

Turtle Creek Valley COG Director's Report

TCVCOG Board Meeting
May 28, 2026

Upcoming Meetings – Please HOLD these dates:

6/4: Manager's Meeting, 2pm

9/24: TCVCOG Board Meeting

CodeNforce (CNF)

We recently demo'd the system for Pitcairn Borough and Cranberry and Rostraver Townships. Natalie will be talking with Ingram borough soon. Please reach out if your town would like to learn more. We prefer to demo the system with code enforcement staff present. We also continue discussions with consultant Kate Freed as part of the planning grant process. Kate has been assisting us with finalization of details surrounding long-term tiered pricing structures and system sustainability based on operational needs.

Utility Billing

Please be in touch with any billing needs you may have.

Vactor

Please encourage your public works to call the office to schedule vactor days. Our opt-in communities include Churchill, Edgewood, North Braddock, Swissvale, Turtle Creek and Whitaker.

FIRE CODE BOARD of APPEALS

We've received applications from Clyde Wilhelm, Ryan Flaherty and Jason Sonafelt (pending approval from Allegheny County Legal). Stacy Mays has expressed interest and will be submitting an application. I will ask the manager's committee to review the applications and make a recommendation, if appropriate, for board approval at our September meeting.

OTHER

SHACOG is preparing a one-year bid for rock salt. An email was sent today asking you to complete a survey. To be able to purchase rock salt from this bid, your town must complete and return the survey and estimated quantities by Friday June 5th.

5/19/26: East Boroughs Fire Department group continues to meet to discuss ways to work together. I attended the last meeting, as did the PA Fire Commissioner, Tom Cook, and County Council President Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis. The group discussed the need for consolidation of stations, and shared equipment. Commissioner Cook suggested that an in-depth study would be a good next step.

5/27: Connect Refuse Authority Steering Committee. Connect is beginning a process to look for a consultant that can build capacity around the creation of the authority. A few questions:

1. Would you prefer an authority that's:
 - a. low risk and contractual (no board rep)
 - b. shared risk, equal board vote
2. What's the most important
 - a. Cost
 - b. Quality Service
 - c. Less municipal admin

Connect will put together a summary of this project to make sure everyone is aware of this effort.

TCVCOG has a small sub committee of the manager's group that's exploring a refuse district. Would you consider participating in a standardized bid if it saves money? What is necessary and what are deal breakers in terms of service. Remember, the price goes up with added services.

Manager's Meeting – May 7, 2026

Attendees: Aaron Sims, East McKeesport; Greg Bachy, Swissvale; Tim Saunders, Wilkins; Mike Bolen, Pitcairn; Amanda Settelmaier, TCVCOG. Virtual: Rebecca Vargo, Wilkins Twp.; Joe Varhola, North Versailles

Old Business:

1. Intensive topics-
None
2. Refuse –
Connect Initiative (no updates) -Refuse District Spec .
Amanda will provide to the sub-committee sample specs from Ben Woods at Earthwise.
3. Duquesne Light Issue
Amanda will reach out to Senators Costa and Pisciotano to get their feedback on approach.
 - a. Emergency Communication during and after outages (DL has reached out looking for appropriate municipal contact info). Towns want better communication to assist with opening roads from downed trees – more of a partnership.
 - b. LED Billing Issue – Cost savings are not being reflected. DL needs “permission” from the PUC to lower costs. Significant savings are not being passed on to municipalities.
 - c. Transparency regarding their Infrastructure Improvement Plans.

New Business:

1. Fire Code Appeals Board
We need 3 or 4 more applicants to get the board up and running. Amanda will send qualification requirements and the application to the manager's group.
2. PHARE Funding Ideas
The group discussed potential projects tied to housing. Amanda will explore potential housing partners.

Next Meeting: June 4th at 2pm. Amanda will not be present. However, representatives from Allegheny County DOED will be here to discuss grant programs and elements of quality applications.

Police Chief meeting – Cancelled

In lieu of meeting, Amanda met with Patrick Connors from SHACOG on 5/22/26 to discuss their police chief group.

SHACOG has three revenue streams from their towns:

Annual Dues

Coop Emerg. Response (Police Group)

FIRE group

We focused our conversation on police and fire.

Funding formulas paid by member municipalities (in addition to annual dues):

Police: \$5,500 + .06 per capita (\$151,600)

Fire: \$1,500 + .06 per capita (\$53,900)

Their Police group meets monthly and typical attendance is 17 chiefs out of 24. They have strong leadership (which in Patrick's opinion is absolutely essential). The Chair (currently Chief Cortazzo from Baldwin) sets the agenda, produces & distributes the meeting notes, sends meeting reminder emails and facilitates the meeting. Meetings rotate, and the chiefs work with local eateries to provide food for the meetings. Patrick attends meetings as an observer, and to understand priorities. He also helps apply for LSA or GEDTF grants. Even their small towns are active participants.

The Police group has 6 working groups:

CIRT – chaired by Officer (?) Starko

CIT (Investigative unit) – chaired by (Gagorik?)

CRASH – Chaired by Chief Podsiadly from Scott. They're buying 2 new drones paid for through the police fund. They still need to put an MOU in place.

SUPPORT – Chaired by Chief Dixon (who tragically passed recently)

-Field Support for struggling officers

HONOR GUARD – Chief Glover, Peters

NEW – Drone Program – chaired by Chief Haberman, Mt. Lebo

31 certified pilots

The agenda then lists:

Joint Police Test

Region 13 Activities

Ratification of Bills/Invoices

Budget Discussion for 2027 (80% goes to CIRT)

Guest Speaker

Patrick also told me about their driver training – aggressive driving course. This is a partnership with the IUP Academy.

Next step could include inviting Chief Cortazzo and/or Chief Podsiadly to discuss details of their CRASH team. (Patrick is still new). They do not have a MCSAP team.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Settelmaier