

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

April 19, 2023

The meeting took place at the Bellevue Borough Building (537 Bayne Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202) and was also broadcast and recorded via Zoom and made available on the QVCOG website at the conclusion of the proceedings.

President Carrier 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:

**Aleppo:**

**Avalon:** Roberta Edwards  
(guest)

**Bell Acres:**

**Bellevue:** Dan McKelvey

**Ben Avon:** Tavia Washington\*

**Edgeworth:** John Schwend\*

**Emsworth:**

**Sewickley Heights:**

**Glen Osborne:** Barbara Carrier

**Glenfield:** Paul Carmody (attending as a guest)

**Haysville:** Amanda Muzichuck\*

**Kilbuck:** Jean-Sebastien Valois

**Leet:** Marty McDaniel\*

**Leetsdale:**

**Sewickley:** Julie Barnes

\*Attended the meeting via Zoom.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of March 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Valois moved to approve the March 15, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

Subsequently, Mr. Valois moved to approve the March financial reports, unpaid bills, and employee payrolls as presented. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**President's Report:**

President Carrier outlined her concerns regarding railroad safety. She cited her desire to have the region's Emergency Management Coordinators (EMCs) meet in person to familiarize themselves with one another. She continued by highlighting a railroad safety training opportunity that will be taking place in October. She concluded by noting the challenges of organizing residential contact information for a municipality. Mr. Valois noted that it is essential to communicate with Allegheny County during an emergency

event. Executive Director Connors noted he would be highlighting the aforementioned training later in the meeting.

**Route 65 Report:**

Executive Director Connors reported that following the QVCOG's Board of Delegates approval of a technical assistance agreement with Michael Baker International (approved at its March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting), on March 28, 2023 he met with the following representatives of Michael Baker International for a kickoff call: Peter Quintanilla, Jessica Belowich, and Kathryn Schlesinger.

He stated that the Michael Baker team assigned Ms. Schlesinger as the project's manager. He highlighted that the following initiatives related to Route 65 were identified for the summarization: safety, resiliency, and infrastructure.

He noted that the final product will be a 2-3 page "sales pitch" for each member community to consider. He stated that minor illustrations will accompany the document. He continued by reporting that the document's format will include a brief introduction to the project including a summarization of the Strategic Design Guide (Presented January 2022). He noted that MBI was the engineering firm who completed the aforementioned Design Guide. He then stated that the introduction will seek to outline past public participation and highlight stakeholders who contributed to the initial study. Next, the three aforementioned initiatives will be defined and extrapolated. Lastly, the conclusion will outline various short-term & long-term goals viewed from the perspective of the QVCOG regarding Route 65.

He reported that the agreed upon timeline for the project will not exceed 90 days with a final product being made available by June 30, 2023. He cited that the cost of the partnership shall not exceed \$2,500.00. He summarized that the purpose of the final document will not be to request funding from member communities, but rather a shared commitment to the continued evaluation of Route 65.

**CDBG Status Report:**

Executive Director Connors provided brief updates concerning all active CDBG projects.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Air Quality Workshop – Executive Director Connors reported that earlier that day (April 19<sup>th</sup>) the Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) conducted a free virtual workshop intended for local governments to discuss how municipalities can impact air quality at the local level. He noted that the seminar included a quick refresher on all things air quality, as well as discussions regarding available grants, model ordinances, partnerships, and other resources available to interested local governments. He concluded by reporting that the QVCOG was awarded a Purple Air Monitor which would be networked with similar monitoring devices within Allegheny County. He cited that he would bring the device to the May meeting in an effort to select a host community. He encouraged interested host communities to email him in advance of the May meeting.

Railroad Safety & Emergency Response Training – Executive Director Connors reported that Norfolk Southern will be coming to the Pittsburgh region to provide free

hands-on training with their "Safety Train". He highlighted that the event is intended for fire departments, law enforcement, emergency medical services, hazmat response teams, and emergency management personnel. He stated that the following topics will be addressed at the training: Safety Around the Railroad; Understanding Rail Shipping Documents; Tank Car Identification; Tank Car Valves & Fittings; Locomotive Emergencies; Responding to Railroad Emergencies; and the AskRail Mobile App. He noted that the event will take place at the Norfolk Southern Pitcairn, Yard (701 Wall Ave, Wall, PA 15148) and will be offered in 4 hour sessions between October 10 - 12, 2023 with various time slots available. He encouraged interested parties to register by contacting Mr. Scott Deutsch via email at [Scott.Deutsch@nscorp.com](mailto:Scott.Deutsch@nscorp.com) or by phone at 412-439-2880.

