

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

July 20, 2022

The meeting took place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143) 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: Art Williams (Zoom)	Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier
Avalon: Roberta Edwards (Zoom).	Glenfield:
Bell Acres: Lane Grafton	Haysville: Amy Paff (Zoom)
Bellevue:	Kilbuck: Jean-Sebastien Valois (Zoom)
Ben Avon: Tavia Washington	Leet: John Stephansky (Zoom)
Edgeworth:	Leetsdale:
Emsworth: Paul Getz (Zoom)	Sewickley: Julie Barnes
Sewickley Heights:	

Public Comment: None.

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

Ms. Barnes moved to approve the June 15, 2022 meeting minutes, June financial statements, and unpaid bills as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Paff. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Aleppo Township, Avalon Borough, Bell Acres Borough, Ben Avon Borough, Emsworth Borough, Glen Osborne Borough, Haysville Borough, Kilbuck Township, Leet Township, and Sewickley Borough.

Nays: None.

Route 65 Update:

President Carrier expressed her thoughts on the future of the Route 65 study. She highlighted that while the QVCOG should play a role in advancing future research and engagement, it could not be alone in doing so. Noting a deadly traffic collision that occurred earlier in the day, she cited the safety and consistency of the Boulevard as incentive to continue the progress of the existing research. Ms. Barnes stated that she would be willing to volunteer when available to help engage stakeholders. Citing the

resignation of Mr. George Shannon from the Route 65 Committee, she acknowledged that many volunteers have multiple commitments and may find it difficult to participate within the existing group. Mr. Grafton inquired about the Route 65 Study. Ms. Barnes provided a brief introduction and background for the project.

Executive Director Conners reported that on June 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. the Route 65 Committee convened to continue the discussion concerning the initial findings of the Route 65 Study and future planning efforts for the group. He highlighted that Mr. Domenic D'Andrea of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) attended the meeting virtually and provided a summary of similar projects that the organization has helped facilitate. Executive Director Conners concluded by noting that he, Ms. Barnes, & Ms. Carrier would be meeting with Mr. Brian Hare of PennDOT Connects on August 1st to evaluate potential funding mechanisms for future studies/initiatives.

Executive Director's Report:

QVCOG Police Chiefs Meeting – Executive Director Conners reported that on July 19th the QVCOG Police Chiefs Committee convened to continue its evaluation of the current Mutual Aid Agreement (approved in 2009). He stated that a final draft of the Agreement has been sent to the COG's solicitor for final review. He stated that after the solicitor's review, the Agreement will be sent to all participating municipalities for review and final approval.

PRC Hard to Recycle Event – Executive Director Conners stated that on July 23rd the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) will be hosting a hard to recycle event at the Quaker Valley High School (625 Beaver St, Leetsdale, PA 15056). He stated that the event will take place between 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. He noted that PRC's Hard to Recycle Collection events are registration based and timeslots are limited. He highlighted participants may drop off items such as cell/home phones, computer towers, and peripheral equipment (keyboards, laptops, mice, etc.) free of charge. He reported that for a fee, individuals can drop off televisions and computer monitors, printers, fluorescent tubes, small Freon appliances and tires (with and without rims). He stated the fee schedule and registration information can be found by visiting prc.org.

Waste Management (WM) Service Request – Executive Director Conners stated that WM officials have requested that QVCOG member communities participating in the 5-year Waste and Recycling Agreement allow for earlier collection times between the months of May – September (no earlier than 6:00 a.m.) during “hot weather events”. He noted that the request may not align with a respective community's noise ordinance. He cited that WM has defined hot weather events as a day(s) which the weather forecast exceeds 87 degrees Fahrenheit. He stated that if member communities deem this request acceptable, they are asked to send a correspondence (email) to their respective WM dispatchers (please cc pconners@qvcog.org). He highlighted that if a community does not agree with this request, WM must continue to abide by the language within the current Agreement and/or follow the respective community's noise ordinance.

2022-23 Rock Salt Bids Received – Executive Director Conners reported that on June 30, 2022 the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG) received bids for the 2022-23 purchasing season with Cargill, Inc. submitting the lowest bid in the amount of \$88.96 per ton (an 8% increase from the previous purchase price). He noted that the

increase can be attributed to the increased cost of transportation (which includes rail, truck and barge expenses). He highlighted that participating municipalities must formally accept the bids received and give notice to Cargill, Inc. by **August 29, 2022**. He noted that a sample award letter that gives notice to Cargill, Inc. has been created by SHACOG and is available upon request. He asked that all participating communities forward a copy of the agreement letter to the SHACOG.

