

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

May 17, 2023

The meeting took place at the Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Department (1850 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley, PA 15143) and was also broadcast and recorded via Zoom and made available on the QVCOG website at the conclusion of the proceedings.

Vice-President Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken.

The following members were in attendance:

**Aleppo:**

**Avalon:**

**Bell Acres:** Lane Grafton

**Bellevue:** Dan McKelvey\*

**Ben Avon:** Tavia Washington\*

**Edgeworth:**

**Emsworth:** Paul Getz\*

**Sewickley Heights:**

**Glen Osborne:**

**Glenfield:** Paul Carmody

**Haysville:** Amy Paff\*

**Kilbuck:** Jean-Sebastien Valois\*

**Leet:**

**Leetsdale:** Jeff Weatherby

**Sewickley:** Julie Barnes

\*Attended the meeting via Zoom.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of April 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Grafton moved to approve the April 19, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Paff seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

**President's Report:**

Ms. Barnes highlighted that President Carrier was not able to attend the meeting.

**Route 65 Report:**

Executive Director Connors reported that Michael Baker International (MBI) is continuing to work on a comprehensive summary of prior Route 65 analysis and will be including a list of action items and recommendations for future initiatives regarding the roadway. He noted the work is set to be complete and available for review by June 30th.

He then read aloud an update provided by Ms. Kathryn Schlesinger (dated 5-17) who is the MBI Manager assigned to the project.

**CDBG Status Report:**

Executive Director Conners provided brief updates concerning all active CDBG projects. He cited that earlier that afternoon the QVCOG was awarded a demolition Project (MPD016) in the amount of \$36,000.00 for the demolition of 189 & 300 Beaver Street. He noted that the QVCOG's application on behalf of Bellevue Borough (MPD015) was not selected by Allegheny County Economic Development for funding this cycle. He stated that he informed Bellevue Borough Manager, Cindy Bahn, of another funding opportunity through the Act 152 Program.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Tree Pittsburgh Event - Executive Director Conners reported that on Saturday, May 13th Tree Pittsburgh collaborated with the Sewickley's May Mart to give away native young trees to local residents who registered for the event. He noted that he helped out at the event and cited that all 150 trees were adopted.

WM Recycling Center Tour – Executive Director Conners reported that all interested parties are invited to attend a tour of WM's Greenstar Recycling Facility (4100 Grand Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15225). He stated that the tour will take place on Wednesday, June 7th at 10:00 a.m. and would provide an in-person visual demonstration of the recycling separation and consolidation process. He asked that anyone interested in attending RSVP via email (send to pconners@qvcog.org).

QVCOG Managers and Secretaries Summer Picnic – Executive Director Conners reported that on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> the QVCOG will be hosting its annual Managers and Secretaries picnic which will take place of the usual monthly meeting. He highlighted that the event will take place at 11:00 a.m. at Avalon Borough's Community Park (Shelter #1, - 708 New Brighton Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15202). He stated that the event will be catered by the Bridgeside Market.

RAD Invoices – Executive Director Conners reported that during the week of May 1<sup>st</sup> the QVCOG began distributing the 2022 RAD invoices to its member communities. He cited that per Section 3172-B of Pennsylvania Act 77 of 1993, “Beginning in the second full calendar year in which disbursements are received from the State Treasurer under section 3157-B and in each year thereafter, municipalities other than the county and the city shall contribute an amount equal to at least twenty-five per centum (25%) of the increase in the amount of such disbursements received in excess of the prior calendar year to entities or organizations created pursuant to the act of July 12, 1972 (P.L.762, No.180), referred to as the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, including councils of government. The contributions made pursuant to this section shall not be used to offset or reduce other contributions made to councils of government or other intergovernmental entities or organizations.” He concluded by highlighting that 70% of revenues collected will go towards the organization's capital fund with the remaining amount going towards the general operating fund.

