

**Lower South Valley COG Meeting
March 12th, 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 March 12th, 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	

Others Present:

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

Approval of 01.08.2025 Meeting Minutes

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

Public Comment

None

Mr. Guesto introduced Mike Yodsnukis, Hanover Township Road Foreman and Tony Bozinski, the new paving coordinator for Hanover Township. Mr. Guesto emphasized that Mr. Bozinski will assist any COG municipality.

Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Polito reported that the two accounts have been reconciled as of February 20th, 2025. Dues, program fees and reimbursements are coming in. Bills are due by 04.03.2025 to pay insurance. Ms. Polito needs approval for Nanticoke reimbursement for \$59.29 for checks. 990 is due by May 15th and must be e-filed.

Old Business

None

Items for Consideration

A. **Project Update and Motions - Fueling Station**

Mr. Guesto reported that the gate for the fueling station is being fixed. Button Energy is going to complete final inspections and do walkthroughs with A-B Operators. A special meeting for April 9th is proposed to discuss the fueling station. Fuel has been pumped at the fueling station, and Borton Lawson will be handling perimeter lighting and lighting going up the poles to the fueling station.

Mr. Guesto discussed additional fees per gallon added to the base price of fuel. Mr. Ritsick discussed his analysis of potential costs related to the fueling station and needed liquidity. It is estimated that there will be a new shipment of gasoline monthly. Keys, cards and instructions will be distributed to personnel in April.

- a. **Motion to Add \$0.25/gal Admin Fee:** Mr. Hillan - 2nd: Mr. Reilly
Motion passes unanimously.

B. **Presentation by Verdantas - Act 537 Plan Update**

- a. Representatives from Verdantas and Borton Lawson provided updates on the Act 537 Plan. The plans are past 60% completion, an extension for Luzerne County has been requested for the project with a projected completion and submission to DEP in Summer 2025. 90% of the grant would be expended at that point. Intermunicipal coordination would be needed between the municipalities.

C. **Authorization of Payments**

- a. 537 Plan (ARPA Grant Project):
 - i. Invoice #33692 from Borton Lawson (Verdantas) for \$11,109.27
 - ii. Invoice #33787 from Borton Lawson (Verdantas) for \$23,691.97
 - iii. Invoice #33896 from Borton Lawson (Verdantas) for \$81,391.50
Motion to Approve Invoices: Ms. Wall - 2nd: Mr. Hillan
Motion passes unanimously.
- b. Hailstone Economic
 - i. Invoice 1530 for Consulting Dec 2024 for \$1740
Motion to Approve Invoice: Mr. Dixon - 2nd: Mr. Sorokach
Motion passes unanimously.
- c. Bradco Supply
 - i. Invoice for Paver Repairs for \$1875
Motion to Approve Invoice: Mr. Dixon - 2nd: Mr. Sorokach
Motion passes unanimously.
- d. Fueling Station Expenses
 - i. USTIF Insurance Payment
 1. Invoice for Prorated/Past Due Insurance \$1248.34

- ii. Approval of Insurance Policy for \$7182 from Risk Strategies/Joyce Insurance
- iii. COG Reimbursement Discussion - Fueling Station Consulting/Starting Expenses
- iv. Miscellaneous Expenses

Motion to Approve Invoice: Mr. Sorokach - 2nd: Ms. Wall
Motion passes unanimously.

D. Project Update - Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance - Mr. Ritsick and Ms. Hailstone provided updates on the plan and zoning ordinance project all support letters and all municipalities but Sugar Notch have chosen to participate thus far. Sugar Notch has been visited and informed of opportunities to participate. \$35,000 in in-kind support has been provided by partners - \$20,000 by WVSA, \$10,000 from Earth Conservancy, and \$5,000 from Luzerne County.

- a. **Motion to Adopt Resolution 01-2025 MAP Grant Approval:** Ms. Polito - 2nd: Mr. Reilly
Motion passes unanimously.

E. 2025 Paving Discussion

- a. Municipalities discussed paving projects for 2025 and participation. The list included in the packet was discussed. Paver is still at Medico receiving repairs. Nanticoke or Plymouth will be going first.

Open Discussion/Partner Updates

Ms. Polito inquired about insurance costs as they will be increasing next month. Ms. Polito will be sending the list of COG vehicles to Mr. Ritsick for inquiries to Joyce, Crossin, and other local insurance companies.

Mr. Guesto recommended that all costs be separated to fueling station costs for reimbursement to the COG and membership.

Motion to Reimburse Nanticoke for \$59.29: Mr. Dixon - 2nd: Mr. Sorokach

Mr. Hillan requested an update on the LSA grant for COG equipment of a bucket truck and chipper. The COG membership discussed options for purchasing the equipment through existing and pending LSA grants.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Guesto – 2nd: Ms. Wall

Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 10:54am.