

Manager Committee Meeting  
TCVCOG  
August 20<sup>th</sup> 2014

In attendance: Rebecca Bradley, Wilkins; Moe Rayan, Penn Hills; Greg Bachy; Plum; Steve Morus; Forest Hills

The Tri-COG Blight Initiative will host Pat McGrail on Monday August 25<sup>th</sup>. Pat will talk about strategies for dealing with blight from a legal perspective.

We have been making our rounds to municipal council meetings and have been meeting with school board members about the land bank business plan. There is a meeting tentatively scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Wilkins Community Center. The primary purpose of the meeting is to have all the communities that make up the Woodland Hills School District, along with members from the school board, there to discuss land banking. The structure of the meeting will be determined in the near future. Amanda asked if there were any other questions or concerns about the land bank business plan. Overall the feedback we have received from municipal council members has been positive.

Since the COG is working on establishing a code enforcement program, and since effective code enforcement is a critical tool for every community, we have been looking into becoming a member of one of the state-wide code enforcement agencies. Amanda is also looking into attending a conference in the fall.

Monroeville has recently faced an issue with state road utility maintenance and was wondering if other communities were having similar issues. A sewer line under the state road is collapsing and PennDOT advised Monroeville it is the municipality's responsibility to make the repairs. In the past PennDOT made the repairs to utilities under state roads. The other municipalities had similar experiences in which PennDOT completed the maintenance when needed. However they are also being told now that in the future they will need to be responsible for the utilities and PennDOT has asked some municipalities to sign an agreement. None of the municipalities have had an issue thus far that requires maintenance but it may not be that far into the future. They are aware that PennDOT is looking into upholding some old ordinances that have not been enforced in the past.

Amanda asked about health insurance renewal rates but the managers have not yet received theirs. The COG's renewal increased by just over 4% but have heard from other COGs rates increased up to 24%.

Rebecca wanted to get the managers' feedback on updating phone systems and see if anyone has moved to a system hosted on the internet as opposed to a land line. There seems to be some advantages and significant cost savings. Plum recently switched to VOIP in which the phone connects goes through the internet. The only issue is when the internet goes down the phones stop working, so that have land line backups for the police. Plum has experienced cost saving from making the switch.

The managers had a discussion about the increase price of rock salt. The bids through the COGs' joint purchase agreement did come in high but other group bids came in higher or not at all.