

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

July 28, 2022

The regular meeting of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission was held July 28, 2022 via Zoom conferencing and in-person attendance in the second floor conference room at 112 Market Street, Harrisburg. Mr. Spandler called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members participating remotely were Commissioner Brenda Watson, Mr. Frank Campbell, Mr. Frank Chlebnikow, Ms. Dana Cotton, Ms. Deb Everly, Ms. Nina Fitchet, Mr. Tom Graupensperger, Mr. Rob Hess, Mr. John Kerschner, Mr. Danny Kirk, Mr. Gary Lenker, Mr. Fred Lighty, Mr. Bill Lyons, and Mr. Jim Turner. Mr. Robert Spandler attended in person. Mr. Steve Deck and Ms. Diane Myers-Krug of staff were also present. Mr. Deck noted the meeting was being recorded and directed attention to the list of attendees shown on the screen.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public was in attendance to provide comment.

MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Graupensperger, seconded by Ms. Everly, the minutes of the May 26, 2022 meeting were approved for filing. Mr. Hess abstained from the vote.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ms. Myers-Krug reviewed the Financial Statements for May and June 2022. She noted when eliminating the consultants' pass through funding from consideration, the in-house expenses continue to be under budget, but are much closer to the expected budget than the overall statement shows.

She highlighted revenues for May and June included regular transportation program reimbursements, subdivision review fees, local planning assistance addition of Marysville Borough, PA DEP Countywide Action Plan implementation funds reimbursement for Perry County Conservation District, participant fees for the PMPEI course offered, and a sponsorship.

Regional and Dauphin County Support program expenses continue to include stormwater activities. Ms. Myers-Krug noted until the implementation grant funds were finalized in June, staff time was charged to the Regional and County programs. Progress on the Perry County comprehensive plan continues as well. Primary expenses were for traffic counting equipment, as well as the audit and actuarial reports, which are included as notes at the bottom of the expense statements. Ms. Myers-Krug also noted corrections to the financial statement distributed with the agenda packet for review, none of which impacted the overall totals on the statement.

On a motion by Mr. Chlebnikow, seconded by Mr. Campbell, the Financial Statements for May and June 2022 were unanimously accepted for filing and audit. Copies of the Financial Statements are attached to the file copy of these minutes.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

Ms. Myers-Krug reviewed some general ledger items including payment for instructors of the PMPEI training course offered, traffic counting equipment, Perry County Conservation District stormwater project reimbursement, Lower Allen Township reimbursement for completion of the Gettysburg Road Corridor study, annual maintenance for the large-scale plotter, and payments for the annual audit and actuarial reports.

On a motion by Mr. Kerschner, seconded by Ms. Cotton, the payment of the May and June 2022 expenses was unanimously approved. Copies of the expenses are attached to the file copy of these minutes.

There were no health reimbursements during May or June 2022, therefore no action was necessary.

Ms. Myers-Krug noted the sweep account report was provided for information purposes. Until any of the CD funds are reinvested in a different account, the sweep account balance will remain higher than in the past. She also provided a summary statement from the new investment account established when the first CD was redeemed. It provided monthly and year to date information regarding the overall activity and status of the account. As would be expected, the account is down about 14% at the end of June. It is anticipated this will change to positive growth over the long term.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEWS

Mr. Deck reviewed five different requests for grant funding including Shireman Tract, Brightbill Park, and Conewago Creek restoration applications through PA CFA Greenways, Trails and Recreation program; Downtown Hershey Gateway through PA CFA Multi-modal transportation program; and a 12-County Investment to catalyze agricultural project readiness through PA DEP Growing Greener Plus program.

On a motion by Mr. Graupensperger, seconded by Mr. Kirk, approval for Mr. Spandler's signature on the consistency letters passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Deck highlighted four letters regarding PA DEP CAP Implementation, each provided to the participating counties regarding the amount of its allocation being distributed for stormwater projects. Another letter committed a \$120,000 in-kind match for the 12-County Investment project using PA DEP CAP funds awarded to TCRPC. The final communication was notification of the single audit being filed in the Federal Audit Clearinghouse signaling its completion. No action was requested.

REPORTS

Mr. Deck highlighted several staff efforts including an updated RTP Implementation Grant Program guidance and application ready for distribution, activities surrounding the regional bike share program (SusqueCycle) launch, adoption of the transportation improvement program (TIP) which included an additional \$30 million/year through the new federal infrastructure bill (IIJA), completion of the I-81 Improvement Strategy, Countywide Action Plan meetings, Dauphin County stormwater program (WREP) progress, Perry County comprehensive plan (Picture Perry), and infrastructure task force meetings to discuss priorities for the IIJA funds.

Mr. Deck noted Ryan Unger with Harrisburg Regional Chamber will be the keynote speaker for the annual luncheon to be held on October 5 at the Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Deck shared that a claim had been filed against TCRPC's Nationwide insurance regarding stormwater damage to property allegedly resulting from an illegal driveway. State law (PA MPC) specifically states municipalities/counties cannot be held liable for such items, and staff was hopeful the claim would be denied. More information will be provided when it is available.

Mr. Deck explained that a legal agreement is being developed for the regional bikeshare program and was reviewed by the TCRPC solicitor. Changes to the draft agreement based on the solicitor's comments will be incorporated prior to finalization of the agreement.

Ms. Myers-Krug provided some background information and history regarding a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the pension. She inquired if the Commission would be open to consider a COLA given the recent inflation experience (8% in the first half of 2022). She emphasized the last COLA was given in 2006. Staff was directed to find out if the other counties (Dauphin and Perry) were considering COLA increases for its pensions, and to ask the TCRPC actuary what other counties may also be doing with respect to COLAs at this time. Staff is to report results for discussion at the September TCRPC meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was provided.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Lenker, seconded by Mr. Hess, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for
Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.
TCRPC Office, 112 Market Street
2nd Floor Conference Room, and remotely

Respectfully submitted,
John A. Kerschner

John A. Kerschner, AICP
Secretary