

STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Board of Directors Meeting
January 2, 2025 – 6:30PM

AGENDA

Call To Order at 6:31pm by President Tammy Firda

Council Present

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| <u>Braddock Hills:</u> | Jack Brown | <u>Homestead:</u> | Duane Schulte |
| <u>Clairton:</u> | Eric Hatchett | <u>Lincoln:</u> | Tammy Firda |
| <u>Dravosburg:</u> | Bill Snodgrass | <u>Port Vue:</u> | Ken Hresko |
| <u>Forward:</u> | Amy Cline | <u>West Homestead:</u> | Barb Ferson |
| <u>Glassport:</u> | Anthony Colecchi | <u>Whitaker:</u> | Al Race |

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcoming Remarks

Welcome from Board President, Tammy Firda.

Public Comments

Bob Macey will not be running for council again. He will be focusing on family and other things in his life. He will issue a press release in a few weeks. He hopes to remain a voice for the Mon Valley / Turtle Creek area. Amy Cline has been appointed to the Conservation District.

Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of November 7, 2024.

Motion made by Duane Schulte Motion 2nd by Eric Hatchett
All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of December 5, 2024.

Motion made by Ken Hresko Motion 2nd by Eric Hatchett
All in favor. Motion carried.

Guest Speakers

N/A

Treasurer's Report: An Lewis

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

Motion made by Ken Hresko Motion 2nd by Al Race
All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Motion made by Duane Schulte Motion 2nd by Al Race
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: Tammy Firda

Please keep Matt Gergely in your thoughts. He is currently hospitalized.

Jeff from C&D Towing recently passed away.

Motion to authorize the amendment of the Employment Agreement with An Lewis.

Motion made by Anthony Colecchi Motion 2nd by Ken Hresko

All in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report: Falco Muscante

Motion to Amend Resolution #22/2024R, applying for LSA grants on behalf of member municipalities.

Updated list of municipalities and application amounts:

- Whitaker Borough - Tasers and AED units for police station - \$57,700
- Versailles Borough - Sanitary Sewer Repair - \$603,500
- Forward Township - Saddler's Hollow Road Repair - \$198,120
- City of Duquesne - Lead and Copper Inventory and Water Line Replacement - \$1,000,000

Motion made by Anthony Colecchi Motion 2nd by Bill Snodgrass

All in favor. Motion carried.

Director's Report: An Lewis

SRCOG HSC Security Camera Upgrade

The cameras on the building now are not in use and were installed long before An started. We have had some incidents around our building, and the police and residence tend to come to us because we have the cameras on the building. Zucco Security is the firm that we reached out to for an assessment and quote. The cost is \$12,495, and is about 1/3 of other quotes we were previously given from other companies. The company has been in business for 35 years. They will be reusing some of the wiring and equipment we already have to save us money. We would like the boards authorization to move forward with cameras install/update for the Human Service Center building.

Motion for SRCOG Director, An Lewis, to authorize a security camera upgrade at the Human Service Center, 1705 Maple St, Homestead.

Motion made by Anthony Colecchi Motion 2nd by Bill Snodgrass

All in favor. Motion carried.

SRCOG Amazon Business Membership

We will update everyone via email regarding putting together an InterCOG shared Amazon Business account.

SRCOG Managers' Meeting

This month is our Managers' Meeting. We have a hard time with attendance for these meetings, but we are doing our best to find a meeting times, general content, etc. to accommodate everyone. We will continue to improve and grow the content. Tammy suggests we try Zoom for the Managers' meetings because many of the managers' cannot get away during the day to attend the meetings in person. Jenny believes that there is a lot of beneficial information being shared at the meetings, so if we can express how important this is, it may help to encourage attendance.

We received a \$1,000 grant to help us have the staff capacity to help the municipalities.

We are still in the process of screening, interviewing, and staffing with the DHS / CURE program.

Finance Director's Report: Kristin Gusten

The organization's retirement investment accounts have been held with Oppenheimer for many years. Following a review of investment options, our retirement advisor facilitated the transfer of accounts from Oppenheimer to American Funds, which offers a more suitable structure for an organization of our size. The transition was successfully completed on December 16, 2024. Moving forward, employees will have online access to their individual accounts, providing enhanced opportunities for managing investments. Additionally, retirement contributions will now be remitted electronically each pay period for greater efficiency.

Bank Accounts – First Commonwealth

The majority of the organization's accounts have been transitioned to public entity analysis accounts, allowing enrollment in an enhanced fraud protection program offered through FCB Treasury. Given the increasing prevalence of check fraud, this program provides additional security measures. Additionally, the organization has implemented the capability to process ACH payments through FCB, reducing the reliance on paper checks. Required training on the new system is underway, with Kristin currently completing the necessary sessions.

The Waterfront Maintenance Fund will begin accruing interest at a rate of 1.7%

Duane proposed exploring a State-level program that may offer a higher interest rate for the Waterfront Maintenance Fund. In response, An noted that, as a 501(c)(3) organization, these funds are classified as public. Duane was asked to provide contact information for further investigation into this option.

Government Grants Report: Jenny Kwiatek

Mon Valley Public Health Grant – Duquesne was awarded \$7,500

- Next round of applications will open in March

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative's Thriving Communities grant open now until March

- Assessment grants to plan a project

Jefferson Regional Foundation Mon Valley Clean Air Fund grant opens in January

- Most SRCOG municipalities are eligible

SRCOG Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

| Meeting Date | Location |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| February 6, 2025 | SRCOG – Human Service Center, Homestead, PA |
| March 6, 2025 | SRCOG – TBD |
| March 27, 2025 | Annual Dinner – The Sunset Room, Elizabeth, PA |

SRCOG Board positions will be selected in February 2025. SRCOG Board President will need to be filled.

Community Reports / Discussion

Braddock Hills:

Clairton:

Dravosburg:

Duquesne:

Elizabeth:

Forward:

Glassport:

Homestead:

Liberty:

Lincoln:

McKeesport:

Munhall:

Port Vue:

South Versailles:

Versailles:

West Elizabeth:

West Homestead:

Whitaker:

White Oak:

Motion to Adjourn SRCOG Board Meeting.

Motion made by Ken Hresko Motion 2nd by Jack Brown
Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm by President Tammy Firda

ATTEST:


Penny Donaldson


An Lewis, Executive Director