

## **Turtle Creek Valley COG Director's Report**

TCVCOG Board Meeting  
March 24, 2022

### **Upcoming Meetings**

4/7-4/10: ALOM Conference  
4/20: Manager's Meeting, 2pm  
TBD: Police Chief Meeting  
4/28: TCVCOG Board Meeting

### **TCVCOG Board Meetings**

Please share your thoughts on how you would like to attend TCVCOG Board meetings in the future.

April 28

May 26

June – August: Recess?

September 22

October 27

Nov – Thanksgiving

December 1 or 8 or other? Holiday dinner meeting?

### **Application for 501(c)(3)**

The IRS has asked for additional information which is due by April 13<sup>th</sup> unless an extension is requested. Attorney Salisbury and I are scheduled to meet to complete the questions together.

### **Annual Dinner**

02/25/2022- The Annual dinner was a success! The event began with a social mixer. We had swearing in of officers by Judge Tom Caulfield, and during dinner Amanda briefly discussed the impact of blight. Then, An Lewis gave an update on the Tri-COG Landbank. Our keynote speaker, Senator Jay Costa discussed the reapportionment process, the state budget, and took questions from the audience. The dinner meeting wrapped up with the drawing of door prizes.

## TCVCOG Hospitality Suite at the ALOM Conference/Seven Springs

Total donations = \$4,700.

Braddock Borough	
Chalfant Borough	
Churchill Borough	\$100.00
East McKeesport Borough	\$500.00
East Pittsburgh Borough	\$200.00
Borough of Edgewood	
Forest Hills Borough	
Municipality of Monroeville	\$200.00
Borough of Pitcairn	
Borough of Plum	
Borough of Rankin	
Borough of Swissvale	\$200.00
Borough of Turtle Creek	\$200.00
North Braddock Borough	\$200.00
North Versailles Township	\$500.00
Municipality of Penn Hills	\$200.00
Borough of Wall	
Wilkins Township	
Borough of Wilkinsburg	
Wilmerding Borough	\$200.00

### Proposed Hospitality Room hours:

Thu: Set up at Noon, then room closes at 6pm for dinner. Re-open from 8pm to Midnight

Fri: Noon – 5pm; then 8pm – Midnight

Sat: Noon – 5pm (50/50 drawing at 5pm)

## Grants

### Act 152

The new round of Act 152 demolition applications is now open. Applications are due in the TCVCOG office no later than Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please be sure that the TCVCOG is the legal applicant on your application if you would like us to administer on your behalf. The admin fee of \$2k can be paid for by the grant – just be sure it's listed in the project budget.

Bid openings scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup>:

2021-BRP-019 – Act 152 Demolition, Penn Hills

2021-BRP-022 – Act 152 Demolition, Rankin

### CDBG & CITF

The following projects have been advertised and all bid opening will be on April 12th @ 1pm:

Ad Date 3/17:

- CD 47-3.12.15 - Denniston Ave. Sanitary Sewer, Swissvale
- CD 47-3.6 - Road Reconstruction, Rankin

Ad Date 3/17 & 3/24:

- 2021-CITF-016 - Concession & Site Facilities Improvements, BNBBL, North Braddock

Ad Date 3/24:

- CD 41-3.7, Road Reconstruction, Turtle Creek

## **Vactor**

Please remember to complete and submit your opt-in agreement. No price increase in 2022!

## **Police Training**

Tentative training dates for the Spring and Fall rounds of police training are as follows. Please plan to send your officers. Registration information has been emailed to your police chief.

Basic- 5/9-5/10

Advanced- 5/16 & 5/17 ( Two one day classes)

Basic: Oct 10 – 11

Advanced: Oct 17-18

## **CodeNforce/Code Enforcement**

We have been invited to submit an application to the Hillman Foundation to support this work. They are interested in funding a business plan, continued development, and support costs. Steel Rivers COG will be our fiscal sponsor since they have an established 501(c)(3).

We have also submitted a grant application through the new LSA program with Steel Rivers COG as the fiscal sponsor (since 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible applicants). If funded, this will allow for development of analytic features within the system.

