

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

December 17, 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

Aleppo:	Glen Osborne: Anne Fruehauf*
Avalon: Roberta Edwards*	Glenfield:
Bell Acres:	Haysville: Amanda Muzichuck*
Bellevue:	Kilbuck: Daryl Hartman
Ben Avon: Rick Wagner	Leet: Donna Adipietro
Ben Avon Heights:	Leetsdale: Maria Napolitano
Edgeworth: Ellen Politi*	Sewickley: Julie Barnes
Emsworth: Paul Getz	Sewickley Heights: Nate Briggs*
	Sewickley Hills Borough: Hunter Hopkins

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of November 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Napolitano moved to approve the November 19, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Getz seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

President's Report:

President Barnes noted that Patrick will be leaving as Executive Director of the QVCOG in the new year. She cited the symbiotic relationship for both Patrick and the organization with both being able to develop and strengthen their abilities over the last five years.

Route 65 Report:

Executive Director Connors reported that he and President Barnes met with Ms. Kirsten Compitello and Ms. Kristin Cypher of Michael Baker International on December 17th. He cited that the discussion revolved around the strategy to better understand the existing welcome signage throughout the region. He highlighted that a simple excel matrix has been developed and sent out to the managers/secretaires group. He encouraged all

member communities to fill out the matrix and send any available photos of signage in their footprint over to the QVCOG and MBI team in advance of January 19, 2026.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:

Ms. Anne Fruehauf noted that Mr. Bill Monski, Emergency Management Coordinator for the Borough, would be meeting with officials from Norfolk Southern on January 5th. She cited that hope is the development of a regional training opportunity for EMCs, fire departments, and other first responders sometime in 2026.

Grant Status Report:

Executive Director Connors provided brief updates concerning all active and recently awarded CDBG and GEDTF projects. He proceeded to highlight the awarded projects for the 2025 GEDTF application cycle.

Executive Director's Report:

Holiday Light recycling with Michael Brothers – Executive Director Connors reported that Michael Brothers Hauling is bringing back their Holiday Light recycling program. He cited that all proceeds from this program go directly to Salvation Army's Project Bundle-Up. He stated that if a municipality chooses to participate, a representative from the Michael Brothers team will come out and set up their recycling stand where desired, making it convenient for residents and business owners. He highlighted that when the basket is full, they'll take care of collecting the recycled string lights, making it a hassle-free experience for participating communities. He stated that any questions should be directed to Mr. Boyd Jones, Director of Business Development & Public Relations for Michael Brothers (boyd.jones@mbhauling.com).

SR-65 Feasibility Study - MCC Office Hours – Executive Director Connors reported that the Manchester Re-united Project is Focused on envisioning a redesign of State Route-65 to better reconnect Manchester and Chateau, this work builds on the 2019 Neighborhood Plan, the Manchester Transit Revitalization Investment District (TRID Study), and years meaningful community feedback. He welcomed interested communities and officials to join the Manchester Citizens Corporation to share their ideas, ask questions, and help guide the next steps with a shared focus on multimodal transportation, accessibility, connection, and safety. He cited that in person and virtual participation options are available. He concluded by highlighting that additional details are available by visiting <https://engage.pittsburghpa.gov/state-route-65-feasibility-study>

Waste and Recycling Committee – Executive Director Connors reported that the QVCOG's 5-year joint waste and recycling agreement is set to expire on December 31, 2026. He cited that in an effort to build a request for proposals and bid specifications document that works for all participating communities, the Board of Delegates formed a waste and recycling contract committee at its November 19th meeting to help facilitate feedback from member municipalities in preparation for bidding out the new agreement (likely in Q3 2026). He highlighted that since the current contract's execution, the QVCOG has added two member communities (Ben Avon Heights Borough & Sewickley Hills Borough). He encouraged participation from a number of communities and expressed a need for both elected officials and managers to contribute to the Committee.

Thank You QVCOG – Executive Director Conners formally shared that he will be resigning from his position as Executive Director of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments on January 2nd. He stated that serving this organization for nearly five years has been an honor, and that he was deeply grateful for the partnership, professionalism, and collaboration everyone has shown throughout my tenure. He highlighted that the collaboration, grant awards, and programming that the organization has attained and developed has been the most rewarding part of his tenure as Executive Director. He stated that the commitment from member municipalities to the broader Quaker Valley region made collective efforts not only possible, but even more impactful. He reported that he was offered the position of Executive Director for the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG). He cited that this opportunity represents an important step and challenge in his professional journey in the realm of public service. He highlighted that he will do everything in his power and capability to ensure a smooth transition for QVCOG as he prepares to take on this new role. He thanked the Board again for their support, their insights, and their willingness to work together in the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation.

