourage the Wilkes Barre General Hospital to convert its Nurses' Residence to a temporary long-term care facility to help meet the critical shortage of beds.

This committee is in complete agreement regarding the urgent need for intermediate care beds, especially for the indigent patient. An increase in intermediate care beds will reduce the number of inappropriate placements and lessen the pressure on skilled care beds.

November 24, 1972

Committee on Nursing Homes

Mrs. Frank W. Anderson, Chairman	Flood Recovery Task Force
Mr. William Desciak	Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania
Mrs. Margaret Ferry	Health & Hospital Planning Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania
Mrs. Margaret Spencer	Luzerne County Bureau for the Aging
Mrs. Selma Zreimer	Luzerne County Bureau for the Aging
Mr. Robert A. Reed	Valley Crest
Mrs. Betty Klapper	Health Care Facilities Association of Pennsylvania
Mrs. Marianlee Biscontini	Health Care Facilities Association of Pennsylvania
Miss Mary Krlic	Home Health Services
Mrs. Sally Weiss	Home Health Services
Sister Mary Leonia	St.Stanislaus Medical Care Center

Active Consultants to the Committee

Mr. Robert Hammel	Department of Public Welfare, Region II. Office of Medical Programs
Mr. Michael Kendall	
Mr. Joseph Lavelle	
Mr. Clyde Couchman	Federal Regional Council, Department of Health, Education & Welfare
Mr. John Corey	
Miss Alice McFadden	President's Task Force on Aging

Active Consultants to the Committee continued:

Mr. John J. Farrell	Pennsylvania Department of of Health
Hon. George M. Leader	President, Leader Nursing Centers, Inc.
Mr. Leo J. Rooney	Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Services
Mrs. Regina K. Straub	Adult Welfare Services
Ms. Annette Gold Ms. Mary Ann Slodzonicki Ms. Valaida W. Randolph	Keystone Jobs Corps Center for Women

Flood Recovery Task Force

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, November 27

November 27

November 28

MEETING of Committee on a Recovery Fair, Chamber of Commerce, noon

Present: Leo Corbett, Blanche Coslett, Ralph Hazeltine, Edgar Lashford, Ted Levanthol, Roy Morgan, Bob Parker, Murray Popky, Bob Rafsky, Nello Riccetti, Max Rosenn, Andrew Shaw, Betty Schechter, Arthur Wiener, Joe Williams, Jr., Walter Wood

Morgan reviewed the Fair's objectives: to demonstrate that the community has recovered from the effects of the flood; to show the cultural, historical, and educational character of the Valley; to function as a tourist attraction; to encourage consideration of the Valley by industrial firms looking for areas in which to locate.

Discussion of desirable duration and of funding of the Fair followed. It was agreed that both the closing dates of local schools and colleges (WB schools - June 13; King's graduation - May 20; Wilkes graduation - June 3) and the difficulties involved in sustaining public interest in a Fair over a long period of time should be considered in determining the length of the Fair. It was decided that the Fair will open on May 11th and tentatively decided that it would end on June 3rd and be reconstituted briefly on June 23rd for recognition of the anniversary of the flood by a concert open to the public.

Rafsky announced that the Commonwealth is prepared to commit at least $12,000 to support of the Fair and is ready to consider a budget submitted by the Committee with the idea of adding to its committment.

MEETING re Theme, Colors, and Logo for Recovery Fair

Present: Annie Bohlin, Murray Popky, Betty Schechter

The desirability of a unifying theme for the Fair was discussed. Annie Bohlin agreed to design a logo and develop suggestions for Fair colors, banners, posters, and signs for the Recovery Fair Committee's consideration.

November 29

MEETING of Planning and Development Committee, Hotel Sterling, 8 a.m.

Present: Badman, Brown, Epstein, Kiley, Koff, Parkhurst, Shapiro, Shelburne, Stettler, Weiss, Williams; B. Schechter, Shaw

Kiley announced that the meeting had been called to consider flood recovery plans and programs that have been put forward by coordinating agencies. After Shaw gave a brief description of the University City Science Center's Pre-Proposal for Inter-Regional Recovery Assistance, discussion centered on the Regional Overall Program Design (ORD) for Northeastern Pennsylvania in the Wake of Tropical Storm Agnes submitted to Theodore Robb, Chairman, Federal Regional Council, Mid-Atlantic Region, by Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

November 29 (continued)

Shelburne outlined the background of EDC's designation as lead planning agency: it sprang from the flood-stricken Valley's pressing need for a basic "Sketch Plan" against which to measure the worth of applications for EDA grants from individual municipalities; EDC had the staff and expertise to develop the Overall Program needed as a basis for bids by consulting firms for the job of formulating the Sketch Plan. Shelburne added that no firm decisions on redevelopment areas can be made until a Sketch Plan is adopted by the County.

Shaw said that the flood-stricken area suffers from a lack of up to date master plans for individual communities. He added that arrangements have been made for a representative of Wilbur Smith Associates, the firm hired by the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority to make the Sketch Plan, to address the next Task Force sponsored meeeting of local officials: the representative of Wilbur Smith Associates will emphasize the need for individual master plans and explain the consulting firm's function and objectives.

Shelburne pointed out that the work being done by Wilbur Smith Associates relates to redevelopment. He added that they will be gathering the information they need from not only the redevelopment authorities, but also from public officials and agencies concerned with flood recovery, and he suggested that when the Sketch Plan is completed in mid-January, it would be well for EDC and the FRTF Planning and Development Committee to review it jointly. Summing up one of EDC's major responsibilities, Shelburne said that the agency serves the function of understanding both the role of each of the many federal agencies and the kind and amount of funding each can make available.

It was agreed that the Committee would review the Sketch Plan jointly with EDC and make arrangements to meet with representatives of Wilbur Smith.

MEETING re Formation of an Executive Planning Committee for Human Resources Development, 9:30, EDC

Present: Ed Sites (DCA); Bill Desciak, Howard Grossman, Bob Shephard (EDC); Margaret Anderson, Charles Reynolds, Andrew Shaw (FRTF); John Farrell (Pa. Dept. of Health); Bill Eberwine (United Services Agency)

It was decided that the Executive Planning Committee would be made up of those present and Allen Bacon (CEO), Bob McGregor (Health and Hospital Planning Council), Bob Smith (Health Care Management), Frank Slattery (CEP), and John Zatalava (FRC).

The function of this committee was defined as review and coordination of plans and programs in the area of human resources. It was noted that this committee and its functions fall within the scope of the Regional Overall Program Design prepared by EDC.

MEETING re Long-term programs for repair and rehabilitation of flood-damaged homes. EDC, 2 p.m.

November 29 (continued)

Present: Ray Atherton (WB Redevelopment), Paul Cain (FRC), William Conner Carlucci Staff), Howard Grossman (EDC), Andrea Hornett (Carlucci Staff), Jim Price (Luzerne County Redevelopment), Cliff Rossignol (EDA), Robert Scalia (HUD), Andrew Shaw (FRTF), William Wilcox (DCA)

The major topic of discussion was the further rehabilitation of flood-damaged homes after completion of short-term programs such as mini-repairs, interim assistance, and the temporary repairs program contemplated by the Commonwealth.

Atherton presented a proposal by the terms of which his agency would contract out to the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority to survey damaged properties in its area of responsibility and provide each owner of a damaged home in that area with specifications spelling out which kinds of rehabilitation can and which cannot be funded with SBA loan monies (Money can be borrowed from SBA to restore a property to pre-flood condition, but not to bring it up to local code standards if it did not meet those standards before the flood). No decisions were reached on the proposal.

Discussion of how recovery agencies can best advise and help homeowners achieve complete rehabilitation of their damaged houses followed. The question of the point at which citizens groups should participate in decisions on this was brought up but no decisions were reached.

MEETING re HEW funded University of Pennsylvania study of the Impact of the Flood on the Wyoming Valley Elderly and the Response of Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies, Hotel Sterling, noon

Present: Margaret Anderson, Edward Boltz, Bill Desciak, Richard Ehst, Russell Gardner, Glenn Gooch, Elmer Klimchak, James O'Malley, Robert Patton, Max Rosenn; Betty Schechter, Andrew Shaw; Elias S. Cohen, S. Walter Poulchak (HEW Study - Principal Investigator and Research Director)

Cohen discussed the general objectives and specific aims of the study (outline attached) and explained that he had asked to meet with a group of the community's business leaders because it has been found that in a disaster-affected area the decisions made by business have a critical effect on every element of the area's population.

Rosenn said that the area's elderly suffered from a critical shortage of nursing home beds before the flood and that the flood aggravated this problem by dislocating and, thereby, making dependent many previously semi-self sufficient elderly people. Anderson added that stringent new State health-safety requirements are certain to have the effect of materially lessening the number of available nursing home beds. Cohen cautioned that decisions on construction of new nursing homes should be made on the basis of the need anticipated for a fifty year time span.

Discussion of housing for elderly persons not in need of nursing home care brought out several problems: many people of advanced age lack both the funds and the vigor to rehabilitate their damaged homes; many such people live on low, fixed incomes and cannot afford to pay higher rents than they paid before the flood; many who own their own homes are reluctant, both because of their

November 29 (continued)

age and the pride residents of this area take in staying out of debt, to borrow large sums of money.

Cohen pointed out that the security and convenience elderly people find in shopping in small, owner-run, neighborhood stores should be taken into consideration when plans are made for construction of housing for the elderly. He added that the question of whether or not such flood-damaged stores will reopen will affect decisions elderly people will make on whether or not to return to their pre-flood homes.

Cohen asked those present to see to it that the business community considers the needs of the elderly when making decisions on the direction flood-recovery efforts will take.

November 30

MEETING of Transportation Committee, Treadway, 8 a.m.

Present: Tom Crews (DOT); Gabrielle Ramsauer (EDC); Ray Radomski (PennDOT); Cliff Bigelow, Tom Bigler, John Conyngham, Leo Corbett, Ed Schechter, Jack Schmidt, Jim Tarity

Schechter distributed copies of a long, detailed letter he had received from PennDOT Secretary Kassab reporting on the status of the Cross-Valley Expressway, Project LR 1052. The letter makes it clear that the project retains the high priority it had been assigned and that it is still scheduled for completion in 1974. Schechter asked Crews to forward a copy of the letter to Dr. Costantino of DOT.

Copies of a draft of a statement justifying emergency, flood-related status for the project prepared by Ramsauer were also distributed. It was agreed that although it was apparent from the Kassab letter that such a justification was unnecessary as far as the Commonwealth was concerned, it could be useful in gaining DOT support for prompt construction of the Expressway. It was decided to complete preparation of the statement and to use it as the need arises.

Schechter reported that the Luzerne County Transportation Authority had hired Jerry L. Eddy, formerly a division manager of the Public Service Corporation of New Jersey, for the post of Executive Director. Schechter also reported that the Authority is currently negotiating with the Wilkes-Barre Transit Company for purchase of service agreements and that he expects that an agreement between the Company and the Authority will be signed soon.

MEETING re The flood-affected regions' need for consultant-prepared recovery programs Hotel Sterling

Present: representatives of the consulting and accounting firm, Peat, Marwick, and Mitchell: Jim Reynolds, John Wander, and a company economist; Betty Schechter, Andrew Shaw

Reynolds and Wander discussed the services their firm is equipped to perform. It was decided that they would submit a memorandum to the Task Force indicating the areas in which they can provide assistance to existing recovery efforts.

December 1

The staff of the FRTF has moved their headquarters from the Hotel Sterling to Rooms 1008 and 1010, Holy Cross Hall, King's College.

MEETING re Evaluation of Commonwealth's flood recovery program, Holiday Inn, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Present: (DCA) Secretary of Community Affairs William Wilcox, Al Hydeman (Executive Assistant Secretary), Rod Terry (Chief, Governmental Consulting Service), Rony Carabello, Roy Newsome, Bob Rafsky, Ed Sites (Administrative Aides), 6 other representatives of DCA; Howard Grossman (EDC); Min Matheson (FVAC); Max Rosenn, Andrew Shaw (FRTF); Raymond Lowery (Kingston Borough); Leon Case (Luzerne County Redevelopment); Ray Carmon, Bill Jonathan (PEL)

A series of statements were made by individuals and representatives of groups on their opinions of the State's response to the problems created by the flood.

Carmon spoke on the merits of consolidation of local governments and this provoked debate on the definition of consolidation and on the geographical boundaries of Wyoming Valley. It was proposed that Secretary Wilcox call public hearings on the question of consolidation with the expectation that those testifying at these hearings would indicate a need to examine existing governmental functions and their costs. Representatives of PEL agreed to a request that their agency compile data on which to base decisions about governmental reorganization.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA STUDY - 1972-75

IMPACT OF THE FLOOD ON THE WYOMING VALLEY ELDERLY AND THE RESPONSE OF GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

The University of Pennsylvania, Department of Community Medicine is undertaking a study of the impact of Tropical Storm Agnes and the resultant flood on the elderly of Wyoming Valley. The study team will examine how the community and Federal, State and local governments, have responded to the needs of older persons. The study is being funded by the HEW Social and Rehabilitation Service, Administration on Aging (Title IV - Older Americans Act).

The study will provide a description of the effects of the disaster and its aftermath on elderly persons, determine sources of aid, and whether additional services are required. In addition, the study will determine the nature of the response of social institutions and service systems to the disaster, and the effectiveness, over time, of that response.

By analyzing on a longitudinal basis the response in a major disaster, indicators of social, institutional, and service capacity and responsiveness can be ascertained for situations that are less severe (i.e. more normal). Moreover, findings will provide clues, otherwise not available, to criteria for support and development of programs, auspices, and systems serving the elderly. In addition, findings will be useful in planning to meet the problems of the elderly suffering other types of disasters.

Specific aims of this study include the following:

1. To provide an organized description of the impact of a disaster and its aftermath on the elderly.

2. To provide a description of organizational behavior with respect to the elderly at the time of and following a major natural disaster.

3. To determine the resources to which the elderly turn when confronted by widespread disaster.

4. To provide a description of services mobilized to meet the immediate crisis conditions of the elderly, and an analysis of the service response, i.e. program content, over time in terms of the numbers of elderly served, the nature of services provided, and the proportion of resources allocated for assisting aged flood victims well after the flood itself.

5. To describe and analyze the long-run impact of the flood on an aggregate of elderly flood victims in the Wyoming Valley.

Elias S. Cohen, Principal Investigator
S. Walter Poulshock, Research Director

FRTF

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, November 20

November 20

MEETING re the National Disaster Insurance Bill sponsored by Representative Dan Flood, noon, Hotel Sterling

Present: James Alcorn, Rev. Jule Ayers, Larry Greenspon; James Lee (Wilkes-Barre Times Leader); Anthony Mussari (King's College); Walter Chapel (EDC); Rev. William Reid, Jim Tarity (FRTF)

Alcorn stressed a need for national support for Flood's National Disaster Insurance Bill. He suggested that the insurance industry and councils of churches be requested to support it.

Those present engaged in a debate on whether or not the feature of the bill calling for retroactive payments should be supported. The meeting proved inconclusive.

MEETING of Recovery Fair Committee, Chamber of Commerce headquarters, noon

Present: Dorothy Baker (Cherry Blossom Festival); Blanche Coslett (First National); Ralph Hazeltine (Historical Society); Jim McClelland (Recreation); Roy Morgan, Bob Parker, Murray Popky (Fine Arts); Joe Williams, Jr. (Junior Chamber)

The following tentative schedule for Recovery Fair activities was approved:

May 11	Searchlights/Fireworks Display
May 12	Parade in the morning
May 12-13	Cherry Blossom Time
May 13	Antique Auto Show
May 18-20, 25-27	Fine Arts Fiesta (two weekends)
May 31 - June 3	Parade of Progress/Industrial, Institutional Fair
June 8-10	Historical Activities
June 15-17	Recreational Activities
June 21-23	Ethnic Carnival to conclude Recovery Fair

Committee members in charge of arrangements for specific projects were asked to submit tentative budgets.

Popky was appointed to head a committee charged with developing an appropriate name and colors and insignia for the Fair.

The next meeting of the Recovery Fair Committee was set for Tuesday, November 28th at noon at the Chamber.

MEETING re Sanitary Authority, Holy Cross Hall, 2:30 p.m.

