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Post flood Action Plan proposal, Bernie B. Alier & Associates, 1972 July 5th

Bernard B. Blier & Associates
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA
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July 5, 1972

Mr. Oscar Weissman,
First National Bank Building,
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Dear Oscar:

Following through on our curb stone conversation, I prepared the attached presentation for your evaluation suggesting that positive and aggressive action be executed to achieve coordination of "emergency assistance" with long-range planning to guide the emergence of Wilkes-Barre and Luzernce County from a yet-to-be accessed devastation into a real dynamic future. Scranton accomplished it on a limited scale---your strickened area has a lot more going for it---resources, personalities, tremendous spirit---if it can be harnessed.

If you have any comment, I will be ready to review this contingency program or any other approach.

Regards,

Bernie

Bernie Blier

b/d
Attach.

A POST-FLOOD

ACTION PLAN

Through formation of

WILKES-BARRE FUTURE, Incorporated

A non-profit corporation
created to Program Comprehensive
Coordination of Emergency Recovery
Measures with Long-Range
Area Urban Development

Presented:

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INTRODUCTION

When emotion subsides, Wilkes-Barre and Luzerne County must face the future with spirit......

But, spirit must be translated into pragmatic accessment of all the facts and a operating program to utilize all available resources while instilling renewed courage in the entire populace.

Despite all of the good works performed, all of the governmental claims which have a way of intractability, Wilkes-Barr and Luzerne County must demonstrate tremendous community leadership and program its recovery along very definite lines-----there is no other approach or method.

From our experience---the choatic Hurricane Diane Flood in August, 1955 and a series of devasting mine fires and mine caves, it is our sincere recommendation that the experience leadership in Luzerne formulate some viable umbrella aggressive organization to monitor and give positive direction to the recovery effort.

In fact, despite the dimension of the flood's impact, Wilkes-Barre and Luzerne, as Scranton accomplished after the 1955 flood, can come out far ahead through programmed rehabilitation coordinated with future urban economic growth.

HOW IS THIS COORDINATED EFFORT TO BE ACHIEVED

In very simple terms, the leadership of the community should and must form immediately, the

WILKES-BARRE FUTURE, Incorporated

This non-profit organization would formulate, by priority and resource index, all problems to be overcome and it would receiv the very necessary recognition at all governmental and private levels.

If there is no operative plan, much good post-flood work will trail off. Efforts to revive community spirit, once let to flounder, will be most difficult, say three months from June 2-2.

Right now, after discussions with representatives of the Small Business Administration, the newly-formed corporation can apply for, perhaps, Five Hundred Thousands ($500,000) under the attached budget. Currently, the interest rate is 5-1/8 percen scheduled to be lowered to one percent later in July.

But, under negotiation with the Office of Emergency Preparedness, this figure plus additional advances can be cancelle or foregiven.

Therefore, the federal government will underwrite a community organization to pilot not only a recovery program but also significant planning for the new Wilkes-Barre and the new restored Luzerne County.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMMING--WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

The attached draft Table of Organization generally describes a comprehensive, yet flexible, plan of action:

1. A large group of county-wide representatives, perhaps 200 or more would serve as incorporators of this community corporation;

