

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

September 17, 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

<b>Aleppo:</b>	<b>Glen Osborne:</b> Diane Vierling*
<b>Avalon:</b>	<b>Glenfield:</b>
<b>Bell Acres:</b>	<b>Haysville:</b>
<b>Bellevue:</b> Dan McKelvey*	<b>Kilbuck:</b> Daryl Hartman
<b>Ben Avon:</b> Tavia Washington*	<b>Leet:</b> Donna Adipietro*
<b>Ben Avon Heights:</b> Steve Stiller*	<b>Leetsdale:</b>
<b>Edgeworth:</b> Ellen Politi*	<b>Sewickley:</b> Julie Barnes
<b>Emsworth:</b> Paul Getz	<b>Sewickley Heights:</b> Nate Briggs*
	<b>Sewickley Hills Borough:</b> Hunter Hopkins

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Approval of August 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes:**

Mr. Getz moved to approve the August 20, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Adipietro seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

Mr. Getz moved to approve the August 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:**

President Barnes cited two recent traffic incidents along Route 65 highlighting that the one which occurred at the Haysville Borough traffic signal resulted in a fatality. She stated that there is a regional need to advocate for safety improvements along the Boulevard. Mr. Getz reported that Ohio Township P.D. has increased speed control measures along portions of the Boulevard, specifically within Emsworth Borough. The topic of a revamped Route 65 Committee was brought up amongst the group.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Getz to reconvene the Route 65 Committee. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Route 65 Report:**

Executive Director Connors stated that he was continuing to engage with the Michael Baker International team to coordinate a unified community welcome signage strategy at key entry points along Route 65 and throughout the QVCOG Region.

### **Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:**

Executive Director Connors reported that a future meeting date amongst leaders within the three communities (Haysville, Glenfield, & Glen Osborne Boroughs) 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.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

Hard to Recycle Event Details Finalized – Executive Director Connors reported that during its February 19th meeting the QVCOG Board of Delegates unanimously approved a financial agreement with the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) to bring a Hard to Recycle Event to the QVCOG region in 2025. He reported that the event has been scheduled for Saturday, October 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will take place at the Northgate Area Highschool (589 Union Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15202). He stated that Hard to Recycle Events provide responsible and convenient disposal for items that are not eligible for curbside recycling. He cited 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 highlighted that these events require all participants to register in advance. He concluded by stating that further details including fees and registration information can be found by visiting [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org).

Volunteers Needed – Executive Director Connors reported that PRC is in need of volunteers to staff the October 18<sup>th</sup> HTR event. He stated that being able to provide volunteers at this event will help the QVCOG in securing a future HTR date in 2026 and beyond. He cited that volunteers may dispose of **up to \$70 worth of hard to recycle material** for free. He highlighted that volunteers will be asked to direct traffic, check trunks, write receipts, or check in registrants. He encouraged anyone interested in volunteering to send an email to [josh@prc.org](mailto:josh@prc.org).

Intergovernmental Reception Recap – Executive Director Connors reported that the QVCOG hosted an intergovernmental reception on August 28<sup>th</sup> at the Edgeworth Club to celebrate the region's public servants and elected officials. He highlighted that over 80 guests were in attendance and the event was sponsored by 16 vendors. He cited that Mr. Martin McDaniel, Commissioner for Leet Township and Mr. Lee Nelson, Councilperson for Avalon Borough were recognized for their many years of service to their communities and the region as a whole. He concluded by reported that nearly \$500 was raised via a 50/50 raffle with proceeds being donated to Animal Friends.

CDBG Year 51 Pre-Applications – Executive Director Conners reported that beginning September 8, 2025, through December 1, 2025, Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED) will be soliciting applications for construction related projects for its 2026-27 (Year 52 cycle) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. He highlighted that every QVCOG member community is eligible to apply for CDBG funding for “non-income based” projects exceeding \$50,000 in cost such as ADA accessibility improvement projects. He stated that in addition to ADA related projects member communities may submit applications for general recreation, road reconstruction, and sewer and water projects with the completion of a concentrated household income survey. He encouraged everyone to consider potential projects with their municipal engineers & staff and stated that the QVCOG is happy to facilitate meetings to discuss the application process.

Fall 2025 Internship Opportunities – Executive Director Conners reported that the Local Government Academy is reaching out to inquire about any potential internship opportunities for the fall of 2025 within Municipal Governments across Allegheny County and beyond. He highlighted that there are a number of students within regional colleges/universities who are eager to continue gaining experience in local government and the nonprofit sector. He cited that while LGA does not have funding available for direct support, they would be happy to share any opportunities you may have with interested students. He noted that the Pre-Project Application informational zoom session for the **2026 Municipal Intern Program** will be held on **October 21 at 12:00 p.m.** He noted that the project application will officially open on **October 27, 2025.**

## **New Business**

### **Presentation – American Red Cross, Greater Pennsylvania Region**

Mr. Jorge Martinez, Regional Chief Executive Officer for the Greater Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC), virtually presented to the QVCOG Board to highlight services and programming available through the Local Chapter of the American Red Cross. He provided a brief video illustrating who the organization is and what they do for communities in need after an emergency. He cited that in the Greater Pittsburgh Region the two largest threats are flooding and house fires. He noted that one of their largest services includes providing and installing fire alarms within residential households.

At the conclusion of the presentation Ms. Barnes inquired on how municipalities can contact the ARC. Mr. Martinez stated that local emergency management coordinators and fire departments are typically who contacts the ARC. Ms. Barnes followed up by asking if the ARC has any concerns of reduced federal funding or involvement from FEMA. Mr. Martinez stated that the ARC has very close relationships with their state partners. Ms. Anne Fruehauf (Glen Osborne Borough) inquired about the smoke alarm program. Mr. Martinez stated that the ARC will routinely present to local school districts and will provide fire alarms and affiliated materials for students to take home.

