

Turtle Creek Valley COG Director's Report

TCVCOG Board Meeting
April 2025

Upcoming Meetings

May 1: WPJWA Meeting , 1pm; Manager's Meeting, 2pm

May 22: TCVCOG Board Meeting, Turtle Creek Community Room. Last meeting before summer recess.

June 2-6: Planned Office Closure - Move

ALOM

The TCVCOG hospitality room was very well attended, and productive. A big thank you to Natalie & Bill Merola, and our Chair, Chad Hoover who made Saturday evening pack up so much easier.

Police Training

We have 32 officers registered for either basic or advanced active shooter training next week. Participating police departments: Churchill, Eastern Regional, Monroeville, North Versailles, Penn Hills, Plum, and Wilkins.

TCVCOG Office Move

Our new office space is under renovation. Amy from Murrysville Design Center (ProBono) helped select carpeting, wall colors and assist with space planning. Brandon from the Norman Alan company visited the site to make sure our office will be equipped with tech ports. We have engaged CIS Office Installers to do the physical move, which is on pace to take place the first week of June. We are working on all of the many nuances of moving. New address:

TCVCOG
300 Oxford Drive; Suite 330
Monroeville, PA 15146

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

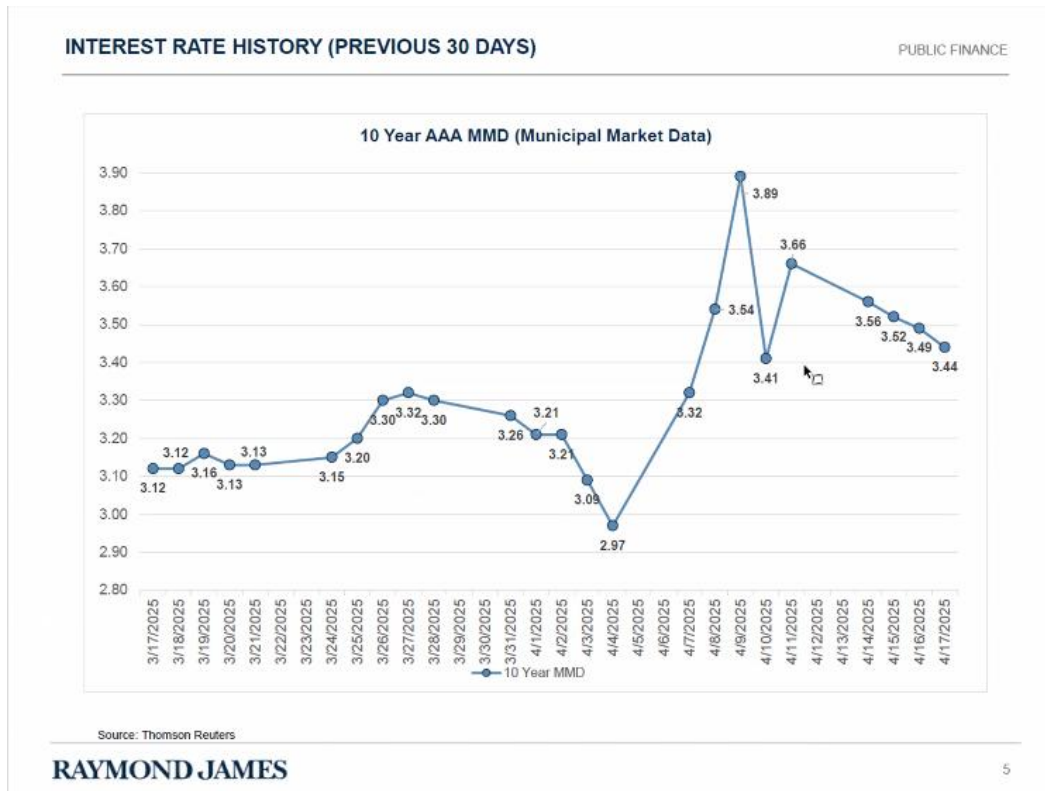
Please return your opt-in agreement so we can start the 2025 season strong.

PACOG

On April 17th: "What's Up in Harrisburg" summary: Numerous pieces of pending legislation that impact local governments was discussed: from paid sick leave to code enforcement funding to fire fighter tax credits. Check out the PACOG.com and see if there's an upcoming webinar that may interest you.

Local Government Academy (LGA)

LGA hosted a pop-up webinar with Mike McCaig from Raymond James. He went over details about the Municipal bond market, which for decades has remained fairly steady until recently. Rates are currently trending in the right direction.



Please be aware that revocation of tax exempt status for local governments is on the chopping block! The idea is to use this tax revenue to paydown federal debt. This would be devastating to states and local municipalities. Although it is uncertain at this time if this will move forward, diligence is needed. This issue seems to have gone under the radar. It will lead to increased borrowing costs. For example, a \$10 million bond over 20 years will cost an additional \$2,250,000. Call to Action: Call lawmakers and inform them of the burden for muni's. If you've used municipal bonds in the past, go to Builtbybonds.com to help compile a collective database to show lawmakers. National League of Cities is also advocating on behalf of local governments.

Other

4/8/25: Guest lecturer Intergovernmental Cooperation at the Graduate School of Public & International Affairs.

4/15/25: Meeting with County Councilman Pat Catena
Economic Development Feasibility
PACOG Board Meeting

4/17/25: Visit Monroeville Board Meeting

PACOG Webinar

4/23/25: LGA hosted a Mon Valley Blight Mitigation meeting at the Braddock Historical museum. Reps from Braddock, Swissvale, Wilkins and Monroeville were in attendance.

4/24/25: LGA Board Meeting

4/25/25: Westmoreland County Blight Summit

Manager's Meetings

April 9, 2025 - Managers Meeting

Attendance: Greg Bachy, Swissvale; Tim Saunders, Wilkins; Connie Rosenbayger, East McKeesport; Seth Abrams, Forest Hills; Amanda Settelmaier, TCVCOG

Virtual Attendance: Stephanie Schwoegl, Chalfant; Rebecca Vargo, Wilkins; Michelle McAndrew and Ashley Brown, Churchill

Thomas Guentner and Kayleigh Del Cotto came to speak to the group about Landforce – a 501(c)(3) that develops soft skills and land stewardship skills for those previously incarcerated. They can help municipalities with vacant land management, trails, wetlands management, etc. They currently work with the City of Pittsburgh, Carnegie, and McCandless and would like to increase municipal partnership. Cost for well supervised/managed service can range between \$800 - \$3k per ½ day to full day. It's an investment into helping people reintegrate into the workforce.

Old Business:

1. Franchise Renewal Update – No Update
2. Virtual Library: No Update
3. Community Events & Festivals: Amanda reminded the group to please supply 2025 event dates/town.
4. Intensive Topics: Amanda encouraged the managers to let her know in advance of any topics on which they'd like to do a "deeper dive"

New Business:

1. Refuse Survey Responses: Fifteen responses were received. After some discussion, Amanda and Greg will work together after the TCVCOG office move, to start putting together a budget.
2. Amanda informed the group that she's executed a lease agreement and the office will be moving the first week of June, barring any unforeseen circumstances. The new TCVCOG address will be:
TCVCOG
300 Oxford Drive; Suite 330
Monroeville, PA 1546
3. The group was in agreement to cancel June's meeting due to the TCVCOG's office move.

Meeting concluded at approximately 3:30pm. Next Meeting: May 1, 2025 at 2pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Settelmaier