

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 21, 2021

This meeting took place at the Leetsdale Municipal Building (373 Beaver Street, Leetsdale, PA 15056) and was also broadcast and recorded via Zoom and made available on the QVCOG website at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Board President Jean-Sebastien Valois 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:	Glen Osborne: Bob Ryan
Avalon:	Glenfield:
Bell Acres:	Haysville: Amy Paff
Bellevue: Anthony DiTullio	Kilbuck: Jean-Sebastien Valois (President)
Ben Avon: Richard Wagner	Leet:
Edgeworth: John Schwend	Leetsdale: Jeff Weatherby
Emsworth: Paul Getz	Sewickley: Julie Barnes
Sewickley Heights: Nate Briggs	

Omnibus Motion: Executive Director Conners provided a brief update regarding the financial statements and reports that were provided to the Board. President Valois requested that page numbers be provided in the meeting packets moving forward.

Mr. Getz moved to approve June 16, 2021 meeting minutes and Financial Statements as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weatherby. The motion carried by an affirmative voice vote with Ms. Barnes abstaining.

President's Report: President Valois reported on the progress regarding the Executive Director transition process.

Executive Director's Report:

CDBG Year 47 Grant Awards – Executive Director Conners reported that the following projects were awarded funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for CD Year 47 totaling **\$173,125.00**:

- Bellevue Borough Bayne Park Retaining Wall - **\$50,392.00**;
- Bellevue Borough Dakota Avenue Blight Remediation - **\$33,033.00**;
- Leetsdale Borough Kohlmeyer Park ADA Parking Project - **\$28,700.00**; and
- Leet Township Eckert, Willow, & Neely Street ADA Sidewalk Project – **\$61,000.00**.

He noted that Avalon Borough withdrew its grant award for a proposed sanitary sewer outfall repair along Locust Street and Ohio River Boulevard citing the project was completed in-house as an emergency repair during the Spring of 2021.

CDBG Year 48 Pre-Application Process – Next, Executive Director Conners highlighted that every QVCOG member community is eligible to apply for CDBG funding for “non-income based” projects such as ADA accessibility improvement projects and blight remediation. He reported that the Pre-Application deadline for CD year 48 (2022) is anticipated to be sometime during September, 2021. He encouraged all COG members to consider potential projects with their municipal engineers. He noted that he would be willing to meet with staff, elected officials, and municipal engineers to discuss the pre-application process. He cited that project requests must total at least \$20,000 and that municipalities may submit multiple applications each year for consideration. He concluded by highlighting that projects that do not receive funding for CD 48 may be reconsidered the following year.

5-Year Refuse and Recycling Contract – Executive Director Conners reported that on July 2nd the COG’s Refuse and Recycling Committee conducted a mandatory pre-bid meeting for prospective bidders regarding the 5-year waste and recycling contract. He stated that representatives from Waste Management and Noble Environmental were in attendance. He noted that after fielding questions from the participants, a revised bid specification document with addendum was sent to the prospective bidders on July 9th. He cited that a comprehensive summary of the process including the updated bid specifications can be found at qvcog.org. He concluded by highlighting that final bids will be due and read aloud at the Kilbuck Township Municipal Building (343 Eicher Road) on Thursday, July 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

Traveling Glass Dumpster (Aleppo Township) – Executive Director Conners reported that from June 26th – July 1st Aleppo Township sponsored a traveling glass dumpster which was provided in partnership with the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC). He stated this series of events will continue with Haysville and Glenfield Boroughs sponsoring the next event which will take place at the Quaker Valley High School from July 31st through August 5st.

Hard to Recycle Event – Executive Director Conners reported that on July 10, 2021 the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) hosted a Hard to Recycle Collection Event at the Quaker Valley High School. He highlighted that electronic devices such as televisions, computer monitors, printers and other items such as tires were accepted at the event.

Potential Quaker Valley High School Site Tour – Executive Director Conners reported that on July 13, 2021 several residents and officials within QVCOG member municipalities attended a site tour of the potential Quaker Valley High School along Camp Meeting Road in Leet Township. He noted that interested parties who were unable to attend the event are encouraged to contact the COG via email (pconners@qvcog.org) because an additional tour has been offered by the Quaker Valley School District.