Present: representatives of the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources; Bill Wilcox and members of his staff; Bill Conner, Andrea Hornett (Carlucci Staff); Cliff Rossignol (EDA); Howard Grossman, Bob Shephard (EDC); Ralph Rhodes (EPA); Paul Cain (FRC); Edgar Lashford, Andrew Shaw

Discussion centered on the draft of a resolution to be considered at a meeting that evening by the Sanitary Authority: if adopted, the resolution would have the effect of freeing monies presently being held up by EPA.

November 20 (continued)

It was decided that discussion of actual dollar funding would be avoided at the evening meeting if possible. It was further decided that if discussion of funding should develop it would be kept in terms of percentages rather than dollar amounts.

November 21

MEETING re Review of Task Force Committees' functions and activities, 8 a.m., Hotel Sterling

Present: Hardwick, Kiley, Rose, Rosenn, B. Schechter

It was decided that since the tasks assigned to the Committee on Education have been carried out the Committee should be phased out. It was also decided to phase out the Committee on Labor and Construction and recall it on an ad hoc basis as the need for its services arises.

Rose reported that his Committee on Legislation and Equity is noting a marked improvement in SBA operations, that it is now receiving and working on requests for help on SBA loans from individuals, and that he thinks Task Force-SBA cooperation will continue to be valuable. On the subject of flood insurance, Rose said that flood insurance policies are being written now, that progress is being made towards increased coverage and that his Committee sees its work in this area as completed. Discussion of coinsurance led to agreement that the Task Force has a duty to support disaster insurance for victims of future disasters and that at a future date it might also support retroactive disaster payments. Task Force staff was asked to collect figures on losses suffered by homeowners and businessmen and on monies already expended by the federal government on relief to victims of the June flood: these figures will be used to prepare a short statement of the case for disaster insurance being both fairer and less costly than methods of flood relief used locally.

Discussion of work of Committee on Planning and Development led to a decision that it is the Task Force's function to monitor redevelopment plans carefully.

It was decided that in addition to the Committees on Legislation and Equity and Planning and Development, the Committees on Human Services, Flood Control, Transportation, State Aid, Local Government, Telling the Recovery Story, Recovery Fair, and Legal Assistance should all be held in active status.

MEETING re Discussion of practical services Penn State extension specialists can offer to flood victims

Present: Mrs. Betty Fryer, Mrs. Betty Greenberg, Mrs. Min Matheson, Mrs. Helen Sampiero (FVAC); Lorna A. Cassidy (HUD); Cy Chadwick, J. Cordell Hatch, Mrs. Josephine Kotch, Stanford Lembeck, Joseph Macialek, E. Lynn Miller, Mrs. Carolyn Schrock (Penn State University); B. Schechter, Andrew Shaw, Jim Tarity (FRTF)

Representatives of Penn State were taken on a tour of flood-damaged homes in Wilkes-Barre and Kingston planned by the Task Force for the purpose of helping

November 21 (continued)

them understand the magnitude of repair problems flood victims face. At the end of the tour a meeting was held at Task Force headquarters. Various plans and programs were discussed and it was agreed that the Penn State School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture would prepare a check-list of essential home-repairs for use by flood victims. Recommendations on the use of film strips and other audio-visual aids to provide useful information to homeowners were made and Tom Moran and J. Cordell Hatch (Penn State Public Relations Office) agreed to follow up on them.

MEETING re Pre-proposal for inter-regional recovery assistance, 1:30 p.m.

Present: Michael Hough, Robert Plater-Zyberk (University City Science Center); Deschiak, Grossman, Ziolkowski (EDC); Ray Condo (Ecumenical Enterprises); Shaw

Hough and Plater-Zyberk presented the pre-proposal. Shaw reports that while it seems to have some desirable elements, many others seem to propose duplication of already existing efforts, and, still others, performance elsewhere of functions that can best be performed locally. It is his opinion that, in general, this pre-proposal is very similar to the multiplicity of proposals to study the Agnes-affected regions already received. Its specific recommendations will be considered and discussed in the ensuing weeks.

DISCUSSION of Kingston Borough Operations

Present: Ralph Brown (Kingston Borough); Andrew Shaw

Meeting was held at Brown's request. Discussion centered on utilization by Kingston Borough of EDA monies.

MEETING re Implementation and monitoring of Technical Assistance grants to local municipal governments

Present: Scott Rutherford (EDA); Bob Shephard (EDC); Phil Tuhy (IRA); Ray Carmon (PEL); Shaw (FRTF)

Questions were raised concerning municipal employees being given additional positions under EDA grants. EDA agreed to lay down specific requirements for employment funded by EDA monies such as certification of adherance to a forty-hour work week and agreement that solicitors holding positions funded by a Technical Assistance grant will give up their solicitorship.

*

November 22

DISCUSSION re Housing for the elderly, Nicholas Pyros's office, 11 a.m.

Present: Nicholas Pyros, Andrew Shaw, Andrew Sordoni

Discussion brought out a glaring inconsistency between the number of housing units allotted by the federal government to the Wilkes-Barre area and the far greater number of elderly people and people with incomes below the poverty level who will require permanent housing in the near future.

* November 21

PRESENTATION on The Elmira Plan by representative of architectural firm of Welton Beckett, CSA headquarters, Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, 2:30 p.m.

Present: Bonnie Smith (EDC); Roy Newsome (CSA); E. G. Alderfer (Council of State Governments); B. Schechter

Presentation was in form of series of slides showing pre-flood Elmira and plans for rehabilitation and redevelopment of the city, and commentary which included the following points:

1. Redevelopment and rehabilitation plans for both Elmira and Corning were based on a firm committment by officials and residents to "go back" to what might later be defined as the flood-plain.
2. In both cities a decision that it would be economically infeasible to flood-proof new construction was made promptly.
3. N. Y. State legislation requiring that post-flood values be paid for properties acquired for redevelopment spurred prompt and extensive rehabilitation of damaged houses by individual homeowners.
4. Plans for redevelopment of Elmira enjoyed strong community support due in large part to a "last chance for us" mystique: Elmira was in bad shape economically before the flood and it was widely recognized that federal flood relief funds represent a "last chance" opportunity to make the city economically viable.

November 22 (continued)

MEETING re "Sketch Plan" now being prepared by Wilbur Smith Associates for the purpose of establishing guidelines for overall coordination of redevelopment and recovery programs

Present: P. J. Clarke, Bill Conner, Howard Grossman, Ed Heiselberg, John Hibbard, John Hourigan, Tom Kiley, Frank Schantz, Andrew Shaw, Edmund Wideman, Jr.

On the assumption that this comprehensive plan will be accepted by the County, discussions were held on methods of establishing priorities within it and on vehicles through which it should be presented to public officials and to the general public.

November 23

Thanksgiving Day

November 24

MEETING of Transportation Committee, Treadway, 8 a.m.

Present: Howard Grossman, Gabrielle Ramsauer (EDC); Tom Bigler, John Conyngham, Leo Corbett, Tom Kiley, Ed Schechter, J. Schmitt (FRTF); Tom Crews (FRC)

The meeting was devoted exclusively to a discussion of PennDOT LR-1052, Section 2, the Cross Valley Expressway Bridge. Schechter reported that conversations with and a letter from PennDOT Secretary Jacob Kassab indicated some misunderstanding regarding the scheduled completion date for Section 2. He added that he expected this misunderstanding to be cleared up within the week. Corbett reported having spoken about the matter to Representative O'Brien who said that, contrary to the impression the Committee had received, he didn't think there would be any delay in completion of this work.

Bigelow reported that AAA, Harrisburg had indicated the following: LR-1052 is not eligible for emergency funding; the structure is bound by the legal requirements of the environmental law; the legislature has not acted on the capital improvement budget for 1972-3 which contains the funding for Section 2.

Crews assured the Committee that DOT will expedite the handling of all procedural papers connected with 1052.

Miss Ramsauer submitted a draft memo from EDC to FRTF Transportation Committee in which a justification for considering 1052 a flood-related emergency project is established. The committee will review this memo and comment on it at next week's meeting.

It was agreed that the committee should delay action on the 1052 matter until additional information on its scheduling is received.

Flood Recovery Task Force

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, November 15, noon, Hotel Sterling

Present: Anderson, Bierly, DeCosmo, Hardwick, Kilburn, Kiley, Michelini, Rose, Rosenn, Rubinstein, Schechter, Sordoni, Souchik; Doran, Hardy, B. Schechter, Shaw, Tarity

1. Committee on Human Services - Mrs. Anderson reported a critical shortage of nursing home beds, outlined recommendations made by a special sub-committee that has been studying the situation, and requested Task Force support of the recommendations. It was then moved that the Task Force support the sub-committee's recommendations that Luzerne and Wyoming Counties (and, if possible, Lackawanna County) be made a pilot project featuring a raise of reimbursement rates to nursing home facilities as of January 1st, 1973. The motion passed.

Mrs. Anderson also reported a serious shortage of low-income housing. She added that HUD has indicated that if it receives documentation of the shortage it will act to alleviate the situation, possibly by making unoccupied mobile homes available. The Chairman appointed Mrs. George Bierly to work with Mrs. Anderson's staff to make the necessary documentation.

2. Sub-Committee on Arrangements for December 2nd Visit to Wyoming Valley by Delegation from Biloxi - Co-Chairman Rubinstein outlined the schedule of activities planned for the Biloxians: arrival at 1 p.m.; visits to two or three mobile home parks during which a choir the delegation is bringing with them will sing Christmas carols; lighting of a Christmas tree and symbolic presentation of toys collected in Mississippi for Valley children at the Courthouse; dinner reception at Irem Temple Country Club hosted by the Task Force. Rubinstein reported that his committee is working on determining the local guest list and on financing of the reception.

3. Committee on Transportation - Schechter reported on the following:
   a. "Immediate action" traffic improvements: satisfactory progress on new signalization and traffic patterns has been made; Transportation Committee is monitoring activities in this area and making suggestions for further improvements.
   b. Transportation Authority: Authority is not yet working as well as it should, but important improvements can be anticipated with the hiring of an executive director which is expected soon. Committee believes that with the formation of the Authority its primary responsibility in this area has been discharged and it is now phasing out its role in the Authority's operations.
   c. Temporary North Street Bridge: bad weather has seriously delayed construction and, as a result, January 15th is now an optimistic target date; the Highway Department seems to be putting maximum effort into this project.
   d. Cross Valley Expressway: the federal government's refusal to authorize emergency funding for this project and failure to secure a waiver of an Environmental Impact Statement requirement have led to a new schedule calling for opening of Expressway late in 1976, two years later than old schedule's target date; delay by State legislature in approving Commonwealth's share of project's funding has not yet causedc delay but might at time of contract letting.
   e. New North Street Bridge: A new schedule for this project calls for June 1974 advertising of bids, so it is unrealistic to expect completion

until end of 1976.

Rosenn suggested Task Force meeting with appropriate state, federal, and local officials for the purpose of exerting pressure for expediting of delayed projects. Discussion of the suggestion led to decision to present it at next meeting of Transportation Committee.

Kiley noted that the formation of the Transportation Authority was due in large part to Schechter's diligence and competence.

4. Committee on Legislation and Equity - Rose reported that the SBA program is now moving quite satisfactorily. He noted that his Committee maintains close contact with SBA officials and meets with them weekly. He said that anyone hearing of problems with the SBA program should refer them to his committee.

5. Interim Assistance - Shaw reported that the interim assistance program is widely considered the most successful recovery effort thus far mounted in the flood-affected areas, and noted that both the general public and redevelopment authorities have expressed the opinion that it should be greatly expanded. Discussion of the Federal and State governments' positions on the question of additional funds for the program followed: the Federal government asserts that the $15 million in interim assistance already committeed to Valley communities is the most it is permitted by law to spend on such programs in any one year: the Commonwealth urges expansion of the program, offers to increase its commitment to it on the same percentage of federal spending basis on which it has already committed $5 million, and maintains that federal funds for expansion of the program can be found.

Suggestions were made to the effect that a two-pronged effort should be mounted, on the one hand, to persuade the Federal Government to review its position, and, on the other, to urge the Commonwealth to commit a substantial portion of the monies it has available for direct relief to flood victims to expansion of the interim assistance program.

6. Committee on Flood Control - Representing Chairman Morgan, Souchik reported that the Committee is promoting adequate repair of dikes and maintenance of the river bed and banks, and is raising objections to the idea of raising the level of the levees at this time on the theory that such action would cause flooding in areas presently unprotected by dikes. He also reported that he had attended a meeting of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission at which a comprehensive long-range plan for river management was presented: he noted that he thinks the plan is satisfactory.

Discussion of differences of opinion between the Army Corps of Engineers and Civil Defense on the adequacy of repairs made to the dikes followed. Agreement that public fears about the condition of the dikes point to an urgent need for a single authority authorized to make statements on the subject led to the further agreement that the Task Force should act promptly to resolve a dangerous impasse.

7. Community College - Shaw reported delay in the Community College's application for an EDA loan is endangering its chances for the loan.

Flood Recovery Task Force

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff -- Week starting Monday, November 6

November 6

MEETING of the Flood Control Committee, noon, Chamber of Commerce

Present: Leonard Ziolkowski (EDC); George Barnard, John Churnetski, Leo Corbett, Richard Cronin, John Doran, Richard Demmy, Peter Hagan, Robert Laux, John McDonald, Roy Morgan, Robert Parker, Rev. William Reid, Mrs. Richard Ross, Nicholas Souchik, Frank Townend (FRTF)

The need for an official definition of the flood plain and for adequate restoration of the dike system was discussed. The committee adopted a resolution urging a speed-up in dike restoration to be sent to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Committee agreed to apply for an EDA grant to be used as seed money in the reactivation of the Susquehanna River Basin Association.

Morgan noted that local citizens have attended all meetings of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission since the June flood.

November 7

MEETING re Need for clarification of interim assistance program, 8 a.m., Sterling

Present: Conner, Scalia, Hornett, B. Schechter

Discussion centered on desirability of providing public with facts about interim assistance that would clear up widespread misconceptions. It was agreed that Scalia would explore certain aspects of the program about which there is presently no definite information.

MEETING re Recovery Fair, Chamber of Commerce, noon

Present: Dorothy Baker, Robert Ell, Edgar Lashford, Bernie Mengerinhausen, Tom Moran, Roy Morgan, Murray Popky, Susan Sordoni, Joe Williams, Jr., Betty Schechter

Morgan defined the purpose of the meeting as to explore ways of putting together a steering committee with authority to proceed with arrangements for the Fair. He emphasized that definite plans should be made by December 1st.

It was agreed that the Fair will point up not only the Valley's educational and cultural assets, but also its tourist attractions and the advantages it offers to business and industry. It was also agreed that both downtown and shopping mall businesses should be involved in the planning for the Fair.

The following appointments to a steering committee were made: Murray Popky (Fine Arts Fiesta); John Mattern (Cherry Blossom Festival); Joe Williams, Jr. (Junior Chamber); Roman Rubinstein (representing merchants); Roy Morgan, Ed Lashford, Bob Parker (Chamber of Commerce); Betty Schechter (FRTF)

It was agreed that this committee's first concerns should be: budget, tentative calendar, organizational charts, contacts for financial support, securing professional direction of Fair activities, recommendations on an appropriate name for the Fair.

The next meeting of those present was set for Tuesday, November 14th at noon.

November 8

MEETING of entire FRTF, noon, Hotel Sterling

The following reports were given by chairmen of Task Force committees or their representatives:

1. Report on activities of the Committee on Planning and Development by Chairman Tom Kiley - Kiley stated that his committee is continuing to emphasize the importance of coordinated redevelopment planning in the hope of helping Valley municipalities and redevelopment authorities develop a new major metropolitan concept. Discussing the matter of relocation of flood-displaced people from mobile homes to permanent housing, Kiley said that reluctance to leave mobile homes on the part of some might complicate the problem. Kiley also said that his committee is participating in the planning of projects that will extend beyond the life of the FRTF.

Commenting on Kiley's report, Rosenn pointed out that decisions on the allocation of redevelopment funds to the various municipalities will be made in December and that communities will then be able to delineate areas to be renewed. He added that concern lest redevelopment funds be used to augment salaries of public officials unnecessarily has been expressed.