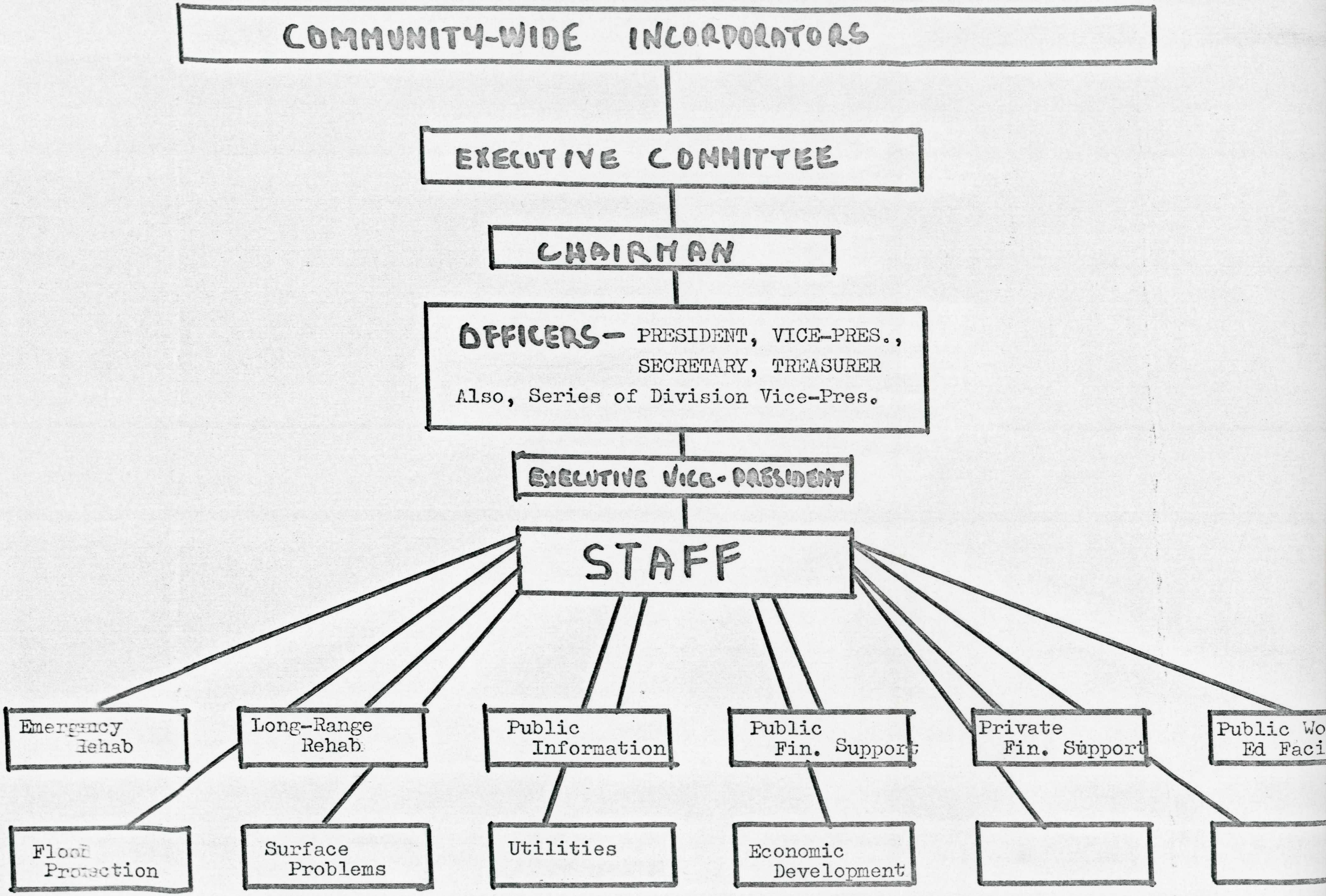
2. A nominating committee would recommend both the incorporators roster and the exective committee membership of perhap 25 to 30 members;

3. The Executive Committee, the organization's policy-making body, would select the staff and project the goals of all programs;

