

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

March 16, 2022

The meeting took place at the Leet Township Municipal Building (194 Ambridge Avenue, Fair Oaks, PA 15003) 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 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

The following members were in attendance:

Aleppo: Art Williams*

Avalon: Roberta Edwards*

Bell Acres:

Bellevue:

Ben Avon: Rick Wagner*

Edgeworth:

Emsworth: Paul Getz

Sewickley Heights:

Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier

Glenfield:

Haysville: Amy Paff*

Kilbuck: Jean-Sebastien Valois*

Leet: Marty McDaniel

Leetsdale: Jeff Weatherby

Sewickley: Julie Barnes

***attended via Zoom**

Public Comment: Ms. Gail Murray representing Communities First Sewickley Valley (CFSV) came before the Board seeking support for a grant application. She highlighted that CFSV is applying in partnership with the Breath Project for additional air monitoring devices that will be used to monitor the air quality throughout the Ohio River Valley Basin. Members of the Board requested additional details about the request. Ms. Murray stated that she would send a letter of support template and additional details to Executive Director Connors ASAP. After addressing various questions from the Board Ms. Murray thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

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

Ms. Barnes moved to approve February 16, 2022 meeting minutes, and February financial statements, and unpaid bills as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weatherby. The motion carried by an affirmative voice vote.

President's Report: President Carrier noted the formation of the QVCOG's Route 65 Committee thanking all who volunteered to serve. She then thanked Executive Director

Connors and Ms. Barnes for their efforts in establishing the Glass Recycling site on March 12th at Sewickley Borough's Riverfront Park.

Executive Director's Report:

QVCOG Intern – Executive Director Connors reported that on March 2nd it was announced by the Local Government Academy (LGA) that the QVCOG was selected as a Municipal Intern Program host site for the 2022 Program. He stated that as a part of this process, the QVCOG will be attending the Municipal Intern Fair on April 13th which serves as the primary introductory tool and helps establish a fit between interested candidates and participating organizations. He highlighted that the QVCOG's selected Intern will work with the Executive Director as well as municipal staff and officials within the COG's member communities in effort to promote current programming and analyze the possibility for future collaborative opportunities, including the future of the Route 65 project and glass recycling program. He concluded by noting the Intern will also engage with other Allegheny County COGs and like-minded organizations within the region to benchmark existing structures and programming to find efficiencies and opportunity for the COG to better serve our 15 member communities.

Banner Community Recognitions – Executive Director Connors congratulated the 8 member communities who were recognized as 2022 "Banner Communities" by the Allegheny League of Municipalities. He proceeded to highlight the cited municipalities: Avalon Borough, Bellevue Borough, Edgeworth Borough, Emsworth Borough, Kilbuck Township, Leet Township, Leetsdale Borough, and Sewickley Borough. He noted that he would be attending the annual ALOM conference taking place from April 8-9, 2022.

GIS Roundtable – Executive Director Connors stated that on February 23rd several municipal managers and elected officials were in attendance for a presentation by Mr. Matt Mercurio of Civic Mapper and Mr. Aaron Brouse of ESRI on the topic of ready-built "GIS Solutions" available through the ESRI platform. He encouraged those interested in the ArcGIS software to reach out citing that several QVCOG ArcGIS licenses are available free of charge on a trial basis through May 16th.

WM Recycling Facility Tour – Executive Director Connors invited interested parties to attend a tour of Waste Management's (now WM) Greenstar Recycling Facility (4100 Grand Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15225). He highlighted that the tour will take place on Wednesday, May 4th at 11:00 a.m. He noted that the tour will provide an in-person visual demonstration of the recycling separation and consolidation process and will serve to highlight proper recycling techniques specific to the curbside recycling program. He asked those interested in attending to RSVP via email at (pconnors@qvcog.org).

New Business:

Presentation – Mr. Michael Kirven – National Car Charging

Mr. Michael Kirven of National Car Charging came before the Board to discuss the establishment of electric vehicle car charging stations. He provided a brief summary of

the future of electric vehicles highlighting their increasing prevalence on the roadways. He noted that he has worked with municipalities including Indiana Borough and the City of Pittsburgh for the installation of EV charging stations. After fielding a number of questions from the Board, he thanked them for their time.

