



**STEEL RIVERS**  
Council of Governments

# NEWSLETTER

## FOR MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES

### MANAGERS MEETING

1705 MAPLE ST.  
HOMESTEAD

**THURSDAY, MAY 15  
AT 12:00 PM**

SHARE AND LEARN  
FROM YOUR FELLOW  
MUNICIPAL MANAGERS.  
GUEST SPEAKERS FROM  
LANDFORCE WILL JOIN US.

Contact Penny  
to reserve your spot



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION DAY IS MAY 20

**SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE  
ELECTION DETAILS**

THREE CANDIDATES CURRENTLY RUNNING FOR  
THE DISTRICT 9 ALLEGHENY COUNCIL SEAT

### BOARD MEETING

STEEL RIVERS COG OFFICE

1705 MAPLE STREET  
HOMESTEAD, PA  
15120

**THURS. JUNE 5**  
**6:00 PM DINNER**  
**6:30 PM MEETING**

RSVP TO PENNY DONALDSON



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW CURRENT PROJECTS

BRADDOCK HILLS BOROUGH, CITY OF CLAIRTON, CITY OF DUQUESNE, DRAVOSBURG BOROUGH, 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, AND WHITE OAK BOROUGH



## UPCOMING EVENTS

05/14/25 STREET SWEEPER EVENT  
05/15/25 MANAGERS MEETING  
05/20/25 PRIMARY ELECTION DAY  
06/05/25 BOARD MEETING



## ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 9 CANDIDATES

West Mifflin native Bob Macey has represented Mon Valley communities as the District 9 representative on the Allegheny County Council since 2006, and will retire at the end of this term to spend more time with family. Currently three candidates are in the running to be his successor. **Dylan Altemara** is a Mon Valley native and an educator in Beaver County. **Aaron Adams** is a mechanical designer and City of Duquesne council member. **Kellianne Frketic** is a Mon Valley native and Inventory Control Coordinator for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

### ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, MAY 20.

Stay up to date on election news by visiting [Allegheny County's Election website](#), learn about all local candidates at [Ballotpedia](#), and learn more about the District 9 candidates by reading interviews conducted by [WESA](#) and [Pittsburgh City Paper](#).

## LOW VOLUME ROAD GRANT APPLICANT TRAINING



Allegheny County  
Conservation District™

Allegheny County Conservation District (ACCD) recently awarded funds to two SRCOG municipalities to improve roads and reduce pollution in nearby streams through the Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (**DGLVR**) Program.

Munhall Borough was awarded \$142,000 to fix a landslide on Creek Street that deposits sediment into Homestead Run, and in Lincoln Borough, \$200,000 will be used to improve Deer Lane with new drainage, stabilization, and an upgraded stream crossing. The application process is simple and does not require engineering input. A portion of funds are awarded up front to help kick start the project.

### Is your municipality considering a DGLVR application?

Applicants must complete a training course before applying. There is no charge for the course, and certification is good for 5 years. ACCD can help with travel costs for first-time applicants.

**Municipalities must apply on their own** - SRCOG cannot apply on your behalf but we can support you in your application efforts. Government Grants Manager Jenny Kwiatek will attend training in Washington County in September so she can be apprised of DGLVR grant terms and application requirements. **Learn more about certification details, including training dates and locations.** Contact our office if you would like more information or support, or to arrange a ride share to the training.

## NATION'S FIRST ELECTRIC STREET SWEEPER WILL BEGIN OPERATING THIS SPRING

In a few weeks you will notice a new addition to the SRCOG fleet out on the roads. Thanks to a grant from the Allegheny County Clean Air Fund, the first fully electric street sweeper to be delivered to an end user will make its debut at a **ribbon cutting event to take place here at the SRCOG office on Wednesday, May 14.** The electric sweeper will reduce emissions by 100%, improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gases in our communities. Charging stations that will be used to power our sweeper and can be used by the public have been installed through a partnership with Duquesne Light Company.



