

**Lower South Valley COG Meeting
January 08th, 2025
Earth Conservancy
101 South Main Street
Ashley, PA 18706**

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Lower South Valley COG was called to order at 10:04am on January 8th, 2025 by Chair Sam Guesto.

<u>Members Present:</u>	<u>Members Absent:</u>
Ashley Borough – Frank Sorokach	Sugar Notch Borough
Hanover Township – Sam Guesto	
Newport Township – Joe Hillan	
Plymouth Township – Vince Wysocki	
Plymouth Borough – Bill Dixon	
Earth Conservancy – Terry Ostrowski	
Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority – Andy Reilly	
Nanticoke City - Jen Polito, Donna Wall	
Luzerne County Community College - Maria DeLuca	

Luzerne County Community College and their representative Ms. DeLuca were recognized as the newest members of the LSVCOG.

Others Present:

Slusser Law Firm – Attorney Chris Slusser
Hailstone Economic – Sara Hailstone
Hailstone Economic – Ted Ritsick

Approval of 11.13.2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. Dixon – 2nd: Mr. Sorokach
Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Polito reported that the two accounts have been reconciled as of December 31st, 2024. The additional program fee was billed on 11/14 and all members have paid. Sugar Notch has not paid a fee for the road to the fueling station. Ms. Hailstone offered to visit their general meeting to offer technical assistance and benefits of participating in the COG.

Ms. Politico discussed the billing of the program fee all at once or twice during the year. Consensus was reached for a once a year program fee.

Old Business

None

Items for Consideration

A. Reorganization

- a. **Motion to Retain Officers:** Mr. Hillan - 2nd: Mr. Sorokach
Motion passes unanimously. Previous officers are retained.

B. Discussion and Motion Regarding 2025 Budget -

- a. **Motion to Adopt Budget as Presented:** Ms. Wall - 2nd: Mr. Ostroski
Motion passes unanimously.

C. Authorization of Payments

Motion: Mr. Guesto - 2nd: Mr. Sorokach

- a. 537 Plan (ARPA Grant Project):
 - i. Invoice #33596 from Borton Lawson (Verdantas) for \$13241.82
- b. Slusser Law Firm
 - i. Invoice 32705 for Legal Services \$429
 - ii. Invoice 32706 for Legal Services \$195
- c. Hailstone Economic
 - i. Invoice 1508 for Consulting for \$2,343.75
- d. Medico Construction - Payment will be updated for those who paved in 2024 with WVSA asphalt totals. Ms. Polito explained that the passthrough item in the 2025 budget reflected bills such as this that would be billed to municipalities using paving equipment.
 - i. Invoice for Paver Repairs for \$9106.42

D. Project Update - Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance - Ted Ritsick and Sara Hailstone provided updates on the plan and zoning ordinance project, proposal from Hailstone for the project, cost for municipalities and in-kind support. The grant deadline is March 1st to be considered for the Spring 2025 batch. Municipalities will need to get the municipal verification signed. Donna Wall discussed issues with Nanticoke's ordinance and out of date provisions. Members discussed the possibility of including Warrior Run.

- a. **Motion:** Mr. Hillan - 2nd: Mr. Dixon
Motion passes unanimously.

E. Resolution 01-25 MAP Grant Approval - Resolution will be postponed until the next meeting.

F. 2024 Paving Asphalt Totals and Municipal Fee - Costs will be distributed to municipalities once WVSA provides total.

G. Project Update - Fueling Station - The road has been installed, and rocks have been placed on the side of the road. AB Operators have been designated and card readers are coming. Next steps are organizing a training for all personnel to be involved.

Open Discussion/Partner Updates

N/A

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Dixon – 2nd: Ms. Polito

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 10:44am.