Consideration of a Letter of Support for a Regional Police Grant

Executive Director Conners reported that in recent months the QVCOG has worked with Haysville and Glenfield Boroughs in their joint effort to establish a higher level of community police service within their communities. He noted that both municipalities are currently in contract with the Pennsylvania State Police. He cited that over the course of the last few weeks, both communities have submitted requests for service inquiries to Sewickley Borough. He stated that a formal quote/proposal from Sewickley Borough is expected soon, though he noted the model is expected to be similar to the one established between Sewickley Borough and Glen Osborne Borough. He stated that in an effort to help these communities offset some of the initial cost, Sewickley Borough Chief of Police David Mazza has identified a shared/joint police service grant available through the Office of Justice through the Pennsylvania Commission of Crime and Delinquency. He stated that a part of the application process includes acquiring joint resolutions from impacted communities as well as letters of support from local representatives, COGs, etc. He cited that final applications through this grant are due on April 5, 2022. He requested that the QVCOG Board of Directors write and sign off on a letter of support for this grant application.

He reported that Sewickley Borough Chief of Police David Mazza has agreed to take the lead on this application, but in order to ensure the application is submitted in advance of the April 5th deadline he noted it will need to be a team effort. He concluded by reporting that the QVCOG has relayed a template for the required resolution to each participating municipality

Ms. Paff then provided some historical background concerning the request.

After some discussion, Ms. Barnes moved to direct Executive Director Conners to prepare a letter of support for the regional policing grant pursued by Sewickley, Glenfield, and Haysville Boroughs. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Local Government Academy Leadership Circle

Executive Director Conners reported that the Local Government Academy (LGA) has recently launched its "Leadership Circle" initiative. He stated the LGA is seeking investment from those who are its most frequent patrons, local governments and affiliated organizations. He highlighted that members of the Leadership Circle will receive discounted rates for future educational/training opportunities and will help ensure that essential programming such as the Newly Elected Officials Course and the Municipal Intern Program (MIP) continue for many years to come. He noted that the QVCOG was selected as a host site for the 2022 Municipal Intern Program. He cited

that with the assistance of this program the QVCOG will be connected with a field of highly qualified undergraduate/graduate students. He continued by noting the MIP will cover 50% of the intern's wages. He encouraged QVCOG member communities to look into this initiative to ensure that LGA can continue to offer these programs in the future. He stated the Leadership Circle contribution levels are as follows: Bronze - \$100, Silver - \$250, and Gold - \$500 & above.

Mr. Valois stated the QVCOG could prepare a letter of support on behalf of LGA to Allegheny County officials. Ms. Barnes highlighted the importance of the Newly Elected Officials Course in preparing and equipping many volunteers for their positions in Public Service.

After some discussion, Mr. Wagner moved for the QVCOG to join the LGA's Leadership Circle at the Bronze level (\$100.00) for 2022. Mr. McDaniel seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

Glass Recycling Update:

Executive Director Connors reported that on Saturday, March 12th the QVCOG launched its pilot glass recycling drop off site at Sewickley Borough's Riverfront Park (300 Chadwick St, Sewickley, PA 15143). He highlighted the site is open for residents within the QVCOG's fifteen member communities. He stated the Program is anticipated to last approximately 3 months in order to evaluate its viability and usage rates. He cited that the pilot program will be funded through the QVCOG's joint recycling fund. He then went over the rules and regulations for the program:

- The dumpster hauling and glass recycling service will be provided by Michael Brothers Hauling & CAP Glass;
- Hours of operations will be from Dawn to Dusk each day;
- Glass containers must be rinsed of any perishable debris prior to being recycled;
- Adhesive labels and container lids do not need to be removed from glass prior to being recycled; and
- Glass products such as mirrors, porcelain dishware, and light bulbs will not be accepted.

He stated that the QVCOG will continue to seek a second location to ensure convenient access for all QVCOG residents. He highlighted that in a correspondence dated February 22, 2022 Avalon Borough nominated a site near their Public Works Facility (637 New Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15202) which was previously used as a glass recycling "pop up" location in 2021. He stated that other member communities interested in hosting the second site are encouraged to nominate an accessible location for consideration.

