

MINUTES
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

The SRCOG Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm on September 7, 2023 by Board President, Tammy Firda.

Those Present Included

Braddock Hills: T. Evans, J. Brown	Lincoln: T. Firda
Clairton: E. Hatchett	McKeesport:
Dravosburg: B. Snodgrass	Munhall:
Duquesne:	Port Vue: D. Thomas, K. Hresko
Elizabeth: D. Cress	S. Versailles: R. Lawson
Forward: A. Cline	Versailles: J. Sheedy
Glassport: A. Colecchi	W. Elizabeth: C. Welty, J. Isaacs
Homestead: D. Schulte	W. Homestead: A. Cain
Liberty:	Whitaker:
	White Oak:

Welcoming Remarks

Welcome to Bob Macey, Allegheny County Council. Bob introduced himself and offered his services and time to any that need it.

Public Comments

None.

Minutes

A **motion** was made by D. Schulte and seconded by R. Lawson to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of June 1, 2023. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A. Cain

A **motion** was made by D. Thomas and seconded by J. Brown to approve the Cash Statement for May, June, and July 2023 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: T. Firda

None.

Solicitor's Report: F. Muscante

A **motion** was made by T. Evans and seconded by B. Snodgrass to ratify the approval of Resolution #8/2023R, authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with El Grande Industries Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$211,269.75 for the CD 48 – 7.6c Street Reconstruction Project located in Homestead Borough. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by J. Sheedy and seconded by R. Lawson to ratify the approval of Resolution #9/2023R, authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with John D. Caruso Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$59,875.00 for the CD 48 – 7.6a Magnolia Street Reconstruction Project located in Whitaker Borough. All in favor. Motion carried.

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A **motion** was made by B. Snodgrass and seconded by A. Cline to ratify the approval of Resolution #10/2023R, authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with El Grande Industries Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$27,570.00 for the CD 48 – 7.6b Street Reconstruction Project located in Port Vue Borough. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by D. Thomas and seconded by D. Schulte to approve Resolution #11/2023R, authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with Jet Jack Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$198,669.50 for the Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project located in the City of Clairton. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by J. Sheedy and seconded by J. Brown to approve Resolution #12/2023R, authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with Reno Bros., Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$206,550.00 for the White Oak Athletic Association HVAC Replacement Project located in White Oak Borough. All in favor. Motion carried.

Director's Report: An Lewis
Personnel Updates

A. Lewis informed the Board that Joel Garceau submitted a letter of resignation and no longer works for the organization. Rachel Pecharka finished her internship and is now working part-time to help fill some gaps. A. Lewis and staff are redesigning the position and plan to begin the interview/hiring process in the coming months.

Interns Sabrina Lew and Shuyan Zhan completed their summer internships.

Fiduciary Liability Insurance Renewal

A **motion** was made by D. Schulte and seconded by D. Thomas to ratify the renewal of the SRCOG Fiduciary Liability Insurance policy for \$1,000,000, which expired 7/31/2023, at a cost of \$1,350.00 for 2 years. All in favor. Motion carried.

Cyber Liability Insurance Renewal

The Board discussed cyber liability insurance and the increasing need for municipalities to enroll.

A **motion** was made by D. Schulte and seconded by J. Brown to renew the SRCOG Cyber Liability Insurance policy, which expires 9/14/2023, at a cost of \$1,811.00 for the year. All in favor. Motion carried.

Payroll System Approval

The Board discussed the prices and services offered by four payroll company options that were researched and explored by A. Lewis and staff.

A **motion** was made by D. Thomas and seconded by B. Snodgrass to authorize A. Lewis to enter into contract with Gusto for all SRCOG payroll services. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Retirement Plan Transition

A. Lewis explained that the current retirement accounts are handled very manually. She and F. Muscante worked over the summer to look into options and interviewed American Funds to move the plans to their platform to save in time, fees, and confusion. Will allow employees to view investments, recommend transactions, etc.