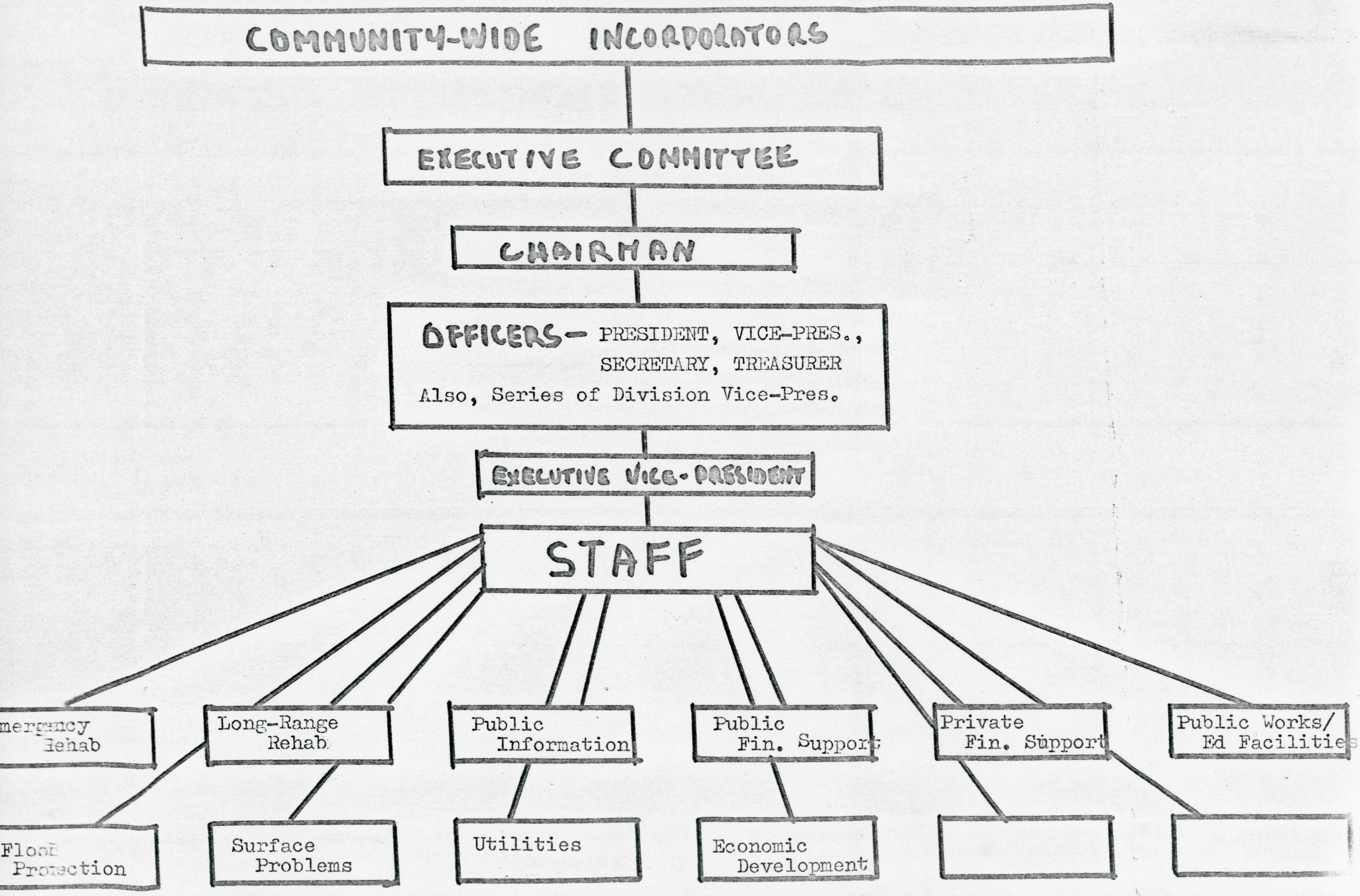
4. As the draft T/O suggests, a series of divisions would be created to monitor and aggressively pursue programs in their specific charge. Each division would be headed, under director of the Execútive Committee and the Executive Vice-President, by a Division Vice President, and he would be given coordinated latitude to function in his operational field.

While T/O's can be created and modified with no great or monumental effort, this T/O, out of experience, would represent a projection to be seriously reviewed with changes made whatever any given situation dictated.

Remember---this community corporation must merge the "emergency" with "long-range programming" if full urban advantage is to be achieved under resources available and those yet to be "demanded" from whatever source.



WILKES-BARRE FUTURE, Inc.
Draft Table of Organization, July 5,



WILKES-BARRE FUTURE, Inc.
Draft Table of Organization, July 5, 1972

DRAFT BUDGET

Twelve (12) month Operating Corporate Budget

at Five Hundred ($500,000) Thousand Dollars:

General Overhead:

Support facilities as Rent, Utilities, Furniture, Travel, other.	$50,000

Contracting fees:

Expert support services for programming, execution, other.	60,000

Staff Personnel:

Executive Vice President, $25,000;
Four Adm. Assts., $80,000; Adm. Off.,
$20,000; and Fiscal Off., $20,000;
Five Program Directors, $75,000
Ten Clerks/Stenos, $60,000

Sub-total	$280,000	
Fringes at 10 percent	28,000	318,000

Contingency:

To be reserved	82,000

Total Budget	$500,000