He proceeded to discuss the long-term sustainability of the glass recycling program, stating that a cost sharing model is being proposed. He highlighted that based on previous glass recycling events in the QVCOG, it is estimated that once established, the

two sites will generate a total of 26 combined “pulls” each calendar year. He noted that each pull from Michael Brothers Hauling is currently \$270.00. He noted there is no contract commitment required from the hauler. He continued by stating that in order to allow participating municipalities to accurately budget for this program for the remainder of 2022, it is being proposed that any additional pulls (13 estimated for June-December) or cost increases (i.e. fuel upcharge) will be paid for by the QVCOG out of its joint recycling fund. He highlighted that if deemed successful, the program will be evaluated annually to ensure that the cost structure is fair and equitable for all parties.

Ms. Barnes recommended putting out a press release to promote the new site. She highlighted WESA (90.5 FM) as a possible outlet, citing a news report she heard on the station concerning PRC glass collection events. Executive Director Conners stated that he would look further into the matter.

Route 65 Update:

Executive Director Conners reported that during its February 16, 2022 Regular Meeting the QVCOG Board of Directors unanimously voted to establish an internal Route 65 Committee. He noted that since that time a total of 8 volunteers came forward to serve in the group (see below). He cited the group includes both QVCOG Delegates and Municipal Managers. He stated that the group will be asked to establish their first meeting (Zoom) in advance of the April 20, 2022 Board meeting.

Sabreena Miller – Bellevue Borough
Barbara Carrier – Glen Osborne Borough
Art Williams – Aleppo Township
Donna Kaib – Sewickley Borough
Julie Barnes – Sewickley Borough
Rick Wagner – Ben Avon Borough
John Schwend – Edgeworth Borough
Tavia Washington - Ben Avon Borough

He stated that to date, and since the conclusion of the final report, the QVCOG has reached out to representatives from PennDOT Connects, PennDOT District 11, and reconnected with Michael Baker International in an effort to establish appropriate contacts and build the framework for the next steps of the Route 65 analysis. He noted that since the original Route 65 Study began, there are many new faces in new roles. He stated that a clearer structure of contacts will be established in the coming weeks. He proceeded to report that he would be meeting with members from Michael Baker International on March 17th to discuss potential funding sources and grant opportunities that may be available to pursue a “Master Plan” for Route 65.

Ms. Barnes noted that Sewickley Borough Mayor, Mr. George Shannon had mentioned his desire to be on the Committee. Executive Director Conners asked Ms. Barnes to forward him Mayor Shannon’s contact information.

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

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Ms. Carrier highlighted the prevalence of deer in Glen Osborne Borough noting that they have been a nuisance and public danger. She highlighted the uptick of Lyme Disease within the region citing the ticks carried on the local deer populations. She reported that Glen Osborne Borough has been in contact with the Pennsylvania Game Commission concerning the matter. Mr. McDaniel noted deer control can be a very emotional issue. Ms. Barnes stated that a resident brought this concern before Sewickley Borough's Council at a recent meeting.

Ms. Paff highlighted a recent issue with Norfolk Southern trains blocking the sole rail crossing into and out of the Borough. She stated that the blockage would have prevented emergency vehicles and first responders from being able to enter sections of the municipality. She noted that she has been working with Executive Director Conners and neighboring municipalities to establish a dialogue with County and Railroad officials to prevent future occurrences. She highlighted that an alternative access point would be an ideal solution. Citing his experience with a similar matter, Mr. Williams stated that Haysville officials should reach out to Norfolk Southern's legal department.

Mr. McDaniel inquired concerning the updated legislative district boundaries. Executive Director Conners stated that he would prepare an update for the April Board meeting.

Mr. Weatherby noted that Leetsdale Borough is looking to hire a Code Enforcement officer. After a brief discussion, Executive Director Conners highlighted the COG's available Proactive Code Enforcement Program. Mr. McDaniel also expressed interest in the Program. Executive Director Conners stated that he would relay information to both Board members.

Adjournment: Mr. Weatherby moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. McDaniel. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Leetsdale Borough Building (**373 Beaver Street, Leetsdale, PA 15056**). 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