Site Visits – Executive Director Conners stated that in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities that each member community faces he has continued to visit the staff and officials within each COG municipality. He noted that he anticipates continuing the site visits throughout the summer.

New Business:

Linking our Networked Communities (LINC) Update: Mr. Stephen Quick and Mr. Ray Gastil of Carnegie Mellon University's Remaking Cities Institute came before the Board to provide an update on the LINC Study. Mr. Gastil stated the goal of the study is to research & develop prototypes for local mobility in the region, beyond center city. He cited the study focused on Bellevue Borough, Avalon Borough, Ben Avon Borough, Emsworth Borough, and Kilbuck Township. He highlighted the study is informed by Route 65 Ohio River Boulevard Corridor work.

He continued by discussing the term, "Local Mobility", noting that it describes short trips using a variety of vehicles from home to nearby locations, such as first mile/last mile trips for transit commutes, groceries, schools, recreation, doctor offices, places of worship, restaurants, and local stores. He noted the communities in the LINC study are compact, and for most residents a short trip from one of the multiple retail and service centers along a shared "Main Street." Mr. Quick proceeded to provide illustrations and new concepts for "Main Street" right-of-way (street and sidewalks) renovations, noting the improvements may include pathways for walking, bikes, micromobility, and ridesharing.

Mr. Gastil continued by outlining the next steps for the study noting the need to further develop and evaluate local mobility design prototypes. He stated a survey would be developed and distributed within the impacted communities followed by a final report on the study. Mr. DiTullio outlined his concerns with the study. He pointed to the Streetscape revitalization project within Bellevue Borough citing numerous complaints from business owners. After some discussion Mr. Gastil and Mr. Quick thanked the Board and Staff for their cooperation and assistance during the study.

Establishment of Future Meeting Locations (2021): Executive Director Conners stated that in effort to appropriately advertise the remaining QVCOG Board of Directors meetings for 2021 within the paper of record (the Citizen News) he requested that the Board allow him to coordinate in-person meeting locations throughout the COG member communities.

Mr. Schwend moved to allow Executive Director Conners to establish meeting locations for the remaining 2021 Board of Directors Meetings. Mr. Weatherby seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Establishment of Permanent Glass Recycling Facility: Executive Director Conners stated that in effort to begin the discussion on the establishment of a comprehensive and permanent glass recycling solution he has engaged with the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) with the goal of acquiring a quote and further information concerning a potential partnership with their organization. He noted that information provided by PRC is included within the Board's meeting packet. He noted that PRC has partnered with the QVCOG and its member communities to provide 6 "pop up" glass recycling events in 2021.

He proceeded to provide the following highlights from the proposal:

- \$1,000 start-up fee (paid to PRC). This covers the “site establishment”, advertising materials, and delivery of the initial 25-yard Dumpster;
- \$400 per dumpster pull which is estimated to occur 2-3 times per month; and
- Transportation and appropriate disposal of the materials will be conducted by Michael Brothers Hauling;

He stated that according to PRC, each dumpster would generate between \$2,000 - \$4,000 in revenue through the DEP’s Act 101 Section 904 Performance Grant Program. He cited that this revenue could cover between 5-10 dumpster pulls annually. He highlighted the following details would need addressed:

- Location(s) of dumpster;
- Surveillance/monitoring of location; and
- Establishment of cost-sharing agreement for participating members.

Mr. Getz noted a location within Emsworth Borough that may be amicable for a glass dumpster, highlighting that it currently is on private property. A discussion ensued regarding the popup glass events. Ms. Barnes expressed her excitement for the establishment of a permanent site. She noted that PRC may be able to supervise the site once it is established.

Old Business:

Hard to Recycle Event Recap: Executive Director Conners provided a brief recap regarding the Hard to Recycle Event which was hosted by PRC at the Quaker Valley High School on July 10, 2021. He noted that he volunteered at the event highlighting that all observed participants were thankful for the opportunity to sustainably dispose of their unwanted electronics. He stated due to the turnout he was hopeful that the event would return in 2022.

