

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

February 16, 2022

The meeting took place at the Avalon Borough Building (640 California Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202) and was also broadcast and recorded via Zoom and made available on the QVCOG website at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Board President Carrier called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

The following members were in attendance:

Aleppo:	Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier
Avalon: Roberta Edwards	Glenfield:
Bell Acres:	Haysville:
Bellevue: Sabreena Miller	Kilbuck: Jean-Sebastien Valois*
Ben Avon: Tavia Washington*	Leet: Marty McDaniel*
Edgeworth:	Leetsdale:
Emsworth: Paul Getz	Sewickley: Julie Barnes
Sewickley Heights: Nathan Briggs*	

***attended via Zoom**

Omnibus Motion: Executive Director Connors provided a brief update regarding the financial statements and outstanding payments.

Mr. Getz moved to approve January 19, 2022 meeting minutes and January Financial Statements as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Miller. The motion carried by an affirmative voice vote.

President's Report: Ms. Carrier outlined her goals for the Board in the year ahead including a focus on advancing the recommendations of the Route 65 Study. She proceeded to thank Ms. Barnes & Mr. Schwend for their executive discussions concerning the Study.

Executive Director's Report:

GIS Roundtable

Executive Director Connors reported that on February 23rd at 11:00 a.m. (immediately following the Managers and Secretaries Meeting) Mr. Matt Mercurio of Civic Mapper will be presenting in partnership with Mr. Aaron Brouse of ESRI on the topic of ready built "GIS Solutions" available through the ESRI platform. He stated that guests will have the opportunity to engage with the presenters concerning the GIS technical assistance

program available through the QVCOG. He invited anyone interested in this increasingly essential technology to attend either in person or virtually.

GEDTF Grant Award Announcement

Executive Director Connors reported that on January 28, 2022 the QVCOG was awarded a \$200,000 Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund Grant by the Commonwealth Finance Authority to assist in the renovation of the Ben Avon Borough Building. He noted that Ben Avon Borough would be subject to the QVCOG's project utilization fee (2% of the overall project's grant award). He continued by highlighting that the project includes the abatement of asbestos and lead-based paint, replacing the slate roof, replacing the overhead door, and replacing 15 windows to improve energy efficiency, thermal comfort, and security. He cited that all member communities may apply through the QVCOG for this annual funding source (deadline typically within the month of October).

Proactive Code Enforcement and Zoning Technical Assistance Programs

Executive Director Connors reported that during the QVCOG's February Managers and Secretaries meeting (February 23, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.) Mr. Anthony Ascioffa & Mr. Chris Rearick will be discussing the Proactive Code Enforcement and Zoning Technical Assistance Programs available through the COG. He noted that these programs are currently being used by Emsworth Borough and may provide a solution for any QVCOG member community facing zoning or code enforcement challenges.

QVCOG Police Chiefs Tour

Executive Director Connors reported that on Thursday, March 10th QVCOG area Police Chiefs and other departmental representatives will be touring the new Allegheny County Emergency Services Facility (150 Hookstown Grade Road Coraopolis, PA 15208) from 10:00 a.m. – noon.

New Business:

2020 Audit Report

Executive Director Connors reported that the COG's appointed audit firm, Case Sabatini, was assigned duties to perform the 2020 Audits for the QVCOG. He introduced Mr. Scott Grant to the Board who took part in the 2020 Audit.

Mr. Grant stated that he had partnered with Mr. Ed Gardner to complete the 2020 Audit. He noted that the audit was delayed due to staffing issues that have since been resolved. He provided a brief summary of the 2020 Audit noting that there were no significant findings or recommendations. Mr. McDaniel inquired concerning the contents within the report. Mr. Grant noted that the financial highlights of the report may not be pertinent with 14 months elapsing between the conclusion of the report and the present day. He also noted that the 2021 Audit would be viewed as an opportunity to analyze the current QVCOG financial controls and practices with a new Staff in place for both organizations. Mr. Valois inquired concerning the 2021 Audit. Executive Director Connors noted that he recently signed an agreement with Case Sabatini to complete the 2021 Audit. He highlighted that he did so to ensure the 2021 Audit would be completed and presented in a timelier manner. Mr. Valois inquired concerning the cost of the Audit. Executive Director noted that the quote for the 2021 Audit saw an increase of \$150 from 2020 rates.

President Carrier stated that the Board should formally award the contract for the 2021 Audit.