2. Report on activities of the Committee on Legislation and Equity by Chairman Harold Rose - Rose reported that at first SBA flood recovery operations left a great deal to be desired: the approach to applications revealed a lack of understanding of the SBA program's intent and disbursements were unnecessarily slow. Task Force suggestions, however, Rose said, spurred welcome changes: greater flexibility, additions to staff, agreement to use local banks' credit data, and speed-up in disbursements. His committee, Rose added, has met with SBA officials weekly and will continue to do so.

3. Report on activities of Committee on Human Services by Chairwoman Margaret Anderson - After paying tribute to the many professionals in the field of human services who volunteered their services in the emergency period immediately after the flood, Mrs. Anderson made a plea for ongoing public concern for health problems of residents of mobile home parks and of the elderly. She reported on a program that has assigned public health nurses to selected mobile home parks for a period of four weeks. She also reported that her committee is working on the problem of an acute shortage of nursing home beds.

4. Report on activities of the Transportation Committee by Tom Bigler representing Chairman Ed Schechter - Bigler pointed out several recent positive developments in the transportation situation: initiation of negotiations for mass transportation contracts; establishment of a traffic control improvement program; reason to belive that the temporary North Street Bridge will be open by Christmas. He added, however, that construction of the permanent span might not begin until six months after completion of the temporary bridge, and that funding problems are delaying progress on the Cross Valley Expressway.

5. Report on activities of the Committee on Flood Control by Frank Slattery representing Chairman Roy Morgan - Slattery reported continuing concern

on the part of his committee with various aspects of flood control and with the work of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. He also reported that the Committee is trying to re-form the Susquehanna River Basin Association.

Andrew Shaw reported that the FRTF staff is working on gathering information on the interim assistance program from federal and state sources with the aim of dispelling the uncertainties and confusion now surrounding the program.

Roman Rubinstein reported on the visit to Biloxi by Wyoming Valley delegation and plans for upcoming visit by Biloxians to Wilkes-Barre, Rubinstein emphasized that advice given by Biloxians on basis of their disaster experience has proved to be of great value. Reporting on plans for their return visit, he said that a 75 man delegation will arrive on December 2nd, and will present gifts to Valley Children, tour mobile home parks, and sing Christmas carols. The delegation will be entertained at dinner by Valley hosts.

Alice McFadden, Presidential Staff, reported on efforts being made to assist the Valley's elderly residents resolve their problems. She asked everyone who heard of elderly people needing help to contact her office.

General Frank Townend warned that the sheet piling needed to reinforce dikes has not yet been installed. He added that, under present conditions, should the river rise to 30 feet, it will be necessary to evacuate South Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, and Forty Fort. A motion was made and passed that the Task Force will lend support to recommendations made by Civil Defense.

Another motion was passed to formalize a change of Mrs. Anderson's Committee's name from Committee on Families, Health, and the Aging to Committee on Human Services.

MEETING of Susquehanna Savings & Loan Association employees, 4 p.m.

Andy Shaw spoke to the employees of the Susquehanna Savings & Loan about the activities of the FRTF.

November 9

MEETING of Flood Victims Action Council, evening, Host Motel

Present: FVAC membership; Judge and Mrs. Max Rosenn, Andrew Shaw; Bob Raffsky (DCA)

The featured speaker, Judge Rosenn discussed various aspects of the flood recovery effort, placing special emphasis on the desirability of cooperation between the 17 flood-affected municipalities as far as manpower and funding is concerned and on the urgent need for strict accountability on the part of municipal officials in the spending of federal and state recovery monies. He specifically recommended caution on the part of citizens lest funds allocated for redevelopment be used unwisely for the construction of unnecessary municipal "Taj Mahals".

Rosenn spoke in support of plans to extend the interim assistance program to flood-affected communities outside of Wilkes-Barre and recommended efforts to secure additional funds for the program. He paid tribute to the initiative

November 9 (continued)

shown by the FVAC in stimulating recovery program and noted that SBA operations had played a large part in the recovery thus far achieved.

Referring to the special concerns of the Task Force's Transportation Committee, Rosenn stressed the importance of the speedy construction of a permanent North Street Bridge and of prompt implementation of plans for the projected Cross Valley Expressway.

On the subject of flood control, Rosenn urged citizen pressure for immediate repair and restoration of dikes and for construction of dams and other flood-prevention projects.

Representing Secretary William Wilcox, Bob Raffsky told the assemblage that Wilcox had urged Frank Carlucci to ensure that the interim assistance program is available to all eligible for its benefits by taking action leading to allocation of additional federal government funds to the program.

WORKSHOP re Local Government Improvement sponsored by Pennsylvania Power and Light Company, Treadway Inn, 9:30 a.m.

Present: Persons interested in local government modernization

Staff members representing the Greater Hartford Process Corporation discussed municipal modernization in a regionwide context.

November 10

MEETING re National Disaster Insurance

Present: Min Matheson, Betty Greenberg, Paul Kanjorski, Howard Grossman, Bernie O'Brien, Jim Alcorn, Andrew Shaw

Discussion centered on methods of developing wide support for national disaster insurance.

MEETING re Agenda for November 16th meeting of municipal officials, Attorney Quinn's office, 4 p.m.

Present: Conner, Hornett (Carlucci Staff); Joe McGowan (DCA); Quinn, Shaw, Tarity (FRTF)

Format for November 16th meeting was discussed. It was decided that Conner and Wilcox will explain the Federal and State flood recovery programs, each speaking for about ten minutes. Informal discussions of these programs will follow. The meeting is planned to begin at 7 p.m. and end at 9 p.m.

Flood Recovery Task Force

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, November 13

November 13

MEETING re Sanitary Authority

Present: Conner, Hornett (Carlucci Staff); Kaner, Rossignol (EDA); Shephard (EDC); Rhodes (EPA); Marino, Feinstock (HUD); Cain, Zatalava (FRC); Lashford, Shaw (FRTF)

Discussion centered on a letter from Paul Milnes, Chief of Sanitary Authority Facilities and Planning Sections, to Ralph Rhodes of the EPA outlining sewage needs of participating municipalities, and a report from Rhodes to Conner on approaches to funding of secondary treatment.

Included in Rhodes's report was the following table:

Treatment Facilities - Grant Availability

Assume Construction Cost - $9 million

Funding Agency	Pessimistic	Realistic	Optimistic
Envir. Protection Agency	4,500,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
Pa. Dept. Env. Resources	750,000	1,350,000	3,000,000
Econ. Develop. Admin.	50,000	350,000	650,000
Appalach. Reg. Commission	0	200,000	400,000
	5,300,000	7,900,000	10,050,000

* See Page #4

November 14

MEETING of Recovery Fair Committee

Copy to al Roth, Hembree OK M.C. sent

Present: Dorothy Baker, Roy Morgan, Bob Parker, Murray Popky, Roman Rubinstein, Betty Schechter, Joe Williams, Jr.

Discussion centered on a schedule of Fair events and activities. It was decided that the Fair will begin on May 11th and end with a major event on the anniversary of the flood; will encompass the Fine Arts Fiesta, Cherry Blossom Festival, and Parade of Progress; and will include a long-running art show.

It was agreed that dance exhibitions, an exhibition of antique cars, athletic events, and a program featuring the history of the Valley would all be desirable Fair activities, and committee members were asked to contact the appropriate organizations.

Plans were made to make up estimates of costs.

November 15

MEETING of Federal Regional Council re "Pipeline Reports", 10:30 a.m., Sterling

Present: Andrea Hornett (Carlucci Staff); Cliff Rossignol (EDA); Howard Grossman (EDC); Paul Cain, Tom Crews, John Zatalava, and others (FRC)' Gene Klein, Colonel Riddleman, Harry Russ (Governor's Crime Commission); Mrs. Frank Anderson, Jim Tarity (FRTF)

Russ discussed the status of police service to area municipalities and announced that a public hearing on Divil Defense and Communications will take place early in December.

November 15 (continued)

Mrs. Anderson reported a critical need for low income housing in Wyoming Valley.

Cain announced that FRC "Pipeline" meetings would no longer be held weekly; instead, they will be held as the need arises.

MEETING of Executive Committee, Hotel Sterling, noon

Present: Anderson, Bierly, DeCosmo, Hardwick, Kilburn, Kiley, Michelini, Rose, Rosenn, Rubinstein, Schechter, Sordoni, Souchik; Doran, Hardy, B. Schechter, Shaw, Tarity

1. Committee on Human Services - Mrs. Anderson reported recommendations by a special sub-committee set up to study a critical shortage of nursing home beds: that Luzerne and Wyoming Counties (and, if possible, Lackawanna County) be made a pilot project featuring a raise of reimbursement rates to nursing home facilities as of January 1, 1973. It was moved and passed that the Task Force support these recommendations.

   Reporting on a serious shortage of low-income housing, Mrs. Anderson said HUD has indicated that if it receives documentation of the shortage, it will act to alleviate the situation. The Chairman appointed Mrs. Bierly to work with Mrs. Anderson's staff to make the necessary documentation.

2. Sub-Committee on Arrangements for December 2nd Visit to Wyoming Valley by Delegation from Biloxi - Co-Chairman Rubinstein outlined the activities planned for the Biloxians and reported that his sub-committee is working on making up the local guest list and on financing the reception to be held in honor of the guests.

3. Committee on Transportation - Schechter reported:
   a. satisfactory progress on "immediate action" traffic improvements
   b. expectation that an executive director for the Transportation Authority will be hired soon and gradual phasing out of Transportation Committee's role in the Authority's operations
   c. serious delay in construction of temporary North Street bridge due to bad weather and consequent postponement of "optimistic target date" to mid-January
   d. new schedule for Cross-Valley Expressway calling for completion date two years later than Commitee had been led to expect it: this is due to federal government's decision not to authorize emergency funding for this project and failure to secure a waiver of Environmental Impact Statement requirement.
   e. revised schedule for June 1974 advertising of bids which probably means bridge will not be completed until end of 1976

4. Committee on Legislation and Equity - Rose reported satisfactory operation of SBA program and regular meetings between his committee and SBA officials. He asked that reports of difficulties with SBA program be referred to his committee.

November 15 (continued)

5. Interim Assistance - Shaw reported that this program is widely considered the most successful thus far mounted in the flood-affected areas and outlined the positions taken by the State and Federal governments and by redevelopment authorities on the question of additional funding for the program.

6. Committee on Flood Control - representing Chairman Morgan, Souchik reported that the Committee is:
   a. promoting adequate repair of dikes and maintenance of river bed and banks
   b. raising objections to idea of raising level of the levees at this time on the theory that such action would cause flooding in areas presently unprotected by dikes.

   He also reported attendance at a meeting of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission at which a comprehensive long-range plan he considers satisfactory was presented.

   Discussion of differences of opinion between Civil Defense and Army Corps of Engineers on adequacy of repairs to dikes followed.

7. Community College - Shaw reported that delay in Community College's application for an EDA loan has endangered its chances for the loan.

November 16

MEETING of Transportation Committee, Treadway Inn, 8 a.m.

Present: Howard Grossman, Gabrielle Ramsauer (EDC); Tom Crews (FRC); Ray Radomski (PennDOT); Cliff Bigelow, Tom Bigler, Leo Corbett, Tom Kiley, Ed Schechter, Jack Schmitt, Jim Tarity (FRTF)

The entire meeting was taken up with discussion of problems involved in expediting Project LR-1052, North Cross Valley Expressway. It was agreed to delay a decision in regard to a suggestion that a major meeting be held on this subject until the extent of and reasons for delays in the project have been thoroughly explored. Committee members will discuss the matter with Senator Martin Murray, Representatives Frank O'Connell and Bernard O'Brien, Wilkes-Barre City Council, Secretary Kassab, and Attorneys Dave Schooley and John Hourigan.

Grossman agreed to a committee request that EDC draft a paper justifying consideration of 1052 as an emergency flood-related project; he hopes to have this draft ready to present to the committee at its next meeting on Nov. 24th. Bigelow will make enquiries to determine the precise current status of the highway budget.

MEETING of local municipal officials re Flood-related problems facing Valley municipalities

November 16 (continued)

Present: municipal officials; Bill Conner (Carlucci Staff); Joe McGowan (Council of State Agencies); Howard Grossman, John Hibbard, Bob Shephard, Leonard Ziolkowski (EDC); Tom Crews (FRC); Ray Carmon (PEL); Joe Quinn, Andrew Shaw, Jim Tarity (FRTF)

Quinn addressed the meeting on the importance of cooperation and communication between all agencies, local, State, and Federal, concerned with the rehabilitation of Wyoming Valley.

Reports on progress of recovery programs were given by Conner, McGowan, and Hibbard, and they and Shaw responded to questions from the audience. The meeting was followed by refreshments and an informal social hour.

* November 13

MEETING re Redevelopment problems, Holy Cross Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Conner, Hornett (Carlucci Staff); Wilcox, Newsome, Smith (DCA); Cain (FRC); Scalia, Patterson (HUD); Case (Wilkes-Barre Redevelopment Authority); Price (Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority); attorneys for HUD and Commonwealth; other representatives of redevelopment authorities; Shaw, Schechter

Discussion centered on:

1. A proposed amendment to Pennsylvania laws relating to eminent domain which, clarifying a clause dealing with acquisition of properties, makes it clear that pre-flood values will be paid for properties acquired in flood recovery redevelopment projects.

   It was agreed that those present will recommend passage of the amendment.

2. Criteria to be used in determining which properties will be acquired. Case announced that Wilkes-Barre City Redevelopment will decide on the basis of whether or not a house is structurally damaged beyond repair.

3. Definition of flood plains - Conner agreed to urge the Army Corps of Engineers to expedite decisions.

4. Criteria for demolition of flood-damaged houses - It was agreed that there is an urgent need for such criteria to guard against demolition of houses which could be rehabilitated and the consequent necessity of paying pre-flood values for them.

FRTF

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, October 30

October 30

October 31

MEETING re Recovery Fair, noon, Chamber of Commerce

Present: Paul Cain (FRC); William Wilcox (DCA); John Mattern (Cherry Blossom Festival); Murray Popky (Fine Arts Fiesta); Edgar Lashford, Roy E. Morgan, Bob Parker, Roman Rubinstein, Betty Schechter

Various approaches to planning for a Recovery Fair in the spring were discussed. They included:

1. relating Fair activities to those of the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Fine Arts Fiesta
2. planning the Fair around a theme relating to the flood
3. capitalizing on an expected summer influx of sightseers by extending the Fair through the summer and using it to promote the advantages of living and working in Wyoming Valley and the area's potential for industrial expansion
4. focusing national attention on the Valley by bringing in outstanding orchestras and stars to take part in the Fair

Wilcox said that the DCA would probably look favorably on a request for funding of a small Fair staff. It was decided that:

1. A formal request for funds should be sent to DCA.
2. The FRTF and the Chamber of Commerce will provide the impetus for the Fair.
3. Both the Fair's format and its staffing should be completed within thirty days.
4. Efforts should be made to harness local exhibition expertise.
5. A planning committee numbering between 15 and 18 should be appointed.
6. The Fair will be tentatively scheduled for the period between the middle of May and June 23rd.

Another meeting to discuss the Fair was arranged for noon, Tuesday, November 7th.

DISCUSSION of Activities of FRTF Committee on State Aid

Present: Andrew Hourigan, Andrew Shaw

Hourigan reported that his committee has been working to promote adoption of the constitutional amendment now on the ballot through the news media and various government-oriented organizations such as the League of Women Voters. He also reported that he and Secretary Wilcox have held discussions about the possibility of developing flood recovery legislation that would be of benefit to the Valley.

November 1

FEDERAL REGIONAL COUNCIL "PIPELINE" MEETING, 10:30 a.m., Hotel Sterling

Present: representatives of FRC; Andy Shaw

November 1 (continued)

Major topics covered included:

1. Police Emergency Radio Communications Network - Shaw will meet with Colonel Riddleman to resolve some of the problems connected with implementating a comprehensive radio network.
2. Sanitary Authority (discussed in next report)
3. Community College funding - HEW is awaiting a communication from the president of the college in regard to a request for additional funds for the college's construction program.
4. Transportation - the environmental impact statement for the Cross Valley Expressway has been sent to PennDOT.

(Detailed minutes of the Pipeline Meeting available at FRTF headquarters.)