### **Presentation – Hollow Oak Land Trust**

Mr. Sean Brady, Executive Director for Hollow Oak Land Trust, virtually presented to the QVCOG Board to highlight his organization’s regional projects, including

conservation areas and current/future trail management initiatives. He reported that participation in outdoor recreation is at an all-time high and community demands for new trails have become a perennial top priority. He cited that Hollow Oak Land Trust has teamed up with municipalities such as Moon and Robinson Township, Coraopolis, and the Avonworth Municipal Authority to develop networks of greenways connecting municipal parks, conservation areas and trails. He noted that Greenways serve a dual purpose as both wildlife corridors and trail connectors among greenspace destinations. He then outlined a plan of action that would connect the Greater Sewickley region through the North Boroughs into Downtown Pittsburgh. The Board thanked Mr. Brady for his presentation.

### **Consideration of 2026 Budget**

Executive Director Connors reported that on September 10<sup>th</sup> he, Board President Barnes, Board Vice-President Maria Napolitano, & Board Treasurer Daryl Hartman convened at the Sewickley Public Library to review the draft Budget for 2026. He provided various highlights within the proposed budget (see below).

#### Highlights

- By using the current and available data, 2025 Regional Asset District (RAD) revenue collections have increased within thirteen of the QVCOG's seventeen member communities. Through September 2025, the QVCOG is projected to collect \$12,500.00 from 2025 RAD revenues. RAD revenues are traditionally utilized by the QVCOG to increase the Capital (savings) Fund. For comparison, 2024 RAD revenues plateaued or even in some cases decreased when compared to 2023. The QVCOG received \$0 in RAD from 2024 revenues. Please note, RAD revenues in Allegheny County are directly linked to the additional 1% state sales tax. Pursuant to the enabling legislation of the Regional Asset District, Act 77 of 1993, municipalities are to dedicate 25% of their increase in RAD each year to an organization organized under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act.
- As of September 12, 2025 the QVCOG is awaiting notification and receipt of its 2023 Act 101 Section 904 Recycling Performance Grant. The most recent award was \$26,888.34 (based on 2022 commercial and residential recycling rates). Of the award a large portion is directly paid to member communities (overall amount based on reported residential recycling tonnage) with the remaining award paying for the drop-off glass recycling program, tree adoption event, and partnership with PRC for future Hard to Recycle Events;
- CDBG Project Management income that is received from Allegheny County Economic Development is anticipated to remain at recent levels. The QVCOG is budgeting \$25,650.00 for CDBG Project Management in 2025;
- No growth has been budgeted for the QVCOG's "Service Fee" revenue stream. This budget line item includes both the Proactive Code Enforcement and Zoning Technical Assistance Programs. Please note, Leet Township & Aleppo Township are currently the only customers utilizing either of the programs (ZTA);
- The 5-year Waste and Recycling Contract (2022-26) includes a franchise fee (\$1 for each household serviced in the participating communities). An expected \$9,716.00 will be deposited over the course of 4 quarterly payments into the General Fund;

- General operating costs (i.e., rent, telephone, software, etc.) are expected to remain near or at current levels.
- Personnel expenditures for 2026 are budgeted to remain comparable with the 2025 Budget. No major staff changes/additions are being proposed. The Executive Director salary has been budgeted for an increase of 4.5%.

He proceeded to summarize that the proposed budget allows for the continued growth of QVCOG services and programming while remaining conservative towards overall expenditures. He stated that in his opinion, after convening with the Board President, Vice President, and Treasurer that the proposed Budget accurately reflects the QVCOG's ability to provide a high level of service to each of its 17 member municipalities and their residents for the 2026 fiscal year and beyond.

Mr. Getz moved to approve the 2026 Budget as presented. Ms. Politi seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Consideration of Appointment of Mr. Craig Rippole (Sewickley Borough) to UCC Board of Appeals**

Executive Director Connors reported that per an email dated May 14, 2025, Mr. David Parker (Sewickley Borough) declined reappointment to the QVCOG UCC Board of Appeals. He stated that since that time, there had been a call for interested applicants to submit their interest/credentials to the QVCOG for consideration. He cited that recently, Mr. Craig Rippole of Sewickley Borough confirmed his availability and interest to serve on the UCC Board. He stated that Mr. Rippole currently serves as the President of Trinity Commercial Development and has ample experience in the Commercial Real Estate Development realm. He noted that Mr. Rippole has completed many large projects in the Greater Pittsburgh region and would bring a working knowledge of local government and building code procedures.

Mr. Hartman moved to appoint Mr. Craig Rippole to a three-year term on the QVCOG UCC Board of Appeals. Mr. Getz seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### **Old Business**

None.

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

Bellevue Borough – Mr. McKelvey reported that the Lincoln Avenue Streetscape Project is continuing. He also reported on a music festival set to take place on September 27<sup>th</sup> within the Borough.

Ben Avon Heights Borough – Mr. Stiller reported that the Borough is working to clarify the ownership of Courtney Mill Road. He also stated that the Borough is engaging with residents regarding their park beautification project. Lastly, he highlighted that the Borough is working to update their Zoning Code.

Sewickley Heights Borough – Mr. Briggs stated that the Way Hollow Road ownership matter has been resolved and the road would be opening very soon.

Sewickley Hills Borough – Mr. Hopkins reported that due to the drought, a number of residential wells have dried up within his community. He inquired if any other communities were facing a similar situation. A number of delegates cited that their communities did not have residential wells.

**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 8:16 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn St, Sewickley, PA 15143) on October 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners  
Executive Director