

MINUTES
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
June 6, 2024

The SRCOG Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm on June 6, 2024 by Board President, Tammy Firda.

Those Present Included

Braddock Hills: T. Evans J. Brown

Clairton: E. Hatchett

Dravosburg: _____

Duquesne: E. Washington

Elizabeth: _____

Forward: A. Cline

Glassport: E. Skiba

Homestead: M. Nesby

Liberty: _____

Lincoln: T. Firda

McKeesport: _____

Munhall: _____

Port Vue: D. Thomas

S. Versailles: _____

Versailles: _____

W. Elizabeth: J. Isaacs C. Welty

W. Homestead: _____

Whitaker: _____

White Oak: A. DePaulis

Welcoming Remarks

Quorum reached at 7:17pm

Public Comments

None

Guest Speakers

None

Minutes

A motion was made by Debbie Thomas and seconded by Jack Brown to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of May 2, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A. Lewis

A motion was made by Eric Hatchett and seconded by Tom Evans to approve the Cash Statement for April 2024 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 reports were provided to members.

President's Report: T. Firda

A. Update on US Steel and Nippon event

Tammy stated that the event had a lot of discussion about the outcome should the sale be successful. Nippon reps met with many of the US Steel employees.

An discussed the purpose and importance of the US Steel Letter.

Public Question: Inquired about talks or communication with the County Health Dept about US Steel considering they are the ones who have been applying pressure to them.

MINUTES
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
June 6, 2024

An mentioned that this year SRCOG submitted appropriations request and it has been moved to the next level. This is a collaboration between SRCOG and TCLB for demolition activities, Blight education programming, and TCVCOG code enforcement software.

B. Update on PSAB Conference

Tammy recommends this conference to anyone who can go. It was informative and educational. Discussions included liquid fuels, electric vehicles, resolutions, vehicle codes, and unfunded mandates for EDP. There is no current solution, but there may be a need to adjust the regular budget.

SWIF now covers PTSD due to an insurance law that passed. We definitely need to be appreciative and thank the Fire, Police, and EMS. It's the little things that matter.

Solicitor's Report: F. Muscante

A **motion** was made by Tom Evans and seconded by Eric Hatchett to ratify Resolution #7/2024R, authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to file a Local Share Account (LSA) Grant application requesting \$142,350 for the Heritage Hill Park Walking Trail Improvements Project located in White Oak Borough. All in favor. Motion carried.

A **motion** was made by Elaina Skiba and seconded by Mary Nesby to authorize An Lewis to approve the payment of bills and expenses and to make all necessary decisions pertaining to the operations of the SRCOG and management of its properties over the summer months. All in favor. Motion carried.

Director's Report: A. Lewis

Mon Valley Public Health Fund

A **motion** was made by Elaine Washington and seconded by Eric Hatchett to authorize the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to submit applications to the Mon Valley Public Health Fund on behalf of its member municipalities. All in favor. Motion carried.

This is fine money relating to the 2018 fire. The settlement will be split between Allegheny County Economic Development and Jefferson Regional Foundation. Only 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entities can apply and SRCOG is a 501c organization. Jenny Kwiatek, our Grants Coordinator, can help put together the applications.

Community and Economic Development Program Update

Planning Activities – Funding request to support a planning study to take place over the summer and into early fall.

An recently had a conversation with Heinz Endowments and may be able to secure \$40,000 for us. "Creating A Green Economy And Economic Development Strategy For The Mon Valley"

This is a multi-year project and there may very likely be emails sent to the board and/or municipalities to provide input regarding what we need. Grant will be submitted by An next week.

Thoughts on projects for the program/your community's needs.

MINUTES
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
June 6, 2024

Interest in talking to the planning professional about the program.

Personnel Updates

Welcome Kristin Gusten – Finance and Administration Director.
She will be a shared employee between SRCOG, TCLB, and TCVCOG.

Jefferson Regional Foundation Vision Council Application Open

<https://jeffersoncollaborative.org/about/vision-council/>
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JRFVisionCouncil>

The Jefferson Regional Foundation acknowledges that lived experience is important to understanding community need. Therefore, the ideal composition will be a minimum of one Vision Council member living within each of the five established geographic areas (employees of partner organizations living in areas outside of the Jefferson service area are not excluded from participation):

- Bethel Park, South Park, Pleasant Hills, Jefferson Hills
- Brentwood, Baldwin, Whitehall
- Forward, Elizabeth Township, Elizabeth Borough, West Elizabeth
- West Mifflin, Homestead, West Homestead, Munhall, Whitaker, Duquesne
- Clairton, Port Vue, Dravosburg, Glassport, Liberty, Lincoln, Versailles, South Versailles, McKeesport

An is currently on the JRFV Council and finds it very valuable.

Community Development Report: J. Kwiatek

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

New Act 152 Blight Applications will open up in July or August – no definitive date yet.

New CD applications are delayed due to restructuring.

Penn DOT event was definitely worth attending. Jenny will share info later, if anyone is interested.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held on September 5, 2024 at the Glassport Borough Building.

Meeting Date	Location
June 6, 2024	SRCOG
September 5, 2024	GLASSPORT BOROUGH
October 3, 2024	TBD
November 7, 2024	TBD
December 5, 2024	TBD

MINUTES
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June 6, 2024

Community Reports/Discussion

Amy announced that this Saturday will be their first "Concert In The Park" event. They have multiple sponsors this year and they are planning to have four concerts total. Events are posted on the Facebook page. They are currently waiting for the river project to be completed so they can plan boating events... possibly next year. An will look into benefits from this project for the municipalities

Elaine announced that the Earl "Fatha" Hines Historical Marker Dedication will be in Duquesne on June 18, 2024.

Tammy wanted to relay a message from North Braddock. The What It Means To Wear Green Mental Health Awareness event will be held on June 29, 2024.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm on a motion made by E. Hatchett and seconded by E. Skiba. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:


Penny Donaldson


An Lewis, Executive Director