The grant application was a team effort, submitted by a SRCOG coalition led by Gary Hitchins, and with the support of 11 surrounding government organizations. SRCOG members can contact our office for more information and to get on the street sweeping schedule. **Join us at 11:30am on May 14 for the ribbon cutting event. Our office is located at 1705 Maple Street in Homestead.**





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# MAY MANAGERS MEETING PREVIEW

**Representatives Kayleigh Del Cotto and Thomas Guentner from LandForce** will join us as guest speakers at our Managers Meeting on May 22. LandForce is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit that recruits, trains, educates, employs and supports adults who have faced structural barriers to stable, family sustaining employment based upon race or personal histories. What started as a community development project grew into a **regional stewardship and employment training resource.**

Municipalities can hire LandForce to perform land stewardship services such as invasive plant management removal, vacant lot stabilization, garden bed installation, wooden step installation, trail building, reforestation, garden maintenance, erosion control, tree care/maintenance, and riparian zone management. LandForce can also provide additional green infrastructure maintenance for a variety of land types.

**Why is this important to our municipal managers?** Poverty is a real and serious issue in Pittsburgh, notes the LandForce website. "By providing work, training, and supportive services, Landforce aims to fight against the wealth disparity within Pittsburgh's population by providing opportunities for individuals to overcome barriers to employment and obtain family-supporting wages."

**LandForce is looking to expand their connections within the Mon Valley** to create more opportunities for work force development. See the flyer on page 6 and visit [Landforcecpg.org](http://Landforcecpg.org) to learn more.

At the May Managers Meeting we will also discuss **current grant opportunities.**

**Mon Valley Public Health** - This application is due on May 23, but there is still time to squeak in an application for your public health or air quality improvement project.

**People, Parks, & Community** - This grant can fund a variety of outdoor projects like development of a public space into a park, stewardship of existing parks, park upgrades, improving community livability, promoting inclusion and access to recreation facilities, and connecting people to nature.

**Greenways, Trails, Recreation and Parks** - Many of you are familiar with this grant. It funds the rehabilitation or development of indoor or outdoor parks, recreation, and conservation areas and facilities. This includes land acquisition, site assessment, clearing and preparation of land, construction, installing fixed equipment, renovation and development of linear trails, riparian buffers, wetland boardwalks, and more. The COG will be glad to support your application or we can apply on your behalf.

**CDBG, GEDTF, and ACT 152** - Let's start talking now about your construction, demo, and infrastructure projects. Applications will open this summer, so preparation now will make the application process go more smoothly and quickly.

**\*Save the Date\***



**Do you have vacant, abandoned properties in your community?** Would you like to learn about tools that can help address these properties? Tri-COG Land Bank (TCLB) is convening a conversation with Allegheny County's Vacant Property Recovery Program (VPRP) to discuss how they are complimentary and how each can be leveraged to address vacant and deteriorating properties in your community. **Please join us on Thursday, June 12 at 6:30PM in Homestead. (1705 Maple St, Room 107)** for great conversation and food! You do not need to be a member of TCLB or VPRP to attend. **Please RSVP to Natalie Boydston, [natalie@tricoglandbank.org](mailto:natalie@tricoglandbank.org) by June 6<sup>th</sup>.**

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**THE COG CAN APPLY TO ALMOST ANY GRANT ON BEHALF OF MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES** and manage the project for a small administration fee. If you would like the COG to apply to a grant on your behalf, your submission deadline will be one week prior to the published deadline. Contact [Jennifer Kwiatek](mailto:Jennifer.Kwiatkiewicz@steelriverscog.org), Government Grants Manager, for more details.

### Mon Valley Public Health Fund

This grant can fund any project that will benefit air quality specifically or public health in general.

**Deadline May 23**

### People, Parks & Community

Public education, stewardship, public space development, park upgrades, accessibility, and more.

**Deadline May 30**

### Greenways, Trails, Recreation and Parks (GTRP)

Now taking applications for trail and park projects.

