

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

TCVCOG Board Meeting  
May 31, 2023

### **Upcoming Meetings**

6/1: Manager's Meeting, 2pm  
6/20: Police Chief Meeting, 2:00pm  
6/22: TCVCOG Board Meeting, 6:30pm: Summer Recess?

### **CodeNforce**

Brandon at Congresswoman Lee's office has introduced us to leadership at Allegheny County's Dept of Human Services. I'm in the process of scheduling a meeting with them to discuss incorporating analytics that could be helpful to the County, as well as a potential partnership that could sustain the system long term.

### **Code Enforcement**

We continue to work with Joy Ruff from LGA, along with John Trant from Strategic Solutions, to establish a new program that will give non-college bound high school graduates or those looking to make a career change, an opportunity to be trained and gain real world experience in code enforcement. On May 11<sup>th</sup>, JD and I attended a meeting at LGA with Clyde Wilhelm and Anthony Ascioffa where a solid foundation for a program was created.

We will begin doing Occupancy Inspections upon change of owner in Turtle Creek Borough starting June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Vector Program**

We need your help to get days scheduled. Please contact Norine or myself to get on the schedule.

### **Whole Home Repair Program**

The application to the Whole Home Repair program opened on May 30, 2023, through Action Housing. These are ARPA funds that will pay up to \$50,000 for home repairs for low-income property owners. Once it's gone, it's gone. I encourage you to get this to your qualifying homeowners that could use the help. They will need to create an account, and complete the information on the application – a 7 step process. Time is of the essence since the need is greater than the funds allocated.

<https://actionhousing.org/our-services/allegheny-county-whole-home-repairs-program/>

### **Police Training**

Fall dates are to be determined.

## **Other**

On 5/2 I attended a PACOG (Pennsylvania State Association of COGs) meeting at Centre Region COG. This was an attempt to reinvigorate the organization since Linda Costa, the longtime director, retired and was not replaced. This effort was spearheaded by myself and An Lewis (SRCOG). We brought Debby Grass, DCED, LGA and the PA Economy League to the table. An was appointed as the new Chair and I was appointed as the Secretary/Treasurer.

On 5/9 I attended the Allegheny COG Director's Meeting. Reps from ALCOSAN were there, as well as Patrick Joyal from the Governor's office. I have a follow-up meeting with Mr. Joyal on 6/13 to further discuss our CodeNforce project.

On 5/17 I attended a meeting with representatives from US Steel to discuss CAPs and community education. US Steel would like to distribute their newsletter through the COG to make you aware of the community work in which they've been involved.

On 5/18 I moderated a panel at Senator Brewster's Student Government Day event. Always fun to discuss government with our youth!

On 5/22 I met with Congresswoman Lee's staff. Emily Woodard was also present from SRCOG. They were interested to learn what we do, and some of the initiatives we've been working on. They were particularly interested in the long term collaborative efforts between TCVCOG and SRCOG. Brandon Forbes, District Director, discussed the potential of him facilitating a meeting with the Director of DHS to discuss CodeNforce and how we may be able to partner. He also offered an opportunity to ask questions of HUD pertaining to CDBG.

On 5/24 Jared Robinson and I attended Rankin's Act 47 ceremony. DCED Secretary, Rick Siger, was there as well as Rick Vilello, Kelly Robertson, Johnna Pro, and Bethany Williams. Representatives from Lt. Governor Davis' office, Sen. Costa's office and Rep. Salisbury's office were also there, as well as Rich Fitzgerald and Lance Chimka from Allegheny County. We are thinking of ways to ease the transition from Act 47.

On 5/25 Bethany Williams and Kelly Roberts of DCED stopped by our office for an impromptu meeting regarding what's happening at TCVCOG. In addition to discussing our core services, we did a brief demo of CodeNforce and discussed next steps with the Regional Fire Planning Study. Managers have been invited to a meeting at 1pm tomorrow (June 1<sup>st</sup>), prior to our 2pm manager's meeting, to help put together a scope.

We are in the process of converting data from an old server to a new server upon the recommendation of Norman Alan, our IT provider. Our new server has lots of built in security. I have also purchased Cyber insurance, which has become a best practice for governments, as cyber attacks continue to increase.

### **5/4/23 - Managers Meeting Hybrid :**

In Person Attendance; Rebecca Vargo, Wilkins; Mike Bolen, Pitcairn; Greg Bachy, Swissvale; Tim Little, Monroeville; Amanda Settelmaier, Natalie Merola

Virtual Attendance: Nate Bish, North Braddock; John Antinori, Wilkinsburg; Connie Rosenbayger, East McKeesport

Old Business:

1. Whole Home Repair Program- Action Housing has not sent anything out, Amanda encouraged the group to spread the word about the program.

2. Paid Fire Service Discussion – Amanda will circulate a letter of commitment to join the feasibility study. Keep in mind this may be helpful for future planning even if departments are not currently interested. The letter will be due back by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The group talked about additional details in regards to the consultants and other details.

New Business:

1. COG update= PACOG: Amanda gave a brief overview of the history of PACOG and the now defunct board. PACOG has new board now comprised of An Lewis ( SRCOG) as the new chair, and Amanda as the Treasurer / Secretary. DCED is also engaged. PACOG can be a potential resource to help with future regionalization efforts in regards to advisory boards, admin and committees.

2. Verizon Contract – E. Pgh letter expiring in 2025 – some managers have received letters. Amanda offered to help if the group would like and use RAD funds. Amanda will reach out to Cohen group.

Next Meeting: June 1, 2023 – 2pm

**Police Chief Meeting – May Meeting Cancelled**

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Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Settelmaier