A **motion** was made by D. Schulte and seconded by R. Lawson to authorize A. Lewis and T. Firda to complete the necessary paperwork and agreements with Oppenheimer and American Funds to move the SRCOG retirement plan and accounts onto the American Funds platform, RecordKeeperDirect. All in favor. Motion carried.

HSC Tenant Updates

A. Lewis informed the Board that Reading Ready Pittsburgh has not renewed their lease and is currently looking at other options. Should they decide to stay, they would rent Room 207 and Rooms 105A, 105B, and 105C. The board agreed they require 30 days notice.

A. Lewis explained that MUSA is growing and requested some changes to the rooms included in their lease.

A **motion** was made by T. Evans and seconded by R. Lawson to ratify the approval of the new lease with MUSA, which includes the Library, a portion of Room 99 (storage), Room 200, and Room 208. All in favor. Motion carried.

Street Sweeping Program Update

A. Lewis informed the Board that the street sweeping schedule has some gaps and urges anyone looking for services to contact Kayla or herself.

A. Lewis explained that Rasul, the CDL driver, will be available for public works needs starting November 1. Anyone interested should contact Kayla or herself.

A. Lewis informed the Board that SRCOG will be receiving a grant to purchase an electric street sweeper.

Recompete Pilot Program

SRCOG plans to apply for the Recompete Pilot Program, which will help to research and find strategies to address the workforce age gap in distressed municipalities. A. Lewis informed the Board that The Hillman Foundation offered a grant to support internal staff and the hiring of a consultant to help apply for this opportunity.

A **motion** was made by D. Cress and seconded by D. Schulte to authorize SRCOG to submit a grant request to Hillman Foundation to support the efforts of the Recompete Pilot Program grant application. All in favor. Motion carried.

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A **motion** was made by D. Thomas and seconded by J. Sheedy to authorize A. Lewis to enter into contract with consultant(s) to support the Recompete Pilot Program application. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by D. Schulte and seconded by J. Sheedy to authorize A. Lewis to enter into a MOU with partner organizations to support the Recompete Pilot Program application. All in favor. Motion carried.

Violence Prevention Program Update

A. Lewis informed the Board that there have been some staff changes but that the program is moving along as planned.

SRCOG has requested funding from Jefferson Regional Foundation to purchase essentials for staff and community events. More news to be received following the JRF November Board meeting.

Whole Home Repair Update

The application period has closed and notifications have been sent to recipients. Any residents with questions should contact Action Housing. A. Lewis explained that SRCOG involvement in this program demonstrated the organization’s capability to mobilize, communicate, and help residents when needed.

SRCOG Manager’s Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 21 at noon.

Holiday Dinner

In past years, SRCOG’s meeting conflicted with the Borough’s Association dinner – it will not conflict with December 7 meeting date. More to come.

Community Development Report: G. Schierberl

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

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2023 at SRCOG.

Meeting Date	Location
October 5, 2023	SRCOG
November 2, 2023	SRCOG HOSTED BY LINCOLN BOROUGH
December 7, 2023	HOLIDAY DINNER - TBD

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Community Reports/Discussion

Glassport

The Glassport Car Show will be held on Saturday from 11am-5pm. The American Legion will host a pancake breakfast prior to the show from 8am-11am.

West Homestead

Mayor of 50 years has resigned. An event will be held in his honor at the Bulgarian Hall on October 7.

Braddock Hills

Will be hosting Community Day on September 16 from 1-6pm. This is the second year this event has been held.

Port Vue

Two new pickleball courts will be installed in the coming months.

Homestead

Will be hosting community day cleanup on October 14 in Munhall, Homestead, and West Homestead in preparation for parade in December.

Forward

The tax collector recently passed away; other arrangements are being made until a replacement is found.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:47pm on a **motion** made by J. Brown and seconded by J. Sheedy. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:



Kayla Geahry



An Lewis, Executive Director