After some discussion, Mr. Valois moved to award the contract for the 2021 Annual Audit to Case Sabatini at a cost not to exceed \$3,250.00. Mr. Getz seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

Route 65 Update

Executive Director Connors reported that beginning in 2018 the QVCOG partnered with the Beaver County Regional Council of Governments in effort to better understand the challenges and opportunities associated with the Route 65 Corridor. He stated that the QVCOG secured a number of grants through DCED PennDOT & the University Transportation Center (UTC). Subsequently, the QVCOG began to work with Michael Baker International & the Remaking Cities Institute. He cited that over the course of a multi-year and multi-phase project and through multiple public outreach sessions the aforementioned organizations developed a comprehensive study and analysis of the “Corridor”. He highlighted that the research focused on two municipal case studies (Ambridge & Emsworth Boroughs) noting that these two municipalities represented both Counties involved within the study and demonstrated two unique situations for the regional highway. He stated that in total, the study included 19 communities that straddle the roadway (see below).

Municipalities involved with Route 65 Study:

BCRCOG – Rochester, East Rochester, Freedom, Conway, Economy, Baden, Harmony, and Ambridge

QVCOG – Bellevue, Avalon, Ben Avon, Emsworth, Kilbuck, Glenfield, Haysville, Glen Osborne, Sewickley, Edgeworth, and Leetsdale

Executive Director Connors proceeded to outline highlights of the report stating that a Corridor Design “Toolbox” was created which focuses on outcome-oriented designs and standard engineering processes to potentially advance the study towards a master planning phase. He highlighted that each participating community along the corridor is encouraged to review the Toolbox in effort to best formulate a comprehensive strategy to enhance their respective portion.

He continued by noting some recommendations and conclusions within the report including the following:

- Restripe and Reduce Lane Width along Route 65 using standardized design(s);
- Improve Signalized Intersections (i.e. new signals, installation of medians allowing for turning lanes, etc.);
- Install Wayfinding Signage (i.e. welcome signage for each municipality along highway);
- PennDOT needs to create distinct classification and guidelines for corridors such as Route 65; and

- Intergovernmental Agreements should be executed between participating municipalities to seek a more comprehensive Master Plan Study.

He proceeded to outline a variety of potential roles that the QVCOG could serve in concerning the future of the Study:

- Establish realistic goals with real world impacts for our member communities;
- Take leadership role in building a Route 65 Committee consisting of elected officials, business owners, and transportation experts who would ultimately promote the re-evaluation of Route 65;
- Promote the execution of an agreed upon intergovernmental agreement package;
- Distribute news and information (i.e. grants, etc.) and facilitate strategic conversation between Route 65 Committee, communities, PennDOT, and other corridor stakeholders; and
- Mediate strategies between member communities (i.e. Traffic Enforcement strategies).

Ms. Carrier stated that Route 65 needs to be viewed as a “whole” moving forward. She expressed that she would be in favor for the formation of a comprehensive group including elected officials and business owners along the highway that can move the findings of the Study forward. She acknowledged that this project is long-term and results will not be evident overnight. She noted the QVCOG has limited resources and cannot move this project forward on its own.

Ms. Miller stated the findings of the study are intriguing, highlighting that the aspect of enhanced wayfinding is of particular interest for Bellevue Borough.

Mr. Valois noted that the Study focused specifically on two municipalities due to funding constraints. He expressed support for beginning with the recommendations for Emsworth Borough to show progress and facilitate future projects throughout the corridor.

Ms. Barnes highlighted the Study’s recommendation of a Master Plan which would focus on each of the 19 communities along Route 65. She noted the timeline of the Project is concerning, citing that many of the current elected officials may not be around to lead the project in 5-6 years. She noted that the formation of a separate committee could ensure that leadership remains in place regardless of time elapsed or election results. She highlighted that business owners should be recruited to serve on a hypothetical committee.

Mr. Getz stated that the most realistic path way forward would be to break the report’s recommendations into smaller more tangible pieces. He noted his support for a more grassroots educational and promotional approach discussed by Executive Director Conners.

Ms. Edwards highlighted that educational materials such as a one-page flyer, info graphics, etc. could be distributed through various social media and web pages to engage stakeholders along Route 65.

Ms. Carrier encouraged Executive Director Conners to engage with the Managers and Secretaries Committee on the matter.

