COG = Working Together
Centre Region COG Service Area

- 150 Square Miles
- 85,000 Population

*Includes Students
Fire Protection – Cost Effective Service

The annual cost of fire protection is $17 per person, about 11% of the national average for a community of 80,000 residents.
Refuse Collection - More Service @ Lower Cost

The monthly cost of resident refuse & recycling collection is $15.10; 26% less than the $20.50 paid fee paid in 1991.
Code Program – No Municipal Funding

Code Inspection services have been entirely self funded through permit fees for over 33 years.
Parks – More Successful Grant Applications

Over $1 million in parks grants during the last three years.
Planning – Shared Expenses for Joint Plans

Centre Region municipalities paid $10,335 each for the preparation of the regional Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan.

Other municipalities:
- Large population pay $50 - $70 k
- Small population pay $20 - $30 k
Councils of Governments (COGs)

- Authorized under State Act 180: Intergovernmental Cooperation Law
Councils of Governments (COGs)

- Municipalities can delegate any function, power, or responsibility to another municipality or a newly created governmental unit.
Councils of Governments (COGs)

- No Taxing Power

- Structure, membership, and voting requirements are matters of local choice.
Council of Governments (COG)

A COG is a voluntary association of elected public officials from all or most of the municipalities in a region. A COG is not another layer of government. It provides the means of communication, cooperation, and joint action in the interest of the municipalities, individually and collectively.
## 2010 Municipal Program Participation

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* Includes Benner Township
Articles of Agreement

- Required by State Law
- Adopted by Ordinance
- Identifies COG’s mission & scope of authority
- Each COG Agency has its own Articles of Agreement
COG Articles of Agreement Specifics

- COG Chair/ Vice Chair
- Unanimous and majority votes
- Duties of COG Committees
- Duties of Executive Director
- Joining and Withdrawing
Regional Fire Protection

- 118 Volunteers
- 3 Stations
- Overnight (platoons) and live-in crews
- 1075 annual alarms
Emergency Management

- Regional Emergency Management Coordinator
- Regional EOC
- Regional Emergency Management Plan
- COG Chair declares an Emergency
Parks & Recreation

- Maintains 783 acres at 51 sites
- 732 website hits per day
- 802 Programs offered to the public
Regional Pool Projects

- $7.9 Million (2 Pools)
- Shared Debt Costs
- Complimentary Facilities
Schlow Region Library

- Open 65.5 hours per week
- 132,593 items
- 41,815 Library Cards
- 739,244 items circulated
- 5 Remote Book Return Boxes
- District Center
Regional Planning

1. Regional 537 Plan
2. Regional Comprehensive Plan
3. Regional Growth Boundary
4. DRI Process
Code Administration – New Construction, Rental Housing and Fire Inspections

- Adequate Staffing
- More Stable Revenues
- Consistent Enforcement
- Municipal Accountability
General Forum
The Governing Body of the Centre Region COG

- 32 members
- One vote per municipality
- Meetings 4th Monday of the Month
- Cablecast on C-NET
- Rotating Chairs
- Non Voting PSU member
General Forum Voting

• Voice votes are typical

• Any elected official may ask for a unit vote. Each municipality has one vote

• Property acquisition, major borrowing, or changing of the COG Articles of Agreement requires a unanimous vote

• Most votes in COG are unanimous or close to it
COG BUDGET PROCESS

July: Program Plan to General Forum and Municipalities

September: Detailed Budget to Finance Committee and Managers.

October: Summary Budget to General Forum and Municipalities

November: Municipal Comments to Finance Committee and General Forum

December: Municipal Adoption
Cost Allocation Methods

1. **Formula Shares** – Three factors weighted equally; Population, Assessed Real Estate, and Earned Income Tax.

2. **Usage Shares** – Costs distributed by level of benefit to each community.

3. **Percentage Shares** – Costs distributed equally or a tier schedule (most common method).

4. **Under Discussion** – Formula for funding regional park development.

5. **CATA** – Modified “Miller” formula.
Voting representation on:

- COG Transportation & Land Use Committee
- Centre Regional Planning Commission
- Centre Region Emergency Management Council
Non Voting representation on:

- COG General Forum
- Parks Capital Committee
- CCMPO
COG & Penn State University

Shared Programs

- Regional Fire Protection Program
- Regional Emergency Management Program
- Regional Parks Development
- Regional Nature Center
- Code Administration – Special Inspections
COG & Business

Connections

- COG is a member of CBI CC
- CBI CC receives COG agendas
- CBI CC has representatives on Ad hoc Committees
- COG has representation on some CBI CC committees
CBICC is invited to participate in COG Agency Director interviews.

COG provides Information Briefings

COG participates in CBICC training

Joint Meetings on Special Topics

Positive working relationships
COG & SCASD Linkages

- SCASD Board member liaison to COG
- Voting representation on Parks and Recreation Board
- Bi-annual meetings involving emergency management
COG & SCASD

Linkages (continued)

- Business Manager attends monthly Municipal Managers’ meetings
- Joint COG/SCASD meetings
- Information Briefings
COG & SCASD

Shared Programs

- Recreation programs
- Nature Center
- Emergency Management
- Development of playing fields
COG’s Public Connections

- C-NET
- Newspaper
- Website: www.crcog.net
- Direct Mailings – EM Brochure
- Public Meetings
THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL COG OR OTHER FORM OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IS THE INFORMED INVOLVEMENT OF THE ELECTED OFFICIALS
Lower Costs
Coordinated Land Use Planning
Grants and Public Contributions