

Turtle Creek Valley COG Director's Report

TCVCOG Board Meeting
March 2025

Upcoming Meetings

April 3-6: ALOM

April 9: WPJWA Working Group, 1:00pm
Manager's Meeting, 2:00pm

April 17: PACOG Webinar

April 24: TCVCOG Meeting, 6:30pm

April 25: Westmoreland Blight Summit

April 28-30: TCVCOG Police Training, Beginner & Advanced

Annual Dinner

We hosted our Annual Dinner event at Edgewood Country Club on February 28th. We welcome feedback to help improve the event.

EJG2G Grant - Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) partnership

The health department informed me today that we have unfortunately received notification from the EPA that our grant has been terminated, effective immediately. This will negatively impact Braddock, North Braddock, Swissvale and Wilmerding.

Reconnecting Communities Federal Planning Grant (RCP)

The initial kick-off meeting has been postponed several times by the Dept. of Transportation. The latest reschedule is May 15th.

Utility Billing

Please reach out if we can help with your refuse, stormwater or sewage billing. This is a long standing shared service that delivers a high quality service at a very reasonable price.

Vactor

Please return your opt-in agreement so we can start the 2025 season strong. The truck is currently running well in Turtle Creek Borough.

PACOG

DCED has agreed to extend the contract with LGA to reinvent PACOG. Regional sessions and webinars have been going very well, and COGs are starting to join the organization, which is very exciting. The next free webinar is on April 17th: "What's Up in Harrisburg" Summary: What happens in Harrisburg during a General Assembly session affects our municipal members in a big way. From unfunded mandates to grant programs, there are challenges and opportunities for COGs and their members depending on the legislation that may (or may not) be passed and signed into law. Register at PACOG.com.

Upcoming Community Events

April 12: Easter Egg Hunt, Wilkins Twp. 10am at the Community Center. Easter Bunny & Musicians will be there.

April 23: Learn Backyard Composting, Churchill Municipal Building 6pm-7:30pm. Register: prc.org/ChurchillBYC. Workshop is free, or add a composting bin for \$50.

Earned Income Tax

Year to date earnings are up 3.5%. Delinquents are up by 15.9%.

Other

Feb 7th Code enforcement officer meeting: Code enforcement officers from our member towns and surrounding were invited to participate in open discussions and updates on CNF. The meeting was well attended and we hope to have another meeting later this year. Officers were also asked if there are any specific topics they would like to discuss in the future.

Feb 10th: Amanda meeting w/ Congresswoman Lee staff

Feb 21: Molly - Allegheny Together Summit

Feb 24: Amanda meeting w/ Lauren Conley

Feb 25: Natalie CNF Demo w/ North Versailles- North Versailles is interested in CNF, stay tuned.

Feb 27th : Amanda meeting with Sen. Pisciotano

March 6th : Natalie Onboarding Sharpsburg – CNF

March 11th: Amanda COG directors meeting

March 12th : Amanda, Natalie, Mandy Colhane – CNF/Act 90 discussion. Amanda and Natalie shared background info with Mandy to demonstrate the ability CNF has to share information across municipal boundaries to support Act 90.

March 12: Molly – County Compliance meeting

March 13th: Amanda, Natalie, Benjamin Walker East Pittsburgh, refuse billing discussion. Discussion centering around the TCVCOG'S ability to provide quality utility billing service effectively & efficiently.

March 13th –Amanda PACOG Presentation

March 13th – Amanda, Landbank meeting

March 14th- Amanda meeting with County Treasurer

March 19th – Natalie – onboarding Churchill into CodeNforce

March 21st – Amanda, Natalie, Eric, meeting w/ Rep Marksosek and Adam Kelly : Rep Marksosek is now Chair of the House Housing and Community Development Committee. Rep Marksoek discussed House Bill 1062 details. Rep Marksosek has had recent press stating the need for a database to collect information related to blighted homes and code enforcement violations. Connections were made with James Dawes for a follow meeting to demo CodeNforce.

Manager's Meetings

March 12, 2025: Seth Abrams, Forest Hills; Mike Bolen, Pitcairn; Greg Bachy, Swissvale; Lou Ransom, Braddock; Alex Graziani & MK, Monroeville Virtual: Terry, Rankin; Michelle McAndrew & Ashley, Churchill; Stephanie Schwoegl, Chalfant

The group discussed the refuse collection services meeting scheduled for March 20th, the ALOM Conference, and the TCVCOG office move. The “Intensive Topic” was cleaning services.

Forest Hills – Mooneys - \$900/mo – 3hrs/day; 5days/wk

Churchill – Dirt Doctors – \$780/mo – 1/wk

Electric municipal vehicles were discussed, as was the efficacy of used guide rails. The consensus is that there’s too much liability associated with used rails. Green Acres and Penn Line are two vendors that have been used by other towns successfully.

March 20, 2025: Managers Working Group on Refuse

Attendance: Michelle McAndrew, Seth Abrams, Greg Bachy, Mike

This subset of the managers group met to discuss the feasibility of starting an in-house regional collection program. It was agreed that the first step should be to survey the entire manager’s group, asking those that are truly interested to provide basic information that will help us estimate pricing. Main areas of potential savings: Non profit, 20% savings on truck purchase, municipal fuel (.98 – deisel is tax exempt), employee costs(?). The group would like to confirm how many years are remaining at the Monroeville dump - \$67/ton+13% fees.

Primary truck should be new, backup trucks can be used. 7-8 year vehicle replacement plan. Trucks are high maintenance and costly – they “eat” oil & antifreeze.

Michele Nester is a possible consultant should we move forward. Nester Resources

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Settelmaier