**Deadline May 31, 2025**

**Multi-modal Transportation (MMT)** This grant can fund improvements to bus/rail stops, sidewalks and crosswalks, installation of safety features, bike lanes, and signage, or improvements to streetscapes and lighting. **Deadline July 31**



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**ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
LEAD SAFE HOMES  
PROGRAM**



Lead is a natural earth element, but no level of lead exposure in your home is safe. It is toxic to humans, especially young children, but this has only recently been understood. Before 1978, lead was a common ingredient in household paint. More than 70% of Allegheny County homes were built prior to the discovery of lead toxicity. This is why the County developed its Lead Safe Homes Program.

The Lead Safe Homes Program is a county initiative that tests homes for lead. If lead is found, it will be removed, replaced, or safely sealed.

**There is currently funding available in Allegheny County for landlords, renters, and homeowners who need assistance making their property lead safe.** The [Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program](#) provides free home repairs to keep families safe from lead paint.

**To be eligible**, families must:

- Be homeowners or renters in Allegheny County
- Live in a home built before 1978
- Have a child under 6 who lives in or regularly visits the home or a pregnant woman who lives in the home
- Meet applicable income limits

**The Program provides the following services** free of charge to eligible families:

- Lead paint testing throughout your home
- Home repairs to address all lead hazards
- Lead safety education

**Landlords** who qualify can have multiple properties inspected for lead, as long as the tenants also qualify for the Program.

To learn more, visit the [Lead Safe Homes Program website](#) (check out the Frequently Asked Questions page while you're there!), call 412-227-5700, or email [alleghenylead@actionhousing.org](mailto:alleghenylead@actionhousing.org).

**Homeowner or Tenant  
Eligibility**

Household Size	Annual Income
1	\$ 60,100.00
2	\$ 68,700.00
3	\$ 77,300.00
4	\$ 85,850.00
5	\$ 92,750.00
6	\$ 99,600.00
7	\$ 106,500.00
8	\$ 113,350.00

In Allegheny County, about 440 children each year are found to have an elevated lead level. Thanks to programs like Lead Safe Homes, those numbers are dropping each year, but there is still work to be done.



Are you looking to encourage small business growth in your municipality? Are you working on revitalizing neighborhoods and strengthening communities? The Neighborhood Community Development Fund might interest you.

NCDF empowers entrepreneurs of all backgrounds by providing affordable and flexible lending services to businesses based in Allegheny County, especially those in underserved populations and in disadvantaged communities. As a non-profit lender, NCDF works with small business owners and affordable housing developers

and commercial real estate projects, offering financial and technical assistance in addition to low-interest loans.

An NCDG advisor can come to your area and present their alternative financing options to business owners.

**Contact NCDF for more information**  
[Visit their website - ncd-fund.org](#)

Email - [info@ncd-fund.org](mailto:info@ncd-fund.org)

Call - 412-322-0290





# Hire Landforce

## Where People & Land Thrive Together

Landforce's crews are supervised by professionally certified staff with nearly 50 years of experience. Our crews are ready to work on the following project types:

- Green Stormwater Infrastructure maintenance and management
- Vacant Lot Management and Placemaking: Lot clean-ups, vegetation management, community garden or natural playspace development
- Invasive plant management (non herbicidal)
- Trail design, construction, and maintenance
- Trail structures: box steps, boardwalks, footbridges, signage, and drainage
- Tree planting and aftercare for street trees, woodland restoration trees, and stormwater management areas
- Structures: Raised garden beds, natural play features, deer-resistant exclosures, split rail fencing, box steps, and handrails
- Restoration and Erosion Control: grass and wildflower seeding, natural water breaks for woodland slopes
- Other Projects of your design

"It was great meeting the Landforce crew. You have some very dedicated and knowledgeable employees. They did a wonderful job under tough circumstances with the rain. The rain gardens are an important component of the borough's green infrastructure plans, and your crew helped to improve the aesthetics as well as the functionality of the rain gardens by clearing vegetation and debris from the storm water overflow inlets." - **Bob Podurgiel, Carnegie Shade Tree Commission**



For more information, reach out to the Director of Land Stewardship, Thomas Guentner - [thomas@landforcepgh.org](mailto:thomas@landforcepgh.org) / 412-727-6936 x1