

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

October 15, 2025

The meeting took place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) and was broadcast via Zoom.

President Barnes 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:

\*attended via Zoom

<b>Aleppo:</b>	<b>Glen Osborne:</b> Diane Vierling*
<b>Avalon:</b>	<b>Glenfield:</b>
<b>Bell Acres:</b>	<b>Haysville:</b> Amy Paff*
<b>Bellevue:</b>	<b>Kilbuck:</b> Daryl Hartman*
<b>Ben Avon:</b> Tavia Washington*	<b>Leet:</b>
<b>Ben Avon Heights:</b> Jill Berardi*	<b>Leetsdale:</b> Maria Napolitano*
<b>Edgeworth:</b> Ellen Politi*	<b>Sewickley:</b> Julie Barnes
<b>Emsworth:</b> Paul Getz	<b>Sewickley Heights:</b>
	<b>Sewickley Hills Borough:</b> Hunter Hopkins

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Approval of September 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Getz moved to approve the August 20, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**Approval of September Financial Reports, Payroll, and Unpaid Bills:**

Mr. Getz moved to approve the August financial reports, unpaid bills, and employee payrolls as presented. Ms. Paff seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**President's Report:**

President Barnes encouraged interested Board members or other community leaders to participate in the recently reconvened Route 65 Committee. She also reminded the Board of the upcoming Hard to Recycle event set to take place on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Northgate Highschool.

**Route 65 Report:**

Executive Director Connors stated that he was set to engage with the Michael Baker International team on October 20<sup>th</sup> to coordinate a unified community welcome signage strategy at key entry points along Route 65 and throughout the QVCOG Region.

### **Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:**

Executive Director Conners reported that the tri-borough emergency preparedness committee has not convened for several months. Ms. Paff provided a few updates pertaining to Haysville Borough and surrounding communities. She noted a grant opportunity through Norfolk Southern. She also cited a backup generator has been installed by Glen Osborne Borough for the traffic signal at the intersection of Route 65 and River Road.

### **Grant Status Report:**

Executive Director Conners provided brief updates concerning all active and recently awarded CDBG and GEDTF projects.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

CDBG Year 52 Application Details Announced – Executive Director Conners reported that from September 8, 2025, through December 1, 2025, Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) will be soliciting applications for construction related projects for its 2026-27 (Year 52 cycle) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. He stated that every QVCOG member community is eligible to apply for CDBG funding for “non-income based” projects exceeding \$50,000 in cost such as ADA accessibility improvement projects. He cited that member communities may submit applications for general recreation, road reconstruction, and sewer and water projects with the completion of a concentrated household income survey. He encouraged member communities to consider potential projects with their municipal engineers & staff. He stated that the QVCOG prefers to facilitate pre-application meetings with municipalities to discuss the application process. He concluded by reporting that applications and affiliated materials submitted through the QVCOG are due no later than November 24, 2025.

Act 152 Demolition Program Timeline Announced – Executive Director Conners reported that the 2025 Act 152 Demolition Program Application Window will be open from September 15th through October 31st. He cited that funds through this County Program can be utilized for demolition of any residential, commercial, institutional or industrial structure within Allegheny County that meets 3 of the 9 [blighted conditions](#) as defined by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He noted that eligible applicants include Allegheny County municipalities, Land Banks within Allegheny County, Council of Governments within Allegheny County, Authorities within Allegheny County, Community Development Corporations within Allegheny County (must have a letter of support from the municipality where the demolition will occur), and Privately owned commercial, institutional, & industrial buildings within Allegheny County. He concluded by highlighting that further information and supporting documentation regarding this opportunity can be found by visiting [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org).

Message from PRT: Funding Update – Executive Director Conners read excerpts from an email from PRT dated 9-26-25: *Throughout the summer the legislature and Governor have been negotiating a budget that included funding for public transit, and you may have recently heard news that service cuts and fare increases were not going forward. While that is true, the crisis has not been averted. Earlier this month, when it became abundantly clear that a long-term funding solution for public transit wasn't going to happen – at least not this year – PRT followed SEPTA's lead and asked PennDOT for permission to shift money from our capital budget into our operating budget. This is an option that is unique to PRT and SEPTA, per Act 89 of 2013, and can only be used once this fiscal year. On September 12, PennDOT approved Pittsburgh Regional Transit's request to use up to \$106.7 million in state capital funds to cover operating expenses. Today, PRT's board adopted the agency's amended FY 2026 budget that reflects the use of these funds. This move allows PRT to close the budget deficit for FY 2026 and avoid a 35% service reduction and 9% fare hike on buses and light rail, and ACCESS paratransit service*

