

**April Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes**

Thursday | April 21, 2022 | 10:00am
The University Club | 123 University Place,
Pittsburgh, PA 15213



Attendees: Dominique Davis-Sanders, Braddock; Krista Watt, Dormont; Alex Graziani, Churchill; Ben Estell, Dormont; Bhavini Patel, Edgewood; Coletta Perry, Crafton; JR Henry, West View; Joelisa McDonald, Rankin; Bruce Fromlak, West View; Tim McLaughlin, Aspinwall; Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg; Shawn Alfonso-Wells, Swissvale; Kate Sphar, Kate Sphar Consulting; Tim Rogers, Shaler; Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna; Natalie Thiess, Reserve; Patricia DeMarco, Forest Hills; Andrew Flynn, Mt Lebanon; Mindy Ranney, Mt Lebanon; Jessica Semler, Etna; Phyllis Anderson, Oakmont; Deborah Brown, Braddock; Vanessa McCarthy Johson, Homestead; Selena Butler, Braddock; Steve Beuter, Carnegie; Deneen Underwood, Carnegie; Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County; Jake Pawlak, City of Pittsburgh; Erik Fabian, ResourceX; Steven Degenaro, ResourceX; Chris Fabian, ResourceX

GSPIA/CONNECT: Lydia Morin, Kelley Kelley, JoEllen Marsh, Brett Stewart, Blair Mickles, Eric Raabe, Sarah Downing

The doors opened at 9:30am for members to casually chat with one another, enjoy the breakfast buffet

Introductions, Call to Order, and Agenda Overview

Patricia DeMarco, Forest Hills

- CONNECT's 2021-2022 Board of Officers introduced to the room
- Members went around the room and introduced each other

Nominating Committee Presents 2022-2023 Board of Officers Slate

- Chair Nominee: Andrew Flynn, Mt Lebanon
- Vice Chair Nominee: Shawn Alfonso-Wells, Swissvale
- Secretary/Treasurer Nominee: Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna
- Manager Representative Nominee: George Zboyovsky, Brentwood

Board of Officers to be presented through a resolution at the May 19 Legislative Session

Officers present a vote for strategic planning

Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna

- Celebrate how CONNECT has changed and grown.
- Founder Dr. Miller envisioned an organization where people join together. Everyone has a voice, is equal
- Introducing Kate Sphar of Kate Sphar Consulting

- Kate Sphar discusses how budget and staff of CONNECT have grown; CONNECT membership has grown as well
- Exploring strategic planning options
- Etna: Ask for support for a resolution on strategic planning to present at the Legislative Session in May
 - Seconded

Communications & Technology Working Group Update

Tim McLaughlin, Aspinwall

- There are two types of communication: passive and active. Passive is where municipalities need help. Passive takes time (example: directing residents to a website that is frequently updated – website is passive)
- How do we set up a brand/guide for municipalities?
- CONNECT needs to follow communication guidelines as well and act as a model
- Looking at funding for municipalities who want to opt in to shared data on the cloud, data sharing opportunities

Resource X – Introduction

Andrew Flynn, Mt Lebanon

Resource X Presentation

Chris Fabian: ResourceX works with 300 local governments across the country. Nothing like CONNECT exists that they have worked with before. CONNECT offers the opportunity to share data collaboratively, prioritize resources. Process begins with data collection, recentering budget not at the line-item level but at the program level. Recasting and recentering the budget conversation. Finding out if there are alternatives and options to free up resources, partner with others, maximize the preexisting budget.

Steve Degenaro: ResourceX has done strategic planning for municipalities, universities, etc. Through CONNECT and grad student interns/assistance, opportunity to put data together in a plan.

Climate Action Plan Update & Draft Resolution

Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg

- Climate change is significant to our region, needs to be addressed regionally

Transit resolution

Ben Estell, Dormont

- Continue working with Mobilify
- Work on implementing the existing TOD toolkits

Recycling & Materials Management resolution

Andrew Flynn, Mt Lebanon

- Resolution to continue this effort to quantify materials management within the region

LEAD Updates & Resolution

Shawn Alfonso-Wells, Swissvale

- Almost through the process of choosing a service provider. Working on implementation next.
- Swissvale is helping to lead this cohort.

Future of Fire Project Presentation

Blair Mickles, CONNCET intern

- History of projects and collaboration with GSPIA and fire services
- Brett Stewart's capstone discussed collaborative capacity
- Blair's project: Creation of mapping system, visual representation
 - o First map of CONNECT communities, COGs, and regular fire departments
 - o Example of what communities can do with GIS technology

Future of Fire Updates

Coletta Perry, Crafton

- Fire services personnel has decreased by 87%
- Recruitment issues and higher costs to maintain fire services
- This committee, along with DCED is trying to continue to gather more information. Interviewing fire fighter companies, personnel, elected officials
- More opportunities for transparency and working together

Call for Agenda Items for June Executive Committee meeting

Lydia Morin, CONNECT

- Emphasizing shared language: everyone defines recycling, materials management differently

Executive Committee meeting adjourned