

**STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 7, 2024 – 6:00PM**

MINUTES

Call To Order at 6:28 pm by President Tammy Firda

Attendance

<u>Braddock Hills:</u>	Tom Evans	
<u>Clairton:</u>		
<u>Dravosburg:</u>		
<u>Duquesne:</u>		
<u>Elizabeth:</u>		
<u>Forward:</u>	Amy Cline	
<u>Glassport:</u>	Anthony Colecchi	
<u>Homestead:</u>	Duane Schulte	
<u>Liberty:</u>	Mike Zrenchak	
<u>Lincoln:</u>	Tammy Firda	
<u>McKeesport:</u>		
<u>Munhall:</u>	Reenie Fry	
<u>Port Vue:</u>	Ken Hresko	
<u>South Versailles:</u>	Roy Lawson	
<u>Versailles:</u>	Jim Sheedy	
<u>West Elizabeth:</u>	Janet Isaacs	Cathy Welty
<u>West Homestead:</u>	Barb Ferson	
<u>Whitaker:</u>	Al Race	Rich Lassige
<u>White Oak:</u>		

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome/Introductions

Guest Speaker: Jim Bonner - Audubon Society of Western PA, Executive Director

Shared the mission and background of the Audubon Society; Ecological Importance, Economic Impact, Human Connection. Their mission is to connect birds and people. Formed in 1916, has about 3600 members in SWPA. Two programs: Certified Backyard Habitat Program and Bird Town Pennsylvania. They work with many school districts in different municipalities.

Pass a resolution – Put together a committee – Fill out application – Registration fee (may be covered)

Public Comments:

N/A

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of October 3, 2024.

Motion made by Amy Cline Motion 2nd by Anthony Colecchi

Financial Report – Kristin Gusten

Motion to approve the Cash Statement for October 2024 and the List of Bills as dated.

Motion made by Ken Hresko Motion 2nd by Janet Isaacs

Summary of Bills Paid									
General Fund		HSC Fund		Public Works Fund		Grant Management Account		Waterfront Management Account	
10/2/2024	\$ 71,639.80	10/2/2024	\$ 3,101.86	10/2/2024	\$ 3,633.32	10/30/2024	\$ 500.00	10/2/2024	\$ 1,120.80
10/18/2024	\$ 7,373.38	10/18/2024	\$ 5,129.22	10/30/2024	\$ 3,832.73			10/16/2024	\$ 1,376.27
10/30/2024	\$ 35,254.59	10/30/2024	\$ 1,453.22					10/18/2024	\$ 2,098.34
	\$ 114,267.77		\$ 9,684.30		\$ 7,466.05		\$ 500.00		\$ 4,595.41

A. Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual Report

Kristin will be working on future updates and improvements for reporting Cash Statements and P/L Reports to the municipalities and board.

B. RAD Reports

President's Report: Tammy Firda

N/A

Solicitor's Report: Ryan Thomas

A. Motion to approve Resolution #20/2024R authorizing SRCOG to enter into a contract with Minniefield Demolition Services, LLC for Braddock Hills Blight Removal, 2023-BRP-003, in the amount of \$21,000.00

Motion made by Tom Evans Motion 2nd by Al Race

B. Motion to approve Resolution #21/2024R authorizing SRCOG to enter into a contract with El Grande Industries, Inc. for Elizabeth Borough VFD Parking Lot Reconstruction, 2023-GEDTF-184, in the amount of \$152,595.00

Motion made by Anthony Colecchi Motion 2nd by Ken Hresko

C. Motion to approve Resolution #22/2024R authorizing SRCOG to apply for 2024 LSA grants on behalf of the following COG members for the amounts so listed:

Whitaker Borough – Tasers and AED Units for police station - \$80,000

CMA - Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation - \$500,000

Versailles Borough – Sanitary Sewer Repair - \$500,000

South Versailles Borough – Playground - \$100,000

Forward Township – Road Repairs - \$300,000

City of Duquesne – Lead and Copper Inventory - \$100,000

Motion made by Duane Schulte Motion 2nd by Amy Cline

Director's Report: An Lewis

A. 2025 Proposed Budget

Listed in board packet – All 2025 not 2022 (typo in packet)

An:

Renewed lease for shooting range - Increase annual due amount – Institutes a fee for no-shows
This will help cover some of the updates necessary or the range.