*reductions and fare increases that would have taken effect in early 2026. The reduced capital funding means some projects will be delayed, though no safety-critical projects will be impacted. PRT is expected to have a list of the projects it plans to delay in the coming weeks. PRT will exhaust these reserves in a couple of years, and without new, sustainable funding, we'll be staring down a deficit again. Once there is a state budget PRT will be back in Harrisburg, pushing for the long-term solution that our riders, our employees, and this region deserve. We will keep you up to date on these efforts so that we can continue to partner on these efforts.*

## **New Business**

### **Presentation - UrbanPlan**

Mr. Brandon Stanick – Assistant Manager and Planning Administrator, Findlay Township, Ms. Brandi Welsch – Sales & Leasing Associate, Massaro Properties, & Ms. Carolyn Sponza – Project Director, Gensler all came before the Board on behalf of Urban Plan. Mr. Stanick reported that UrbanPlan is a highly interactive Case Study which seeks to foster constructive dialogue among public, private, and community stakeholders. He stated that through this interactive workshop, public officials can gain a deeper understanding of their critical role in shaping a better community through the built environment. Ms. Sponza highlighted that leaders will leave the workshop with tools to create collaborative relationships with community members and private-sector partners to make regionally led projects a success.

Ms. Barnes inquired what type of public officials would qualify for the workshop. Mr. Stanick stated that UrbanPlan is seeking a cohort of fifteen people, and he cited that volunteers could include elected officials, planning commission members, zoning hearing board members, municipal staff, and other community leaders. Following the presentation, a dialogue regarding the timeline and the costs of the workshop ensued. In advance of the Board's November meeting, Executive Director Conners asked the UrbanPlan team to develop a formal RFP outlining specific costs and a potential series of dates that would be available for a QVCOG group.

### **Consideration of Partnership between OHM Advisors and Hollow Oak Land Trust to Develop Mapping Strategy for Connected Trail Access within QVCOG Region**

Executive Director Conners highlighted that at its September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the QVCOG Board hosted Mr. Sean Brady, Executive Director for Hollow Oak Land Trust for a presentation on his organization's efforts related to regional projects, including conservation areas and current/future trail management initiatives. He noted that Mr. Brady discussed numerous trails within the QVCOG region with a long-term vision to connect them all from the greater Sewickley Valley all the way to downtown Pittsburgh. Executive Director Conners stated that the following week, Mr. Chris Riggert, Principal for OHM Advisors, spoke to the Managers and Secretaries Committee at their September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. He noted several synergies between the two presentations were apparent, and a joint Zoom call between himself, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Riggert occurred on October 6<sup>th</sup>. He reported that following the call, preliminary sketches of a partnership were illustrated through a proposal developed by OHM Advisors. He stated that a partnership between the three entities could be utilized to develop a regionally based GIS mapping resource to plan for the completion of a connected trail network. He cited that additional details can be found within a proposal by OHM Advisors, dated October 8<sup>th</sup>.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes to engage with OHM Advisors and Hollow Oak Land Trust to develop to develop a visual strategy utilizing GIS mapping for trail connectivity throughout the QVCOG region. Ms. Napolitano seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **Other Concerns of the Delegates:**

Ben Avon Heights Borough – Ms. Berardi cited that a bus stop has been established at the Shannopin Country Club within the Borough. She also highlighted the continuation of the municipality’s park beautification project.

Haysville Borough – Ms. Paff reported that the Borough will be meeting with PennDOT representatives and local elected officials to consider additional signage to deter large commercial trucks along Redgate and River Roads.

Leetdale Borough – Ms. Napolitano reported that the Borough is working on several projects including a historical preservation endeavor and a boat launch project along the Ohio River. She also noted the Borough’s interest in a shared municipal intern through LGA’s 2026 Program.

Sewickley Borough – Ms. Barnes reported that the Borough recently opened pickleball courts. She cited that Borough has been successful in applying for grants in recent years and she encouraged other member communities to apply for state, federal, and county dollars for the community development projects. She also reported that the Borough donated a series of playground equipment to Glenfield Borough.

Sewickley Hills Borough – Mr. Hopkins stated the Borough is considering the development of GIS mapping tools for future community planning efforts. He also reported that the Borough approved the Reserve residential development which will add approximately 400 new residents to Sewickley Hills.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Napolitano moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Getz. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:108 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) on October 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Connors  
Executive Director