New Business

Manchester Reunited/Route 65 Project Update – Michael Baker International:

Executive Director Conners introduced members of Michael Baker International Team who were before the QVCOG Board of Delegates to present an overview of the Manchester Reunited: State Route 65 Reconnecting Communities Planning Study. Mr. Justin Miller of MBI highlighted that this study, funded by the USDOT's Reconnecting Communities Grant Program, seeks to examine the portion of State Route 65 that cuts through Manchester and Chateau, and identify a new design for the corridor that reunites the neighborhoods, providing more direct access between the two while also helping to induce equitable economic growth, workforce development efforts, sustainability efforts, and transit accessibility, among other neighborhood benefits. Mr. Miller stated that while this project will not contain any built infrastructure, it will inform the interventions that need to take place to connect Manchester and Chateau in a way that promotes multi-modal accessibility and safety for people of all ages and abilities.

He continued by citing that Michael Baker International is serving as part of the project team supporting this PennDOT-led effort, which is focused on improving transportation connections, safety, and community access in the Route 65 corridor and surrounding neighborhoods. He then provided an update on the project and highlighted various public involvement opportunities that are currently available and upcoming. He stated that ensuring meaningful engagement from local governments, residents, and stakeholders is a key component of the Manchester Reunited Project. He concluded by reporting that the project will take place through September 2026, with many opportunities to provide input from residents in surrounding neighborhoods and throughout the City of Pittsburgh.

The Board proceeded to ask various questions regarding the endeavor and thanked the MBI team for engaging with the QVCOG.

Authorization to Advertise for the Position of Executive Director and the Establishment of a Hiring Committee:

Executive Director Connors reiterated that he will be resigning from his position on January 2, 2026. He stated that in an effort to find a pool of talented candidates for the position of Executive Director of the organization, it is being requested that a formal Hiring Committee be established. He stated that the Hiring Committee should be comprised of both elected officials serving on the Board of Delegates and Managers/Secretaries who work in concert with the organization. He cited that a number of volunteers have already stepped up to serve on the proposed committee (see below). Additionally, He also requested the formal allocation of any financial resources related to the advertisement and promotion of the vacancy. He concluded by reporting that partnerships such as the local Government Academy's Job Network, Western Association of Pennsylvania Municipal Managers (WAPMM) email list, and CONNECT's channels will be utilized to bring greater awareness to the opportunity.

Volunteers who have expressed interest to date:

- Julie Barnes (Sewickley Borough Council Vice-President and QVCOG President);
- Maria Napolitano (Leetsdale Borough President and QVCOG Vice-President);
- Rick Wagner (Ben Avon Borough Council President and QVCOG Delegate);
- Ellen Politi (Edgeworth Borough Manager); and
- Jim Kelly (Bellevue Borough Manager)

Ms. Edwards moved to advertise for the position of Executive Director and establish a Hiring Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Consideration of Agreement with Dailey Operation Consulting LLC for Talent Recruitment and Interim ED Services:

Executive Director Connors introduced Mr. Jason Dailey who owns and operates Dailey Operation Consulting which is a Pennsylvania-based municipal consulting firm which brings more than 22 years of experience in local government management. Mr. Dailey cited that the firm specializes in municipal operations, interim management, personnel and policy development, capital planning, strategic and comprehensive planning, economic development, and grant writing. He highlighted that his firm collaborates with a network of engineers, planners, architects, HR specialists, and other professionals to deliver comprehensive municipal support services.

He stated that he has extensive leadership experience, including serving as Public Works and Utilities Director for Cranberry Township and Township Manager for Crescent and West Deer Townships. He also cited his engagement within professional organizations noting that he serves as an instructor for several state and national local government training programs. He reported that he has conducted executive searches and has served as Interim Director/Manager for several municipalities and authorities.

He outlined his proposal to the Board stating that his services would include the development and management of job advertisement and recruitment efforts; the creation of a detailed recruitment timeline from posting through final appointment; assist the

Hiring Committee in narrowing the candidate pool; initial review, scoring, and screening of all candidates; assist with the preparation of a conditional offer of employment; and the coordination of background checks and employment and education verification.

