

Turtle Creek Valley COG Director's Report

TCVCOG Board Meeting
March 24, 2016

Important Dates:

March 31st: Healthy Housing Meeting, Steel Rivers COG 5:00 pm

April 7th – 10th: Allegheny League of Municipalities Conference, Seven Springs Resort

April 19th: Managers Meeting, 10:00 am

April 19th: Police Chief Meeting, 1:30pm

ALOM

We will be having our hospitality room at ALOM again this year and are very excited about seeing representatives from our member towns there. ALOM is not only a great conference and fun time, but a lot of good partnerships are formed and projects that benefit from intergovernmental cooperation are generated in our hospitality room. This room is made possible by donations from our towns and other generous partners. The private organizations that have sponsored the room are KU Resources, First National Bank, TEC Benefits, Cohen Law Group, Glenn Engineering, and Pierce Park Group.

Our member communities that have agreed to be sponsors for the hospitality room are:

East McKeesport (silver), North Versailles (Silver), East Pittsburgh, Turtle Creek, Wilmerding

If your community has not yet donated but would like to, please let me know before next Wednesday, March 30th so that we can include your name on the sponsorship banner.

Hours:

Thursday: Afternoon set-up – 5pm; 8pm – 12 am

Friday: 12 pm -5 pm & 8 pm -12 am

Saturday: 12 pm -5 pm & 8 pm -12 am

Land Banking

On February 29th the Tri-COG Collaborative hosted a discussion on land banking. All towns who have passed ordinances to participate, as well as school districts that have agreed to join, were invited to attend. We also invited those towns and school districts that were interested but may not have formally agreed to join. The purpose of the meeting was to get an understanding of

who is participating in the land bank and to begin the conversation of how the governing documents should take shape. There was over six school districts in attendance and fifteen towns. Thank you to those who came and participated in the conversation.

On Friday March 3rd we met with Allegheny County Department of Economic Development about the land bank intergovernmental cooperation agreement. We are getting close to agreeing on the final language in the ICA so that it can be formally introduced and adopted by the county.

Blight

On Monday April 25th at 2:00 pm, Ginny Leary from Allegheny County Health Department, Hoarding Tax Force, Department of Aging, and Department of Human Services will be presenting on the issues of Hoarding in communities. We have been hearing from many of our towns that this is an issue especially when it comes to enforcing health and safety regulations. Code Enforcement Officers and those in the field of Fire and Emergency Management are strongly encouraged to attend. It will take place at the Steel Rivers COG Offices.

The Tri-COG Collaborative was awarded \$10,000 from the Allegheny County Conservation District to analyze the economic effects unmaintained vacant land has on residential property values. Over the past seven months we have been working on this analysis and are just about finished. We met with the Conservation District on Thursday March 17th to present our first draft to their staff and board president. We will have a formal release of the study in mid-May.

Code Enforcement

We began our code enforcement program in March of 2015 and feel we are in a great place to grow the program and offer more services to more towns. Jason has been working really hard to obtain a variety of certifications that will ensure the success of the program. In order to grow and offer more services to our towns we will need to expand our capacity. Wilmerding Borough has agreed to join the program for occupancy and building inspections. We have also been communicating with other interested towns. We plan to have an expansion plan in place prior to May 1st 2016. We would love to talk with you about our program if your town is in need of quality code enforcement.

PELRAS Conference

Amanda attended the PELRAS Conference this month, which is a service program of the PA Municipal League. Over the years, the Managers that attend this conference have communicated how worthwhile it is, and I would have to concur. Topics ranged from Managing

your most difficult leave issues to Managing substance abuse & Behavioral health in the workplace to Performance Standards for police officers. I have a large binder in the office with presentations from the speakers if you would like to use it as a reference.

We did not have a Manager’s Meeting in March because it conflicted with PELRAS.

The Police Chief Advisory Committee did not meet in March. It is anticipated that the materials for the new training program will be presented at the meeting in April. We should also know by then if the initial start-up costs have been funded through a CITF grant.

Vactor Program

Ray will be back on Monday to start this season’s Vactor program. Rates remain the same as last year. We are asking that opt-in towns please return their signed agreements, and schedule 5 consecutive days at a time.

**Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments
Explanation of Daily Rate:**

	15 day opt-in	7 day opt-in	Member	Non-Member	Member Emergency	Non-Member Emergency
2016 Rate	\$ 730.00	\$ 830.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 950.00	\$ 965.00	\$ 1,225.00
Loan pmt.	\$ 232.00	\$ 232.00	\$ 232.00	\$ 232.00	\$ 232.00	\$ 232.00
Fuel @ \$4.80 (40/60)	\$ 192.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 288.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 288.00
Total Daily Rate	\$ 1,154.00	\$1,254.00	\$ 1,324.00	\$ 1,470.00	\$ 1,389.00	\$ 1,745.00

If town supplies fuel: \$ 962.00 \$1,062.00 \$ 1,132.00 \$ 1,182.00 \$ 1,197.00 \$ 1,457.00

Total: \$14,430.00 \$7,434.00

**Opt-in total
with Fuel supplied by COG:**

7 day opt-in = \$8,778

15 day opt-in = 17,310

Additional days for 15 day opt in will remain at \$962/\$1,154 per day.

Additional days for 7 day opt-in will be at the member daily rate of \$1,062/\$1,254.

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Settelmaier