

**STEEL RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 4, 2025 – 6:30PM**

MEETING MINUTES

Call To Order at 6:32pm by President A. Colecchi

Council Present:

Braddock Hills –	T. Evans	J. Brown
Clairton –	E. Hatchett	
Duquesne –	D. Brownfield	
Forward –	A. Cline	
Glassport –	A. Colecchi	
Lincoln –	T. Firda	
Munhall –	R. Fry	
Port Vue –	D. Thomas	
South Versailles –	R. Lawson	
West Elizabeth –	J. Isaacs	C. Welty
Whitaker –	A. Race	R. Lassige
White Oak –	A. DePaulis	

Welcoming Remarks

SRCOG board members were welcomed back from summer recess.

Public Comments

None.

Minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of June 5, 2025.

Motion made by: J. Brown Motion 2nd by: R. Lawson
All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report T. Evans

Motion to approve the Cash Statements for June, July, and August 2025, along with the List of Bills as presented.

K.Gusten highlighted the following items:

- **General Fund:** Renewal of Public Official Liability and Pension Liability insurance; audit costs for 2024.
- **Human Services Center Fund:** Roof repairs and a long-term contract with TUDI.
- **Public Works Fund:** Repairs to the older street sweeper.

Motion made by: R. Lawson Motion 2nd by: A. Cline
All in favor. Motion carried.

Additional reports distributed to members included:

- Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual Report

RAD Reports

President's Report - A. Colecchi

Mon Valley Tour

The tour took place on July 29, 2025. Allegheny County Manager John Fournier was present along with Allegheny Councilman Bob Macey and several SRCOG board members. The tour began at the Regional Training Complex in Elizabeth and traveled to Clairton, Duquesne, the Homestead/Waterfront area, McKeesport, Glassport, Port Vue, and Elizabeth. The tour ended back at the Regional Training Complex. Those on the tour were able to see some of the TCLB properties located in Clairton and McKeesport and enjoyed lunch at the Glassport Borough Building.

Solicitor's Report F. Muscante, Solicitor

Motion to approve Resolution #10/2025R authorizing SRCOG to enter into contract with Niando Construction in the amount of \$50,000 for 2024-GEDTF-118, Versailles Borough Sewer Repairs.

Motion made by: R. Lawson Motion 2nd by: D. Thomas
All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution #11/2025R authorizing SRCOG to enter into contract with CE Corp in the amount of \$39,275 for CD 49-7.6d, Versailles Borough Catch Basin Replacement.

Motion made by: E. Hatchett Motion 2nd by: R. Lassige
All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution #12/2025R authorizing SRCOG to enter into contract with Nagy Construction & Asphalt Paving in the amount of \$60,240 for CD 49-7.6a/CD 50-7.6b Mound Avenue Street Reconstruction in Dravosburg Borough.

Motion made by: T. Evans Motion 2nd by: E. Hatchett
All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution #13/2025R authorizing SRCOG to enter into contract with John D. Caruso, Inc. in the amount of \$39,719 for CD 50-7.6a Huber Street Reconstruction in Port Vue Borough.

Motion made by: R. Lawson Motion 2nd by: E. Hatchett
All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution #14/2025R authorizing SRCOG to enter into contract with D.J. Demo Company in the amount of \$24,900 for 2022-BRP-005 Blight Removal in the City of Duquesne.

Motion made by: T. Firda Motion 2nd by: A. Cline
All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution #15/2025R authorizing SRCOG to enter into contract with John D. Caruso, Inc. in the amount of \$20,000 for CD 49-7.6c, 7th Avenue Reconstruction in Elizabeth Borough.

Motion made by: R. Lawson Motion 2nd by: C. Welty
All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution #16/2025R authorizing SRCOG to apply for GEDTF funds on behalf of member municipalities:

Braddock Hills Borough – New Municipal Building Construction - \$500,000
Dravosburg Borough – Sherman and 4th Street Retaining Wall - \$392,450
Dravosburg Borough – US Steel Ballfield Parking Lot - \$286,260
City of Duquesne – Public Works Building Repairs - \$500,000
Forward Township – Kelly Hollow and Rippel Road Bridge Repair - \$500,000

Motion made by: R. Lawson Motion 2nd by: A. Cline
All in favor. Motion carried.

Director's Report A. Sisco and K. Gusten

Power Grant

A. Sisco spoke to the SRCOG board about the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). This is a type of federal subsidiary created to support communities adversely harmed by the downsizing of the coal industry. They offer annual funding to projects across multiple states. The funding varies depending on the programs that they have. There is a high compliance burden, but there is also potential for an opportunity to secure funding. A. Sisco stated that, with the board's approval, he and A. Lewis would like to pursue a low-tier grant that is currently available and to get an introduction to their process.

Motion to authorize A. Lewis and A. Sisco to submit a Letter of Intent and subsequent application for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) POWER planning grant for a \$100,000 ARC POWER Planning Grant.

Motion made by: J. Brown Motion 2nd by: C. Welty
All in favor. Motion carried.

Clean Tech 10/7/25

A. Sisco and A. Lewis attended a Heinz Endowments and Rocky Mountain Institute presentation on Western PA's economic opportunities in emerging industries. Some of these include manufacturing solar panel parts, battery storage for electricity, and energy-efficient buildings, etc. A discussion meeting is planned in partnership with TCVCOG on October 7th, with updates to follow.

