

MINUTES  
STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
September 5, 2024

The SRCOG Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm on September 5, 2024 by Board President, Tammy Firda.

**Those Present Included**

Braddock Hills: T. Evans J. Brown

Clairton: E. Hatchett

Dravosburg: \_\_\_\_\_

Duquesne: E. Washington

Elizabeth: D. Cress

Forward: A. Cline

Glassport: E. Skiba

Homestead: \_\_\_\_\_

Liberty: \_\_\_\_\_

Lincoln: T. Firda

McKeesport: \_\_\_\_\_

Munhall: R. Fry

Port Vue: D. Thomas K. Hresko

S. Versailles: \_\_\_\_\_

Versailles: J. Sheedy

W. Elizabeth: C. Welty

W. Homestead: \_\_\_\_\_

Whitaker: \_\_\_\_\_

White Oak: \_\_\_\_\_

**Welcoming Remarks**

N/A

**Public Comments**

N/A

**Minutes**

A **motion** was made by Debbie Thomas and seconded by Jack Brown to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of June 6, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Guest Speakers**

Olivia Perfetti - Allegheny County Conservation District - Municipal Engagement Manager  
Building Vibrant Communities: Tools and Funding Opportunities for Optimal Natural Resource Outcomes

**Treasurer's Report:** A. Lewis

A **motion** was made by Tom Evans and seconded by Elaine Washington to approve the Cash Statement for May 2024, June 2024, July 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.

An will be on vacation at the end of September. Kristin was unable to make it today because she is attending the GRB event. An and Kristin will be updating the Treasurer's Report to make it easier to view and track. Kristin has been working with the auditors. We are expecting the report to be available next month.

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**President's Report:** T. Firda

Tammy met with Sara Innamorato's office last month to discuss demolitions and programs that are backed up. There is a question of is there a way to divide the county into sections and assign someone to each section. And, if possible, each section rep could meet up maybe quarterly. If anyone is interested, they should reach out to Sara Innamorato's office.

**Solicitor's Report:** F. Muscante

- A. A **motion** was made by Jack Brown and seconded by Elaine Washington to ratify the approval of Resolution #09/2024R, authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract Wreckcrew Demolition, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$56,380 for the Demolition Project located in Dravosburg Borough.
  
- B. A **motion** was made by Jim Sheedy and seconded by Tom Evans to ratify the approval of Resolution #10/2024R, authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to apply for Mon Valley Public Health (MVPH) grant funds in the amount of \$9000 on behalf of the City of Duquesne for the purpose of conducting health and wellness screenings for Duquesne residents.
  
- C. A **motion** was made by Debbie Thomas and seconded by Amy Cline to ratify the approval of Resolution #7/2024R, authorizing the Steel Rivers Council of Governments to enter into contract with Minniefield Demolition Services, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the Demolition Project located in Whitaker Borough.

**Director's Report:** A. Lewis

Alan and An have been working on a business plan to Heinz Endowment for \$40,000, and potentially working on an additional \$25,000. The hopes are that the planning exercise will be done by the end of this year.

We have been working with SWPA Hub for federal funding opportunities to get a grant app for a DOT grant. It is not finalized yet. We are looking into another grant involving the railroad and railroad crossings, such as the ones in Homestead.

- A. A **motion** was made by Eric Hatchett and seconded by Cathy Welty to approve SRCOG credit card increases with First Commonwealth Bank to an organization limit of \$15,000
  
- B. MUSA lease modification discussion

A **motion** was made by Debbie Thomas and seconded by Elaine Washington to reduce the rent of the Library by 50% for the months of October 2024 and November 2024, to eliminate room 200 (983 sq. ft.) from the lease effective October 2024 for the duration of the lease agreement (6/30/2026), and to add room 208 (120 sq. ft.) effective October 2024 for the duration of the lease agreement (6/30/2026).