Ms. Adipietro moved to approve an agreement with Dailey Operation Consulting LLC for talent recruitment and interim Executive Director services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Consideration of Agreement with Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) for a Hard to Recycle Event in 2026:

Executive Director Connors proposed to schedule another “Hard to Recycle” event which would be facilitated through the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) for the 2026 calendar year. He cited that these events offer QVCOG and regional households an outlet to responsibly and conveniently dispose of items that are not eligible for curbside recycling. He stated that at these events, individuals have been able to recycle items such as e-waste (TVs & monitors), household dehumidifiers, cell phones, Freon-containing appliances, tires, and more. He noted that at this year’s HTR Event at Northgate Highschool (Bellevue Borough) was well attended having over 400 registered participants. He reported that based on averages from the previous events in this region, an estimated 40,000 lbs. of material was collected and were sustainably recycled and diverted from landfills.

He reported that the QVCOG has reengaged with PRC seeking their services to bring another HTR event to the QVCOG region in 2026. He highlighted that within the attached proposal PRC would charge the QVCOG a “Mobilization Fee” of \$10,000.00 (no price change from 2025 event) which would secure a date on PRC’s 2026 HTR calendar. He cited that the fee covers the cost of the various affiliated recycling vendors, travel, PRC staffing and labor, as well as essential tasks such as digital advertising and the production and distribution of advertisement materials. He noted that the proposed event would take place on a Saturday morning during the late summer/early fall of 2026 (exact date and location TBD) and that the PRC and QVCOG would need to work to find an agreeable site and date for the event. He concluded by highlighting that the event would be paid for via the QVCOG’s joint recycling fund.

Ms. Napolitano moved to approve an Agreement with Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) for a Hard to Recycle Event in 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hartman. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Consideration of Agreement with Case Sabatini to perform 2024 Annual Audit:

Executive Director Connors reported that all organizations that participate in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program must be audited on an annual basis. He noted that in addition to being a requirement for the CDBG Program, an annual audit is a best practice for organizations of any size and sector. He stated that at the conclusion of the Audit a formal report is submitted to Allegheny County Economic Development. He highlighted that beginning with the 2013 Audit, Case Sabatini has performed this function on behalf of the QVCOG. He reported that Case Sabatini has submitted an engagement letter (attached) outlining their responsibilities if selected to

perform the 2025 Audit. He cited that the proposed quote is \$4,400.00 (an increase of \$400 from the 2024 Audit). He noted the cost of the required audit is ultimately reimbursed through the QVCOG's CDBG Admin Agreement with ACED.

Mr. Hartman moved to approve the Authorized Official Resolutions associated with the listed Local Share Account Applications. The motion was seconded by Mr. Getz. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Consideration of 2026 Meeting Dates & Location:

Executive Director Connors outlined the proposed 2026 meeting dates (Third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.) along with the accompanying host site (Sewickley Public Library). He highlighted that all meetings will continue to be hybrid (open to both in person and virtual attendance) utilizing the Zoom platform recorded and subsequently posted to the QVCOG's YouTube Channel. He stated that if approved by the Board, the 2026 meeting dates and location will be advertised within the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Mr. Getz moved to approve the 2026 meeting dates & location as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Napolitano. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Old Business

None.

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Avalon Borough - Ms. Edwards reported that Elizabeth Avenue will be paved utilizing grant money.

Ben Avon Borough – Mr. Wagner reported that there will be a great deal of turnover on Ben Avon Borough's Council in the new year. He also highlighted the Avon Club's holiday house tour was a success, raising \$51,000.00.

Leetsdale Borough – Ms. Napolitano reported that the Borough approved a .5 mil property tax increase to help support their first responders. She also thanked the QVCOG for its efforts in helping secure a 2025 GEDTF award for Leetsdale.

Glen Osborne Borough - Ms. Fruehauf reported that the Borough is very happy with the services provided by their newly appointed public works contractor, especially considering the very turbulent start to winter.

Sewickley Borough - Ms. Barnes reported that the Borough's Light up Night was a success.

Sewickley Heights Borough – Mr. Briggs reported that the Borough recently hired a public works laborer.

Sewickley Hills Borough – Mr. Hopkins reported that he had a discussion with Ms. Erin Copeland of the Allegheny County Conservation District (ACCD) regarding an opportunity for several QVCOG communities to become involved with ACCD's farmland preservation program. He cited that they would like to speak before the Board sometime in 2026 to outline the potential partnership.

Adjournment: Mr. Getz moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) on January 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners
Executive Director