MEETING re Sanitary Authority Feasibility Study on Secondary Treatment

Present: Bill Conner, Andrea Hornett (Carlucci Staff); Jerry Kaner, Cliff Rossignol (EDA); Bob Shephard (EDC); Ralph Rhodes (EPA); Vince Marino (HUD); Paul Cain, John Zatalava (FRC); Edgar Lashford, Shaw

Interagency agreements permitting EDA to let a contract for the feasibility study were reached.

Discussions aiming at development of a total fiscal package for funding a comprehensive sewage collection and treatment program for Wyoming Valley continued. The specific objective was to develop estimated cost and projected funding by federal and state agencies.

November 2

MEETING of Committee on Human Services re Nursing Homes, 9:30, St. Stephen's

Present: Clyde Couchman, Jack Corey (HEW); Mike Kendall, Mr. Lavelle(Dept. of Public Welfare); Bob Reed (Valley Crest); Peggy Ferry (HHPC); Sr. Leonia (St. Stanislaus); Betty Klapper (Proprietary Nursing Home Association); Selma Zneimer (Foster Home Program); Margaret Spencer (Bureau for the Aging); B. Schechter, A. Ellman (FRTF)

Mrs. Anderson called the meeting to order and then read the minutes of the October 26th meeting.

Mrs. Anderson told the committee that Mr. Jack Corey, HEW, suggested that the FRTF send a letter to Mr. Francis L. Warren, Commissioner Social and Rehabilitation Services, asking for assistance in regard to an anticipated acute winter shortage of nursing home beds. This letter was sent on October 27th and signed by both Judge Max Rosenn, Chairman of FRTF and Mrs. Anderson, Chairman of Committee on Human Services. Mr. Tony Salvi, who works with the State got in touch with Kathryn McKenna, USA, about the situation here.

There was a discussion of the "crisis" situation that now exists in the nursing homes. Several problems exist:

November 2 (continued)

1. There are not enough beds available for intermediate care.
2. The amounts presently paid to nursing homes for skilled care ($15 per patient per day) and for intermediate care ($11 per patient per day) are both too low.
3. Though a Governor's Ad Hoc Committee is recommending that these be raised to $18 and $13 or $14 respectively, these recommendations do not reflect the fact that the difference in cost between giving a patient skilled care and giving him intermediate care is only approximately $.50 to $1.00 a day.

The differences between medical assistance and public assistance were also discussed. Both types of assistance pay the same, but medical assistance pays for only 60 days. It usually takes three or four months for the nursing home to get the money, whereas for public assistance, they get paid every month. Therefore, a facility is better off taking public assistance patients than medical assistance patients.

A motion was made that this group review the present position of the Governor's Ad Hoc Committee with the intent that if the group approves the position, it will ask the FRTF to request its implementation as a Demonstration Project in Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Wyoming Counties. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A discussion followed of State and Federal requirements for nursing home licensing. The opinion was expressed by some of those present that some of these requirements are unrealistic and adherence to them results in inadequate patient care.

Margaret Spencer of the Bureau of the Aging gave a report on the Sutton Home. She emphasized that it is not a nursing home and said that its principal problem is getting employees.

Sr. Leonia of St. Stanislaus said she needs Licensed Practical Nurses and nurses' aids on her staff. She has been advertising in the local papers, in the New York Times, and in Chicago and Detroit, but to no avail. She also said that she has patients who are still staying there only because they have nowhere else to go. Selma Zneimer said that she will explore the possibility of putting these ambulatory patients in foster homes.

The possibility of using General Hospital Nurses' Home as a public nursing home was discussed. Tom Saxon, Administrator of General Hospital had presented this idea to the Board and they voted to use the building for offices.

A motion was made by Margaret Spencer that the Chair should put in writing the concern of this committee and send copies to the Health and Hospital Planning Council, Health Care Management, Regional Medical Program, Welfare Planning Council, the local hospital council, and Wilkes-Barre Area Health Planning Council. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

MEETING re Anticipated announcement by HUD that funds will be made available for construction of 300 housing units in Wilkes-Barre, Wilkes College

Present: Cain; Vincent Marino (HUD); Shaw

November 2 (continued)

Shaw expressed concern on the part of Task Force members that the number of housing units slated to be funded is not nearly large enough and recommended that new housing be programmed to add to the city's tax base.

Cain and Marino indicated that housing data was being compiled to substantiate the need for additional units.

MEETING of FRTF Transportation Committee

Present: Tom Crews, Dave Waters (FRC); Ray Radomski (PennDOT); Tom Bigler, Jack Conyngham, Leo Corbett, Tom Kiley, Ed Schechter, Jim Tarity

Action brought by a local citizen's group against PennDOT concerning the widening of River Street was discussed.

Schechter reported on the progress of the Luzerne County Transportation Authority; contract negotiations with Wilkes-Barre Transit and White Transit Companies have been completed.

Radomski announced that PennDOT is willing to help the railroads abandon grades, intersections, and bridge approaches within Wilkes-Barre City.

Section 2 - West Side Flood Plain approach embankment fill project was discussed. The cost of fill will be approximately $3 million at $2 a yard.

Radomski agreed to prepare a schedule of local PennDOT projects (North Street Bridge, Cross Valley Expressway).

Improvements by Wilkes-Barre City that will take place on Market Street were discussed by Corbett.

Schechter reported that traffic signalization improvements on the West side will be completed within thirty days.

November 3

The first installment of the EDA grant was made available to the FRTF. This check was in the amount of $26,000.

Flood Recovery Task Force

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, October 16

October 16

Local celebration of State Business and Professional Women's Club. Theme- Community Participation - Topic: FRTF

MEETING re SBA loans to local businessmen, noon, Genetti's

Present: Joseph Clark, Joseph Finch (SBA); Boltz, Gardner, Kiley, Koff, Rose, Rosenn, Roth, Shaw (FRTF); Larry Hollander, Barry Boyer

Rosenn told Clark and Finch that the critical state of local businesses due to the disastrous effects of the flood calls for suspension of normal SBA procedures and substitution of procedures designed to deal adequately with the emergency. Kiley and Rose pointed out that, although almost four months have passed since the flood, many central city stores are still far from ready to reopen because their owners have not yet received the loans they need to finance necessary repairs. Rose added that too much time vital to local businessmen has already been lost.

Rosenn also told Clark and Finch that SBA officials in charge of processing loans seem to be unaware that their agency's purpose in Wyoming Valley is to help the area recover fully from the flood. Adding that many businessmen are presently desperate for help, Rosenn said they feel that SBA officials do not understand their plight and that their government has failed to live up to the committments it made to them.

Clark and Finch said that they are eager to provide as much assistance as possible, that their agency stands ready to reconsider applications that have been turned down, and they are willing to so arrange matters that a reapplication will be considered by a different representative of SBA than the one who denied the original application.

Results of the discussions:

1. understanding that an applicant for a SBA loan may be represented by his own attorney.
2. agreement that SBA officials will cooperate with a committee of local bankers to develop a more workable system of financing.
3. assurance from SBA that the agency stands ready to reconsider previously denied applications in the light of new, more flexible borrowing requirements.

NOTE: On October 17th, Conner told Shaw that SBA officials consider the meeting of the day before both useful and productive. Shaw re-emphasized to him the Task Force's belief that:

a. the rate at which SBA is performing its function is unsatisfactory
b. additions to the agency's staff are desirable
c. there is an urgent need for improvement of communication between the agency's top administrative personnel and its line people in regard to the intent of the SBA program.

MEETING re Pressing labor problems, Judge Rosenn's chambers, 1:45

Present: Fred Peters, his assistant (Bureau of Employment Security); Buzzel, Keil, Molinari, Whitsitt (DOL); Carlucci, Hardwick, Kiley, Rosenn, Shaw

October 16 (continued)

Topics discussed:

1. economic imbalance due to coincedence of high rate of unemployment and acute shortage of manpower
2. inadvertant "pirating" of employess from some of area's basic industries by federal agencies as a result of their paying higher salaries and wages than are usual in the area

In the course of the discussions, FRTF representatives were told:

1. The local unemployment rate is expected to drop shortly to a point where it will be close to or slightly above 5%, the norm for this area.
2. There are currently 8,000 unemployment claims of which 3,200 represent disaster claims.

MEETING re Redevelopment called by Wilcox, Chairman, Council of State Agencies, Catholic Youth Center, 3 p.m.

Present: Wilcox; members of FVAC; Price (Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority); Carlo Poerio (WB Redevelopment Authority); Attorney Kanjorski (counsel for FVAC); Ziolkowski (EDC); Shaw

Discussions were highly emotional. Most of the meeting was taken up with heated discussions between redevelopment people, Kanjorski, and Ziolkowski on problems that cannot be resolved without definite answers on redevelopment from HUD. It appeared that there were no representatives of the federal government present at the meeting.

October 17

October 18

MEETING re program format, agenda for the Thursday meeting at Hud's Situation Room in Scranton, 9:30, Judge Rosenn's Chambers

Present: Rosenn, Shaw, Cain, Conner

MEETING of Federal Regional Council, Hotel Sterling 10:30 a.m.

Present: Paul Cain, Mrs. Frank Anderson, Alice McFadden, William Conner, Howard Grossman, Jack Coray, Ralph Rhodes, members of FRC, and Alice Ellman (FRTF)

A report was given on Law Enforcement Systems, which asked for stepped up patrolling on Thompson Street. The report also stated that the civil defense should not be under the Sheriff's department. Instead, it should be under the county commissioners, with a director of community network responsible to the commissioners.

Discussed problem of health services to mobile home parks.

Report on Sanitary Authority by Ralph Rhodes.

Discussion of possibility of architects advising homeowners.

October 18 (continued)

Mr. Haller gave the SBA report. He said that SBA hopes to disburse money within 30 days after application is made. Twenty-two more lawyers have been hired to process and push business applications.

Report on Labor was given by John Zatalava. He stated that the unemployment rate is down to approximately 6-7% (pre-flood level) and there is no need to create more Federal jobs. He also stressed that the Federal Government cannot lower their wage scale.

Minutes of this meeting are available at the FRTF office.

MEETING re Briefing on Commonwealth's United Services Agency, 1:30, Hotel Sterling

Present: representatives of the federal government; representative of Secretary Wilcox; Katherine McKenna, Dick Ridenour (USA); Mrs. Anderson, B. Schechter

Mrs. McKenna made the presentation. The USA is a demonstration project aimed at establishing that single-entry human service centers in strategic locations are of more service to a community than the old "schizophrenic" approach to delivery of such services. At a single-entry center, a client would first see a Human Service Planner who would assess his problems, both expressed and unexpressed, and then refer him to representatives of appropriate services (i.e. medical, juvenile delinquency-drugs, mental health-mental retardation, day care for both children and the elderly, child welfare, employment counselling, income maintenance)

USA will deliver human services on a need-centered basis in cooperation with voluntary and other public agencies. It will involve the total community in assessing unmet needs and will solicit citizen opinion by holding public hearings. It will develop recreation programs for all ages.

Mrs. McKenna stressed that each social service agency will retain its own board of directors and its own identity. She hopes that a center such as the one envisioned will be in operation within six weeks.

MEETING of EDA grantees and grantor re implementation of technical assistance programs, EDC, 7:00 p.m.

MEETING re Threat to local industry posed by acute labor shortage, 7:30 p.m. Weckesser Hall

Present: James Kenny (Amalgamated Food Employees Union); Paul Tesero (Boot and Shoe Workers Union); Fred Peters, George Yura (Bureau of Employment Security); Carl Keil (FRC); Joseph Molinari, John Zatalava (U.S. Dept. of Labor); Rosenn, Hardwick, B. Schechter

Judge Rosenn stated the problem: a number of local industries, particularly those dependent on unskilled labor and operating on a small profit margin, are ~~particularly~~ partially paralyzed by inability to fill jobs; that this is so at a time when the local unemployment rate is high, seems to indicate a correctable economic imbalance; that labor appears to be draining off to a large extent to high-paying

October 18 (continued)

construction jobs, raises the possibility that in the process of rebuilding the Valley, its economy will be destroyed.

Reasons for labor drain-off were discussed:

1. Tesaro said many people formerly working in shoe industry are now in better paying government jobs, while others seem content with unemployment assistance plus income from "moonlight" jobs. He suggested that solution to the problem lies in finding ways to
   a. put off relief assistance to those who can work but prefer not to and
   b. stop drain of workers to government jobs
2. Kenny and Hardwick pointed out that a labor shortage always makes it hard for low-paying industries to get workers.

Peters said his records indicate that compensation rolls are dropping and that disaster claims from small businessmen, currently the Bureau's biggest load, are falling off, too.

Molinari disagreed with Tesaro when he suggested that a government financed educational campaign aimed at informing potential employees of available child-care and transportation services would be useful. Molinari argued that the time had come for industry to take a firmer hand in solving its problems. Hardwick suggested that demonstrations of flexibility on the part of industry, such as institution of working hours convenient for women employees, might help.

Nolinari predicted that many people now not working because of flood-related personal problems will probably soon return to their jobs, but added that the best source of workers for low-paying industries is, and probably will remain, the body of "hard-core", unskilled unemployed. He suggested that industry investigate Dept. of Labor sponsored and subsidized training programs, i.e. CEP, JOBS, WIN, which offer tax benefits and subsidized on-job training to employers (details of these programs available at FRTF office). He acknowledged that trainee graduates of these programs sometimes require counselling on productive work habits, but pointed out that DOL provides and pays for that kind of "extra attention" and that many businesses have it to their advantage to employ such trainees.

BES officials suggested that local industry can help solve its problems by co-operating with them in two ways: reporting those people who have shown themselves unwilling to take jobs; filling out Bureau forms to list their requirements. The Task Force agreed to ask the Chamber of Commerce to educate industry on its options.

Keil suggested conferences with representatives of a variety of industries in order to learn which problems they have in common and which are specialized.

Summing up, Rosenn said:

1. It's apparent that the labor shortage is a long-term problem.
2. To solve,it, industry and unions must use imagination and ingenuity and cooperate with each other and BES.
3. The community's return to a balance in its way of life will alleviate the labor shortage to some degree, but that cannot be realistically expected in less than a year.

October 19

MEETING of Health Service Agencies re Need for facilities for health care at mobile home parks, 9:00 a.m., St. Stephen's

Present: Mrs. Frank Anderson; Alice McFadden, Alice Doran, Fred Anderson (HUD); Mr. MacGregor (Health and Hospital Planning); representatives of Health Service Agencies; Alice Ellman (FRTF); Paul Cain

A study was conducted to determine which parks most need health care facilities on their sites. Five criteria were used as the determining factors: size of park, age of residents, access to emergency rooms, ambulances, and physicians. (This study is on file in the FRTF office.)

The suggestion was for public health nurses to be assigned to specific trailer parks for a period of 4-6 weeks. They would perform basic care and be a referral agent for physicians.

Motion was made by Mr. MacGregor to accept these trailer parks (Sedor, Nanticoke 400, Lakewood, Thomas Street, Miners Mills, Carolina, M & M, Bartoli West, Taylor, Popple Brothers, Moosic, Nanticoke C of C, and Dundee, Slocum, and Kestor) as needing nurses. He suggested forming an ad hoc committee to work out the details and move ahead as soon as possible. Paul Cain seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Cain will be in charge of securing the trailers.

It was agreed that several problems will have to be ironed out:
1. how referrals will be made
2. how to involve resident advisors in health care
3. how payments will be made, e.g. medicare
4. how to advise residents of available services.

Meeting of ad hoc committee was set for Tuesday, October 24th at 8 a.m. in the Hotel Sterling to iron out the details.

MEETING of Planning and Development Committee re Redevelopment, HUD Situation Room, Lackawanna County Office Building, Scranton, 4 p.m.

Present: Bill Conner (Carlucci Staff); Bill Patterson, Robert Scalia (HUD); Clifford Rossignol (EDA); Paul Cain; Ed Sites, William Wilcox (Pa. DCA); Leon Case (WB Redevelopment Authority); Ed Heiselberg, Carlo Piero (Luzerne County Planning Commission); Jim Price (Luzerne Co. Redevelopment Authority); Ralph Brown (President, Kingston Borough Council); Joseph Halesey (Chairman, Hanover Township Board of Commissioners); Joseph Williams (WB City Council); Raymond Lowery (Administrator, Kingston Borough); Frank O'Connell (Representative, Pa. Legislature); Howard Grossman, John Hibbard, Bonnie Smith, Leonard Ziolkowski (EDC); Ben Badman, Max Rosenn, Edward Schechter, Thomas Shelburne, Wallace Stettler, Geraldine Weiss (FRTF); Tom Moran, B. Schechter, Andy Shaw (FRTF Staff)

The meeting opened with an announcement by Conner that $400 million had been programmed for flood-related urban renewal projects in Pennsylvania and an announcement by Wilcox that $125 million in state funds will be available for

October 19 (continued)

the same purpose.

