

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Executive Director's Report – February 2024

GEDTF Grant Awards – The QVCOG is proud to report that a total of five Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund (GEDTF) applications submitted on behalf of member communities were selected for funding by the Commonwealth Financing Authority. The Project descriptions and award amounts can be found below:

- Glen Osborne Borough – \$134,800 for cured in place pipelining of 3,180 linear feet of eight-inch clay sanitary sewer pipe along Beaver Road from Davis Lane to Sycamore Road;
- Haysville Borough - \$200,000 to remove an existing stone wall, guardrail and excavation, as well as clearance and grubbing of an adjacent public right of way. The project will also include the construction of concrete culverts, milling and the installation of a jersey barrier wall;
- Leetsdale Borough - \$228,000 to replace the existing Leetsdale Boat Launch Ramp;
- Kilbuck Township - \$165,000 to repair a portion of Kilbuck Township's sanitary sewer network;
- Bellevue Borough - \$25,000 to assist in the construction of ADA enhancements to Bayne Park's restroom.

HTR Event Announced – In partnership with the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) the QVCOG will be financially supporting the return of a “Hard to Recycle” event to the region. The event has been scheduled for Saturday, July 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Final details regarding the location of the event are still under consideration, though a return to the Quaker Valley High School is a strong probability. Once the location is finalized, member communities will be notified accordingly. Hard to Recycle events provide responsible and convenient disposal for items that are not eligible for curbside recycling. At these events, individuals have been able to recycle items such as e-waste, cell phones, polystyrene, Freon-containing appliances, tires and more. These events require all participants to register in advance. Final details of the event, including disposal fees and registration details will follow in the coming months.

Letters of Support - Intersection of River Road and Route 65 – Per an email from the Office of Representative Valarie Gaydos (PA-44), the Route 65 corridor and intersection at River Road was a concern brought to her office's attention by several QVCOG municipalities. Members from PennDOT District 11 have recommended that all municipalities concerned with the aforementioned intersection write a letter to the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) as well as their office requesting funding for a study to investigate all available options at the intersection of Route 65 and River Road. In an effort to advocate for impacted member communities, the QVCOG has submitted a letter of support to both SPC and PennDOT District 11. The letter template is available for any member communities that wish to utilize it.

Franchise Fee Agreement Cooperative – Member communities are reminded of an opportunity to join a franchise fee cooperative facilitated by the Cohen Law Group. In the recent past the Cohen Law Group has represented and worked on behalf of many QVCOG member communities when their franchise fee agreements were near expiration. In addition to renegotiating an agreement with Comcast, the proposal also includes a franchise fee audit to determine whether Comcast has paid each of the municipalities all the franchise fee revenue to which they may be entitled. A major advantage provided by this cooperative is a 20% discount if seven or more QVCOG members participate. To date, three municipalities have agreed to participate in the cooperative. A tentative deadline of March 15th has been established for communities wishing to express their commitment to participate in the initiative. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposal, etc. please contact Mr. Daniel Cohen via email dcohen@cohenlawgroup.org or by phone at (412) 447-0130, ext. 110.