

QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
MONTHLY BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

September 18, 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:** Dan McKelvey

**Ben Avon:** Tavia Washington

**Edgeworth:** John Schwend

**Emsworth:**

**Sewickley Heights:** Nathan Briggs\*

**Glen Osborne:** Barbara Carrier

**Glenfield:**

**Haysville:**

**Kilbuck:**

**Leet:** Donna Adipietro

**Leetsdale:** Sandra Ford

**Sewickley:** Julie Barnes

**Public Comment:** Mr. Mike Riordan of the Quaker Valley Recreation Association came before the Board to introduce himself and the QVRA. He highlighted the Quaker Valley region's need for more athletic facilities, including soccer fields. He cited that the QVRA will be pursuing various grant & capital development opportunities to help facilitate future facility growth within Bell Acres Borough. He stated his intention of coming back before the Board when additional details are available. President carrier thanked Mr. Riordan for attending the meeting and agreed with the cited need for additional athletic facilities within the region.

**Approval of August 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes:**

Ms. Barnes moved to approve the August 21, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

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

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

Executive Director Connors noted that the due to scheduling conflicts the Budget Committee had not yet convened. He stated his intention of scheduling such a meeting in the coming weeks in advance of the October Board meeting.

**President's Report:**

President Carrier thanked everyone that was able to attend the 2024 Intergovernmental Reception. She highlighted that the event seemed to accomplish everything that it set out to do. She continued by citing her desire to visit more of the QVCOG's communities, highlighting the historic nature of all member communities. She encouraged the Board or a Committee of the Board to organize a tour of QVCOG communities.

**Route 65 Report:**

Executive Director Connors reported that the Route 65 Committee did not convene in September. He cited that to date seven 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 noting that the QVCOG has been invited to participate in a capstone course within the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (GSPIA). He highlighted that the course is set to focus on the recently awarded Reconnecting Communities Program (RCP) grant that was awarded to the City of Pittsburgh to evaluate/plan to reconnect the Manchester-Chateau neighborhoods that are bisected by Route 65.

**Emergency Preparedness Committee Report:**

Executive Director Connors reported the Tri-Boroughs Emergency Preparedness Committee had canceled their August & September meetings.

**Grant Status Report:**

Executive Director Connors provided brief updates concerning all active and recently awarded CDBG and GEDTF projects. He cited that since the August Board of Delegates Meeting, the QVCOG had submitted 18 applications on behalf of member communities and regional entities through the 2024 Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund (GEDTF) Program, 2024 Act 152 Program, and CDBG Year 51 Program.

**Executive Director's Report:**

CDBG Year 50 Project Awards Announced – Executive Director Connors reported that on August 14, 2024 the QVCOG was notified by Allegheny County Economic Development that the following projects were selected for funding in CDBG year 50 (2024-25):

- Emsworth Borough ADA Sidewalk Ramp Replacement Project - Award Amount \$41,000.00
- Edgeworth Borough Municipal Building ADA Parking Project - Award Amount \$39,092.00
- Bellevue Borough Bayne Park Retaining Wall Repair Project Phase II - Award Amount \$40,000.00
- Leetsdale Borough Henle Park Parking Pad Project Phase II - Award Amount \$20,000.00
- Avalon Borough - 525 Spruce Run Blight Remediation Project - \$60,600.00 (will be administered through the Act 152 emergency demolition program)

GEDTF Grant Submissions – Executive Director Connors reported that in advance of the September 6<sup>th</sup> deadline, the QVCOG had submitted 11 applications on behalf of 8

member communities and affiliated authorities for consideration. He highlighted that when combining the 11 grant requests, the QVCOG sought \$3,815,488.00 in funding for the region. He noted that award announcements for GEDTF projects are expected by January 2025.

Local Share Account (LSA) Application Details Announced – Executive Director Connors 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 there is no local match required. He stated that interested parties may access the updated guidelines by visiting [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org). He concluded by reporting that 2023 LSA Application awards are anticipated to be announced during the Commonwealth Financing Authority’s (CFA) September meeting.

## **New Business**

### Approval of Act 152 Concurring Resolutions:

Executive Director Connors cited that the Act 152 Allegheny County Blight Removal Program provides funding for demolition and blight remediation planning. He noted that the Program uses established blight conditions focusing on demolishing hazardous structures, site preparation for development projects, and multi-phase planning efforts. He reported that Leetsdale and Bellevue Boroughs have asked the QVCOG to submit Act 152 Program applications on their behalf for the 2024 cycle (see summaries below). He highlighted that a required component of the applications is approval of Concurring Resolutions. Applications were due on September 13th.

- Bellevue Borough Community Blight Remediation Project - \$125,000.00
- Leetsdale Borough Washington Street Blight Remediation Project - \$33,000.00

Ms. Barnes moved to approve two concurring resolutions for the 2024 Act 152 Blight Remediation Program. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

## **Old Business**

### Intergovernmental Reception Recap:

Executive Director Connors reported that the QVCOG hosted an intergovernmental reception on August 29<sup>th</sup> at the Edgeworth Club to celebrate the region’s public servants and elected officials. He cited that over sixty guests were in attendance and the event was sponsored by fourteen vendors. He highlighted that Ms. Barbara Carrier, Mayor of Glen Osborne Borough and President of the QVCOG Board of Delegates was recognized for her many years of service to her community and many of the non-profit organizations within the region. He concluded by stating that \$500 was raised via a 50/50 raffle with all proceeds going towards Animal Friends.

### Hard to Recycle Event Details:

Executive Director Connors reported that the original Hard to Recycle (HTR) event scheduled for July 27<sup>th</sup> was re-scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 26th at the Leetsdale Industrial Park from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration details and fees associated with disposal of items can be found at [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org). He highlighted that

Pennsylvania Resources Council is in need of volunteers for the HTR event. He noted that being able to provide volunteers at this event will help the QVCOG in securing a future HTR date in 2025 and beyond. He stated that volunteers may dispose of **up to \$60 worth of hard to recycle material** for free. He continued by highlighting that volunteers will be asked to direct traffic, check trunks, write receipts, or check in registrants.

**Other Concerns of the Delegates:**

Bellevue Borough – Mr. McKelvey highlighted that the Lincoln Avenue Streetscape project was put out for bid for a second time with N & N Landscaping submitting the lowest responsible bid. He noted the Borough’s excitement for getting the project underway. He also highlighted a recently awarded active transportation planning grant and the launch of an affiliated steering committee.

Edgeworth Borough – Mr. Schwend noted an LSA grant project is underway to repair a retaining wall along Beaver Road. He also cited that this would be his last meeting as a Delegate and Board Treasurer as he recently accepted an offer to become Manager of the Town of McCandless. He stated that Ms. Ellen Politi would be the new Borough Manager of Edgeworth and would assume the role of QVCOG Delegate. The Board thanked Mr. Schwend for his many years of service to the Board.

Glen Osborne Borough – Ms. Carrier noted that the Borough is working to approve an updated parking ordinance.

Leetsdale Borough – Mayor Ford noted that Leetsdale Borough is working with Hussey Copper and Ambridge Borough to develop an emergency access route out of the Industrial Park. She also noted upcoming improvements to the Borough’s Henle Park.

Sewickley Borough – Ms. Barnes noted that Sustainable Sewickley would be sunsetting as an organization. She also noted that the Borough is in the process of installing EV charging stations behind Caliente Pizza (510 Beaver Street, Sewickley, PA 15143).

**Adjournment:** Mr. Williams moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ford. 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 October 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will also be broadcast via Zoom. Please visit [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org) for further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick M. Conners  
Executive Director