The budget presumes an increase for street sweeping from \$100/hr to \$110/hr

SRCOG/TCLB Salary Matrix put together by Kristin. Currently 30 employees on our payroll.

This also commensurate with the DHS employees. This budget also anticipates the hiring of two additional staff mid-year, for the community and economic development and for TCLB.

Kristin:

As we grow we need more structure, and using data gathered by Kristin, she created a set of salary ranges 1, 2, Mean, and Compressed. Using the “Compressed” column will allow us to do the things we need to do to make strategic hiring decisions.

Tammy:

Working with shared services like TCLB and DHS, SRCOG can afford the salaries for the shared employees.

Mike Zrenchak would like to see the comparison between 2025 and 2024.

Duane would like a breakdown for 2023, 2024, and proposed 2025. He feels that the board should know what the staff is being paid.

An can provide the difference between all the employees, but not individual pay for each employee.

Tammy has reviewed and approved the payment process.

Motion to pass the 2025 proposed budget.

Motion made by Al Race Motion 2nd by Anthony Colecchi

B. Tentative Homestead Exemption Increase

Allegheny’s proposed budget calls for an increase in Homestead Exemption.

If you have an ordinance on your books that honors the county’s homestead exemption, each household that elected to have the exemption will have an additional \$3,000 of exemption.

This will show the decrease in taxes you will collect because of the exemption. An will print out calculations that Vannie pulled together and provide to board members. This information will be sent to the borough managers as well.

Tammy said there is a sense of urgency for this, so each municipality needs to review and see if and how much this impacts them.

C. Community and Economic Development Business Plan project underway

a. Grant application(s) for data purchase - \$15,000 - \$20,000

This started this week. The cost of the consultants is from Heinz & Hillman Foundation Grant.

b. \$12 Million of Allegheny County Funds for new programs

1. \$8 M – Housing

2. \$4 M – Economic Development

This is not part of the budget, as it comes from funding. We need to consider how to leverage this money and bring it into our communities.

- D. County Executive Innamorato event to discuss her proposed budget and new ACED programs – November 13, 10:30am, 451 Braddock Ave, Braddock, PA 15104
- E. SRCOG received a demand letter from a recently terminated employee. This has been shared with our legal council.
- F. Holiday Dinner will be Thursday, December 5, 2024.
Location will be the Sunset Room in Elizabeth. All SRCOG board members, municipal staff and their spouse/partner are invited. An will be out of town and cannot attend.

Government Grants Report: Jenny Kwiatek

Grant Management Program Overview

We can apply, on your behalf, to any grant you want. Please reach out to Jenny if you have questions or funding needs.

Recent Grants

Recap included in packet. Jenny will send out monthly surveys to see what you need or what you have in mind.

CVRI Report: Alan Sisco

Last month Alan updated us on the poor assessment CURE received. Since then, they have had a successful transition and they will be filling the Program Manager position most likely next week.

Meeting Schedule

Meeting Date	Location
November 7, 2024	SRCOG
December 5, 2024	Holiday Celebration – Sunset Room
2025	TBA

11. Community Reports / Discussion

- Braddock Hills Borough
- City of Clairton
- Dravosburg Borough
- City of Duquesne
- Elizabeth Borough
- Forward Township
- Glassport Borough
- Homestead Borough
- Liberty Borough
- Lincoln Borough
- City of McKeesport
- Munhall Borough
- Port Vue Borough
- South Versailles Township
- Versailles Borough
- West Elizabeth Borough
- West Homestead Borough
- Whitaker Borough
- White Oak Borough

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:22pm.

Motion made by Anthony Colecchi Motion 2nd by Ken Hresko

ATTEST:

Penny Donaldson
Penny Donaldson

An Lewis
An Lewis, Executive Director