

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

August 21, 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: Art Williams*

Avalon: Roberta Edwards*

Bell Acres:

Bellevue:

Ben Avon: Tavia Washington*

Edgeworth:

Emsworth:

Sewickley Heights:

Glen Osborne: Barbara Carrier

Glenfield: Paul Carmody

Haysville:

Kilbuck: Daryl Hartman

Leet: Donna Adipietro

Leetsdale: Maria Napolitano*

Sewickley: Julie Barnes

Public Comment:

Approval of July 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Hartman moved to approve the July 17, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

Ms. Adipietro moved to approve the July 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:

President Carrier reported on the influx of poisonous hemlock within the region citing that it is extremely invasive and dangerous to humans and pets. She provided illustrations of the plant noting that it can be seen most along local roadsides. She encouraged the Delegates to notify their local public works departments of the matter.

Route 65 Report:

Executive Director Connors reported that the Route 65 Committee had convened via Zoom on August 19th to discuss the approval status of the Route 65 Intergovernmental Agreements. He cited that to date five municipalities have approved the Agreement "as is" while a handful have provided, or are anticipated to provide, feedback regarding the

proposed verbiage. He continued by reporting that some communities have not responded at all.

Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:

Executive Director Conners reported the Tri-Boroughs Emergency Preparedness Committee had canceled their August meeting.

Grant Status Report:

Executive Director Conners provided brief updates and summaries of active and recently awarded CDBG projects. He noted that beginning August 12, 2024, through September 13, 2024, Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) will be soliciting pre-applications for construction related projects for its 2025-26 (Year 51 cycle) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Subsequently, he reported that the 2024 Gaming Economic Development & Tourism Fund Grant application window will be open from August 19th through August 30, 2024.

Executive Director's Report:

QVCOG Intergovernmental Reception – Executive Director Conners encouraged those who have not already to register for the upcoming Intergovernmental Reception. He cited 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 noted that the event will take place at the Edgeworth Club on August 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

HTR Event Postponed – Executive Director Conners reported that the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) made the determination that the Hard to Recycle Event slated to occur on July 27th needed to be postponed. He cited that due to circumstances outside of PRC's control at the venue, the host location was not suitable for the public to use. He stated that no alternative sites were available or logistically feasible. He continued by reporting that all event registrants were notified through PRC regarding the event's postponement. He highlighted that as of this time, an alternative date for the event has not been identified, but PRC is working with their vendors and community partners to assess a future date.

Local Share Account (LSA) Application Details Announced – Executive Director Conners reported that the statewide Local Share Account (LSA) Program application window will be open from September 1, 2024, through November 30, 2024, for grants up to \$1 million. He noted that 2023 LSA project awards are anticipated to be announced on September 17th. He highlighted that interested parties may access the updated program guidelines by visiting qvcog.org. He cited eligible uses of funds may be used for: Acquisition, Construction, & Demolition; Infrastructure; Purchase of vehicles, machinery and/or equipment; Planning, consulting and design costs related to planning projects; and Engineering, design and inspection, to include permitting fees, for construction projects not to exceed 10% of the total grant award. He noted that member communities can utilize the QVCOG for the submission of an application and the overall facilitation of the grant.

New Business

Consideration of a Resolution Establishing 2025 Schedule of Dues:

Executive Director Conners stated the Bylaws of the Quaker Valley Council of Governments stipulates that the Board of Delegates shall review and establish a schedule of dues each year. Citing the financial stability of the organization, Executive Director Conners proposed keeping dues at 2024 rates (proposed structure below).

Municipalities with a population less than 250 residents	\$1,331
Municipalities with a population less than 251 - 1,000 residents	\$2,662
Municipalities with a population less than 1001 – 4,000 residents	\$3,993
Municipalities with a population less than 4,001 + residents	\$5,324
Associate (non-voting) Members	\$550

Ms. Adipietro moved to approve a resolution outlining 2025 membership dues for the Quaker Valley Council of Governments. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of 2024 GEDTF Program Application Concurring Resolution:

Executive Director Conners reported that the Quaker Valley Council of Governments has been asked to submit a total of 11 Gaming Economic Development & Tourism Fund (GEDTF) Grant Applications on behalf of its member communities and affiliated organizations for the 2024 cycle. He cited that a Concurring Resolutions needs to be included with each application’s submission. He highlighted that the 2024 GEDTF Application timeline runs from August 19, 2024 through August 30, 2024. He stated that as the “recipient” of requested funding, all participating municipalities will be subject to the QVCOG’s utilization fee policy, highlights of which he proceeded to summarize.

Proposed 2024 GEDTF Projects:

- Borough Park Road Improvement Project – Sewickley Heights Borough - \$462,794
- Quarry Road Sanitary Sewer Extension Project – Sewickley Heights Borough - \$500,000
- Watson Street Stormwater Improvements Project – Leet Township - \$171,480
- Public Works Garage Improvement Project – Leet Township - \$220,800
- Mayernik Field Walkway and Lighting Improvement Project – Emsworth Borough - \$373,555
- Sanitary Sewer Lining & Storm Sewer Repair Project – Glen Osborne Borough - \$208,609
- Fern Hollow Nature Center Building Renovation & Addition – Fern Hollow Nature Center - \$250,000
- Big Sewickley Creek Road Water Line Replacement Project - Phase II – Edgeworth Water Authority - \$500,000
- Bayne Park ADA Restroom Project – Bellevue Borough - \$328,500
- Weber Road Culvert Improvement Project – Aleppo Township - \$299,750
- Rhodes Avenue Landslide Rehabilitation Project – Aleppo Township - \$500,000

Mr. Hartman moved to authorize the QVCOG to apply on behalf of the requesting agencies for the 2024 GEDTF Program. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

2024 Intergovernmental Reception Public Service Recognition:

Executive Director Connors stated that the Intergovernmental Reception will recognize a regional public servant who has exemplified a commitment to their community and public service. He cited that Ms. Barbara Carrier, Mayor of Glen Osborne Borough and QVCOG Board President has been nominated by Mr. Tom Huddleston, President of Glen Osborne Borough Council as this year's recognized public servant.

Mr. Hartman moved to recognize Barbara Carrier at the 2024 QVCOG Intergovernmental Reception. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

Other Concerns of the Delegates:

Aleppo Township – Mr. Williams reported that Aleppo Township has approved a pickleball venue within their industrial park. He also cited the value of an emergency management educational seminar that he participated in last year.

Avalon Borough – Ms. Edwards reported that Northgate school district students return to classes on August 22nd. She also highlighted that Avalon Borough received their official Pennsylvania Audubon Council “Birdtown” recognition on August 20th. She concluded by highlighting Avalon's Community Day is set to occur on August 31st.

Ben Avon Borough – Ms. Washington cited that Fall Fest will take place on September 28th.

Glen Osborne Borough – President Carrier cited that Sycamore Road will be temporarily closed. She also noted that the Beaver Road Sanitary Sewer Lining project (funded through the GEDTF Program) is set to commence in the coming weeks.

Adjournment: Mr. Hartman moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Barnes. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Leetsdale Borough Municipal Building (373 Beaver Street, Leetsdale, PA 15056) on September 18, 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. Connors
Executive Director