

MINUTES
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NOVEMBER 3, 2022

The SRCOG Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm on November 3, 2022 by Board President, Tammy Firda.

Those Present Included

Braddock Hills: T. Evans, J. Brown

Clairton: E. Hatchett

Dravosburg:

Duquesne:

Elizabeth: D. Cress

Forward: A. Cline

Glassport: A. Colecchi, E. Skiba

Homestead: D. Schulte

Liberty:

Lincoln: T. Firda

McKeesport:

Munhall: R. Fry

Port Vue: D. Thomas

S. Versailles:

Versailles: J. Sheedy

W. Elizabeth: J. Isaacs, C. Welty

W. Homestead: A. Cain

Whitaker:

White Oak:

Welcoming Remarks

None.

Public Comments

J. Brown commended G. Schierberl for her presence at the FEMA mitigation meeting.

Minutes

A **motion** was made by J. Brown and seconded by A. Cline to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of October 6, 2022. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A. Cain

A **motion** was made by R. Lawson and seconded by D. Thomas to approve the Cash Statement for September 2022 and the List of Bills as dated. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

RAD Report updates were provided to members.

President's Report: Tammy Firda

Board Officers Nomination Committee

T. Firda informed the Board that new officers can be elected next year. A. Lewis was appointed to the Nomination Committee.

Training Complex

T. Firda informed the board that the County cannot find an acceptable site to move the Regional Training Complex. It was recommended that SRCOG begin searching for 3-4 acres to purchase and move to with potential funding from Allegheny County. T. Firda and A. Lewis recently spoke with Carl Bailey, Secretary Treasurer of Teamsters Local Union 205, who is going to do some research. Discussion ensued about potential sites or other shooting ranges to join.

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Property Tax Assessment Appeals

T. Firda reminded the Board about the Manager's Meeting on Monday, November 7 at SRCOG, where the County Controller will be speaking about property tax assessment appeals and how they will impact budgets.

Solicitor's Report/Resolutions: Falco Muscante

A **motion** was made by D. Schulte and seconded by J. Sheedy to approve Resolution #27/2022R, authorizing the filing of an application by the Steel Rivers Council of Governments, requesting CDBG funds from Allegheny County Economic Development in the amount of \$94,050.00 for CD 49 Project Management. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by D. Schulte and seconded by A. Colecchi to approve Resolution #28/2022R, authorizing the filing of an application by the Steel Rivers Council of Governments for Community Development Year 49 Block Grant Funds with the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development for projects identified in Attachment A in the amount of \$2,721,527. All in favor. Motion carried.

WMF Railroad Track Update

F. Muscante informed the Board that he's been working on the complaint with the PUC and the next conference call will be in a few weeks.

Land Transfer

F. Muscante discussed the possibility of transferring strip of land in between the railroad tracks by the Train Station located at 500 Amity Street to Homestead Borough.

Director's Report: An Lewis

Associate Memberships

A. Lewis informed the Board that she will be putting together a letter describing the Associate Membership Program and information for joining. The Board discussed the possibility of involving EMS services, which A. Lewis will discuss with F. Muscante. All members were urged to send A. Lewis contact information for their departments who may be interested in joining.

2023 Budget

DHS Grant Update

A. Lewis explained that the DHS grant will be part of the 2023 SRCOG budget, but it has not yet been fully negotiated. A. Lewis is working to cover all costs of the program, including administration fees. A total of 18-19 people are estimated to be hired for this program with salaries and 30% of fringe costs covered. A. Lewis is working to negotiate for all fringes to be covered.

Discussion ensued about the organization of the program and what it will look like.

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A **motion** was made by R. Lawson and seconded by J. Brown to approve the 2023 SRCOG Budget as discussed. All in favor. Motion carried.

H1B Visa Sponsorship

A. Lewis asked the Board for permission to retain Dentons Cohen & Grigsby at a flat rate of \$2,500 for help to get V. Wang an H1B Visa in order to continue working for SRCOG.

A **motion** was made by T. Evans and seconded by D. Schulte to retain Dentons Cohen & Grigsby for the purpose of helping with H1B Visa Sponsorship only. All in favor. Motion carried.

SRCOG Personnel Policy Changes

A. Lewis explained that she has been working on updating SRCOG's Personnel Policy to make the document significantly more comprehensive. Members were given a summary overview of changes made to the policy.

A **motion** was made by R. Lawson and seconded by D. Schulte to add the approval of the SRCOG Personnel Policy Changes to the agenda, based on a timely need to act. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by D. Thomas and seconded by S. Adams to approve changes made to the SRCOG Personnel Policy, pending review and approval by the Solicitor, effective January 1, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

Holiday Dinner

A. Lewis announced that the Holiday Dinner will be held at the Sunset Room on December 1, 2022, starting at 5pm. Invitations and Reservation Forms were sent to all board members and borough offices and all members were urged to RSVP as soon as possible.

2023 Meeting Schedule

A. Lewis announced the 2023 meeting schedule and asked that any members interested in hosting contact Kayla Geahry.

Community Development Report: Grace Schierberl

A CD report of all current projects was provided to all members.

The due date for CD 49 applications is November 18. Contracts for all approved projects that haven't yet starting are in process.

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Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held on December 1, 2022 the Sunset Room, beginning at 5pm.

Meeting Date	Location
November 3, 2022	SRCOG
December 1, 2022	HOLIDAY DINNER
January 3, 2023	SRCOG
February 2, 2023	TBD
March 2, 2023	TBD
April 6, 2023	TBD
May 4, 2023	TBD
June 1, 2023	TBD
September 7, 2023	TBD
October 5, 2023	TBD
November 2, 2023	TBD
December 7, 2023	TBD

Community Reports / Discussion

J. Sheedy, Versailles

J. Sheedy inquired about the surplus supplies that were mentioned at the last meeting and asked if blankets were available. T. Firda answered that the supplies were mainly PPE.


Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm on a **motion** made by J. Sheedy and seconded by E. Hatchett. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:



Kayla Geahry



An Lewis, Executive Director