

**Lower South Valley COG Meeting
May 14th, 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 10:15am on May 14th, 2025 by Chair Sam Guesto.

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

Others Present:

Slusser Law Firm – Attorney Chris Slusser
Hailstone Economic – Ted Ritsick
Alex Colarusso - WVSA
Mike Yodsnukis - Hanover Township

Approval of 04.09.2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. Sorokach – **2nd:** Mr. Reilly
Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Bill Dixon thanked the COG members that assisted Plymouth Borough with rescoping their paving plans to avoid drainage problems. Earl Conyningham thanked Ted Ritsick and Mike Yodsnukis for assisting with the fueling station.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Polito discussed the new account for the fueling station. Mr. Guesto requested that the bills be broken out for the fueling station going forward. Reconciliation reports are included with the treasurers report.

Ms. Polito inquired where the special projects donation for Earth Conservancy would go. Mr. Guesto asked that it go into the fueling station. Two program fees are still outstanding.

Mr. Guesto inquired about the status of the fueling station insurance and payment.

Old Business

None

Items for Consideration

A. Authorization of Payment

1. Hailstone Economic
 - i. Invoice 1579 for Act 537 Consulting Feb and March 2025 for \$787.50
 1. Ms. Polito inquired about the billing for this invoice. Mr. Guesto and Ms. Wall said the billing should be split evenly between the three municipalities and paid from sewer fees.
 - ii. Invoice 1582 for March Consulting for \$3,183.95
 - iii. Invoice 1594 for April Consulting for \$3,437.50

Motion to Pay Invoices: Mr. Dixon – **2nd:** Mr. Sorokach
Motion passes unanimously.

2. Halliday Trucking (Fueling Station)
 - i. Invoice SVCG-2429 Stone Delivery April 2025 for \$625.00
Motion to Pay Invoice: Mr. Sorokach - **2nd:** Mr. Hillan
Motion passes unanimously.

3. Borton Lawton (Verdantas)
 - i. Invoice 34067 for \$101,868.68 for Act 537 Plan
Motion to Pay Invoice: Ms. Wall - **2nd:** Mr. Ostrowski
Motion passes unanimously.

B. Fueling Station Items for Discussion and Motions

1. Payment Plan Hanover Fuel Reimbursements
 - i. Initial Costs for Fuel: Unleaded \$20,538.42 | Diesel \$19,330.50
Motion to reimburse Hanover Township based on fueling station fund availability: Mr. Dixon - **2nd:** Mr. Sorokach
Anticipated balance repayment is estimated at approximately \$2000/month until the conclusion of payment for the initial fuel purchase.
2. Update on Remaining Construction Tasks and Transition
 - i. Lighting, Remote Tank Level System, and Camera System
 1. Mr. Guesto is waiting for PPL to install lighting, a proposal for perimeter lighting from bluestone, and a remote tank level system. Button will be installing the camera system with remote access as well.
 2. Anyone wishing to be trained should contact Mike Yodsnukis or any A/B operators, if any, in your municipality. Mr. Guesto discussed having a regular maintenance day for the facility for each municipality to send someone to help take care of the site. Mr. Ritsick will look into getting portable toilets.

3. Motion to add Newport Twp Tom Nalbone as an A/B

Operator: Ms. Wall - **2nd:** Mr. Dixon

Motion passes unanimously.

3. Press Release/Ribbon Cutting Date Discussion

- i. Mr. Guesto reported on scheduling the ribbon cutting for a fueling station with state legislators.

4. Methodology for Price Changes

- i. Mr. Ritsick outlined the methods for price changes averaging the current and future costs to establish new prices. Button will be refueling at around 2,000 gallons in either tank.

Open Discussion/Partner Updates

Mr. Guesto announced that Sara Hailstone was asked to serve on the Earth Conservancy's regional planning committee on behalf of the COG. Ms. Hailstone will be doing so at no cost.

Motion to Appoint: Mr. Dixon **2nd** - Mr. Sorokach

MAP Grants are anticipated to be announced after the municipal primary. A reduction in the grant amount would result in the municipal contributions increasing.

DCED Local Government Staff will be attending the next COG meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Wall – **2nd:** Mr. Dixon

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 10:43am.