Requests from Rosenn for details relating specifically to Wyoming Valley redevelopment produced the following answers: planning money will be available to local communities by November 1st and reservations of grant monies will be made by early December. Conner explained that, since these are deadline dates, some communities will have their planning money before November 1st and some reservations of grant monies can be expected well before the beginning of December. Conner predicted that redevelopment agencies will be able to ascertain by mid-December which areas will be acquired and which designated for rehabilitation.

Conner introduced Robert Scalia of HUD. Scalia will head up an intensive campaign to help redevelopment agencies and local officials determine which areas will be subject to urban redevelopment. Scalia outlined the procedure his staff will follow: study of each application for a redevelopment grant, and conferences with local officials with a view to speeding up the grant process.

Mr. Conner explained that funds from several government agencies will be used in combination in order to achieve maximum benefits for each community. He added that by centralizing rehabilitation and redevelopment efforts in HUD's Scranton headquarters, it is hoped that the time needed to fix the amount of grant reservations will be sharply reduced.

October 20

MEETING re Communication network, 10 a.m.

Present: Souchik, Pissott (Civil Defense), Shaw

The following topics were discussed:
1. current status of the network
2. its projected services
3. obstacles to fulfillment of network's goals presented by lack of funds and hold-up in LEAA grant

MEETING re Sanitary Authority

Present: Bill Conner; Stanley Glowacki (FRC-EDA); Cliff Rossignol (EDA); Frank Healy (HUD); Kevin Nelson (OEP); Larry Pawlish, Paul Miles (Pa. Dept. of Environmental Resources); Paul Cain (FRC); Ralph Rhodes (EPA); Bob Shephard (EDC); Shaw

held

Discussion centered on the projects held up by EPA (presently between $5 and 6 million, but others now in process will be held up also) and on how to solve the problem presented by EPA requirement of secondary treatment.

Conner asked Rhodes to prepare a schedule of funding programs showing funds available from both state and federal governments which in combination could cover entire Valley's sewage needs. It was agreed that when ready, this schedule will be presented to the FRTF for determination as to whether it should be presented to the Sanitary Authority, to public bodies, and to the general public.

October 20 (continued)

Mr. Pawlish said that Mr. Berchini of Pa. Department of Environmental Resources has sent a letter to members of the Sanitary Authority convening a meeting on November 1st at 7:30 p.m. in Courtroom #1 at the Luzerne County Courthouse.

MEETING re FRTF Committee on Families, Health, and the Aging, noon

Present: Mrs. Frank Anderson, Shaw,

Mrs. Anderson presented a proposal for delivery of human services to the residents of Wyoming Valley. Her committee's need for more staff to fulfill the proposed program was discussed.

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

HOTEL STERLING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Hon. Max Rosenn
Chairman
Thomas H. Kiley
1st Vice Chairman
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2nd Vice Chairman
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Dr. Francis Michelini
Roy E. Morgan
Joseph A. Quinn, Jr., Esq.
Edward Schechter

Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Executive Director

30 October 1972

WILKES COLLEGE
OCT 31 1972
President's Office

MEMO TO: FRTF

FROM: Judge Max Rosenn

Please attend a very important luncheon meeting of the entire Task Force on Wednesday, November 8th, at noon, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Hotel Sterling.

Kindly make your reservation with Alice Ellman at Task Force headquarters (829-1981) before Friday, November 3rd.

are

conflict
RAG meeting
ok telephoned 11/1/72
M. C.

Summary of how local citizens who visited Biloxi early in October think flood-stricken Wyoming Valley can profit from the Biloxi-Gulfport region's experience in the wake of Hurricane Camille

The trip to the Biloxi-Gulfport region of Mississippi, struck by Hurricane Camille in 1968, made by a group of local citizens early in October has proven to be of value not only to Wyoming Valley, but also to the federal Office of Emergency Preparedness. Referring to discussions held in Biloxi between victims of Hurricane Camille and victims of Hurricane Agnes, G. A. Lincoln, Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, said in a letter to Judge Max Rosenn, Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc., "These meetings have provided us with valuable information for the Disaster Study now under way." Mr. Lincoln also told Judge Rosenn that "the spirit of mutual assistance and cooperation evidenced by the Wilkes-Barre and Biloxi Sister City program and the zeal and determination of the people of the Wyoming Valley in rebuilding 'better than ever' serve as an inspiration to communities across the Nation."

With a view to making it possible for Wyoming Valley to achieve the maximum benefit from the Biloxi-Gulfport region's experience in the wake of Hurricane Camille, Judge Rosenn asked each member of the group that visited the coastal region how he thought this area can profit from it. The responses he received touched mainly on the subjects of redevelopment, business recovery, and labor problems.

Comments on redevelopment included the following cautions: strong efforts should be made to "nail down" funds needed to implement redevelopment projects before national attention is diverted from Wyoming Valley to another disaster area; recovery leadership must come, not from the federal government, but from an effective working partnership between local governments and business and labor; care should be taken to avoid assuming that a post-disaster boom in residential building will be accompanied by an unusual demand for industrial and commercial construction.

Retailers who spoke with Gulf region counterparts said that, on the one hand, there was apparently no need to anticipate credit problems with flood victims, but on the other hand, extreme caution should be exercised in extending credit to transient workers. They also said that, judging by Biloxi's experience, Valley merchants can expect exceptionally good sales for a period of six to eighteen months and should include luxury items in their stocks, especially in the home-furnishings field. They added, however, that Biloxi merchants had warned them that a continuation of the initial post-disaster business boom will depend on the success of efforts to improve parking facilities and traffic flow.

Labor oriented Valley visitors to Biloxi saw a need for care, lest a disaster-inflated labor wage scale lead to inflation and eventual recession. One visitor urged efforts to secure federal legislation that would freeze both wages and prices in the wake of a disaster. Like Wyoming Valley, the Gulf Region suffered a drain-off of labor to high paying disaster-spawned jobs, but its labor situation, Valley visitors learned, returned to near normal within six months.

The "intangibles" of Biloxi's experience were stressed. Optimism, unity bred of common effort, and eagerness to end dependency on outside agencies as quickly as possible, it was apparent, contributed heavily to the recovery Mississippians have made in the three years since Camille struck. Their spirit and determination to come all the way back were a source of inspiration and hope to the group of people who had experienced disaster only two months earlier.

Some of those who commented on the Biloxi trip pointed out that Camille's victims had important advantages over Agnes's: for one thing, their climate made it possible to do the work of rebuilding on a year round basis; for another, most businesses and homes were covered by wind insurance to the extent of 70%; for still another, most of the affected region had the benefit of a strong, adequately staffed, and well-financed county government.

Assessing the experience of victims of both hurricanes, during the emergency period immediately after the storm, Wyoming Valleyites issued the following advice to victims of future disasters and to the government agencies who come to their assistance: think twice about taking the mobile home approach to emergency shelter - the money and effort expended in a mobile home program might better be spent in making speedy repairs to homes; be careful to scotch confusing rumors quickly, and make every effort to alleviate the distress of uncertainty among disaster victims by getting all available facts on recovery developments to them as speedily as possible.

Further words of caution concerned the psychological problem created by a post-disaster rise in income for some people that cannot be maintained: counselling on wise budgeting, it was felt, should be undertaken by employers wherever possible. Warnings were also given to the effect that many victims of Camille suffered debilitating emotional let-downs after the initial emergency period had passed.

Every comment on the Biloxi trip Judge Rosenn received included an expression of appreciation of the warm hospitality and eagerness to be helpful displayed by the Mississippi hosts, and the hope that, in the unwelcome event of another major disaster, the people of Wyoming Valley will give as much encouragement and assistance to its victims as the people of the Gulf region have given to Agnes's victims.

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, October 23

October 23

MEETING re Citizen participation in flood recovery activities, 8 a.m., Treadway

Present: Grossman, Hibbard (EDC); Kiley, Shaw

Discussion centered on suggestion by Grossman that an effort be made to coordinate the activities of the FVAC with those of other groups involved in flood recovery work in order to guard against splintering of community.

MEETING re Cooperation between FRTF and FVAC

Present: Hardwick, Shaw

The possibility of appointing members of the FVAC to FRTF Committees was discussed. The following were mentioned as potential Task Force committee members: Joseph O'Boyle, Sam Bosch, Andrew Lawrence, Bernard Newman, Mike Kostelansky.

It was agreed that the agenda for the October 24th evening meeting with members of FVAC would include:

a. discussion by Harold Rose of his Legislation & Equity Committee's activities as they relate to the individual citizen
b. discussion by Roy Morgan of the desirability of convincing flood recovery groups in other communities to take a comprehensive approach to Agnes-related problems and expand their concern from river development to such matters as disaster insurance and support for co-insurance legislation
c. report on Task Force efforts to obtain definite answers on plans for redevelopment and on October 19th meeting at HUD Scranton headquarters at which time some such answers were given

October 24

MEETING re FRTF-FVAC cooperation, 7:30 p.m., Weckesser Hall

Present: Sam Bosch, Walter Kinns, Mike Kostelansky, Andrew Lawrence, Min Matheson, Joe O'Boyle, Michael Solomon (FVAC); Hardwick, Hibbard, Morgan, Rose, B. Schechter (FRTF); Mrs. Hardwick

After a review of topics discussed at previous week's meeting, Morgan gave a report on the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. He pointed out that the Commission has the responsibility for determining the flood plain, and added that, since it is making an intensive study of the subject, there is no telling yet when its decision will be handed down. He recommended formation of a Sub-Basin #3 citizens association for the purpose of ensuring that Wyoming Valley interests are fully represented in the parent Commission's deliberations. Morgan assured the group that he and members of his Committee on Flood Control will keep them informed of Commission activities and will let them know when it convenes in Wilkes-Barre, so that those who wish to may attend.

Rose addressed the group on the subjects of co-insurance and SBA loans. After outlining fruitless efforts made by FRTF members immediately after the flood to secure co-insurance legislation, Rose said that proposals for such insurance

October 24 (continued)

are still before the Senate and House, but that they have little chance of success. On the subject of SBA loans, Rose said that thus far SBA operations had left much to be desired: the agency's strictly business-like practice was not compatible with the SBA program's intent to help restore flood victims' equity; loans were being processed unnecessarily slowly; the agency had imposed unrealistic deadlines for filing of applications. Strong FRTF objections to these inadequacies have already resulted in a sizable addition to SBA's local staff, and a drastic change in the agency's philosophy of disbursement is anticipated. SBA has already promised that applications previously denied will be reviewed. Rose asked for facts on instances of flood victims receiving less than fair and sympathetic hearings, and Mrs. Matheson offered to supply them to Rose's Committee on Legislation & Equity.

Hibbard discussed redevelopment and told the group that it may well be several months before definite information on areas to be redeveloped is available. He explained that applications for redevelopment grants must be carefully reviewed with a view both to cutting down where appropriate and to allocating available funds to achieve maximum benefits, and he added that these processes necessarily take considerable time to complete. FVAC members expressed keen interest in many aspects of the redevelopment puzzle and indicated special eagerness for decisions on which homes are to be demolished and which recommended for rehabilitation.

October 25

PROPOSED JOINT ACTION by FRTF Committee on Legislation & Equity and SBA re Need for clarification of SBA requirements and procedures

With a view to dispelling unnecessary confusion on SBA loans, Harold Rose and SBA officials agreed to jointly compile a list of commonly asked questions on the subject and their answers and to publish them in the newspapers at SBA expense.

MEETING of Federal Regional Council re Reports from Agencies, 10:30 a.m., Hotel Sterling

Present: William Conner; Paul Cain, Theodore Robb, John Zatalava and others (FRC); Howard Grossman, Anderson, Shaw, Tarity

After a discussion of the pressing need for definition of the flood plain, it was decided that a "mini" Board of Directors, made up of representatives of the Corps of Engineers, USGS, insurance agencies, and other flood-related groups would be formed to deal with the problem.

Discussion of urban renewal ended with a decision to initiate a series of meetings, starting October 25th, on the subject in the various municipalities. Local officials, representatives of redevelopment authorities, and representatives of OEP and EDC will be asked to attend.

Cain reported that a meeting to discuss the general sewage situation and, specifically, the status of secondary treatment would be held in his office the following day. *

October 25 (continued)

It was announced that Public Health nurses will be assigned to selected mobile home park sites for a period of four weeks to meet the health needs of residents.

Zatalava discussed the demand for manpower in the Valley. He reported that the unemployment rate is down to approximately pre-flood level, but added that the area is now faced with the problem of a hard core of unemployed who lack skills and motivation.

It was suggested that a list of answers to questions about SBA loans commonly asked by flood victims be published in the newspapers.

October 26

MEETING of FRTF Transportation Committee, 8 a.m., Treadway

Present: Tom Crews, Bill Vipperman, Dave Weber (DOT); Ray Radomski (PennDOT); Cliff Bigelow, Tom Bigler, Leo Corbett, Tom Kiley, Ed Schechter, Jack Schmitt, Jim Tarity (FRTF)

Schechter reported on the activities of the Luzerne County Transportation Authority and noted that purchase of service agreements with White and Wilkes-Barre Transit Companies were being negotiated.

Corbett reported that Nesbitt Park, between North and Market Streets, can be used as a parking area for 900 vehicles.

Ray Radomski announced that the North Street Bridge will be open by X-Mas.

Plans for paving of North Main, Franklin, and Northampton Streets by Wilkes-Barre City were announced.

MEETING re 1) projected December visit to Wyoming Valley by delegation from Biloxi and 2) proposed Recovery Fair, Hotel Sterling

Present: Cain, Lashford, Morgan, Parker, Rosenn, Rubinstein, B. Schechter

Rosenn announced that a delegation from the Biloxi-Gulfport region, including a choir, will visit Wyoming Valley in December to light a Christmas tree and present toys collected in Mississippi to Valley children. It was agreed that careful plans must be laid to offer the Mississippians the same warm hospitality that they showed to the group of local citizens who went to Biloxi early in October. Rubinstein accepted the chairmanship of a committee to be formed to plan for the visit.

Rosenn outlined the background of the Recovery Fair concept: Sec. Wilcox (DCA) proposed the idea; at first it was thought best to table it until recovery was assured, but now that it is known that large sums of money will be available for rebuilding and rehabilitation, it seems safe to assume that by spring there will be substantial recovery to celebrate; such a celebration can be expected to provide both a much needed boost for morale of flood victims and a valuable vehicle for demonstrating the area's potential for future growth. Rosenn added that there is reason to believe outstanding people on

October 26 (continued)

the national scene and in the cultural and entertainment fields will be ready to help make a Recovery Fair in the Valley a success.

It was agreed that a committee to plan for the Fair should be appointed promptly, that inquiries should be made about the possibility of coordinating the Fair with the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Fine Arts Fiesta, and that public announcement of plans for the Fair should be delayed until after the first of the new year. A second meeting on the subject was set up for October 31st.

MEETING of Total Living Environment Task Force re Committee Reports, Hotel Sterling, 3 p.m.

Present: Bill Desciak (EDC); representatives of social service agencies; representatives of FRC; representative of DCA; Anderson, Reynolds, Tarity (FRTF)

It was announced that construction of mobile home park functional buildings (bubbles, modulars, and public meeting structures) will be completed by December 1st, and that the Wilkes-Barre Information Service will be in full operation on November 1st.

Problems involved in meeting winter emergency health needs of residents of mobile home parks were discussed.

Desciak reported that the Total Living Environment Task Force's Executive Committee will also serve as EDC's functional committee on social planning.

