

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

June 19, 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 7:00 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: Richard Wagner

Edgeworth:

Emsworth: Abby Donovan*

Sewickley Heights:

Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier

Glenfield: Paul Carmody

Haysville: Amanda Muzichuck*

Kilbuck: Daryl Hartman*

Leet:

Leetsdale: Maria Napolitano*

Sewickley: Julie Barnes

Public Comment:

Approval of May 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Edwards moved to approve the May 22, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Napolitano seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

President's Report:

President Carrier highlighted that the regional "mayors and presidents' breakfast" recently took place, citing the main topic discussed was emergency management.

Route 65 Report:

Executive Director Connors reported that the Route 65 Committee met on May 24th to review and discuss the draft Route 65 Intergovernmental Agreement. He noted that further details about the proposed agreement would be brought up later during the meeting.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:

Executive Director Conners reported that the Tri-Boroughs emergency preparedness committee met on June 6th and shared/reviewed available emergency operations plans. He concluded by noting the committee planned to generate a regional contact list for equipment, facilities, and other necessary resources during an emergency event(s).

Grant Status Report:

Executive Director Conners provided brief updates concerning all active and recently awarded CDBG and GEDTF projects. He noted that the awards for CDBG Year 50 should be announced prior to the July Board of Delegates meeting.

Executive Director's Report:

Hard to Recycle Event – Executive Director Conners stated that in partnership with the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) the QVCOG has financially supported the return of a “Hard to Recycle” event to the region. He cited that the event has been scheduled for Saturday, July 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event is set to take place at Leetsdale’s Buncher Industrial Park, Building No. 15 (687 Avenue A, Leetsdale, PA 15056). He reported that Hard to Recycle events provide responsible and convenient disposal for items that are not eligible for curbside recycling. He noted that at these events, individuals have been able to recycle items such as e-waste, cell phones, polystyrene, Freon-containing appliances, tires and more. He concluded by highlighting these events require all participants to register in advance. Additional details of the event, including disposal fees and registration details can be found at qvcog.org.

Volunteers Needed – Executive Director Conners continued by stating PRC is in need of volunteers for the July 27th HTR event. He cited that being able to provide volunteers at this event will help the QVCOG in securing a future HTR date in 2025 and beyond. He highlighted that volunteers may dispose of **up to \$60 worth of hard to recycle material** for free. He stated that volunteers will be asked to direct traffic, check trunks, write receipts, or check in registrants. Anyone interested in volunteering are asked to send an email to pconners@qvcog.org.

2024 International City Management Association Conference – Executive Director Conners reported that the 2024 ICMA annual conference will be held in the City of Pittsburgh from September 21 - 25, 2024. He highlighted that the conference will bring together local government professionals around the world to connect and learn from peers, focus on emerging trends and challenges, and provide solutions to help them prepare for the future. He cited that registration for the event officially opened on June 12th and a discounted rate is available through August 14th.

New Business

2023 Annual Audit & Presentation – Case Sabatini – Executive Director Conners reported that during its February 21, 2024 meeting the QVCOG Board of Delegates unanimously appointed Case Sabatini to perform the 2023 Audit for the organization. He noted that as a recipient of federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the QVCOG must be audited on an annual basis. He then introduced Mr. Eric Spann, CPA, and Mr. Scott Grant, CPA who provided a summary of

the 2023 audit and associated financial statements. Ms. Napolitano inquired regarding the cost of an audit. A discussion regarding various audit types and affiliated costs ensued. After some further discussion the Board thanked Mr. Spann and Mr. Grant for their time and presentation.

Consideration/Approval of Route 65 Intergovernmental Agreement – Executive Director Conners stated that during its April 17, 2024 meeting the QVCOG Board of Delegates unanimously voted to direct Solicitor Matthew Racunas to develop an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the continued evaluation of Route 65. He cited that such an agreement and general statement of commitment would be utilized to further bolster future grant applications for a potential Master Plan for the Boulevard as well as additional planning opportunities. He noted that while the QVCOG has committed many years and resources to the evaluation of Route 65, nothing formal has been approved by the organization’s member communities. He continued by stating that during its May 24th meeting the Route 65 Committee reviewed the draft IGA and made various edits to the document. Subsequently, He noted that the revised IGA was reviewed by Solicitor Racunas on May 30th and was given his blessing for Board consideration.

Ms. Barnes moved to approve the Route 65 Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Ms. Carrier seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Formation of 2024 “Intergovernmental Reception” Committee – Executive Director Conners reported that in place of the traditional “Annual Dinner” event, the QVCOG will be hosting a more interactive and engaging reception to recognize the value of intergovernmental collaboration and those who make it all possible. He highlighted that the event will take place at the Edgeworth Club on August 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He stated that traditionally, a small committee comprised of QVCOG Board members is formalized to assist him in finalizing event details, recruitment for registrants, and sponsors, etc. He noted that the committee will meet once or twice (likely via Zoom) prior to the event to help with the aforementioned tasks. Ms. Edwards, Ms. Barnes, & Ms. Carrier all volunteered to serve on the Committee. Mr. Wagner noted that engaging attendees with one another should be a focus for the Committee.

Approval of 2022 Act 101 Section 904 Recycling Performance Grant Payments – Executive Director Conners reported that on May 23rd the QVCOG received an award in the amount of \$26,888.34 for its joint 2022 Act 101 Section 904 Recycling Performance Grant through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. He noted that this is a \$755.02 increase year over year. He highlighted that the QVCOG is slated to distribute \$11,458.49 to participating communities. He highlighted that this is based on their respective residential recycling tonnage rates in addition to a bonus amount based on population and commercial tonnage collection rates. He reported that the remaining amount of \$15,429.85 will be rolled into the QVCOG’s joint recycling fund, a separate line item within the organization’s capital savings account. He cited that this fund has been utilized to help pay for the glass drop-off recycling program, the 2024 Hard to Recycle event, and will be the basis for future collaborative recycling initiatives.

Mr. Wagner moved to approve the 2022 Act 101 Section 904 Recycling Performance Grant payments to participating municipalities as presented. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

None.

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Bellevue Borough – Mr. McKelvey noted that the Borough is very excited for the Lincoln Avenue streetscape project to begin.

Ben Avon Borough – Mr. Wagner cited that the Borough is working with GPS map developers to re-route truck traffic around Ben Avon Borough.

Glen Osborne Borough – Ms. Carrier reported that the Borough is interested in deer control and will be speaking with neighboring communities, including the city of Pittsburgh, to evaluate their methods and measures for protecting property from deer damage.

Leetsdale Borough – Ms. Napolitano invited all attendees and their communities to the Borough’s annual 4th of July parade. She cited that Zambelli Fireworks would be utilized for an evening show.

Adjournment: Mr. Wagner moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barnes. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Leetsdale Borough Municipal Building (373 Beaver Street, Leetsdale, PA 15056) on July 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will also be broadcast via Zoom. Please visit qvcog.org for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners
Executive Director