Alex Coyne started full-time on March 21<sup>st</sup> as we prepare to expand the program. Alex was hired in a part-time capacity last September.

## **Other**

1/14/2022- and 1/21/2022 Intellectual Property – Michelle Walker – The CodeNForce group talked with Michelle about intellectual property and gave some more information on how they system will work.

1/24/22- Lead Safe Allegheny- The small group of policy meeting participants discussed how we can provide more information between our towns and LSA. If any towns are interested in learning more about Lead Safety we can coordinate sending more information and communication.

02/4/2022 Lead Safe Allegheny – Coalition- Group at Large – Amanda, Natalie and Emily w/ Steel Rivers Cog presented information on the Code Enforcement Collaborative and CodeNforce.

02/10/2022: Allegheny County – Jennifer Saks, Amanda, Natalie, Emily w/ Steel Rivers Cog: Jennifer went over the Lead Safe Allegheny Homes program. If a home has lead it may be eligible for County funded remediation. Jennifer will also be presenting this information in the future at one of our Code Enforcement meetings . This program may be a resource to the owner and to help gain compliance with code violations.

03/04/2022- Municipality of Monroeville – Amanda, Natalie, Bob Wrtcher, Paul Hugus and Mike Wozniak- reviewed some of the data around utility billing and making sure all data is current. We are also working with Muni Link software enhance tracking of delinquent accounts.

03/10/2022- The updated TCVCOG website is live! Please check it out at [www.tcvcog.com](http://www.tcvcog.com)

3/21/2022 - Kate Vander Wiede from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) would like to meet with the TCVCOG police chief group to discuss the Alternative Response Program:

“The Department of Human Services is seeking partners to pilot an alternative response program. We have been working closely with Allegheny County Emergency Services (ACES) in this endeavor. We aim to find interested municipalities who would like to supplement their police force and municipal services with additional teams who can respond to behavioral health-related 911 calls, while freeing up officer time to focus on call types that demand their expertise.

We would like to work with interested municipalities to design a program based upon the volume of calls alternative responders could be sent to and when the alternative responders would be needed. Based on our discussions with ACES so far, alternative responders would be linked to radio dispatch, and sent to call types based on criteria and protocols developed by the participating police department(s) and their alternative response teams. Initially, it is expected that participating police departments would dispatch the alternative responder based on the department’s discretion, and sometimes co-respond alongside the alternative responder. Over time, it is anticipated that police departments may more easily delegate categories of calls to the alternative responders, providing back-up as needed.”

DHS is also thinking more broadly about the possibility of providing alternative transportation programs for 302 cases as well as other ways to improve crisis response in Allegheny County. She is scheduled to come to our Police Chief meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the TCVCOG office. Please encourage your chief to attend.

### **Managers Meeting: February 16, 2022:**

Attendance: Alex Graziani, Churchill; Stephanie Schwogel, Chalfant; Dave Soboslay, Plum; John Antinori, Wilkinsburg; Seth Abrams, East Pittsburgh; Greg Bachy, Swissvale; Connie Rosenbayger, East McKeesport; Amanda & Natalie, TCVCOG

Information was shared on LIWAP: Low income water assistance program (similar to LIHEAP) this is a state run income eligible program that is for delinquent water and sewage accounts. The towns must sign up for this program. East McKeesport is signed up and Natalie has already worked on an account that has been approved for assistance. Please let us know if you would like any additional details or contact information.

Open discussion with the managers regarding hiring process, Churchill is reviewing some of their policies. Also discussed the pros and cons of a possible joint demo between towns.

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Sandy gave a presentation on Air Quality Alerts to the group, going over why Air Quality action days are important (especially to our Valley town residents) and how to have residents sign up. There are additional resources available to distribute to the public, please let us know if you would like a copy sent to your town.

Emily from Steel Rivers COG gave an update on CodeNForce as we prepare for our late summer launch. Open discussion after regarding vehicle leasing pros and cons. Electric vehicle options are still too pricey.

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Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Settelmaier