New Business:

Presentation - Duquesne Light Electric Vehicle Charging Station Program – Ms.

Jessica Mooney:

Ms. Jessica Mooney of the Duquesne Light Co. (DLC) came before the Board to discuss DLC's Electric Vehicle Charging Station Program. She proceeded to outline EV adoption within the QVCOG region as well as charging station access. She then discussed the various types of charging stations highlighting the features and cost of each model. She reported that under the Program, qualified customers who are interested can have DLC install the infrastructure for an EV charging stations in public, workplace, or multi-family settings. She highlighted that DLC will design and build the electric infrastructure from the grid up to the charging station. She noted that the actual charging station must be procured from a verified vendor. She cited that to qualify for the program customers are responsible for purchasing, installing, and maintaining a minimum of 2 adjacent dual-port Level 2 charging stations. She concluded by highlighting various funding opportunities available through DLC and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She encouraged interested municipalities to contact her to continue the discussion. The Board thanked Ms. Mooney for her time and information.

Consideration of A Resolution of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments Re-Appointing Aimee St. Germain to A Three-Year Term on the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments Effective July 20, 2022:

Executive Director Connors reported that in 2004 the QVCOG and 12 of its member communities (Aleppo, Avalon, Bell Acres, Bellevue, Ben Avon, Emsworth, Haysville, Kilbuck, Leet, Leetsdale, Glen Osborne, & Sewickley) executed an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement (ICA) which enacted the UCC Board of Appeals. He stated that according to the ICA, "The Municipal Appeals Board of the QVCOG shall have the purposes and powers as stated in the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, as well as the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Labor and Industry, and Uniform Construction Code (UCC). The Municipal Appeals Board shall hear and rule on appeals, requests for variances and requests for extensions of time under the UCC. An application for appeal to the Municipal Appeals Board shall be based on a claim that the true intent of the Pennsylvania Construction Code or the UCC has been incorrectly interpreted, the provision of the Act or UCC do not fully apply, or an equivalent form of construction is to be used."

He continued by reporting that Avalon Borough recently inquired about the availability of the QVCOG's UCC Board of Appeals. He stated that after some internal research, available records indicate that the last time the Board convened was in 2014. He reported

that the most recent round of appointments/reappointments occurred on 2-15-2017. He cited that on the aforementioned date the following members were appointed to serve on the UCC Board of Appeals: Ms. Aimee St. Germain – Sewickley Borough, Mr. Jeffery Eck – Kilbuck Township, and Mr. David A. Parker – Sewickley Borough.

He reported that all three members have agreed to be re-appointed to the Board. He highlighted that per the UCC Board's Bylaws, each standing member's term shall be 3 years in length and be approved via Resolution. He continued by noting the UCC Board's Bylaws also require that the 3-year terms be staggered with one standing member needing to be re-appointed annually. Additionally, he stated that after conferring with the QVCOG's solicitor, Mr. Matthew Racunas, it was confirmed that his firm can represent both the UCC Board of Appeals and the QVCOG without a conflict of interest. He recommended that the QVCOG Board of Delegates appoint Racunas Law Group, LLC to serve as the Appeals Board's Solicitor on an as-needed basis at the QVCOG's agreed upon rate of \$125.00 per hour (subject to change). He concluded by noting that the original case which preempted the discussion concerning the UCC Board of Appeals has been resolved.

Mr. Getz moved to approve a Resolution appointing Ms. Aimee St. Germain to a three-year term to the QVCOG's UCC Board of Appeals which will expire on September 1, 2025. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of a Resolution of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments Re-Appointing David A. Parker to a Two-Year Term on the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments Effective July 20, 2022:

Ms. Paff moved to approve a Resolution appointing Mr. David A. Parker to a two-year term to the QVCOG's UCC Board of Appeals which will expire on September 1, 2024. Mr. Valois seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Consideration of a Resolution of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments Re-Appointing Jeffrey Eck to a One-Year Term on the Uniform Construction Code Appeals Board of the Quaker Valley Council Of Governments Effective July 20, 2022:

Ms. Barnes moved to approve a Resolution appointing Mr. Jeffrey Eck to a one-year term to the QVCOG's UCC Board of Appeals which will expire on September 1, 2023. Mr. Valios seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Appointment of Racunas Law Group, LLC to serve as Solicitor to the UCC Board of Appeals:

Mr. Getz moved to appoint Racunas Law Group, LLC to serve as the QVCOG's UCC Board of Appeals Solicitor. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Updated Independent Consultant Agreement for the Proactive Code Enforcement Program:

Executive Director Connors began by reporting that within a correspondence dated July 14, 2022 the QVCOG was notified that Emsworth Borough would be withdrawing from the Proactive Code Enforcement and Zoning Technical Assistance Programs effective immediately.

