

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

June 18, 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: Diane Vierling*
Avalon:	Glenfield: Paul Carmody
Bell Acres:	Haysville:
Bellevue: Dan McKelvey*	Kilbuck: Daryl Hartman
Ben Avon:	Leet: Donna Adipietro*
Ben Avon Heights: Steve Stiller	Leetsdale:
Edgeworth: Ellen Politi*	Sewickley: Julie Barnes
Emsworth: Paul Getz*	Sewickley Heights:

Public Comment:

Mr. Hunter Hopkins of Sewickley Hills Borough introduced himself to the group. He noted that the Borough has applied for full membership to join the QVCOG. He highlighted that if the QVCOG accepts the application of Sewickley Hills, he would serve as Delegate.

Approval of May 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Stiller moved to approve the May 21, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

President's Report:

President Barnes noted her excitement of bringing Sewickley Hills Borough under the QVCOG umbrella.

Route 65 Report:

Executive Director Connors reported that there were no updates regarding Route 65.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:

Executive Director Connors reported that the Tri-Boroughs Emergency Preparedness Committee scheduled for May 23rd was cancelled. He noted that a new meeting date is being finalized amongst the group.

Grant Status Report:

Executive Director Connors provided brief updates concerning all active and recently awarded CDBG and GEDTF projects. He also noted that CDBG Year 51 award notices should be sent out by Allegheny County Economic Development by the end of June.

Executive Director's Report:

Opening on the UCC Board of Appeals – Executive Director Connors reported that the QVCOG is seeking a qualified volunteer to serve on the organization's Uniform Construction Code (UCC) Board of Appeals. He stated that Interested parties must be a resident of the following municipalities, Aleppo Township, Avalon Borough, Bell Acres Borough, Bellevue Borough, Ben Avon Borough, Emsworth Borough, Glen Osborne Borough, Haysville Borough, Kilbuck Township, Leet Township, Leetsdale Borough, or Sewickley Borough. He highlighted that the Municipal Appeals Board shall hear and rule on appeals, requests for variances and requests for extensions of time under The Uniform Construction Code. He cited that an application for appeal to the Municipal Appeals Board shall be based on a claim that the true intent of the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act (35 P.S. §§ 7210.101 - 7210.1103, (hereinafter "the Act"), or the Uniform Construction Code has been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of the Act or Uniform Construction Code do not fully apply, or an equivalent form of Construction is to be used. He continued by noting that in order to be considered for appointment, a member of the Municipal Appeals Board shall be qualified by training and experience to pass on matters pertaining to building construction. He highlighted that training and experience may consist of licensure as an architect or engineer, experience in the construction industry and training and experience as an inspector or plan reviewer. He cited that qualified candidates shall have a minimum of five (5) years combination of education and experience in the building trades. He stated that those interested in serving on the UCC Board should submit a letter of interest and a brief resume of qualifications via email (pconnors@qvcog.org) as soon as possible.

Recognition of Barbara Carrier - Executive Director Connors reported that he delivered the honorary proclamation that was approved by the QVCOG Board at its May 21st meeting to Ms. Barbara Carrier on the morning of June 12th.

Upcoming SHACOG Rock Salt Bid Procurement - Executive Director Connors reported that SHACOG is on the cusp of releasing a new bid for rock salt purchasing. He cited that as of June 30, 2025, the current contract with Cargill and its option years will expire. He stated that preparations are under way for a new joint bid that will again create options for a potential multi-year contract. He noted that QVCOG member communities who are interested in participating in this purchasing option may do so under the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance. He continued by reporting that interested communities must complete the Estimated Requirements Survey for the 2025 Rock Salt

Bid no later than June 19th. He highlighted that the survey is to be completed online and is accessed through the Purchasing Alliance portal at the SHACOG website, www.shacog.com. He encouraged interested communities that may have questions accessing or completing the survey, to call (412-429-1130) or email Sue Dawson (Sue.Dawson@shacog.com) at the SHACOG office. He concluded by stating that upon completion of the survey the municipality is bound to participate in the purchasing agreement.

Rural Water Finance Agency Flex Program - Executive Director Conners reported that on June 26th at 12:00 p.m. the Local Government Academy will be hosting a free webinar on municipal financing for capital infrastructure projects. He stated that Mr. Mike McCaig of Raymond James will discuss the Rural Water Finance Agency Flex Program which is a new municipal finance alternative in Pennsylvania that can fill the gap between banks and bonds. He encouraged those interested in the discussion to register here: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/ZNnNPVs7b5CyrEJ4SDIQ_Q.

