

**Lower South Valley COG Meeting
July 9th, 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 10:00am on July 9th, 2025 by Vice Chair Joe Hillan.

<u>Members Present:</u>	<u>Members Absent:</u>
Ashley Borough – Frank Sorokach	Luzerne County Community College
Hanover Township – Mike Yodsnukis	Plymouth Township
Newport Township – Joe Hillan	
Plymouth Borough – Earl Conyningham	
Earth Conservancy – Terry Ostrowski	
Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority – Andy Reilly	
Nanticoke City - Jen Polito, Donna Wall	
Sugar Notch Borough - Dominic Panetta, Jim Mullin	

Others Present:

Hailstone Economic – Sara Hailstone, Ted Ritsick

Approval of 05.14.2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. Sorokach – 2nd: Ms. Polito

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

N/A

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Polito included a copy of the filed 990 in the treasurer's report for COG members. \$200.85 was spent filing for the 990. The report was accepted by the IRS.

Motion to Reimburse Nanticoke City \$200.85

Motion: Mr. Ostrowski - 2nd: Mr. Panetta

Motion passes unanimously.

Ms. Polito asked that COG members file separate checks for items. For example, paying for fuel monthly would be one check, and another check would need to be paid for equipment repair program fees.

Old Business

None

Items for Consideration

A. Presentation by Jonas Crass of PA DCED Local Government Services on Available Programs and Technical Assistance

1. Mr. Crass discussed grant and technical assistance programs available from DCED such as the STMP program, MAP Program, Local Government Capital Loan Program, Peer Consultants, Local Government Day, and local government library available at <https://dced.pa.gov/local-government/>

B. Authorization of Payment

1. Hailstone Economic
 - i. Invoice 1614 for Consulting May 2025 for \$1302.50
 - ii. Invoice 1632 for Consulting June 2025 for \$978.75
2. NAPA Auto Parts (Fueling Station)
 - i. Invoice 63097642 for \$25.07 reimbursed to Hanover Township
3. Resolution 02 of 2025 for Button Energy (Fueling Station)
 - i. June 16, 2025 Invoice for May Fuel for \$18,864.95
4. PA DEP (Fueling Station)
 - i. Invoice 1402133 for \$162.50 reimbursed to Hanover Township
5. Service Electric (Fueling Station)
 - i. Motion to Authorize Monthly Payments for \$157.90
6. Sager's Service Center
 - i. Invoice 10017 for \$559.90 for Batteries for Big Roller
7. NAPA Auto Parts
 - i. Invoice 100232 for \$164.20 for Air Filters for Big Roller
8. Medico Construction
 - i. Quote for \$477.50 for Engine Filters for Big Roller
 - ii. Quote for \$2428.00 for Cobra Hammer Drill
9. DGK Insurance
 - i. Invoice 17251 for \$6725 for General Insurance
10. Verdantas (Borton Lawson)
 - i. Invoice #34181 for \$60,416.99 for Act 537 Plan

Motion to provide payment for all bills as presented:

Motion: Mr. Sorokach **2nd:** Ms. Wall

C. Discussion and Motions Regarding EPA SWIFR Grant

1. Mr. Ostrowski reported on the status of the SWIFR grant for purchase of a new grinder and upgrades to the facility including a shaded work area and paving the entrance for \$2.1 million. The grinder has passed the initial review and is now in the second stage. Mr. Ostrowski requested that COG members reach out to Federal representatives for support for the application. Mr. Hillan requested that the COG provide a letter of support. Mr. Crass recommended that COG members consider community project funds for applications as well.

Motion to draft letter of support for Earth Conservancy SWIFR grant.

Motion: Ms. Wall **2nd:** Mr. Reilly

Motion passes unanimously.

D. Discussion and Motions Regarding Hanover Area School District Assistance

1. Mr. Reilly and Mr. Yodsnukis reported on the situation that no action was taken by COG members up to this point, but the Hanover Area School District may need assistance.

i. Motion to authorize support for Hanover Area for football field project: Mr. Sorokach - **2nd:** Mr. Ostrowski

Motion passes unanimously.

E. Discussion and Motions on LSA Grant for New Skid Steer

1. Mr. Yodsnukis reported that the current skid steer is down and requested that a previous grant for the bucket truck be modified to purchase the new skid steer.

Motion to approve modification of bucket truck LSA grant to skidsteer:

Ms. Wall **2nd:** Mr. Yodsnukis

Motion passes unanimously.

F. Fueling Station Discussion and Motions

1. Portable Toilets for Fueling Station

Motion to rent portable restroom: Mr. Sorokach **2nd:** Mr. Panetta

Motion passes unanimously.

2. Payment Plan Hanover Fuel Reimbursements

i. Mr. Ritsick provided a snapshot of fueling station activity to date, with approximately \$61,000 worth of fuel pumped to COG vehicles and generated \$5,700 in administrative fees. Cash flow issues are beginning to be resolved. Mr. Reilly asked about volume of usage. Mr. Ritsick predicted that it may be seasonally high, but more time is needed to get a large enough sample of data. Mr. Ritsick also reported that the in-house method with the fueling station saves significant administrative costs in not needing to attempt to reimburse for fuel taxes.

3. Update on Remaining Construction Tasks and Transition

i. Lighting, Remote Tank Level System, and Camera System - Mr. Ritsick that he has had difficulty reported difficulty in finalizing the remaining

tasks due to a lack of response from Bluestone. Ms. Hailstone will be following up with Bluestone on tank password and new key cards.

- ii. Press Release/Ribbon Cutting Date - The board discussed a press event in the September week of the 20th pending a passed state budget and availability of legislators.
- iii. Open Discussion on Other Issues

Open Discussion/Partner Updates

Sugar Notch requested information about getting roads paved. Mr. Yodsnukis provided contact information to Hanover Township to coordinate work.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Ostrowski – 2nd: Mr. Reilly

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 10:52am.