October 27

MEETING of Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Present: Chamber Board, B. Schechter

Edward Schechter, Chairman of FRTF Committee on Transportation and member of Chamber Board of Directors, reported on the background and aims of the newly formed Luzerne County Transportation Authority. The Authority was born of a recognition by members of the Chamber's Transportation Committee and FRTF members that the flood had greatly increased a long apparent need to improve local mass transit. Because federal and state funds for this purpose are available only to public agencies, a proposal was made to the County Commissioners to form a Transportation Authority. When the Commissioners approved the proposal, a package of federal and state funds amounting to 100% financing was assembled: $2,300,000 for capital improvements; $1,600,000 for a 21-month Demonstration Project in mass transit.

The Luzerne County Transportation Authority was officially formed on October 10th. Its members are Bob Leonardi, George Sailus, Tom McGeehan, Jim Conahan, Bob Miscavage, Russell Lackey, Joe O'Karma, Ed Heiselberg, and Ed Schechter. It is currently negotiating purchase-of-service agreements with White and Wilkes-Barre Transit Companies.

October 27 (continued)

The Authority's objectives are:

1. to aid Valley's recovery by retaining maximum ridership of buses
2. to improve rider conditions and encourage greater use of buses
3. to complete 21-month transition period from free to full fare basis with a viable transit system

Capital improvements will include the purchase of 43 new buses, new signs, and bus shelters. Demonstration program projects include route improvements, shuttle service, and improved scheduling. Planned fare promotion includes special senior citizen, downtown shuttle, and weekend fares. In line with the Demonstration Project's aim to reduce automobile congestion in the central business district, attempts will be made to arrange one or more of the following: adjustment of parking fees, adjustment of meter charges, reduction of on-street parking, intensive enforcement of parking regulations, truck traffic restrictions, and intersection improvements.

Reporting on other transportation-related matters, Schechter said that repair of the North Street bridge is ahead of schedule and its reopening can be expected shortly before Christmas. He also noted that traffic signalization changes are proceeding satisfactorily, that improvements in North and Butler Streets should be completed by spring, but that no significant progress has been made on the Cross Valley Expressway. He reported failure of an attempt to convince the group suing the State to prevent widening of River Street to drop their suit and said that because of this, it may be several months before the matter is settled.

Tom Bigler and Edward Boltz reported on the trip made early in October by a group of 22 local citizens to the Biloxi-Gulfport region of Mississippi devastated by Hurricane Camille in 1968. Bigler noted that as far as insurance coverage is concerned, Biloxi's and Wyoming Valley's situations are not comparable; most of Camille's victims were covered by wind insurance to the extent of 70%. The Biloxi-Gulfport region, he reported, has put stringent building codes requiring that living areas must be constructed 12 feet above mean sea level into effect. Boltz reported that Mississippians had told the Valley delegation that Camille had left a legacy of social problems, including a higher than usual divorce rate and widespread emotional letdowns among its victims.

MEETING re Redevelopment Problems, EDC headquarters

Present: Cain (FRC); Rossignol (EDA); Grossman, Smith, Ziolkowski (EDC); Leon Case, Ed Heiselberg, and other representatives of redevelopment authorities; representative of DCA; Tom Garrity (Luzerne County Assessor); Jim Tarity (FRTF)

The possibility of providing architect advice to flood victim homeowners was discussed. A suggestion was made to the effect that architect advice might be too technical to be of value to the average homeowner and that advice from people who make a business of remodelling homes would be preferable. It was further suggested that efforts should be made both to utilize local expertise in this regard and to avoid leading homeowners to believe that Urban Renewal can solve all their problems. Cain asked Grossman to set up a

October 27 (continued)

program which would provide flood victim homeowners with the advice they need on rebuilding and rehabilitation.

In the course of a discussion on effects of the flood on the area's tax base, Garrity reported that he is working to eliminate inconsistencies between Federal and State legislation concerning tax relief to communities affected by the flood.

Heiselberg reported that the Recreation Plan for Wyoming Valley will be designed to fit in with the overall Urban Renewal Plan. He also reported that the cost of the Recreation and Open Space Plan will be $23.5 million, one half to be funded by DCA and the other by Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority.

Grossman distributed copies of the Regional Overall Program Design and asked for written comments. He suggested that FRTF be provided with a copy of the document. He also reported that EDC has sent FRC a list of questions on urban renewal that have been brought up at many of the meetings he has attended.

The possibility of legal actions by citizens groups against Federal, State, and local agencies was discussed, and it was pointed out that such actions could be serious obstacles to the work of the overall flood recovery program.

VISIT to HUD headquarters in Scranton by members of FVAC and FRTF

Present: Tom Doty, Paul Kanjorski, Mike Kostelansky, Walter Kinns, Min Matheson, Joe O'Boyle (FVAC); Hardwick, Shaw (FRTF); Robert Scalia (HUD)

Scalia explained system HUD has set up for expediting redevelopment programs. Matheson and Kanjorski questioned Scalia, chiefly on opportunities the redevelopment review process provides for citizen participation. Scalia answered to the effect that HUD procedure requires such opportunities through the vehicle of public hearings. FVAC members said that citizens have no opportunity to comment on redevelopment plans until after they are in final stages. Scalia suggested that they take this complaint to their public officials for correction.

Scalia indicated that, since redevelopment planning must be compatible with official delineation of flood plain, if such delineation is slow in coming, redevelopment may be held up.

* Insert October 26

MEETING re Secondary Treatment

Present: Conner; Cain (FRC); Rossignol (EDA); Rhodes (EPA); representatives of HUD; Pawlish, Milnes (Pa. Environmental Resources Agency); Shephard (EDC); Shaw

Rhodes reported that between $4 and 5 million in funding was currently being held up on the secondary treatment question and that virtually every project coming into the Valley would also be subject to the same tie-up. Conner

Insert October 26 (continued)

requested development of a comprehensive picture of a comprehensive sewage collection and treatment program for Wyoming Valley, an estimate of what this program would cost, and a determination of how much in Federal and State monies would be available to pay for it.

Rhodes was assigned to compile this information within the next week.

Flood Recovery Task Force

Minutes of FRTF Executive Committee Meeting, October 11, Noon, Hotel Sterling

Present: William Conner, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs Bierly, Hourigan, Kilburn, Lashford, Morgan, Quinn, Rosenn, Moran, Betty Schechter, Shaw, and Tarity

1. EDA grant to FRTF for staff, program, and studies. It was moved and passed that the grant be accepted.

2. Discussion of a proposal by William Wilcox for a Recovery Fair. Judge Rosenn reported that the state is ready to grant $12,000 for the purpose of holding a fair to celebrate progress toward recovery. It was moved and passed that a committee of the FRTF be appointed to explore the possibility of correlating such a fair with the 1973 Fine Arts Fiesta.

3. Discussion of adverse effects on recovery program resulting from delays in processing of SBA loans to local businessmen. After Judge Rosenn stated the problem, Mr. Conner said that Mr. Carlucci is aware of it and has made its solution his staff's first priority. Judge Rosenn asked him to reemphasize the difficulties local businessmen are experiencing to Mr. Carlucci.

4. Discussion of the burden that uncertainty about redevelopment imposes on flood-victim homeowners. Mr. Conner said that the federal government is aware of this problem, too. He added that a special HUD task force under the leadership of Robert Scalia has been formed to deal with it. This group, he said, will release all planning money within ten days.

Judge Rosenn said that in the absence of definite guidelines on redevelopment, there is an urgent need for homeowners to know which areas are likely to be included in a redevelopment project no matter how much money is forthcoming, which only if a certain percentage of the funds requested is received, and which likely to be included. Mr. Conner said that the HUD Task Force will endeavor to see that announcements to this effect will be made in the near future.

It was agreed that FRTF will await results of HUD Task Force meeting on October 13 and then make a positive statement telling homeowners when they can expect answers to their questions.

5. Report on meetings between representatives of FRTF and FVAC. Mr. Shaw reported that FVAC has expressed appreciation of the results of FRTF efforts to develop solutions to some of the problems of flood victim homeowners. He also reported that FVAC is currently interested in mounting a widespread letter writing campaign aimed at rallying support for coinsurance payments to disaster victims.

It was agreed that FRTF would supply FVAC with a list of Congressmen and a suggested draft of a letter to be sent to other disaster hit or disaster prone communities.

6. Report on trip to Biloxi. Judge Rosenn reported that Biloxi urges Wyoming Valley to:

a. press for quick reservation of the funds needed for the execution of approved grants
b. move for consolidation of municipalities and coordination of their planning
c. guard against economic imbalance due to federal government paying higher wages than usual in the area

Attorney Quinn expressed serious doubt that real progress toward consolidation is possible now: he said that because of the flood, people are preoccupied with their own personal problems. He said that he would try, nevertheless, to spread the word from Biloxi, and added that a strong attempt would be made at a meeting of municipalities called by his committee for November 16th to convince local officials that recovery depends on coordination of their planning. Mr. Shaw suggested a Task Force attempt to persuade state and federal government agencies to make coordination of planning a condition of funding.

Mr. Shaw reported that he had asked representatives of the Department of Labor to reevaluate the federal agencies' wage scales wherever possible in the interest of correcting an already troublesome economic imbalance in the area. It was moved and passed that a committee be set up to act on this problem.

Flood Recovery Task Force

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, September 25

September 25

First MEETING of Legal Staff at Attorney Aston's office

MEETING: Subjects:
1. Coordination of Regional Agencies on Governmental Affairs
2. Carlucci news release on EDA grants

Present: Ray Carmon (PEL); John Hibbard, Howard Grossman (EDC); Phil Tuhy (IRA); Ralph Rhodes (EPA); Paul Cain (FRC); Andy Shaw

Clarification of roles of agencies represented in regard to local government:

a. Economy League: fiscal and management advice to various units of local government
b. IRA: personnel recruitment and training
c. FRTF: overall support for modernizing and improving local government
d. EDC: same as FRTF but on regional and long-term basis

As a result of FRTF - FRC meetings, the Task Force has been assured that enough mobile homes are being kept in readiness for immediate occupancy in case of winter emergencies.

MEETING re Labor requirements for restoring and rebuilding flood area housing
Present: Carl Keil, Lashford, Dr. Samuel Rosenberg, Shaw

Mr. Keil is working on determination of number of man-hours required. Dr. Rosenberg and Mr. Shaw requested ideas on how to get necessary statistics for effective building program and how to overcome deficiency of skilled workmen with an apprenticeship program

September 26

DISCUSSION between Shaw and Hardwicke - Subject: FRTF cooperation with FVAC

Agreed that Shaw and Hardwicke will contact Andrew Lawrence and Michael Solomon of FVAC and suggest joint tour of flooded area in South Wilkes-Barre.

Discussion of possible action to speed resolution of flood victims' most pressing problems.

REPORTED by Ed Schechter that numerous complaints have been made by local businessmen that their SBA loans are not coming through and that their need for financing is getting desperate. Inquiries revealed that Carlucci is aware of situation and is bringing battery of extra lawyers and loan advisors to area to cope with it. Assurance given that situation should begin clearing up by end of week

MEETING re review of latest developments in flood-related Planning and Development

Place and Time: EDC headquarters, Avoca, 1:30 p.m.

Present: Grossman, Ziolkowski (EDC Staff); Sam Gutman, Lee Case, Jerry Mullen, Mike Lonergan (redevelopment consultants to local municipalities), Richard Traussi (HUD), Jim Price (Luzerne County Redevelopment), Gene Walsh (Nanticoke Redevelopment), Marvin Brotter (Assoc. Planning and

Development), Shirley Beard (CEO), representatives of Wilkes-Barre Model Cities

1. Discussion of:
   a. EDC plans to collect all data pertinent to flood damage in Wyoming Valley in one room at its headquarters.
   b. FRTF role in planning and development and the relationship between its planning and development committee and EDC.
2. Current applications for EDA grants
   a. grants to EDC, FRTF, PEL and IRA for staff and planning expected very soon
   b at least 27 applications for technical assistance EDA grants have been received from local governments and non-profit organizations - some of these may relate to urban renewal
3. EDC communication with Federal Regional Council: weekly meetings between representatives of EDC and key officers of the federal program are very useful as a source of necessary information
4. Distribution of chart listing redevelopment projects submitted to EDC January '72 to September '72 (chart available at FRTF office) - the chart is an example of the kind of information EDC plans to make available to planning and development agencies
5. Preliminary answers by Mr. Traussi to some of the questions asked of him by Mr. Grossman in letters of September 19 and September 22
   a. Mr. Grossman asked if it is possible to get both a SBA loan with its $5,000 forgiveness and a HUD $3,500 rehabilitation grant. Mr. Traussi's reply: HUD aims to use all available resources to get a man back to where he was before the flood, but definitely does not think it appropriate to use govenrment money to make him "better off."
   b. addressing himself to each of the questions referred to above, Mr. Traussi gave answers to some, said he didn't yet know the answers to others, and promised to get written answers to all of them to Mr. Grossman in the near future. Included in the answers he did give was the following information:
      1. eventually at least $450 million will be available for urban renewal in the flood area
      2. OEP is the best source of funding for construction and reconstruction of water and sewer systems in areas not under urban renewal
      3. community planning agencies will develop the criteria to determine whether a structure should be rehabilitated or demolished. About 50% of HUD money for renewal and redevelopment projects will go to Wyoming Valley.
      4. Army Corps of Engineers will probably define the 100 year flood plain as "everything within the dikes." HUD won't insist on waiting for official definitions of flood lines to grant Survey and Planning monies.
      5. Early Land Acquisition (ELA) funds can be used if a building has been razed or is determined to be dangerous to the health and welfare of the community.
      6. HUD will have the ultimate responsibility for deciding boundary lines for urban renewal projects.

6. Discussion of draft of EDC Policy Statement relative to Flood Recovery Effort - Urban Renewal Survey and Planning Applications

As it stands, draft both supports the applications from municipalities it has before it and presents criteria for funding priorities if a discrepancy between available funds and the needs described in the applications develops.

Strong suggestions were put forward that the criteria for funding priorities be dropped from the draft on the theory that if cuts become necessary, HUD will look to EDC for guidance.

(Documents referred to are on file at FRTF office.)

September 27

MEETING of FRC at 10 a.m. in lower level of Hotel Sterling - (Minutes available at FRTF office.)

PRESS CONFERENCE given by Carlucci

1. covered the grants to Task Force, EDC, PEL, and IRA - coordination of the grants was discussed
2. Shaw discussed with Secretary of Community Affiars Wilcox his position on the grants.

MEETING re Recreation Study of Luzerne County; Commissioners' Conference Room, 2 p.m.

Present: Heiselberg, Gutman, McClelland, representatives of OEO, representatives of Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs, Leonard Ziolkowski (EDC), representatives of other planning and recreation agencies

Mr. Heiselberg stated that he, Mr. Neff and Mr. McClelland are in agreement on a work program and are operating under a deadline of January 31, '73 for getting municipalities to define which areas they wish to set aside for recreation purposes.

Mr. Ziolkowski said that he would like to see a three-tiered Wyoming Valley plan for recreation:

1. Wyoming Valley - neighborhood parks
2. Luzerne County - county parks
3. remainder of the 7-county region - regional parks

The representative of the Pa. Dept. of Community Affairs expressed the opinion that it would not be possible to present adequate plans by the end of January. Mr. Gutman pointed out that a "broad-brush" plan would have the effect of reserving areas for different land uses and could always be modified later. Mr. Heiselberg pointed out that meeting the deadline in this way represents the municipalities' best chance to secure land for recreation purposes.

Agreement was reached on approving an "open-space" plan rather than a "recreation plan."

MEETING of Planning and Development Committee at EDC Headquarters at 4:30

Present: Charles Epstein, Kiley, Betsy Parkhurst, Edward Schechter, Lester Shapiro, Thomas Shelburne, Wallace Stettler, A. Shaw, John Hibbard, Howard Grossman, Bob Shephard, Bonnie Smith, Betty Schechter

1. Presentation by Mr. Hibbard of a brief summary of EDC background and a clarification of its responsibilities.
2. Discussion of difficulties facing Sanitary Authority re secondary treatment. It was moved and passed that FRTF Planning and Development Committee support Mr. Shapiro's committee's attempt to reach a compromise in regard to secondary treatment satisfactory to the EPA and the State Dept. of Environmental Resources, the EDA and the Sanitary Authority
3. Discussion of applications by municipalities for urban renewal grants. Mr. Grossman (EDC) listed first steps to be taken in application process and recommended "reserving" urban renewal funds by taking these steps.
4. Discussion of FRTF Planning and Development Committee support of EDC's resolution on policy relative to Flood Recovery Urban Renewal Survey and Planning applications.
   a. EDC pointed out that at this stage its approval of these applications is on the basis that they are satisfactory as far as coordination of planning is concerned and that it is satisfied that reasonable competancy will be applied to the proposed planning.
   b. it also pointed out that if FRTF supports its approach that will not be taken as meaning it supports the exact wording of the resolution
   c. it was moved and passed the Planning and Development Committee of the FRTF supports the fourteen applications EDC has approved, to the extent that they are properly presented for preliminary submission and that there is no obstacle in these applications to eventual coordination by the appropriate agencies.