Local Government Academy Municipal Intern Program - Executive Director Conners reported that he spoke to the 2025 Municipal Intern Cohort on June 18th about his experience as a municipal intern (2015) and answered questions from the group. He also cited that he would assist the Program on July 15th during a development session on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

New Business

Membership Inquiry - Sewickley Hills Borough

Executive Director Conners reported that following the QVCOG's March 19th Board of Delegates meeting, a conversation began between the QVCOG and some elected officials within Sewickley Hills Borough regarding potential membership. He stated that he attended the Borough's April 8th Council Meeting and noted that discussions revolved around COG programming and services including the Waste and Recycling Contract and the COG's experience in applying for and administering grants. He highlighted that at their May 13, 2025, meeting, Sewickley Hills Borough voted to request formal membership to the QVCOG and approved the required resolution. Executive Director Conners reported that per the QVCOG's Bylaws, any municipality in Pennsylvania is eligible to apply for Full Membership to the QVCOG and can do so by submitting a letter of interest to the Executive Director or completing a form provided by the QVCOG. He noted that he received a letter of interest from the Borough dated June 11th. He concluded by reporting that the Borough was founded in 1958 and as of the 2020 United States Census, Sewickley Hills Borough has a population of 689 residents and encompasses approximately two and a half square miles.

Mr. Stiller moved to approve the membership request of Sewickley Hills Borough. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. The motion to approve the membership of Sewickley Hills Borough as the QVCOG's 17th community was unanimously approved.

Community Welcome Signage

President Barnes reported that in recent weeks Sewickley Borough Council has considered updating their welcome signage adjacent to their community's main entryways, specifically near the Broad Street intersection with Route 65. She noted that she would like to gauge interest from the COG's Board of Delegates to see if there is a joint desire to reach out to a design firm such as Michael Baker International to develop a cohesive strategy that individual communities could consider along the entire Route 65 corridor. She noted that Michael Baker International was the consultant firm who assisted in the development of the Route 65 Strategic Design Guide. She highlighted that one of the core pillars/findings within the Design Guide was the improvement of signage and wayfinding along Route 65. Executive Director Conners stated that if the Board of Delegates is in agreement with this strategy, it is being proposed that up to \$3,500.00 from the QVCOG's Capital Savings fund would be utilized to develop a cohesive signage strategy.

After some discussion, Mr. Hartman moved to direct Executive Director Conners to engage with Michael Baker International to develop a cohesive welcome sign strategy for QVCOG member Communities to utilize at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00. Mr. Getz seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Bellevue Borough: Mr. McKelvey noted that the Lincoln Avenue Streetscape Project has kicked off. Additionally, he reported that a sewer lining project has also commenced within the Borough.

Ben Avon Heights Borough: Mr. Stiller reported that the Borough has started a sewer lining project and would be beginning a sidewalk rehabilitation project in the coming weeks. He concluded by citing the Borough opened bids for waste and recycling services beginning in 2026.

Glen Osborne Borough: Ms. Diane Vierling introduced herself to the group reporting that she would be serving as the Borough's Delegate to the QVCOG Board. She stated that the Borough appointed Mr. Tom Huddleston as Interim Mayor. She also cited that the Borough hired a contractor to serve the Community's Public Works needs.

Kilbuck Township: Mr. Hartman reported that after some residents requested action, the Township engaged with PennDOT to discuss the possibility of installing a traffic signal at the intersection of Route 65 and Toms Run Road. He stated that both roads are state owned but the cost of the traffic study and the installation of infrastructure would be the responsibility of the Township. He noted that Representative Arvind Venkat is generally supportive of the initiative and may be able to advocate for funding to assist the Township. Executive Director Conners stated that he would be happy to provide letters of support for the endeavor. He also noted that the Township is looking to continue the planning and development of a pedestrian sidewalk crossing Camp Horne Road into Avonworth Community Park.

Leet Township: Ms. Adipietro reported that the Township has utilized American Rescue Plan Funds to construct a three vehicle car port for the Police Department's fleet. She also noted progress regarding the township's park improvements project.

Sewickley Borough: Ms. Barnes noted various park improvements within the Borough and also cited that an outdoor Jazz concert took place on the grounds of Walnut Green Park.

Adjournment: Mr. Stiller moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hartman. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) on July 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners
Executive Director