He continued by stating that prior to Emsworth Borough's withdrawal, it was requested by Mr. Anthony Ascioffa, that the QVCOG review its existing Consultant Agreement related to the Proactive Code Enforcement Program. He cited that the original agreement was enacted in December of 2018 and was intended to be reviewed/renewed every six months. He highlighted that the Agreement was revised by the QVCOG and reviewed by QVCOG Solicitor Matthew Racunas. He then discussed highlights of the revised Agreement:

- The Agreement is set to auto-renew annually unless a participating party states an intention to withdraw from the Agreement;
- The language within the non-competition clause was revised;
- The Agreement outlines a contribution towards the consultant's required liability insurance costs.

Ms. Barnes moved to approve the Independent Consultant Agreement for the Proactive Code Enforcement Official as presented. Ms. Paff seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business:

Municipal Intern Program Update - Ms. Anna Richard:

Ms. Anna Richard came before the Board to outline her progress for her Municipal Intern Program Project. She stated that her capstone project involves benchmarking the QVCOG's programs and services by "surveying" all of Allegheny County's Councils of Governments. She highlighted that in addition to the survey, she has also increased the COG's engagement (both in person and digitally) with member communities and their residents. She proceeded to outline the parameters of the survey including the identification of common challenges amongst regional COGs, the evaluation of each COG's successes in programs and services, and the Integration of the survey's findings into the QVCOG in a way that benefits our member communities (i.e. new programs, services, collaborative mission, etc.).

She proceeded to discuss additional projects during her tenure with the COG including site visits to member communities (Emsworth, Edgeworth, Sewickley, and Aleppo to date), working within the Arc GIS platform to map community location centers (libraries, community centers, municipal buildings, etc.), the creation of infographics, and engagement with local community organizations (libraries, community centers) in order to promote QVCOG's programs and services. She concluded by discussing future goals including the completion of survey work with the remaining COGs, engagement with the

QVCOG's members in an effort to evaluate current programs and offerings, and the continued production of educational content for website and Facebook pages.

Glass Recycling Update:

Executive Director Conners stated that in order to ensure the financial sustainability of the shared glass recycling program, the QVCOG Board of Delegates has approved a cost sharing model (based on a community's population as of the 2020 Census) as well as a resolution which is to be approved by participating municipalities. He reported that to date, 11 municipalities (Aleppo Township, Avalon Borough, Bellevue Borough, Ben Avon Borough, Edgeworth Borough, Glen Osborne Borough, Kilbuck Township, Leet Township, Leetsdale Borough, Sewickley Borough, and Sewickley Heights Borough) have agreed to enter into the shared program.

President's Report:

President Carrier highlighted the ongoing discussion concerning the Norfolk Southern railroad crossing adjacent to River Road. She expressed her concerns with the number of trains which have blocked emergency access to and from Haysville Borough and Glen Osborne Borough. She stated her intention to contact the railroad's legal department in the coming weeks.

CDBG Status Report: Executive Director Conners provided brief updates concerning all active CDBG projects. He then highlighted that the Pre-Applications for CDBG Year 49 (2023) would be open for submission beginning August 8, 2022, through September 16, 2022. He encouraged interested municipalities and their engineering firms to reach out to discuss any potential projects.

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Avalon Borough: Ms. Edwards noted that Mr. Thomas Lloyd, Borough Mayor, passed away on July 16th. The Board expressed their sympathies for Mr. Lloyd and his family.

Haysville Borough: Ms. Paff stated that a "speedminder" would be installed along Route 65 Southbound to alert residents of the rail crossing and speed limit. Executive Director Conners expressed his excitement for the sign's installation citing the time and effort that went into the request.

Leet Township: Mr. Stephansky inquired regarding the Police Mutual Aid Agreement. Executive Director Conners provided an update.

Sewickley Borough: Ms. Barnes reported that Sewickley Borough would be moving forward with another "light up night" for 2022. She stated that surrounding municipalities would be receiving a request for support to help offset some of the costs for the event.

Adjournment: Ms. Barnes moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Getz. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at the Sewickley borough Building (601 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143). The meeting will be simultaneously broadcast on the Zoom platform, open to the public, and recorded. Please visit qvcog.org for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners
Executive Director