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C. Associate Membership Discussion

We were recently contacted by Mon Yough Trail Group requesting assistance with grant application and project management. An suggested that this is a service we provide to member municipalities and to associate members such as municipal authorities, fire departments, EMT services, etc. Our system for managing grants is that we have a Project Management Agreement in place with each Member and Associate Member containing an indemnity clause so that the COG is held harmless in all events. An pointed out that Trail Groups and other non-profits do not fall into the same category as our other Associate Members, which are Member-sponsored municipal organizations. They may not want to pay an Associate Membership fee or sign a Management Agreement. Also, the COG does not currently have the staff or resources to provide grant administration for community organizations. An stated that we should leave grant management as, “Exclusively for membership functions.”

D. Made To Last Program

We recently spoke with Victoria Hassett and Janice Crile from University of Pittsburgh. They are interested in using the Conference Room in the Human Service Center for their 6-week “Made To Last” training program. “Made To Last” is for small businesses and people who make things. The program provides guidance, advice, and assistance to help them grow and/or improve their business. This program has been held in the Oakland area, but they would like to introduce it to outside areas / the valley. The program is scheduled to start at the end of September 2024. They are willing to pay SRCOG for the use of this space, however, no formal agreement, including a monetary amount, has been drafted yet.

An suggested to the board that \$50-\$100 per session sounds reasonable. Amy stated that this program should not jeopardize any of the funding that we receive. The board discussed this and everyone is in agreement and \$100 per session would be accepted as payment.

Reenie Fry would like to make Munhall available for things like this as well.

E. Tour of the McKeesport Sewage Plant

RSVP’s were due 9/4/24, but if anyone wants to attend, please let An know asap.

**Community Development Report: J. Kwiatek**

**CURE Program Update: Alan Sisco**

This program has been building for about 1 ½ years. There have been successes and failures along the way. The violence reduction in some areas has improved, however, the results from a recent program audit were not good. They are working on building the positive aspects and improving the areas that are lacking and not producing the best outcome.

An stated that the communication between herself, Tammy, and Falco was that the violence in these communities needs to be stopped. We need to go through the process to make the necessary changes. An will make sure that we are doing everything properly and will provide updates to the board.

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Amy asked where the failures are focused. Alan said there are different target areas that they will need to focus on and come up with improvements.

An stated that the data tracks the violence and engages groups and staff to assist with the violent events. There are things we can address to help improve this and will be working hard to do that. Homestead and Duquesne have been doing well, but McKeesport and Clairton have not. An wants to make sure that the board is ok with her making personnel and other decisions for the CURE program.

Elaine believes in the CURE program because with their help, Duquesne has seen a great improvement. Amy would like to know if and when there will be another audit and how much time will the communities be given to turn this around. Alan does not have a date yet, but there will be another evaluation. There is a process we can use to prepare us for the next review so that we can do better.

**Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting will be held on October 3, 2024 at the Human Service Center. There will be a guest speaker from Jefferson Regional Foundation.

Meeting Date	Location
October 3, 2024	SRCOG - Human Service Center
November 7, 2024	SRCOG - Human Service Center
December 5, 2024	SRCOG - Human Service Center

**Community Reports/Discussion**

Forward Twp: 9/25/24 Concert in The Park 6:30pm-8:30pm

Glassport Borough: 9/7/24 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show 10am-5pm


Lincoln Borough: 9/7/24 Flea Market 9am-12pm

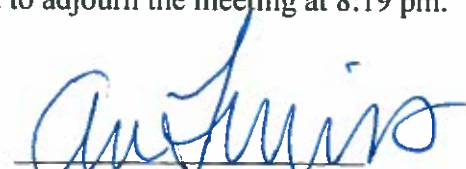
Versailles Borough: 2 Sewers need replaced

**Adjournment**

A **motion** was made by Amy Cline and seconded by Eric Hatchett to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

  
Penny Donaldson

  
An Lewis, Executive Director