SPC EV Event – Executive Director Connors reported that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) is hosting an Electric Fleet Exposition on May 24, 2023 at the UPMC Events Center (6001 University Blvd, Moon Twp, PA 15108). He noted that the free event will be a great opportunity for municipal officials to see the latest electric vehicle (EV) models available for their local government fleets, hear about funding opportunities and best practices for transitioning to an electric fleet, and engage with experienced vendors concerning fleet charging. He cited that registration is required because space is limited. He encouraged interested participants to register early by sending an email to [electricvehicles@duqlight.com](mailto:electricvehicles@duqlight.com).

#### **New Business:**

##### **Route 65 Traffic Enforcement Request**

Executive Director Connors reported that in recent months the QVCOG Police Chiefs Committee has expressed interest in seeking funds to increase traffic enforcement along portions of Route 65. He noted the history in the region by summarizing the following, "In the early 1990's a task force was created with the combined effort of Quaker Valley police departments, the Pittsburgh Police Department, the Allegheny County Police Department and Pennsylvania State Police. The goal of the task force was an enforcement effort focused on all moving violations to increase traffic safety."

He cited that funding to enhance traffic enforcement is available through PennDOT's Municipal Police Traffic Services Enforcement Program. He highlighted that the program allows for the coordination of local police participation in impaired driving, occupant protection, aggressive driving, and pedestrian safety enforcement countermeasures, including officer overtime, necessary equipment purchases, and associated training. He stated that funding for Police Traffic Services Grants is based on crash numbers and allocated across the Commonwealth of PA. He reported that for the QVCOG region, funding through the program is awarded/allocated through the West Hills Traffic Enforcement Task Force. He cited that the West Hills Traffic Enforcement Task Force is managed by Lieutenant Shener Ulke of the Moon Township Police Department. He reported that over a phone conversation with Lt. Ulke, he was encouraged to submit a letter of interest requesting additional funds through the Municipal Police Traffic Services Enforcement Program. He noted that the correspondence would be relayed to PennDOT's Program Services Unit in an effort to increase regional funding. He concluded by reporting that Lt. Ulke is set to meet with

the Police Chiefs Committee in the coming months to discuss future traffic enforcement opportunities in the QVCOG region.

Ms. Muzichuck moved to authorize a correspondence requesting additional regional grant funding through PennDOT's Police Traffic Services Enforcement Program. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Railroad Safety Letter**

Executive Director Connors reported that at its March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting the QVCOG Board of Delegates unanimously voted to direct that a letter outlining the concerns of residents in member communities on the topic of railroad safety be sent to regional elected officials (both state and federal). He presented a draft of the aforementioned letter. He highlighted that once finalized, it will be sent to the offices of each of the following officials (Rep. Valerie Gaydos – PA 44, Rep. Arvind Venkat – PA 30, Rep. Emily Kinkead – PA 20, Sen. Wayne Fontana – PA 42, Sen. Devlin Robinson – PA 37, Congressman Chris Deluzio – PA 17, Senator Bob Casey, & Senator John Fetterman). Executive Director Connors proceeded to read aloud the draft. Mr. McKelvey noted that Rep. Kinkead's office had moved.

After a brief discussion regarding the content within the presented letter, Mr. Valois motioned to include specific examples of difficulties that QVCOG member communities have faced regarding the railroad industry. Mr. McKelvey seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

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

Bellevue Borough: Mr. McKelvey reported that the Borough of Bellevue recently voted to decertify the Columbia Hose Hook & Ladder Company (which served as Bellevue Borough's Volunteer Fire Department). He cited that the City of Pittsburgh would be partnering with the career/paid firefighters in Bellevue to provide fire protection services to the Borough.

Kilbuck Township: Mr. Valois reported that the Township is seeking reform to its existing police pension account.

Leet Township: Mr. McDaniel cited Act 172 which was enacted to help retain & recruit volunteer firefighters through reductions in property taxes, among other measures.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Barnes moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Valois. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

The next meeting will be hosted by Bell Acres Borough and is scheduled for May 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at the Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Hall (1850 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley, PA 15143). The meeting will be simultaneously broadcast on the Zoom platform, open to the public, and recorded. Please visit [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org) for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners  
Executive Director