Regional Training Center

K. Gusten reported that Allegheny County has approved a three-year lease extension for the Regional Training Complex. This period will allow SRCOG time to focus on needed repairs and upgrades. T. Firda pointed out that we definitely need a grant to provide the needed updates for the range. She stated that, along with the lead mediation, the caretaker's trailer is not in good condition, and the driver's training area needs to be repaired so that it can continue to be used. The range needs to address current training needs of the members. A. Sisco mentioned that we are still looking to engage an engineer with particular expertise assessing a range. K. Gusten suggested visiting similar facilities in the area to gain insights.

SRCOG 2025 Holiday Dinner

The 2025 Holiday Dinner will be held Thursday, December 4, 2025, at The Sunset Room in Elizabeth.

SRCOG January 2026 Board of Directors Meeting

The January 2026 SRCOG Board of Directors Meeting falls on New Year's Day. The January board meeting will be cancelled, and meetings will resume on February 5, 2026.

Summer Updates

A. Sisco reported on repairs and the replacement of the 18th Avenue door during the summer recess. A. Lewis was given the authority to make recess decision by the Board at our last meeting.

Finance Director's Report K. Gusten

HSC Lease Agreements

Over the summer, we have been successful in helping several current tenants of the Human Services Center expand their space from the current footprint. To date, we have finalized one new lease for an additional 660 sq. ft.

Train Station Roof Repair Estimates

Following review of three bids, S&L Remodeling, LLC was recommended for roof and gutter repairs.

Motion to approve the bid from S & L Remodeling, LLC for Train Station repairs in the amount of \$11,289.00.

Motion made by: R. Lawson Motion 2nd by: R. Fry
All in favor. Motion carried.

Government Grants Report J. Kwiatek

(CDBG) Community Development Block Grant applications open on Monday, 09/08/25. There is no pre-application period this year. The portal will be open for applications, and anyone interested can get started. They will review applications as they are submitted to the portal,

and provide feedback. They are looking to fund whole projects rather than small amounts to numerous recipients. J. Kwiatek is available to assist if anyone would like SRCOG to help with their applications. CDBG grant money can be used for so many things, not just roads and/or sewers. November 21st is the SRCOG deadline for grant application assistance. Allegheny County's deadline for submission is December 1st.

J. Kwiatek and A. Cline recently spent two days at the Racetrack Hotel in Washington County, learning about dirt, gravel, and low-volume road repair. If you have low-volume roads in your borough and would like to look into funding, please let J. Kwiatek know. SRCOG cannot apply on your behalf, but we can share our knowledge and info with you.

All demolitions will be through one portal this year. Projects with 3 structures or fewer will go through CDBG. Demo projects do not need household surveys, and they do not need to adhere to Davis-Bacon wages. Projects with 4 structures or more will go through Act 152. CDBG is looking for projects where you will not be reusing the property. Act 152 prefers the redevelopment and reuse of properties. There are no dates provided yet, but J. Kwiatek believes it will be soon.

Special Projects Report A. Sisco

Alan provided CURE Mon Valley updates for the board. An assessment completed a little more than a year ago resulted in a failing grade for CURE Mon Valley, scoring at 56%. In order to improve, several staff and structural changes have been made since then. Just a few months ago, a new assessment was completed. These changes and improvements proved successful, as CURE scored a 97% on this assessment. This was the highest score in Allegheny County.

SRCOG Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

If your municipality would like to host a SRCOG Board of Directors Meeting, please reach out to P. Donaldson – e-mail: pd@steelriverscog.org phone: 412-462-7600.

Meeting Date	Location
October 2, 2025	Glassport Borough 12 Monongahela Ave, Glassport, PA 15045
November 6, 2025	SRCOG - Human Service Center 1705 Maple St, Homestead, PA 15120
December 4, 2025	*Holiday Dinner* Sunset Room, 95 Enterprise St, Elizabeth, PA 15037

Community Reports / Discussion

Clairton: Inquired about State or Federal laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products within a school zone. There are many tobacco shops, vape shops, and alternative business popping up and too close to the school areas. Clairton has been strict on permits, but they are looking to find if there are laws prohibiting this in certain areas.

Elizabeth: Flea Market at Elizabeth Event Center on 09/06/25.

Forward: The final "Concert In The Park" will be Saturday, 9/6/25.

It will be from 6:30pm–8:30pm at Gallatin Sunnyside Park.

Glassport: Glassport became home to a free computer training class. This is a 13-week training program for individuals aged 18+ and residing in Mon Valley. Glassport will be working on workforce development and housing offices for the students coming out of the training program. They want to inform other municipalities so they can share with their residents.

Car show scheduled for 9/6/25, but if it rains, it will be 09/13/25.

American Legion has a Polar Plunge scheduled for 01/01/2026.


Lincoln: Flea Market at Lincoln Borough Social Hall on 09/06/25.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:34pm.

Motion made by: E. Hatchett Motion 2nd by: D. Thomas
All in favor. Motion carried.

ATTEST:


Penny Donaldson


Kristin Gusten, Finance & Admin. Director