

MINUTES
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
OCTOBER 7, 2021

The SRCOG Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 6:36pm on October 7, 2021 by SRCOG President Tammy Firda.

Those Present Included

Braddock Hills: T. Evans, J. Brown
Clairton: R. Ford
Dravosburg:
Duquesne:
Elizabeth: A. Miklos
Forward: A. Cline
Glassport: A. Colecchi
Homestead: B. Esper
Liberty:

Lincoln: T. Firda
McKeesport:
Munhall:
Port Vue:
S. Versailles: R. Lawson
Versailles: R. Jacklitch
W. Elizabeth:
W. Homestead:
Whitaker:
White Oak: L. Bender

Welcoming Remarks

A. Lewis introduced Grace Schierberl to the Board. She began on October 4 and will be replacing Carla Barron.

Public Comments

None

2020 Audit

Kim Turnley presented the 2020 SRCOG Audit. No questions were posed by the Board.

Minutes

A **motion** was made by A. Cline and seconded by J. Brown to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of September 2, 2021. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: An Lewis

A **motion** was made by A. Miklos and seconded by J. Brown to approve the Cash Statement for September 2021 and the List of Bills as dated. All in favor. Motion carried.

A Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual report was provided to members.

President's Report: Tammy Firda

Along with the Turtle Creek Valley COG, T. Firda would like to plan a meeting to discuss U.S. Steel and their recent decision to pull a large investment out of the Mon Valley. T. Firda and A. Lewis believe it's important to have the conversation in order to figure out how to move the economy forward. All board members expressed their support of this conversation and meeting.

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Solicitor's Report/Resolutions: Falco Muscante

A **motion** was made by R. Ford and seconded by T. Evans to approve Resolution #24/2021R authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with Minniefield Demolition Services, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00 for the Emergency Demolition of 121 Ross Street in the City of Duquesne. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by A. Miklos and seconded by R. Lawson to approve Resolution #25/2021R authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with Minniefield Demolition Services, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$21,000.00 for the Safe Neighborhood Demolition in the Borough of Port Vue. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by A. Miklos and seconded by J. Brown to approve Resolution #26/2021R authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with El Grande Industries, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$232,404.00 for the Street Reconstruction project in the Borough of Homestead. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by R. Lawson and seconded by A. Miklos to approve Resolution #27/2021R authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with El Grande Industries, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$45,922.50 for the Street Reconstruction project in the Borough of Port Vue. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by J. Brown and seconded by R. Lawson to approve Resolution #28/2021R authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with John D. Caruso, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$26,916.00 for the Eighth Avenue Street Reconstruction project in the Borough of Elizabeth. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by A. Miklos and seconded by B. Esper to approve Resolution #29/2021R authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with El Grande Industries, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$103,369.50 for the Street Reconstruction project in the Borough of Dravosburg. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by B. Esper and seconded by A. Colecchi to approve Resolution #30/2021R authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with El Grande Industries, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$15,679.20 for the Road Reconstruction project in the Borough of Whitaker. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by A. Cline and seconded by B. Esper to approve Resolution #31/2021R authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with El Grande

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Industries, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$39,730.50 for the Catch Basin Replacement project in the Borough of Versailles. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by J. Brown and seconded by T. Evans to approve Resolution #32/2021R authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to file an application for the Air Quality Ambassadors Mini Grant Program with the Allegheny County Health Department. All in favor. Motion carried.

Directors/Programs Report: An Lewis

Human Service Center

A number of the light fixture ballasts in the building are failing and A. Lewis explained this is an opportunity to transition them from fluorescent to LED. A. Lewis would like to start in B3 (Little Bumble Bees), as many of the fixtures are not working properly. Would also like to replace the light switches in the bathrooms with motion-activated sensors to help with electric costs. Quotes from four electricians were provided to the Board for review.

A **motion** was made by R. Lawson and seconded by A. Miklos to hire B.C. Electric to replace the fluorescent ballasts in B3 with LED and install motion-activated sensors in all bathrooms. All in favor. Motion carried.