September 28

MEETING of Transportation Committee, Treadway, 8 a m.

Present: Ed Schechter, Tom Kiley, Leo Corbett, Cliff Bigelow, Jim Tarity, Ed Heiselbertg, Jack Schmitt, Tom Bigler; Tony DeAngelo and Ray Radomski from Penndot

Topics discussed:
Funding of Public Transit Authority
the widening of River St. problem
tremendous increase in the volume of traffic this week
progress of the North St. bridge
development of a new Food Distribution Center in Wilkes-Barre in order to reduce railroad travel
traffic entanglement in Wilkes-Barre city

MEETING of sub-committee at noon at Sterling - re arrangements of reception to honor Carlucci

Present: Mrs. Thomas Kiley, Mrs. A. J. Sordoni, III, Mrs. Betty K. Bierly, Andrew Shaw, Mrs. Ed Schechter

Those present were in agreement on the following points:

1. The reception should be a weekday afternoon "drinks and hors d'oeuvre" affair.
2. Those invited should be the FRTF Executive Committee (officers and committee chairmen and co-chairmen) and their spouses; Mr. Andrew Shaw; a few others who were hlepful in getting the Task Force started; Mr. Robb, Mr. Roysten, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Cain of the Federal Regional Council; Secretary of Community Affairs William Wilcox; Mr. John Hibbard and Mr. Howard Grossman (to represent EDC); and personal friends of Mr. Carlucci's whom he may wish to have in attendance.
3. Task Force will pay for their own shares of the reception's cost and share costs for Mr. Carlucci, Mr. Hibbard, Mr. Grossman, Mr. Robb, Mr. Roysten, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Cain, and Mr. Carlucci's personal friends.
4. Mrs. Kiley will arrange with Mr. Mark Kornfeld of the Treadway a choice of dates and will submit these to Judge Rosenn for clearance with Mr. Carlucci.
5. Letters of invitation will be sent from the FRTF with a request for replies and checks to go to Mrs. Sordoni.
6. Mrs Kiley and Betty Schechter will attend to drafting the letter of invitation and arranging for flowers.

PRESS CONFERENCE given by Mr. Carlucci - It was announced that:

1. several hundred mobile homes are ready for occupancy and several hundred additional mobile homes can be made ready at a moment's notice.
2. EDA Technical Assistance grants have been made to a number of Wyoming Valley municipalities

After the conference, a meeting between Ralph Brown (Kingston), Joe Halasey (Hanover Township), Robert Campbell (West Pittston Council), Mayor Burns (Plymouth) and Andrew Shaw. Results were: Brown and Shaw will meet soon to discuss West Side Council of Government and its application for a Technical Assistance grant.

MEETING at lower level of the Sterling Hotel

Subject: Total Living Environment Task Force

Present: Roysten, Cain, Anderson, B. Schechter, representatives of EDC, social agencies, Vista

1. Merger of Total Living Environment Task Force and FHA Committee of the FRTF, as far as responsibility for social services to the movile home parks is concerned - this was proposed and agreed to by all present.

2. Agreement between state and federal governments to split costs of some normally municipality-supplied services and a few managerial services to the mobile home parks.
   a. provision of general purpose meeting places which will have space for recreation and a modest amount of space for use by visiting representatives of socail agencies
   b. laundry facilities - for those parks not near commercial laundry facilities
   c. retail stores of the Pantry Quik type for parks far from shopping areas
3. Discussion of charts showing where it is planned that auxiliary buildings will be installed and categorizing populations of various sites by age groups.
4. Plans for visits to various sites by group including a representative from the federal government, the state government, the FRTF and a private social agency.
   a. Mr. Roysten stressed that though the state and federal governments stand ready to help the major source of social services will be local agencies
   b. It was agreed that no such group visit will be made until it is requested by a resident advisor of a mobile home park.
5. Discussion of relation between resident advisors and the information and referral service that will be establised jointly by the social service agencies. - resident advisors will be trained to evaluate problems and then either refer to the proper agency, or, if in doubt, call the information and referral telephone number.
6. Mrs. Anderson suggested an Executive Planning Committee made up of Cain, Roysten, Corey, Coachman (FRC), Wilcox, Knauer, Yeller (State), Schechter or Shaw (FRTF), Grossman, and a representative of Community Services of Pennsylvania.

Jim Tarity, FRTF Staff, accompanied Thomas Kelly of Wilkes College in escorting two representatives of the Haas Institute in Philadelphia on a tour of the mobile home sites in hopes of securing a Haas Grant for Wilkes to provide cultural and recreational services to the peoples of these parks. The day included a tour of flood-stricken Wilkes College, luch in the Wilkes cafeteria where Kelly laid out the proposed type of services Wilkes will offer, and a visit to the Frances Slocum Site, the Money St. Site behind the Wyo. Valley Mall, and the Scanlon Field Site. The tour also included a ride through flood-devastated Kingston, Forty Fort, and Wyoming. The Haas people seemed very receptive to Wilkes' need for funding of such a project. Kelly was told that Wilkes would be hearing from Haas around the middle of October, 1972, as to the college's eligibility for a Haas Grant.

September 29

MEETING of Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
Subject - Address by Robert J. Bielo, Executive Director Susquehanna River Commission on "Susquehanna River Basin"

Prior to address, Mr. Morgan presented a resolution indicating Chamber of Commerce support for the position that the flood-plain should be defined as the area contained within the flood-control system and stating that it is the responsibility of the federal, state and local governments "to so construct and maintain that flood-control system and all its components, from levees and pumping stations to dams, as to ensure that the flood-plain shall remain within that flood-control system." Motion for support of resolution made and passed.

Summarizing the flood history of Wyoming Valley, Mr. Bielo made it clear that floods have occured with increasing frequency and gave it as his opinion that the 1972 flood stage would probably be reached again within the next 50 years. He said that the use being made of land upstream of Wyoming Valley is the primary cause of increasing frequency of flooding here and listed the following land uses as most conducive to flooding: increasing urbanization (sewer systems, paving, highways); stream channeling; and reduction of areas devoted to forests. He said that changing weather patterns probably also have a definite effect on frequency of flooding.

Mr. Bielo said that although a measure of flood control for a specific area can be acheived through the construction of dams, dams necessarily take a number of years to be built and, in any case, often increase the likelihood of flooding in unprotected areas downstream of the areas they are designed to protect. He advocated development of control over land use as the best way to prevent floods. To secure such control he suggested the formation of a Basin-wide citizens group which would put Wyoming Valley into contact with areas upstream which may use land in a way detrimental to this area, and other areas downstream which may depend for their protection against flooding on the use Wyoming Valley makes of its land. He urged that Wyoming Valley set realistic land-control goals, develop strong local leadership for flood-control campaign, and take a "whole-river" approach to flood-control planning.

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Flood Recovery Task Force

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, October 2

October 2

MEETING re Luzerne County Transportation Authority

Present: Ralph Schrey (Luzerne County Planning Commission), Bob Shephard (EDC), a representative of the Economic Development Administration, Shaw

As a result of this meeting a proposal for an EDA grant to the Luzerne County Transportation Authority was developed. (copies of this proposal are on file in the FRTF office)

MEETING and TOUR OF DEVASTATED AREA OF SOUTH WILKES-BARRE re: Communication between Flood Victims Action Committee and Flood Recovery Task Force - 4:30 p.m.

Present: Sam Bosch, Walter Kinns, Andrew Lawrence, Bernard Newman, Michael Solomon (FVAC); Charles Hardwick, Andrew Shaw (FRTF); Sol Hurwitz (Vice President Committee for Economic Development); Mrs. Charles Hardwick

The group met at Boo-Boo's Restaurant, corner of Carey Avenue and Alexander St.

Members of the FVAC endorsed FRTF's announcement of support for Representative Dan Flood's proposed flood-victim insurance legislation, and indicated that many home owners in the flooded areas are eager to have an official definition of "a totally destroyed home" and a firm date for the beginning of redevelopment. Mr. Shaw explained that in the case of each redevelopment project, delineation by local officials of areas to be redeveloped is a necessary first step, and advised FVAC members to urge their local officials to make such delineation.

In response to a request by FVAC members for clarification of the rights and responsibilities of a home-owner who agrees to have his house destroyed, Mr. Shaw said that he would suggest to the Army Corps of Engineers that they draw up a simple form outlining these rights and responsibilities, to be signed both by the home-owner and a representative of the Corps when an agreement to have a home destroyed is concluded.

Questions about SBA loans were posed. Mr. Shaw will confer with Mr. Harold Rose about these.

Concern was expressed about the effect the wage scale the federal government is using in this area is having on local businesses: it was said that, by paying higher wages and salaries than are usual in the Valley, government agencies are, in effect, "pirating" employees from local businesses and industries. Mr. Shaw said that he will explore this matter with Mr. J. B. Archer and Mr. Carl Keil of the Department of Labor and try to find a solution to the problem.

Mr. Newman proposed that his organization raise money for the purpose of chartering a plane to bring Senators and Congressmen who have opposed flood-relief legislation to this area that they may personally assess the need flood victims have for government assistance. Mr. Shaw expressed doubt that the legislators in question could be convinced to make the trip.

The potential problem of winter-caused further damage to flood-damaged houses whose owners plan to delay rehabilitating them until spring was discussed.

October 2 (continued)

(After this discussion, Mr. Shaw brought the matter up with Mr. Theodore Robb of the Federal Regional Council, and, possibly due in part to this, it was announced in the local newspaper on October 5th that houses in South Wilkes-Barre still requiring winterization can get it under the Interim Assistance Program which will be administered by the City Redevelopment Authority.)

FVAC homeowners expressed a need for advice from architects on which to base decisions on how best to repair their houses. Mr. Shaw told them that the FRTF had received a letter from the Northeastern Chapter of the American Institute of Architects indicating a desire to assist in the flood recovery effort. Mr. Paul Cain of FRC will follow this up.

FVAC members suggested to Mr. Hardwick and Mr. Shaw that federal and state agencies are paying undue attention to residents of the mobile home parks at the expense of flood-victims living either in partially rehabilitated homes or in campers or mobile homes on their own properties.

The group visited Mr. Bernard Newman's three year old 3-bedroom home and noted extensive interior damage. Mr. Newman told the group that the best estimate he has received on the cost of essential repairs equals the original cost of the house. He added that once the repairs on which this estimate is based are made, his house will not be in as good condition as it was before the flood.

Formal lines of communication between the FVAC and the FRTF were established. Representatives of the two organizations will meet regularly. Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10th at 7:30 p.m. at Weckesser Hall, Wilkes College.

October 3

ANNOUNCEMENT of Formation of Luzerne County Transportation Authority

On Monday, October 2nd, the County Commissioners announced the formation of a Luzerne County Transportation Authority. This Authority will be funded by a Capital Grant and a Demonstration Grant totalling $3,800,000 with the federal government contributing about 2/3 of the sum and PennDot contributing the balance.

Detailed announcement of these grants will be made the week of October 16th.

The following members of the FRTF's Transportation Committee and its Transit Study Group made important contributions to the formation of this Authority: John Conyngham, Edward Heiselberg, Frank Henry, Jack Holt, Julius Landau, Edward Schechter.

MEETING re Harry Russ's proposal to move the radio communications system into the Sheriff's office

Present: County Commissioners, Frank Townend, Nicholas Souchik, Bob Pissott
Mr. O'Neill (Civil Defense), P. J. Clarke, Frank Shauntz, Shaw

October 3 (continued)

Townend, Souchik, and Pissott presented arguments against Russ's proposal. Shaw, too, indicated that he had serious doubts about it and listed them:

a. the Sheriff is basically a Court officer
b. the proposal implies official agreements between all units of local government
c. a transfer of the communications system into the Sheriff's office would inhibit development of a comprehensive network covering all police, fire, and ambulance calls.

MEETING re Formation of plans for solving health-related problems in post-flood Wyoming Valley

Present: Dr. Yeller (Regional Director of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Health); Mr. McGregor, Mrs. Ferry, and a third staff member (Health and Hospital Planning Council, Northeastern Pennsylvania); Mr. Smith, Mr. Nemore (Health Management Corporation); Mr. J. Farrell (State Department of Health and Welfare); Mr. C. Couchman (HEW); Mr. M. Kendall (regional Pennsylvania Department of Welfare); Mrs. Klein (Home Health Services); Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Reynolds (FRTF)

Matters discussed:

1. potential for health problems in the mobile home parks, and how to deal with them
2. the post-flood nursing home situtation in the Valley.

October 4

Federal Regional Council MEETING at Sterling - attended by Jim Tarity

Topics discussed:

1. Howard Grossman (EDC) displayed a listing of EDC projects from June to September 14, 1972.
2. HUD Report - Dick Traussi reported on Urban Renewal Project coming into the area.
3. EPA Report - Ralph Rhodes reported on the Wyoming Valley Sewage Treatment Authority
4. Luzerne County Planning Organization - is not providing functional planning (sewage and water); Economic Development Council will take up the slack; Howard Grossman will talk to Ralph Rhodes on this matter.
5. HEW Report - HEW has been asked to hold up a grant to the three local hospitals (Mercy, Nesbitt, and General) by the Luzerne County Hospital Planning Organization because the grant specifies the finances be used to restore pre-flood services, which the Planning Organization feels were duplicated and inefficiently operated in the past.
6. Luzerne County Community College - HEW has not participated in the funding of the college because of the lack of available moneys.
7. Law Enforcement Assistance - twenty-five policemen originally employed have been reduced to fifteen; a security check on HUD Park Managers was requested.

October 4 (continued)

8. Department of Labor - Mr. Archer reported the availability of manpower could progress into a surplus of manpower.
9. USDA Report - Food Stamp Program will continue until October 30, 1972. Three million has been put into this program.
10. OEO Report - a special legal service program for eight months at $240,000 was discussed.

MEETING called by Don Harter (HUD) re Discussion of ways Penn State Extension Specialists can be helpful in the flood recovery effort, with special emphasis on the Total Living Environment project.

Present: Don Harter (Department of Agriculture); representatives of Penn State Extension; representatives of HUD, representatives of Foster Grandparent Program; Mr. Anderson (Director, HUD Resident Advisory Services); Linda Mallin (FRC); Mrs. Frank Anderson, James Tarity, and Betty Schechter (FRTF)

Representatives of Penn State Extension told the group that they have already provided a variety of educational services to the residents of the mobile home parks and are interested in finding other ways to assist them. Penn State has specialists in 18 different areas of human resources and natural resources and have access to technical information in all those areas.

Mr. Anderson described the role of the resident advisor in the mobile home parks: he has two major responsibilities:

a. liaison between residents and community's social service agencies
b. assistance to residents in relocation into community, either to their old homes, or to new housing

Mr. Anderson thought that Penn State Extension specialists might be able to help resident advisors cope with certain problems likely to trouble dislocated people: readjustment of budgets, dealing with contractors, buying a new home. He added that VISTA, CEO, and HUD are all concerned with making a pleasant life possible for mobile home park residents, but they all feel that their most important job is to get the parks emptied as rapidly as possible, for they are convinced that the mobile home parks can never be satisfactory communities except on an emergency basis.

Suggestions were made that Penn State Extension specialists might train volunteers to teach residents of mobile home parks practical skills related to homemaking, new home purchasing, etc. Mrs. Anderson suggested the possibility of a mobile "Home Show" which would give demonstrations at the parks on such matters as fixture selection, furniture refinishing, interior decoration, etc.

It was agreed that the Task Force would try to get TV time for Penn State specialists to demonstrate skills needed by mobile home park residents.

Linda Mallin of the FRC warned that it might be difficult to reach dislocated people through the media right now - they may either have no TV's or be too tired to read newspapers.