Citing the QVCOG's Bylaws, Mr. Valois recommended that the Board form an internal Committee that can assist with the formation of a timeline and recommendations concerning the Study. He stated that the Committee could be used to help generate buy-in for intergovernmental agreements, etc.

After some discussion, Mr. Valois moved to form a Route 65 Committee to assist the QVCOG Board in the evaluation and advancement of the findings associated with the Route 65 Study. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Glass Recycling Update:

Executive Director Connors reported that in an effort to provide a more sustainable solution for its members, the QVCOG has sought a location to serve as a pilot location for "anytime" glass collection. He stated that to date, the QVCOG has received one application to consider.

Sewickley Borough – Sewickley Riverfront Park - 357 Chadwick Street Sewickley, PA 15143

He highlighted that the aforementioned location served as a "Pop Up" collection site in 2021, having collected over 4.23 tons of glass in just 6 days (the most used site in 2021). He stated that in order to establish the program at the earliest possible date, it is requested that the Board of Delegates award the Pilot location to Sewickley Borough.

He continued by noting that several other member communities including Bellevue Borough, Avalon Borough, Leet Township, & Aleppo Township have expressed preliminary interest in also hosting a glass recycling site. He encouraged these and other communities interested in hosting an additional site to highlight a viable location (central access, lighting, and periodic supervision required) within a letter of interest to the QVCOG no later than April 15, 2022. He stated the pilot location will be used to gauge the overall participation and usage rates which will be used to help establish an additional location within the QVCOG. He cited that the goal of the additional location would be to create greater access and convenience for all QVCOG member communities.

He continued by recommending that the Pilot location be funded by the QVCOG for a period not to exceed 3 months (estimated cost - \$2,000.00.). He highlighted that he had met with Michael Brothers Hauling, noting that they would be able to deliver the 20-yard CAP Glass Dumpster on Friday, March 11th. He reported that in order to fund the pilot program the QVCOG would use a portion of its accrued "Recycling Fund" (revenue generated through the QVCOG's annual Section 904 Performance Grant).

Highlighting the temporary nature of the pilot program, he proceeded to outline the estimated costs of the glass recycling program based on 1 pull every two weeks (26 annually) split between the two locations. Per the calculation, participating municipalities would pay between \$15 and \$60 per month. He proposed that the COG bill each participating municipality quarterly based on the provided calculations.

After some discussion, Ms. Barnes moved approve the glass recycling Pilot Program awarding the location to Sewickley Borough for an evaluation period not to exceed 3

months at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

CDBG Status Report: Executive Director Conners provided brief updates concerning all active CDBG projects.

Other Concerns of the Delegates: Ms. Carrier invited attendees to discuss happenings within their respective communities.

Ms. Washington noted Ben Avon's frustration due to delayed salt delivery. She inquired if any other member communities had a solution to expediate delivery. Mr. Getz noted that the salt procurement agreement is handled through SHACOG. Executive Director Conners stated that he would relay the appropriate contact information to Ms. Washington.

Mr. Getz inquired concerning the status of the Waste & Recycling Contract Deposit Fund. Executive Director Conners stated that communication between the participating communities, Waste Management (WM), and the QVCOG seems to be frequent and effective. He noted that to date no fines have been levied on WM.

Mr. Valois noted that Kilbuck Township had recently conducted their Police Pension Audit. He highlighted that Kilbuck Township would be working to research the status of existing funds, citing the liquidation of their respective Police Department many years ago.

Mr. McDaniel inquired regarding WM residential billing. Executive Director Conners noted that updated residential address lists help ensure accurate billing.

Ms. Barnes noted that she is engaged within a Climate Action Plan. She highlighted that she would like to introduce various aspects of the Plan to the Board in the coming months.

Mr. Briggs noted that discussions are ongoing between Sewickley Heights and PennDOT concerning the re-opening of Way Hollow Road.

Ms. Miller highlighted Bellevue Borough's ongoing discussions with the United States Postal Service in their effort to re-open a location within the Borough. She also expressed a desire to see more collaborative initiatives with Bellevue's neighboring communities.

Adjournment: Mr. Getz moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Edwards. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for: March 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Leet Township Building (194 Ambridge Avenue, Fair Oaks, PA 15003). The meeting will be in-person and open to the public as well as broadcast and recorded over Zoom. Please visit qvcog.org for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners
Executive Director