

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

July 16, 2025

The meeting took place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) and was broadcast via Zoom.

Vice-President Napolitano 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

<b>Aleppo:</b>	<b>Glen Osborne:</b> Diane Vierling*
<b>Avalon:</b> Roberta Edwards*	<b>Glenfield:</b> Paul Carmody
<b>Bell Acres:</b>	<b>Haysville:</b> Amanda Muzichuck*
<b>Bellevue:</b> Dan McKelvey*	<b>Kilbuck:</b> Daryl Hartman
<b>Ben Avon:</b> Tavia Washington*	<b>Leet:</b>
<b>Ben Avon Heights:</b> Steve Stiller*	<b>Leetsdale:</b> Maria Napolitano
<b>Edgeworth:</b> Ellen Politi*	<b>Sewickley:</b>
<b>Emsworth:</b> Paul Getz*	<b>Sewickley Heights:</b> Nathan Briggs*
	<b>Sewickley Hills Borough:</b> Hunter Hopkins

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Approval of June 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Hartman moved to approve the June 18, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Getz seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

**President's Report:**

Vice-President Napolitano noted that President Barnes asked her to remind the Board of the upcoming Intergovernmental Reception. She highlighted the QVCOG will be hosting an interactive and engaging reception to recognize the value of intergovernmental collaboration and those who make it all possible. She cited that the event will take place at the Edgeworth Club on August 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She encouraged all public officials, staff, and volunteers from member communities to attend. Further details regarding the event and information on how to register/sponsor the reception is available by visiting [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org)

**Route 65 Report:**

Executive Director Conners reported that on July 10<sup>th</sup> he had met with Mr. Peter Quintanilla and Ms. Kirsten Compitello of the Michael Baker International engineering team to discuss the parameters of the community welcome signage project that was approved by the Board at its June meeting. He stated that an introductory presentation from the MBI team is anticipated within the coming months.

**Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:**

After noting the most recent meeting was cancelled, Executive Director Conners reported that a future meeting date is being finalized amongst the group.

**Grant Status Report:**

Executive Director Conners provided brief updates concerning all active and recently awarded CDBG and GEDTF projects. He proceeded to highlight that the 2025 GEDTF Application Cycle was recently announced, citing that it will be open from August 4<sup>th</sup> through August 22, 2025. He stated that any member community that wishes to utilize the QVCOG for the application and administration of a project must submit necessary application materials no later than the end of business on August 18<sup>th</sup>. He highlighted that interested parties may access the Google Form to submit an application by visiting [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org). He reported that the GEDTF Program allows municipalities, nonprofits, and COGs to carry out important economic development projects for current and future use. He noted that the Program is administered by the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County, and the grants seek to provide financial assistance to entities to facilitate economic development projects within the County. He emphasized that this Grant opportunity has no local match requirement. He stated that prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to have a meeting/call with himself to build a strategy in advance of the application deadline. He concluded by noting that CDBG Year 51 award notices should be sent out by Allegheny County Economic Development by the end of July.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Executive Director Conners Appointed to CONNECT Board – Executive Director Conners reported that at its June 26th Board of Directors Meeting the Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT) appointed QVCOG Executive Director Patrick Conners to their Board. He highlighted that CONNECT, originally established through the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs in 2009, seeks to provide a framework for continued interaction and collaboration between Allegheny County municipalities. He cited that CONNECT works to understand unique challenges caused by municipal fragmentation that sometimes can be addressed through innovative, cross-boundary solutions and communication. He stated that ultimately, CONNECT builds trusting relationships between the leaders who make those changes, through shared knowledge and experiences. He pointed out that two QVCOG member communities (Bellevue and Ben Avon Boroughs) are also CONNECT members. He encouraged QVCOG members who may have questions regarding CONNECT programs, services, etc. to contact him moving forward.

T-Mobile Hometown Grant – Executive Director Connors reported that Main Street America and Smart Growth America have partnered with T-Mobile to help build stronger, more prosperous small towns and rural communities through the T-Mobile’s Hometown Grant program. He stated that through this Program, they’re investing big in small towns by awarding up to 100 towns a year with project funding — up to \$50,000 each. He highlighted that the Program is focusing on revitalizing community spaces in towns with 50,000 people or less. He cited that example projects could include the implementation of technology upgrades at a community library, a refresh of a local park, or the development of a new place where neighbors can connect. He stated that those interested in applying should reach out to the QVCOG with a brief description of their proposed project(s). He stated that with that information, the QVCOG can provide one of the required letters of support. He concluded by reporting that T-Mobile awards 25 grants each quarter, so there are multiple opportunities to secure funding.

## **New Business**

### **2024 Annual Audit Report**

Executive Director Connors reported that at its January 15, 2025 meeting the QVCOG Board of Delegates unanimously appointed Case Sabatini to perform the 2024 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. Mr. Eric Spann, CPA, participating virtually, presented a summary of the 2024 audit and associated financial statements. He concluded by citing various changes to public reporting for municipalities. Following his presentation, the Board thanked Mr. Spann for his time and thoroughness.

Mr. Hartman moved to approve the 2024 Audit Report as presented. Mr. Getz seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Agreement for Coverage Opportunity for QVCOG Membership - New York Life**

Executive Director Connors reported that after a brief introductory Zoom with Ms. Amy Porado of New York Life was invited to present to the QVCOG Managers and Secretaries Committee at their June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. He noted that her presentation centered around a partnership opportunity between the QVCOG and New York Life where full-time employees of member municipalities could be offered direct life insurance coverage without the need for a medical exam. He stated that after the presentation the Managers and Secretaries Committee unanimously agreed that they would be interested in bringing this opportunity to their employees.

