

Managers Committee Meeting Notes
TCVCOG Office
June 18, 2014
10:00 am

In Attendance: Rebecca Bradley, Wilkins; Greg Bachy, Plum; Marla Marcinko, Wilkinsburg; Connie Rosenbayger, East McKeesport; Patty Logo, North Versailles; Steve Morus, Forest Hills; Tracey Miller, Wall; Moe Rayan, Penn Hills; Tim Little, Monroeville; Annette Dietz, Pitcairn; Annette Goodwin, East Pittsburgh; Amanda Settelmaier, TCVCOG; Liz Kozub TCVCOG

Blight Busters- The next session will be a presentation from Marisa Manheim from Pittsburgh/Allegheny Grows on Community Gardening Programs. It will be held Monday June 23rd at 2:00 pm at the Steel Valley COG.

Discussion on the meeting with the EPA on June 17th at 7:00 pm in Greentree

Amanda asked the managers what their thoughts were on the meeting. She understood that the EPA would consider pushing back the date in which regionalization needed to be completed to 2032. This would only happen if at the time of the 6 year check in the plan was being followed as agreed. If the plan was not being followed, the date of competition would remain at the original 2026 deadline. This potential change in deadline has not yet been set in stone, but it is something discussed. Also the EPA wants the plan to follow an “adoptive management” process so that municipalities and ALCOSAN remain flexible to new items in the future.

Moe serves on the Sewer Regionalization Implementation Committee which is charged with giving recommendations on how municipalities will give up their trunk lines to ALCOSAN. The major hurdle the committee is facing is not knowing the costs. This is especially troublesome for municipalities who have taken out bonds on their trunk lines. Moe voiced, and many others agreed, that it is hard to make a recommendation to municipal councils on the transfer of assets to ALCOSAN if the cost remains unknown. The Allegheny County Health Department is currently working on determining the costs, including how the shared costs will affect municipalities. Many managers see the trunk lines as assets and therefore feel it may not be unreasonable to ask for some type of payment in exchange for the trunk lines.

It is the feeling among the group of managers that attended the EPA meeting that the next steps for municipalities to take were not clearly articulated. The EPA encouraged regionalization but did not offer action steps to be taken. Amanda will reach out to John Schombert to see if he is able to provide a summary of the meeting and EPA’s future expectations.

Discussion on Code Enforcement

As most of the managers know the COG is looking into establishing a Code Enforcement program. Since the last managers meeting the Code Enforcement working group has met twice. The group has come up with a draft agreement, job description and has been working on the budget.

Moe asked how the program would work if a municipality needed a few hours at an as needed basis. The program really requires a commitment from the participating municipalities. There would need to be an agreement upfront as to how many hours the municipality would need each year, especially at this pilot stage.

The COG has set aside some additional RAD money to be used for Special Projects. There is currently \$18,000 in that account. Amanda asked for a recommendation or a motion from this committee approving the spending of those funds on a vehicle for the code enforcement program. The COG would ensure the municipalities are committed and have the agreement signed prior to the purchase of a vehicle.

Motion to approve the spending of funds on a code enforcement car made by Connie, seconded by Greg. Moe abstained from the vote. All others voted in approval.

Annette Dietz asked if there was another way in which municipalities, who already have code enforcement officers, could get involved in code enforcement related issues. Is the COG able to offer another level of involvement, such as shared legal costs for development of ordinances? This is not directly in line with the purpose of this program but it is something that can be looked into in the future. The COG is however working with a firm from Massachusetts called Virtual Towns and Schools. They are creating a listserv that would allow municipalities to share best practices, ordinances, RFPs, and other information such as problem landlords.

Marla asked if there is any way the code enforcement officer could also do critter control. There are all types of varmints that are overrunning neighborhoods. There are many certifications that are required through the Department of Agriculture. The managers discussed who they were currently using for this service.

Other Business

Tim asked if municipalities that have purchased municipal vehicles put out an RFP. The overwhelming answer was that most vehicles were leased or purchased through the Joint Purchasing Alliance.

Tim also wanted to bring to the attention of the managers an article that was published in the Post-Gazette about a truck that can repair street potholes in the winter months by using a hot patch as opposed to a cold patch. The cost of the vehicle is around \$300,000. It's not feasible to purchase individually, but there may be a joint agreement with municipalities to share a lease for this vehicle.