**Turtle Creek Valley COG**

**Director’s Report**

TCVCOG Board Meeting

January 24, 2019

**Important Dates:**

1/25: Police Chief Meeting, 2:00pm

2/1: TCVCOG Annual Dinner, 5:30pm

2/20: Managers Meeting, 2:00pm

2/28: TCVCOG Board Meeting, 6:30pm

**Annual Dinner**

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Edgewood Country Club on Friday, February 1, 2019 beginning at 5:30pm. Rich Fitzgerald will be our keynote speaker. Tim Hindes will also speak about his experience as the creator of the “Stronger than Hate” logo.

**Vactor**

We will have the Vactor up and running as soon as the weather breaks – usually end of March or early April. We have invested in needed repairs to the truck, and we have an excellent, experienced operator lined up. Amanda will be working on the Opt-in agreements within the next month or so.

**Code Enforcement**

We welcomed Aubrey Ozolins to our Code Enforcement staff on January 2nd. Aubrey comes to us from Hampton Township where she was doing code enforcement.

Data is being converted to our new system, and we are also piloting the system with Pitcairn borough.

**Police Consolidation**
The TCVCOG has hosted two meetings with interested towns pertaining to police consolidation. Meeting notes are on file. Any town interested in participating in the state funded feasibility study should have their letter of intent to Amanda by March 29, 2019.

**Other**

On January 9th Amanda attended an Institute of Politics working group session on lead abatement in demolition. Aaron Lauer from the Institute presented findings from research conducted in other parts of the country. Data suggests that Deconstruction is the most environmentally friendly way to demolish a structure. Unfortunately it is cost prohibitive. Other techniques that significantly lower exposure include wetting the structure before, during and after (while loading debris) demolition, and possibly laying plastic around the perimeter of the structure. Education of demolition contractors was discussed, as was the distribution of educational materials to surrounding homes. The committee will put together a sample ordinance and best practices.

The TCVCOG was asked to host a 2.5 hour session for Leadership Pittsburgh on January 17th to discuss local government and explain how a COG works. Amanda and Gary Hitchins presented on the cost of blight, code enforcement and land banking. Greg Bachy discussed municipal budgeting and innovative strategies. Bill Pfoff and Julie Grose presented on the East Shore Initiative. And Tom Croft gave an overview of Steel Rivers Authority.

**Managers Meeting: Wednesday, January 16, 2019**

In Attendance: Patty Logo, North Versailles; Connie Rosenbayger, East McKeesport; Rob Zahorchak, Edgewood; Shane Lanham, Rankin; Tim Little, Monroeville; Clyde Wilhelm, Swissvale; Greg Bachy, Swissvale; Stephanie Schwoegle, Chalfant; Amanda Settelmaier, TCVCOG

EPA Brownfield Grant Opportunity:

Mark Patrick from KU Resources discussed potential funding opportunities with the group. This grant funds mostly phase 1 and phase 2 environmental assessments, but it can also be used for Act 2 Clearance and Redevelopment Planning. Contact Mark with a project idea. 412.469.9331 x17.

Greenweb

Loralyn Fabian from Greenweb discussed the types of services they can provide to towns. They can help organize and launch trail committees by:

1. Completing a baseline inventory of open space/greenways/trails
2. Help identify corridor options – provide input on data/analysis
3. Help vision plan around municipal knowledge
4. Work with towns to move to implementation
5. This work can complement an update to the County’s Comprehensive Plan

Loralyn circulated a sign in sheet for those interested in continuing the conversation.

**Police Chief Meeting: Tuesday, January 15, 2019**

In attendance: Chuck Williams, Forest Hills; Randy Lamb, Wilkins; James Matrazzo, N. Versailles; Russ Stroschien, East McKeesport; Ellis Watson, Swissvale; Howard Burton, Penn Hills; Scott Farally, Pitcairn; Ryan Wooten, Rankin; Dale Kraaer, Turtle Creek; Jeff Armstrong, Plum; Doug Cole, Monroeville

Others: Joe Rugggry, PA State Police, Stephen Eberle, PA State Police; Coleman McDonough, Allegheny County Police; Christopher Kearns, Allegheny County Police

Doug Cole led the meeting in order to share with the group his conversations with the City pertaining to Field Force operations training. The City has instructors that can teach the FEMA course. However, officers will not receive an official certification since FEMA is unable to instruct due to the federal government shut down.

Since the trial is likely to begin this spring, Chiefs believe it is important to move forward with the training. Although it won’t be officially certified, it will still offer legal protection. There is no cost, but officers should plan to bring APR and helmet. Equipment such as gas masks/filters was discussed. Might be worth checking with Region 13/Patriot Act.

Coleman McDonough said that it’s important to think in advance. Everyone needs to be trained the same way. There needs to be unified command through the County. Doug said Chief of towns should be the Executive (similar to County Homicide). Pittsburgh Intel Unit is best for intel.

Doug prefers an 8 person squad. Preliminary training of officers per town was discussed:

Forest Hills: 5 Edgewood: 8
Wilkins: 10 Turtle Creek: 8
N. Versailles: 6 Plum: 5
E. McKeesport: 5 Rankin: 3
Swissvale: 12
Penn Hills: 10
Pitcairn: 8
Monroeville: 16

96/8=12

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:20pm.