

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

November 20, 2024

The meeting took place at the Leetsdale Borough Building (373 Beaver Street, Leetsdale, PA 15056) and was broadcast via Zoom.

President Carrier called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

The following members were in attendance:

Aleppo:

Avalon: Roberta Edwards*

Bell Acres:

Bellevue: Dan McKelvey*

Ben Avon: Tavia Washington*

Edgeworth:

Emsworth: Paul Getz

Sewickley Heights: Nate Briggs*

Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier*

Glenfield:

Haysville:

Kilbuck: Daryl Hartman*

Leet:

Leetsdale: Maria Napolitano*

Sewickley:

Public Comment:

Approval of October 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Napolitano moved to approve the October 16, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of October Financial Reports, Payroll, and Unpaid Bills:

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

President's Report:

President Carrier stated that she would enjoy an in-person gathering after the January 2025 Board of Delegates meeting. She noted something similar took place a few years prior.

Route 65 Report:

Executive Director Connors reported that in an effort to formalize a unified consensus amongst all member communities regarding Route 65, as well as to enhance future federal, state, and local grant applications for future planning initiatives, the QVCOG Board of Delegates drafted and approved a revised intergovernmental agreement regarding the Boulevard at its October 16th Regular Meeting. He stated that to date, thirteen of the QVCOG's fifteen member communities have approved either the original

Agreement language (approved in June 2024) or the updated version. He noted the minor revisions sought to alleviate some concerns levied by the remaining communities and their respective solicitors. He specifically cited the revised agreement removed any language regarding the potential of any financial commitment tied to the regional compact. He stated that per the guidance of QVCOG Solicitor Matthew Racunas, the updated Agreement has been re-circulated to all member municipalities. He highlighted that Solicitor Racunas does not feel that the aforementioned changes are "material changes" and, therefore, should not require re-approval by any community that signed the original Agreement. He concluded by reporting that once all fifteen members approve the Agreement, a copy of the document will be sent to each participating community.

Next, Executive Director Conners discussed Bellevue Borough's Active Transportation Planning Grant noting that a "walking audit" occurred on November 12th along portions of Route 65 within the Borough. Mr. McKelvey provided some background regarding the awarded planning grant.

Lastly, Executive Director Conners reported that on Wednesday, December 11th from 4:00 – 5:30 PM the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs would be presenting their findings associated with their final capstone project on the topic of Pittsburgh's Manchester neighborhood and the impact of Route 65 which cuts through the neighborhood.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:

No report was provided.

Grant Status Report:

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

Executive Director's Report:

2025 Municipal Intern Program Application Details Announced – Executive Director Conners stated that the Municipal Intern Program (MIP) application period has been moved up to better align with regional academic calendars. He highlighted that MIP project applications will be due by 4:00 p.m. on **December 3rd**. He cited that eligible placement sites include municipalities, COGs, and municipal authorities throughout the southwestern region of Pennsylvania. He encouraged those interested in the Program to visit localgovernmentacademy.org.

Hard to Recycle Event Recap – Executive Director Conners stated that on Saturday, October 26th 310 attendees participated in the QVCOG's sponsored Hard to Recycle event which was facilitated by the Pennsylvania Resources Council. He cited that based on averages from the previous events in this region, an estimated 23,077 lbs. of material was collected and will be sustainably recycled and diverted from landfills.

Managers and Secretaries Holiday Luncheon – Executive Director Conners highlighted that the QVCOG Managers and Secretaries Committee will be combining its November and December meetings to accommodate everyone's unpredictable

holiday schedules. He stated that the meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 20th at 11:00 a.m. at the Aleppo Township Municipal Building (100 North Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143). He highlighted that the meeting will be exclusively in-person and lunch from Panera Bread will be provided.

Local Share Account (LSA) Application Deadline – Executive Director Conners highlighted that the statewide Local Share Account (LSA) Program application window will be open from September 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024, for grants up to \$1 million. He noted that there is no local match required. He encouraged interested parties to access the updated guidelines by visiting qvcog.org. He stated that eligible projects must be owned and maintained by an eligible applicant or a nonprofit organization and include a Project in the Public Interest (i.e. a projects that improve the quality of life in the impacted community). He cited that eligible uses of funds may be used for: Acquisition, Construction, & Demolition; Infrastructure; Purchase of vehicles, machinery and/or equipment; Planning, consulting and design costs related to planning projects; and Engineering, design and inspection, to include permitting fees, for construction projects not to exceed 10% of the total grant award.