Traveling Glass Recycling Bin Schedule: Executive Director Conners stated that to date both Kilbuck Township and Aleppo Township have hosted the PRC travelling glass dumpster. He highlighted the dumpster would be within the following municipalities on the following dates:

- Quaker Valley High School (Glenfield & Haysville Boroughs) – July 31 – August 5
- Bellevue Borough Municipal Parking Lot – August 28 – September 2
- Sewickley Riverfront Park – September 25 – 30
- Avalon Public Works Garage – October 30 – November 4

Solid Waste & Recycling Contract Update: Executive Director Conners reported that on July 22nd final bids for the 5-year waste and recycling contract were received and read aloud at the Kilbuck Township Municipal Building. He highlighted that Waste Management and Noble Environmental submitted bids. He noted the COG’s Recycling and Waste Committee would be evaluating the received bids and would provide a formal recommendation for the participating COG municipalities at the August 18th Regular meeting.

Executive Director Site Visits: Executive Director Conners stated that in order to better understand the challenges and opportunities that each member community faces, he has worked to visit the staff and officials within each COG municipality. He noted that he anticipates the site visits and appearances at meetings will continue throughout the summer. He stated that to date he has visited Kilbuck Township, Avalon Borough, Edgeworth Borough, Emsworth Borough, Bellevue Borough, Aleppo Township, and Glen Osborne Borough.

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

Other Concerns of the Delegates: Mr. DiTullio outlined various concerns regarding QVCOG programming, specifically concerning the GIS Technical Assistance Program. He noted that Bellevue Borough has worked with Civic Mapper, the Program's facilitator, highlighting his frustration with the partnership and pricing structure. He continued by noting that he personally has produced multiple maps within GIS, specifically citing a street sign inventory. Mr. Wagner inquired regarding the GIS Program. Executive Director Conners provided a brief summary of the Program noting that he would be glad to coordinate a discussion with Mr. Wagner and Mr. Matt Mercurio of Civic Mapper.

Mr. DiTullio then expressed his opposition to the continuation of the Bellevue Streetscape Project in its current form. He highlighted that the project's design was performed by Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc. He proceeded to provide illustrations outlining his perceived faults with the engineering and design associated with the project. He continued by noting various opposition to the project from various Bellevue business owners. He expressed his desire to select a new design firm to complete an updated project scope and design. He cited that per recent discussions between Bellevue Borough and Allegheny County Economic Development, selection of a new project design firm would not be feasible. He expressed his displeasure with this development. Executive Director Conners stated that during a virtual meeting on June 22, 2021 between himself, Bellevue Borough staff, and representatives of Allegheny County's Department of Economic Development (ACED), it was explicitly stated by ACED that due to multiple project delays and the lack of progress associated with the project an additional delay (i.e. the selection of a new project designer) could result in disqualification of existing and future CDBG funding for the Bellevue Borough Lincoln Avenue Streetscape Project. Mr. DiTullio stated that the project has been delayed numerous times since its original award, citing similar threats to reallocate CDBG funding have been made in the past. He concluded by citing the project is over budget and not in the best interest for the taxpayers of Bellevue Borough. A discussion ensued. President Valois thanked Mr. DiTullio for his comments and cited that he and Executive Director Conners would be attending Bellevue Borough's July Council Meeting to address any questions regarding the CDBG Program and other COG initiatives.

President Valois inquired if there were any other additional comments from members of the Board. Mr. Schwend noted that Edgeworth Borough had contracted with Allegheny Goatscape in July to help eradicate invasive plant species from portions of the Borough

along Route 65. He cited the program was very popular amongst his community's residents. He then noted discussions are ongoing concerning the potential new Quaker Valley High School. Executive Director Connors noted that those who were unable to attend the first Quaker Valley High School site tour along Camp Meeting Road on July 13th are encouraged to contact him in effort to coordinate an additional site tour.

Adjournment: Mr. Weatherby moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Getz. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned by President Jean-Sebastien Valois at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for: August 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Aleppo Township Municipal Building (100 North Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143). 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. Connors
Executive Director