

March 2021 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday | March 25, 2021 | 10AM

Via Zoom



Municipal Attendees: Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna; Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County; Patty DeMarco, Forest Hills; Ben Estell, Dormont; Tim Rogers, Shaler; Tim McLaughlin, Aspinwall; Lindsay Powell, Pittsburgh; Mindy Rainey, Mt. Lebanon; Phyllis Anderson, Oakmont; Krista Koller, Churchill; Jack Betkowski, Ross; Katie Malsch, Swissvale; Krista Mosher, Castle Shannon; Andrew Flynn, Mt. Lebanon; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Alex Graziani, Churchill; Connie Tinsley, Turtle Creek; Ron Borczyk, Ross; Bruce Fromlak, West View; Nickole Nesby, Duquesne; Rob Zahorchak, Edgewood

Other Attendees: Jeanne Clark, ALCOSAN; Kate VanderWeide, DHS; Natalia Rudiak, Reimagine Appalachia

GSPIA/CONNECT: Lydia Morin, Tess De Jong, JoEllen Marsh, Kelley Kelley
+2 call in numbers

The Zoom room opened at 9:45am for members to casually chat with one another

January 2021 Executive Committee Minutes

Motion to approve minutes – Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna

Second – Ben Estell, Dormont

Motion approved.

Annual Funding Update

- The officers suggested we talk through our budget once per year
- We looked together at CONNECT's 2-year budget. Thanks to all of you for this very healthy budget!
- Explanation of what foundational, endowment, and sponsorship money supports what (and who)
- Looking to grow CONNECT staff (1-2 program managers) with additional funding
- We are getting excited to start using sponsorship dollars on in-person events again hopefully soon
- CONNECT will be elevated to a direct program in GSPIA (Pitt's Graduate School of Public & International Affairs) (it has been based in the Center for Metropolitan Studies)

6-month Resolutions Progress Report

- We walked through [this chart](#), highlighting key points

Quick Working Group Co-Chairs Updates

PSH (Public Safety, Health, & Human Resources)

- 10 municipalities have passed a LEAD resolution!! LEAD is getting more funding and an incredible amount of support
- The next subcommittee meeting is policies and procedures for police training.

I&U (Infrastructure & Utilities Coordination)

- There is now a Regional Climate Action Plan Subcommittee that meets monthly
- We will continue to meet about the other high priority working group issues too and form subcommittees when appropriate

E&E (Economic & Environmental Development)

- Right now, we are focused on learning and understanding various pieces of materials management and critically thinking about our waste and recycling contracts. We are editing an informational video to send around soon. ([now available!](#))
- We also had a presentation by and discussion with NEXTransit representatives at our last meeting
- Transit and materials management are getting so big that we are splitting this working group into 2 subcommittees

New: C&T (Communications & Technology)

- Our first steering meeting for this working group is on April 1st! We will announce the date of the official launch meeting, but especially passionate individuals may also join this steering meeting.

*We invite **everyone** to join one or more of these working groups and subcommittees!*

Reimagine Appalachia Update & Discussion

- The background of the formation of [Reimagine Appalachia](#). If we aren't at the table, we're on the menu, so we inserted ourselves into the climate change discussion which has primarily been on the west and east coasts. We developed a collective vision and blueprint for what we wanted.
- We want a robust, sustainable economy that expands opportunity through public investment and rebuilds the middle class
- Discussion about current infrastructure problems and forecasted numbers of careers clean infrastructure, progress with a growing number of committed Appalachian mayors, funding potential, and what we are paying for by not doing anything (asthma, contaminated land)
 - Our 2nd of 3 Governing for the Common Good sessions is on Environmental Racism and Land Use; even if you can't attend, you can watch this [video](#)
- Reimagine Appalachia and the Marshall Plan for Middle America have cross-endorsed each other
- What you can do – see resources below, especially the follow-up letter

Resources:

- Read the [Reimagine Appalachia Summary](#)
- [Campaign video](#)
- [2021 Reimagine Appalachia Local Government Sample Press Release](#)

- [Reimagine Resolution for a New Deal that Works for Us](#)
- [Executive Sign-on Letter](#)
- [Appalachia Climate Plan, Jobs investment and Dollars](#)
- [A follow up letter from presenter Natalia Rudiak with additional resources](#)

Conversational breakout rooms to reCONNECT

Brief large group discussion around future Executive Committee agenda items, and communications around COVID-19 vaccinations

Closing thoughts and highlighted upcoming meetings

Next Executive Committee Meeting: May 27th at 10am

Adjourn 11:10am