October 5

MEETING of Transportation Committee at 8 a.m. at Treadway Inn

Present: Ed Schechter, Jack Schmitt, Leo Corbett, Tom Kiley, John Conyngham, Ray Radomski, Jim Tarity

Topics discussed:

1. Public Transit Authority
2. Massive traffic problem in Wilkes-Barre City
3. Park and Ride Proposal - person parks vehicle on outskirts of city and rides a shuttle bus into the central city
4. Decreasing role of the Federal Government in local highway and bridge projects
5. The need of a high level meeting of the Transportation Committee with Federal and State officials
6. The widening and straightening of River Street

MEETING re Possibility of regular bookmobile visits to the mobile home parks, at noon at the Sterling

Present: John McCormick, Mary Kramer, Susan Sordoni, Charles Lemmond (Osterhout Free Library); Paul Roysten (FRC); Betty Schechter

The group met as a result of a request to the Task Force by Mr. Roysten for contact with local libraries for the purpose of exploring the possibility of providing library service to the residents of mobile home parks. As a Pennsylvania District Library, the OFL discussed the matter at a board of directors meeting and indicated eagerness to cooperate.

Acquisition of a bookmobile, its stocking, staffing, and maintenance were discussed. Mr. McCormick said that if an appropriate vehicle could be obtained, the OFL would see that it was converted for bookmobile use and seek cooperation from other local libraries to find volunteers who would help staff it. Mr. Roysten said that he would probably find a suitable government owned vehicle and suggested consulting with Mr. Paul Cain (FRC) about requesting CEO to provide the necessary funding to stock and run it.

October 6

MEETING re Activities of the FRTF Committee on Legislation and Equity

Present: Harold Rose and Andrew Shaw

Mr. Rose told Mr. Shaw that among his committee's activites to date were:

a. a meeting with the Insurance Association with Frank Parkhurst acting as chairman. Methods of persuading local units of government to apply for flood insurance were explored.
b. a discussion with Mr. Carlucci on "wrap-around" financing (a method of combining old mortgages with new under SBA loans.
c. assistance in resolving difficulties between SBA and the Veterans Administration on the subject of loans to veterans.

October 6 (continued)

MEETING re Grants made to four regional agencies (IRA, EDC, PEL, and FRTF)

Present: EDC Staff members and Andrew Shaw

The Intergovernmental Personnel Act through which funds for the training of personnel are funnelled was discussed.

MEETING re Discussion of local government

Present: William Conner (Presidential Staff) and Andrew Shaw

MEETING re Bookmobile Service to Mobile Home Parks

Present: Susan Sordoni (Osterhout Free Library); Paul Cain (FRC); Betty Schechter

Results: Mrs. Sordoni will contact Mr. Allen Bacon of OEO to explore possibility of funding for such service under that agency's program for recreation for the residents of mobile home parks.

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Flood Recovery Task Force

Report on Activities of FRTF Staff - Week starting Monday, September 18

I. September 18 - Yom Kippur

II. September 19

A. EMERGENCY MEETING at noon

1. Subject - social services to the mobile home sites
2. Place - Genetti's
3. Present - Rosenn, Roysten, McFadden, Reynolds, Cohen, Vernon, Kiley, Shaw, Schechter, and others of FHA Committee
4. Purpose - define roles of Federal, State, and local agencies and FRTF in "total living environment".
5. Roysten opens meeting with statement that Carlucci gave him task of seeing that mobile home parks have adequate management and social services. To achieve this objective, Roysten sees need for Federal, State, local, and private agency cooperation. He would like the FRTF to coordinate the work of these agencies to guard against duplication of efforts. He noted that the short term, or "life and limb" phase of the recovery effort is closing down and the long range phase in the fields of economics, government, and social services is opening up.
6. Discussion of the roles of mobile home park manager and resident advisor. There will be one of each at each mobile home park. They will be sources of information on a large variety of services which will be available to the park residents.
7. Roysten forsees that many residents will have problems that can't be fitted into a specific hole and hopes that the Task Force will be a point of reference for such people. He added that the Federal Government has neither the knowledge nor the capacity to handle such combinations of problems, but will be willing to help.
8. Roysten announced that HUD will have a central management team to handle management problems the mobile home parks have in common. He also said that services planned for mobile home park residents will be made available to flood victims living on private sites.
9. Concern was expressed about the delay in implementation of the State's United Service Agency (USA) funding. Judge Rosenn said that the need for these funds is immediate; needed personnel for social service staff expansion is available now and agencies are impatiently waiting for funds from the state.
10. Another source of concern expressed was the fear that expansion of social agencies will take place only at the top and Judge Rosenn asked the various agencies to communicate this concern to the State organization.
11. Mr. Bacon commented on the need for clearinghouse for the mobile home parks' transportation problem.
12. A suggestion was made that the Task Force write to Elliott Knauer about its concern on USA funding.
13. Judge Rosenn expressed the hope that the Task Force could establish the same satisfactory communication with the State recovery program as it has with the Federal Program.
14. Mr. Reynolds suggested that the FRTF would provide the mechanism for integrating required services to the mobile home parks.
15. Mrs. Gurbst expressed the opinion that because of the flood, the lifestyle of the whole community has changed and suggested that for this reason it would be unwise to concentrate too much emphasis

I. September 18 (continued)

on service to the mobile home parks.

16. Judge Rosenn pointed out a need for a catalogue of services and manpower for clearinghouse for coordinated efforts by all.
17. It was agreed that the Welfare Planning Council is the logical agency to serve as a liason between FRTF and Mr. Roysten's staff. Mr. Roysten said that he would be eager to open communication between Federal, State, local and private agencies because, to date, his staff has been bombarded by fragments of programs. Judge Rosenn expressed the opinion that pulling these fragmented programs together should have top priority and could be accomplished in 30 days. Judge Rosenn suggested that problems separate agencies encounter should be funneled through the Task Force, which will arrange to bring them to the attention of those equipped to take the required action.

B. MEETING

1. Subject - proposed "single telephone number" for flood victims needing one or more services
2. Place - Genetti's
3. Present - Executives of United Fund and private and public social agencies, Paul Cain, and Secretary William Wilcox
4. Bob Miscavage (Model Cities) described & proposed an information service, data banking, and retrieval system: flood victims in need of one or more services call central number; trained operator decides which agency to contact and then, keeping caller in voice contact, makes the connection. Operator then introduces client and problem to proper agency person; operator monitors call and then records name of caller, problem, to whom he was referred, and the service he required. This information is given to a follow-up department and the information on it goes into a data bank; the purpose of collecting this data is to enable agencies to recognize the unanswered needs. The primary purpose behind this proposal is to eliminate the multiplicity of referrals with which so many flood victims have been troubled. Mr. Cain said that the Federal Government would support this proposal if reliance on phone referral was dropped. Referrals should be made on paper.
5. Secretary of Community Affairs Wilcox was introduced to the group - he defined his assignment as coordinating the State's recovery efforts; said he plans to be available to whomever needs him and whomever has suggestions on how the State can improve its services.

C. MEETING

1. Subject - proposed meeting with locally elected officials in flood region
2. Place - Tom Kiley's office
3. Present - Kiley, Quinn, Hibbard, Grossman, and Shaw
4. Results:
   a. Quinn will prepare letter to be sent to each municipality and signed by Quinn and Judge Rosenn
   b. a meeting between Robb, Wilcox, Quinn, and Shaw will be arranged

II. September 19

A. MEETING
1. Subject - invitation to be sent to elected officials of each flood afflicted municipality inviting them to discuss matters of concern to them
2. Present - Shaw, Quinn, Hibbard, Shephard, Riley

III. September 20

A. MEETING
1. Subject - Sanitary Authority problems
2. Present - Shaw, Ralph Rhodes of Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA)
3. Discussion of secondary treatment and possibilities for Federal and State monies to solve Sanitary Authority problems - question of making feasibility studies and hiring consulting engineers was raised
4. Arrangements made for meeting between Rhodes and Ed Schechter

B. MEETING from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
1. Subject:
   a. exchange of information between FRC, EDC, and FRTF
   b. development of strategy for grant programs
2. Present - representatives of the 3 organizations (Shaw represented FRTF)
3. Discussion of "EDA pipeline" - EDA has, to date, identified 25 projects for technical assistance and 48 public works projects. The proposed technical assistance grants total $3.5 million. Another $1 million is available for technical assistance in the flood area. The public works projects total $26 million, another $4 million available for flood related public works.
4. It was stated that the overall function of the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) is to restore; that of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) to build
5. Department of Labor will have $90 million to use in Pennsylvania - this money is restricted to very specific purposes, some of which may not exist here
6. HEW representative stressed that in the area of social servies the State Government must move before the Federal Government can - he listed the amounts of money the Federal Government can spend on public and private schools, colleges, libraries, and hospitals.
7. Mr. William Patterson of HUD said that his agency has received 49 Pennsylvania urban renewal applications totaling $500 million. Applications from Wyoming Valley account for $224 million of this. Between $295 million and $315 million will be available to Northeastern Pennsylvania for urban renewal. $6.8 million will be available for sewer and water supply projects in the flooded area.

C. Shaw and Wilcox MEETING re saturation program on consumer protection

IV. September 21

A. MEETING of Transportation Committee at 8 A.M.
1. Present - Members of Transportation Committee; Leon Case, Ray Radomski
2. Topics discussed:
a. Mass Transit System - feel that a transit authority can operate by itself; will shortly be a reality
b. Railroad situation in central Wilkes-Barre
c. Railroad spur line crossing North Street bridge
d. Committee asked Mr. Corbett and Mr. Bigler to get together with the FRTF's legal staff concerning the plaintiff action on River Street
e. Ed Schechter wants a schedule of the bridges under construction to insure measurable performance
f. Senator Murray was contacted and reported that the budget on North Street will be in the State's budget
g. Mr. Corbett reports that the local colleges have taken the initiative and have asked their commuting students to be soft on the traffic-parking situation in the central city

V. September 22

A. Discussion between Kiley, Ed Schechter, and Shaw
1. Subjects:
a. forthcoming meeting between EDC, FRC, Pennsylvania Economy League (PEL), Institute of Regional Affairs (IRA), FRTF
b. news release to be made by Carlucci about grants for the above listed agencies
2. Decision reached to employ Tom Moran to do Public Relations work for the Task Force on the basis of his spending at least 25% of his time on Task Force work on a retainer of $300 a month.

B. MEETING
1. Subjects (all pertaining to Slocum Mobile Home Park):
a. fire protection
b. recreation
c. phone hook-ups
2. Present - Roysten, Gordon McFee (HUD); residents of Slocum Mobile Home Park, and Shaw
3. Residents expressed need for fire hydrants and request for fire vehicle to be maintained on site. The Task Force Staff pointed out that hydrants weren't necessary because of the lake and the fact that volunteer departments usually have pumpers. Fire trucks come filled with about 500 gallons of water and immediately drop lines into the lake and begin pumping the water. McFee pointed out that his department, through the efforts of the Task Force, had acquired Fire Instructors who are working through the IRA. The instructors are also conducting on-site inspections.
4. It was determined that additional fire extinguishers would be placed on site in lieu of a fire truck.

V. September 22 (continued)

5. Discussion of phone hook-up. Task Force checked with Mr. Hibbard, who indicated that phone service would be available at the end of September to the middle of October, as promised.
6. Recreation problems discussed. Indications given that buildings would be erected for that purpose. Task Force indicated that members of its committee are working with various groups in the region to provide coordinated cultural, recreational, and other social services.

C. Luncheon MEETING

1. Subject - Sanitary Authority secondary treatment
2. Present - Ed Schechter, Ralph Rhodes, Lester Shapiro, Edgar Lashford, Andy Shaw, and Betty Schechter
3. Discussion of fundamental problem currently plaguing Sanitary Authority: Federal funds for Sanitary Authority projects are available, but cannot be granted in the absence of certification from the Environmental Protection Agency; the EPA will not give certification unless plans for secondary treatment are made; Sanitary Authority Board is in united opposition to secondary treatment before the problem of mine acid in the river is tackle; the EPA can't move at this time on the mine acid problem because compared to secondary treatment, it has a very low "national priority."
4. It was suggested that State authorities should ask for a meeting of the Sanitary Authority, explaining the difficulties, and list the Federal funds which would be available if the difficulties were resolved.
5. It was also suggested that each municipality should let its State representatives know that Sanitary Authority projects are being held up for lack of EPA certification.
6. Mr. Rhodes agreed to get for Mr. Shapiro a list of the projects held up, the names of engineers acceptable to the Federal Government, and a listing of potential Federal funds.
7. Mr. Rhodes pointed out that the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1967 requires states to produce water quality standards acceptable to the Federal Government. Under this act, the minimum requirement is either secondary treatment or plans for same, regardless of local water situations. The act operates on the theory that if a state has other than sewage problems with its water, it should deal with them on its own.
8. It was pointed out that Wyoming Valley might do well to make plans for secondary treatment now, when the potential for Federal assistance is especially strong; it seems likely that the Valley must go to such treatment eventually and that if it delays, the cost may be considerable greater.
9. Mr. Schechter pointed out that local water contains so much mine acid that the acid accomplishes to a large extent what secondary treatment is supposed to accomplish.

V. September 22 (continued)

10. Mr. Shapiro expressed the opinion that local elected officials would refuse to support taxation for secondary treatment unless the problem of mine acid was also tackled. He added that presently the area is in such dire financial straits that local taxpayers may not feel able to afford taxes, even for primary treatment
11. It was agreed that the following would be an ideal combination:
    a. EPA provide funds
    b. State attacks mine acids
    c. Wyoming Valley goes to secondary treatment
12. Results of meeting:
    a. Mr. Rhodes is informed of Sanitary Authority problems
    b. Mr. Rhodes agrees to provide guidelines on Federal funding possibilities

D. Joint MEETING of Planning and Development Committee (FRTF) and Executive Committee (EDC)

1. Present - FRTF and EDC
2. Subjects:
    a. Distribution and discussion of background material on EDC function and objectives - EDC's interest in flood recovery effort is primarily long-term and regional. Main points for its agenda for regional action are: diversify economy, develop human resources; improve physical environment; modernize local government; improve and diversify transportation system; increase housing quality and supply; increase involvement in public affairs
    b. Discussion of application for urban renewal grants - Mr. Grossman said that HUD decides whether boundaries of a proposed redevelopment area are acceptable and explained that HUD grants are made in two parts: Part I for survey and planning money: Part II (if Part I approved) for implementation money. Mr. Grossman explained that EDA Technical Assistance grants are made for staff, studies, and consultants and have only an indirect relation to urban renewal projects. A suggestion was made that FRTF and EDC work jointly to arrange a single funnel for HUD, EDA, and EPA funds. An EDC staff member expressed the opinion that such an effort is not likely to succeed since each agency operates according to its own regulations and under its own political pressures.
    c. Discussion of FRTF role in process of reviewing applications for federal grants - After reminding the group that EDC's major concern is for the seven county region, Mr. Hibbard expressed the hope that the FRTF would keep in mind that Wyoming Valley is a part of this region. He added that EDC is interested in FRTF's opinions and that EDC can provide FRTF with relevant information about applications. Mr. Schechter asked EDC to provide FRTF with "position papers" on applications which would include its own recommendations and summaries of alternate positions. Mr.

V. September 22 (continued)

Schechter suggested that FRTF determine those areas of redevelopment in which it is most interested and gave as an example the question of relationship between applications from various municipalities for sewage improvement grants in light of government requirement of secondary treatment. Mr. Grossman pointed out that the application procedure is extremely complicated and technical and that there is pressure to get them "in the works." Mr. Kiley replied that because the public identifies what goes on in the flood area with the FRTF it is important that the Task Force be in on, and conversant with, redevelopment activities.

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FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

STERLING HOTEL
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701

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4 October 1972

MEMO TO: Executive Committee

FROM: FRTF Staff

There will be a luncheon meeting of the Executive Committee on Wednesday, October 11, 1972 at noon in the Adams Room of the Hotel Sterling.

are

Phila

yes

call andy Shaw attention to VF conflict. It may not matter but he should know.

+ JM

Informed A. Shaw 10/9/72

AGENDA

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1972

HOTEL STERLING, NOON

1. Acceptance EDA grant and ratification of application
2. Recovery Fair Program and interim report
3. Report on Biloxi trip
4. Insurance Legislation introduced in Congress October 3