Ms. Porado thanked Executive Director Connors for the introduction. She noted recent partnerships with the Char-West COG and Allegheny Valley North COG. She cited that coverage levels, monthly premium costs, etc. are individually based. She continued by stating that the coverage opportunity includes a hassle-free application process with no physical and where no medical questions are asked. She reported that should the partnership agreement be approved by the QVCOG Board, interested communities will be responsible for arranging informational meetings between herself and their interested employees. She noted that there is no mandatory minimum or maximum number of employees that need to sign up under the partnership. She continued by stating that

these policies are cash value whole life insurance policies that grow in tax free cash value as well as face value. She noted that although dividends are not guaranteed, New York Life has paid them for the last 171 consecutive years. She concluded by reporting that the premiums are paid directly by the employees from their bank accounts, not via a municipality's payroll.

After some discussion, Mr. Hartman moved to approve an Agreement between the QVCOG and New York Life offering interested employees and elected officials coverage. Mr. Getz seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Donation to Sewickley Public Library**

Executive Director Connors reported that the Sewickley Public Library has hosted various QVCOG meetings including Board of Delegates and Allegheny County InterCOG meetings for nearly two years. He cited that as the QVCOG does not own or operate its own facilities, having an accessible and reliable meeting space is an essential component for the organization. He stated that in order to thank the Sewickley Public Library for its hospitality and flexibility for offering a technologically savvy and historic meeting space, he is proposing a donation to the Library in the amount of \$1,000.00. He highlighted that the proposed amount breaks down to less than \$100 per meeting for the 2025 calendar year. He cited that this token of appreciation would be paid for through the QVCOG's Savings Account. He concluded by stating his hope that the partnership between the two organizations can continue in 2026 and beyond.

Mr. Getz moved to authorize a donation from the QVCOG to Sewickley Public Library in the amount of \$1,000 from the QVCOG's Saving's Account. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Letter of Support Regarding Proposed SB194**

Executive Director Connors reported that the QVCOG has long supported modernization for legal advertisement requirements, particularly tied to public bidding. He cited that current advertisement requirements are costly, outdated, ineffective and increasingly difficult to fulfill in a waning newspaper environment. He stated that recently, legislation aimed at advertising requirements (SB194) was voted out of the Senate Local Government Committee by a 11-1 margin and is now before the full Senate vote on the horizon. He stated that it is crucial that local governments amplify their voice and work to support the passage of this proposed legislation. He encouraged QVCOG member communities to send letters of support regarding SB194 to their respective state senator. He concluded by citing that a proposed letter of support has been drafted for consideration by the QVCOG Board of Delegates.

Mr. Getz moved to approve the presented correspondence to State Senators Devlin Robinson (PA-37) and Wayne Fontana (PA-42) in support of proposed SB194. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Donation of Laptop to Kilbuck Township**

Executive Director Connors reported that the QVCOG procured a laptop (Model: NP750TDA-XD1US) in the spring of 2022 to outfit its Local Government Academy (LGA) Municipal Intern with a suitable option to work with during the 12-week internship period. He noted that after the internship, the laptop was left unused until the spring of 2024 when the QVCOG loaned the device to Kilbuck Township when they also hosted an LGA Municipal Intern. He noted that the QVCOG utilizes a shared office space within the Kilbuck Township Municipal Building. He reported that recently, Ms. McClain has been hired by Kilbuck to assist Township Manager Andy Wright. He then outlined a proposal to donate the device to Kilbuck Township citing the estimated trade in value of the laptop (Samsung Galaxy Book 15.6”) is \$80.00.

Mr. Carmody moved to authorize the donation of the laptop to Kilbuck Township. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Re-Appointment of Ms. Aimee St. Germain to UCC Board of Appeals**

Executive Director Connors stated that Ms. Aimee St. Germain (Sewickley Borough) was reappointed for a three-year term on July 20, 2022. He highlighted that her term is set to expire on September 1, 2025. He reported that in recent weeks, there has been some potential interest from a QVCOG member municipality in convening the UCC Board, though to date nothing formally has been submitted. He cited that per an email dated July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ms. St. Germain expressed her interest in being re-appointed to the UCC Board. He stated that if approved by the Board of Delegates, Ms. St. Germain’s next term would expire on September 1, 2028.

Mr. Getz moved to reappoint Ms. Aimee St. Germain to the QVCOG UCC Board of Appeals with a term expiring on September 1, 2028. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Consideration of Appointment of Mr. Frederick Gregorich (Aleppo Township) to UCC Board of Appeals**

Executive Director Connors reported that he was not able to confirm Mr. Gregorich’s availability to serve on the UCC Board and hoped to do so by the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Old Business**

None.

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

Avalon Borough: Ms. Edwards reported that a historical walk down California Avenue would take place on July 18<sup>th</sup> in recognition of the Borough’s Sesquicentennial. She also reported that goats have been procured for landscaping duties in the Borough the weekend of July 20<sup>th</sup> noting that a small petting zoo would be available for residents. Lastly, she noted that a planning effort is underway for solar panels on the Borough Building.

Bellevue Borough: Mr. McKelvey cited that the Lincoln Avenue streetscape project is underway.

Ben Avon Borough: Ms. Washington cited that the Borough is seeking grant funding for a ramp project to accompany a recent elevator installation within their municipal building.

Ben Avon Heights Borough: Mr. Stiller cited that the Borough recently opened bids for and awarded a three-year contract for waste and recycling services to County Hauling.

Sewickley Hills Borough: Mr. Hopkins noted that his community would be issuing its second annual newsletter to residents. He also cited the Borough's search for grant opportunities to help expand its current municipal facilities.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Getz moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hartman. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) on August 20, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners  
Executive Director