

November 2020 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday | November 19, 2020 | 10AM
Via Zoom



Municipal Attendees: John Stinner, Jefferson Hills; Kyle Thauvette, Collier; Ian McMeans, Mt. Lebanon; Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna; Andrew Flynn, Mt. Lebanon; Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County; Patty DeMarco, Forest Hills; Rob Zahorchak, Edgewood; Ron Borczyk, Ross; Ben Estell, Dormont; Bill Rossey, Sharpsburg; Joanna Bouldin, Dormont; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Tim Rogers, Shaler; Cindy Bahn, West View; Tim McLaughlin, Aspinwall; Shawn Alfonso-Wells, Swissvale; Lindsay Powell, Pittsburgh; Steve Beuter, Carnegie; Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg; Rick Wagner, Ben Avon; Mindy Rainey, Mt. Lebanon; George Zboyovsky, Brentwood; Rebecca Vargo, Wilkins; Matthew Rudzki, Sharpsburg; Phyllis Anderson, Oakmont; An Lewis, Steel Rivers COG + Tri-COG Land Bank; John Frombach, Brentwood; Marita Garrett, Wilksburg; RJ Susko, McCandless

Other Attendees: Jeanne Clark, ALCOSAN; Mica Williams, Foundation of HOPE

GSPIA/CONNECT: Lydia Morin, Tess De Jong, JoEllen Marsh, Kelley Kelley, Sarah Downing, Zoe Burgh, Eric Raabe, Kristen Michaels, CONNECT alum; Kathy Risko, CONNECT alum; Lindsay Angelo, CONNECT alum

The Zoom room opened at 9:30am for members to casually chat with one another

Executive Director comments on the passing of CONNECT's Founding Advisor Dr. David Miller

- Thank you to everyone who reached out about Dave. He was a mentor to all of us and he cared so much about all of us and this work that we are doing together. I know he received and read so many messages from you and former students this last week.

August Executive Committee minutes

Motion to approve minutes – Ben Estell, Dormont

Second – Tim Rogers, Shaler

Motion approved.

September Legislative Session minutes

Motion to approve minutes – Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna

Second – Shawn Alfonso-Wells, Swissvale

Motion approved.

Introductions and space for remarks about Dave Miller

- Introduced the September 2020-April 2022 Board of Officers in this first Executive Committee meeting since we voted on this new board. The board members gave remarks.
 - *Chair: Patty DeMarco, Council Vice President of Forest Hills*
 - *Vice Chair: Andrew Flynn, Mt. Lebanon Commissioner*
 - *Manager Representative: George Zboyovsky, Manager of Brentwood*

- *Secretary/Treasurer: Mary Ellen Ramage, Manager of Etna*
- *City of Pittsburgh Representative: Lindsay Powell on behalf of Mayor William Peduto*
- *Allegheny County Representative: Darla Cravotta on behalf of County Executive Rich Fitzgerald*
- *Immediate Past Chair: Brittany Reno, Council President of Sharpsburg*
- We took significant time to have everyone in attendance introduce themselves and say something they were excited about in the coming year or a challenge that they were working through.
- During the introductions, we invited everyone to express remarks about Dave. Almost everybody did, even those who had not met him personally but knew of his impact. It was abundantly clear the legacy he had made. We dedicated most of our meeting time to honoring the work he had started, and then we moved to our regular agenda items to continue forwarding the work as we know he would have wanted us to do.

How do we CONNECT? Communications discussion

- We will postpone this to January in the interest of time and extraordinary circumstances.

Public Safety, Health, & Human Resources Working Group

- Volunteer Fire Update: Join us at the capstone presentations 11/30 ([Recording here](#)). Look for our final report! Thanks for your ideas of collaboration. In our biweekly “Future of Fire” meeting, we have a space for people to connect and work through issues together, we wanted to create a low stakes environment for people to share resources and exchange information. Join every other Wednesday at 12:30pm.

LEAD Update + Q&A

- JoEllen introduces Mica Williams, Adult Diversion Director at the Foundation of HOPE working with the City of Pittsburgh in the Northside to pilot an adult diversion program in zone 1.
- The CONNECT LEAD team meets with the LEAD National Support Bureau every Wednesday at 3pm, they are there if we have questions, help us strategize and benchmark. Reach out to kellykelley@pitt.edu if you want to join
- The LEAD National Support Bureau said they could not imagine a better organization to start this program, they want to use the CONNECT model eventually to show how LEAD can be implemented in other regions.
- Yesterday (11/4): [Gov. Wolf Signs 12th Renewal of Opioid Disaster Declaration as Work Continues to Fight Opioid Epidemic and COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

LEAD Subcommittee Development

- Meeting 12/3 at 1pm to work through this question – how we decide which municipalities to initially pilot LEAD in? Everyone is welcome.
- We have not heard the status of the county microgrant application yet

- We're in conversations about the Policy Coordinating Group (kind of like a board of directors)

Infrastructure & Utilities Working Group Update

- Key points from Fall working group meeting
 - Read full notes [here](#)
 - Most projects being entered are from major utility companies (which is a good sign that Coordinate PA is a good business practice) but we need more projects entered by CONNECT. We adopted a resolution to utilize Coordinate PA this year, so let's take that to heart
 - Overview of Green Infrastructure Network, ORBA, and state water plan
 - Community broadband exploratory discussion
 - Electric vehicles collaborative driveevfleet.org They've launched state EV policy to drive the market by working with state officials. They offer incentives, administrative assistance, and training.
- From ALCOSAN: The amended transfer agreements have been presented to your solicitors by 3RWW. You will be getting more details from our Regionalization folks after our Board of Directors approves the agreements. The Clean Water Plan is moving forward. Please feel free to call Jeanne Clark directly with any questions. 412-734-6222.

Climate Action Planning Progress Report & Discussion

- For the Regional Climate Action Planning (RCAP) process, CONNECT intern turned Climate Action Coordinator, Eric Raabe has been collecting wastewater, electricity, gas and solid waste data all semester. We have most all of it collected except some solid waste data!
- We will be able to see both aggregate data and municipal breakdowns of residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation, which will help for planning purposes
- We don't want this to end up on a shelf, how can we *really* use it? Long-term strategies would be best for regional continuance
- [ICLEI](#) (Local Governments for Sustainability) has steps that incorporate making the Climate Action Plan goals part of the budget process. Put it into a cycle so you keep revisiting the CAP
- Gathering all this data for the first time is a huge beast, collecting needs to be continued so it is not dumped into the archives. We need to track it for decades. We need to really be strategic as to where it will be housed and who will tend to it because it would be a lot of work to start over. We need a system that is immune to personnel & administrative changes
- We thank our utility partners for being so helpful in this process and ongoing
- We will plan a separate meeting just for the CAP process in the New Year

Economic & Environmental Development Working Group update

- Next meeting: December 17th at pm. [Add to calendar.](#)
(<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/96276479910>) We will discuss CONNECT's recycling report and materials management and strategizing where to go from that.
- For anyone interested, this is Dormont's most recent Conservatorship Project:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdGKzEq_k7o&t=5s Conservatorship project – blight in communities. We are happy to help others give the process a try, to rehabilitate instead of demolish homes.

Adjourn 11:59am