## **New Business:**

### **Discussion - Bell Acres Borough Environmental Advisory Council**

Executive Director Connors introduced Ms. Julie DiCenzo and Ms. Darci Saracco who were both representing the Bell Acres Borough Environmental Advisory Council. Ms. DiCenzo reported that the EAC was formed by Bell Acres Borough Council in July of 2022. She cited that per the EAC's Bylaws, "The purpose of the EAC is to identify environmental problems and recommend plans and programs for the promotion and conservation of natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the environment in Bell Acres." She proceeded to outline accomplishments of the group including their stated goal of protecting the Borough's greenspaces and clearing local walking trails. She also highlighted other initiatives including litter pickup, stream clean ups, and training opportunities for Borough staff and officials. After a brief discussion, the Board thanked both visitors for their time presentation.

### **Selection of PurpleAir Monitor Host Sites**

Executive Director Connors highlighted that the QVCOG has been awarded two PurpleAir PA - II Air Quality Sensors by the Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP). He cited that per GASP's website, PurpleAir makes sensors that empower Community Scientists who collect hyper-local air quality data and share it with the public. He stated that the devices help monitor Allegheny County's air quality using a linked network. He reported that the QVCOG called for two host communities for the devices with the requirements that the units be located within a public space, have a dedicated outdoor power source, and have access to WiFi.

He reported that to date there are two nominated locations. First, the Ben Avon Borough Building (7101 Church Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15202) & the Edgeworth Borough Salt Shed (102 Chestnut Ct, Sewickley, PA 15143). He stated that while other communities have expressed interest, no additional publicly owned facilities have been offered.

Mr. Weatherby moved to award the two PurpleAir monitors to Ben Avon Borough and Edgeworth Borough. Mr. Getz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Resolution - Keystone Communities Grant - Regional Traffic Cameras**

Executive Director Connors reported that with advocacy from Representative Valerie Gaydos (PA-44) the Quaker Valley Council of Governments has been allocated \$100,000.00 through the Keystone Communities Program for the procurement, installation, and maintenance of traffic cameras and associated license plate identification technology. He cited that per DCED's website, "The Keystone Communities Program (KCP) program is designed to encourage the creation of partnerships between the public and private sectors that jointly support local initiatives such as the growth and stability of neighborhoods and communities; social and economic diversity; and a strong and secure quality of life. The program allows communities to tailor the assistance to meet the needs of its specific revitalization effort."

He stated that the QVCOG will be responsible for submitting a formal application through the DCED in order to receive the allocated funds. He noted that a part of the

required paperwork is a resolution approved by the governing Board of the awarded organization (included within the meeting packet). He continued by stating that on June 1<sup>st</sup> the QVCOG Police Chiefs Committee will be convening to discuss the specific locations and specifications of the cameras to be procured with the aforementioned funds. He cited that information is needed in advance of the application's submission.

Mr. Weatherby moved to approve the presented resolution for the QVCOG's application through the Keystone Communities Program for license plate reader cameras associated programs/equipment. Mr. Getz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Railroad Safety Update**

Executive Director Connors stated that in addition to sending a correspondence outlining the concerns of QVCOG member communities on the topic of railroad safety to regional elected officials (Rep. Valerie Gaydos – PA 44, Rep. Arvind Venkat – PA 30, Rep. Emily Kinkead – PA 20, Senator Devlin Robinson – PA 37, & Senator Wayne Fontana – PA 42) he was happy to report that action is also being taken at the Federal level. He cited that on May 10, 2023 the United States Senate's Commerce Committee voted 16-11 to move a bill entitled The Railroad Safety Act of 2023 forward for full Senate consideration. He then summarized the proposed legislation noting that both of Pennsylvania's Senators have voted in Committee in favor of the bill.

After some further discussion regarding the proposed federal legislation, Ms. Paff highlighted recent conversations between Haysville, Glenfield, and Glen Osborne Borough officials regarding the blockage of railroad crossings. She highlighted that with the railroad crossing being blocked, emergency responders are prohibited from serving dozens of households in both Haysville and Glen Osborne Boroughs. She cited a recent conversation with State Representative Valerie Gaydos who expressed her desire to help, but also cited the difficulties that the state legislature faces regarding the railroad industry. Ms. Paff concluded by stating that all regional communities impacted by railroad crossings should consider a unified approach to addressing their concerns, etc. A discussion ensued.

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

No comments or concerns were brought before the Board.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Weatherby moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carmody. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:52p.m.

The next meeting will be hosted by Ben Avon Borough and is scheduled for June 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and will take place at the Ben Avon Borough building (7101 Church Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202). 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