A. Lewis explained that a large glass block window in the gym was broken and needs repaired. Discussion ensued about when it happened and if there are cameras in the area.

A **motion** was made by R. Lawson and seconded by R. Ford to authorize A. Lewis to hire South Hills Glass Block to replace the broken window in the gym. All in favor. Motion carried.

A. Lewis met with Nomad Percussion, a 501c3 organization that is currently looking for a new practice space. They would like to rent Room B2 to store their equipment, which would then allow them to be a tenant with access to the gym on the weekend. The lease would run from November 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 at a rate of \$4,120.50/year.

A **motion** was made by T. Evans and seconded by A. Miklos to authorize A. Lewis to work with the solicitor to prepare and enter into a lease with Nomad Percussion to rent Room B2 for \$4,120.50 per year. All in favor. Motion carried.

A. Lewis discussed the possibility of using Room 207 and other rooms in the future to create co-working spaces with wi-fi that could be rented to non-profit organizations. All board members supported the idea. A. Lewis to work with F. Muscante to explore the idea and will update the Board in the future.

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SRCOG Training Complex

A. Lewis explained that the Monongahela Police Department is interested in becoming a member of the SRCOG Regional Training Complex.

Discussion ensued about complaints that certain members book for weeks at a time, making it difficult for smaller organizations to book. A. Lewis confirmed that staff is working to mitigate this issue by urging members to call and cancel bookings if they are no longer needed so that others may book instead.

A **motion** was made by A. Miklos and seconded by T. Evans to approve the addition of the Monongahela Police Department as a member of the SRCOG Regional Training Complex. All in favor. Motion carried.

2022 Draft Budget

The Board was provided a copy of the proposed budget for 2022, which includes a 3% salary increase for existing staff, rates for new insurance (30% lower than current plan), the addition of another employee, lower rent for both AIU and TCV (space reductions), and presumes the Train Station remains rented instead of sold.

Discussion about the basement flooding, which led AIU to give up space. A. Lewis confirmed that she is working with Glenn Engineering and others to find an answer to this issue.

A motion was made by B. Esper and seconded by R. Ford to approve the 2022 budget as proposed. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Schedule

Meeting Date	Location
November 4, 2021	SRCOG Conference Room
December 2, 2021	HOLIDAY DINNER – SUNSET ROOM

Community Development Report: Carla Barron

The Board received a written report from Carla Barron, detailing the current status of all CD projects.

Community Reports / Discussion

B. Esper, Homestead

The Christmas Parade will be held on December 4. B. Esper asked that any organization interested in participating contact her ASAP.

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A. Cline, Forward

A public hearing will be held on October 27 at 7pm at Elizabeth-Forward Middle School to discuss a proposed coal mine in the area. A. Cline urged all members to attend and participate, as this could affect municipalities within a 25-mile radius of Forward Township. A. Lewis to send additional information to all Board Members so they can participate. This is the first of a series of public hearings; do not need to be a resident of Forward Township to attend.

A. Miklos, Elizabeth

Extended thanks to A. Lewis who visited Elizabeth to give advice and discuss a street that Elizabeth has been having issues with paving. A. Miklos explained that because of the help from SRCOG, there is now a contract in place for that paving project, which he believes proves the importance of participation in the COG.

Explained that Elizabeth is looking for a LeafVactor machine, which he mentioned in a previous meeting. SRCOG staff to check notes and get back to A. Miklos.

T. Firda, Lincoln

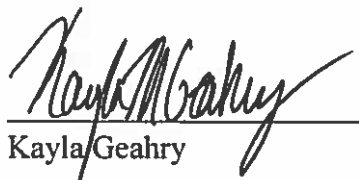
Explained that Lincoln is losing a business – Hydro Technical Services, Inc. She’s working with another business to hopefully purchase the building so there’s no vacancy.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:18p.m. on a **motion** made by A. Miklos and seconded by J. Brown.

All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:



Kayla Geahry



An Lewis, Executive Director