New Business

Approval of Concurring Resolutions – CDBG Year 51 Applications: Executive Director Conners stated that the Quaker Valley Council of Governments has been asked to submit a total of 5 CDBG applications for the Year 51 cycle (2025-26). He noted that if these applications were to be approved by the Board of Delegates, the associated Concurring Resolutions will be signed and submitted to County Officials. He noted the application deadline was November 15, 2024, but the resolutions are routinely submitted at a later date. He proceeded to read aloud the requested projects (see below):

- Sewickley Borough - Sewickley Crosswalk ADA Improvements Project - \$210,050
- Leetsdale Borough - Henle Park ADA Sidewalk Replacement Project - \$100,000
- Edgeworth Water Authority - Big Sewickley Creek Road Water Line Replacement - Phase II - \$331,500
- Leet Township - Orchard Street ADA Sidewalk Improvements - \$47,300
- Bellevue Borough - Gillott Playground Improvement Project - \$51,787

He noted that as the “recipients” of requested funding, all participating municipalities will be subject to the QVCOG’s utilization fee policy which covers the organization’s costs affiliated with administering the grants.

Approval of Concurring Resolution - 2024 LSA Application: Executive Director Conners reported that the Quaker Valley Council of Governments has been asked to submit two Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Applications for the 2024 cycle. He noted that per The PA Race Horse Development and Gaming Act (Act 2004-71), as amended, provides for the distribution of gaming revenues through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) to support projects in the public interest within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He cited that 2023 was the first year where Councils of Governments (COGs) could apply for funding through this Program. He highlighted

that the accompanying Resolutions will be relayed through the Department of Commercial and Economic Development (DCED) Application Portal in advance of the announced deadline of November 30, 2024.

He continued by stating the 2024 LSA Program application was opened on September 1, 2024, and will run through November 30, 2024, for grants requests of up to \$1 million. He noted there is no local match required and eligible projects must be owned and maintained by an eligible applicant or a nonprofit organization and include a Project in the Public Interest (i.e. a projects that improve the quality of life in the impacted community). He stated that eligible uses of funds may be used for: Acquisition, Construction, & Demolition; Infrastructure; Purchase of vehicles, machinery and/or equipment; Planning, consulting and design costs related to planning projects; and Engineering, design and inspection, to include permitting fees, for construction projects not to exceed 10% of the total grant award. He concluded by reporting that the LSA funding stream is extremely competitive, highlighting that the CFA received eligible requests totaling nearly \$1.3 billion for the 2023 Application Cycle and only funded approximately \$346 million of those requests.

The requested projects for 2024 can be found below:

- Emsworth Borough – Mayernick Field LED Light Replacement Project
- Valley Veterans Association - Facility HVAC Upgrade Project

Mr. Getz moved to approve the concurring resolutions for the 2024 LSA application cycle. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to Conduct December 18th Board of Delegates Meeting Exclusively via Zoom: Executive Director Connors cited that the next Board meeting is set to take place on December 20, 2023 at the Leetsdale Borough Building. He noted that with the holiday season being so near to that meeting date, it may be wise to shift the aforementioned meeting entirely to Zoom.

After some discussion a motion was made by Mr. Getz to conduct the December 18, 2024 Board of Delegates meeting exclusively on Zoom. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Avalon Borough - Ms. Edwards reported that the Borough recently received a grant award to repair their community pool's liner.

Bellevue Borough - Mr. McKelvey reported that the Borough's Light Up Night would take place on December 7th. He also discussed the Borough's recently awarded active transportation grant.

Ben Avon Borough - Ms. Washington reported that construction has begun on the Borough Building to incorporate an elevator which will allow all residents to access the second floor of the building. She noted that the project was funded through the GEDTF program.

Glen Osborne Borough - Ms. Carrier reported that two Glen Osborne Council members stated their intention to resign from their positions at their November meeting.

Kilbuck Township - Mr. Hartman reported that there has been an increase in through traffic within the Township due to regional roadway construction. He noted the increase in traffic has resulted in an uptick in accidents.

Sewickley Heights Borough - Mr. Briggs reported that Pink House Road Bridge was recently re-opened after being closed for over five years.

Emsworth Borough - Mr. Getz reported that the Borough's Light up Night would take place on December 1st. He also cited that the Mayor Nalevanko had resigned with Ms. Jessica Boyd being appointed to fulfil the rest of the mayor's term.

Adjournment: Ms. Edwards moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Getz. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

The next meeting will take place via Zoom the December 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Please visit qvcog.org for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners
Executive Director