

ERIE AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

150 East Front Street • Suite 300 • Erie, PA 16507
Phone (814) 454-1770 • Email jhkunco@erieareacog.org • Web www.erieareacog.org

MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY May 5, 2021 at 3:00 pm ZOOM Meeting Minutes

Municipality	Delegate or Alternate	In Attendance:
Albion Borough	Greg Hemmis	
Albion Borough, Manager	Gary Wells	X
City of Erie, Mayor	Joseph Schember	
City of Erie Mayor's Alternate	Mas Sala	X
City of Erie Council	Liz Allen	X
County Council	Mary Rennie	X
County Executive's Representative	Honey Stempka	X
Borough of Edinboro	Pat Davis	X
Borough of Edinboro, Manager	Kevin Oppe	X
Fairview Township	Mark Gennuso	
Franklin Township	Dennis Howard	
Girard Township	Lindy Platz	X
Girard Borough	Dennis McNally	X
Girard Borough	Rob Stubenbort	X
Greenfield Township	Steve Rathman	
Greene Township	John Bartnicki	X
Harborcreek Township	Tim May	X
Lawrence Park Township	Eric Gerardine	
LeBoeuf Township	Michael Porter	
Millcreek Township	Dan Ouellet	X
North East Township	Robert Mazza	
Summit Township	Jack Lee	X
Venango Township	DJ Austin	X
Union City Borough	Cindy Wells	X
Union Township	Earl Brown	X
Wesleyville Borough	Regina Julius	
Invited guests and others in Attendance:		
EA COG	Jessica Horan-Kunco	X
Erie County Transportation Planner	Emily Aloiz	X

Member Governments

Boroughs of: Albion • Edinboro • Girard • Union City • Wesleyville • City of Erie • County of Erie
Townships of: Franklin • Girard • Greene • Greenfield • Harborcreek • Lawrence Park • LeBoeuf • Millcreek
North East • Summit • Venango

A. Call to order: Call to order and roll call of delegates/alternates on the video/audio conference at 3:03 pm.

B. Approval of minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2021 General Assembly meeting was made by Tim May and seconded by Dennis McNally and passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment/ Presentations:

1. Emily Aloiz, Erie County Transportation and MPO Coordinator

Emily presented information on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and how important it is to get your projects into the plan in order to be eligible for state and federal funding. The LRTP is a 25 year plan adopted in 2017 that is revisited every 5 years for updates. The MPO has contracted with an engineering firm, WRA to facilitate the 5 year update process. Emily provided a survey link and wikimap tool for municipal officials and residents to mark or explain areas of concern. There will be virtual public meetings held on May 14 and 19 to give input directly to the consultants. Once projects are identified the 23 member MPO will rank priority projects based on state and federal measures to recommend projects for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The project list will be finalized by the MPO by end of Nov 2021 and sent to PennDOT's Central office for official review. Once PennDOT has determined the priority projects a public hearing will be held in 2022.

Emily mentioned that there is approximately \$21 million allocated annually to Erie County roads. She also explained that the Green Light Go funding has been frozen indefinitely but that there is a pot of Transportation Alternative (TA) Set Aside funding coming open soon.

D. Treasurer's Report: no report

E. Old Business:

1. Membership Application from Union Township: Union Township submitted an application and resolution requesting membership in the COG from their supervisors meeting of April 13, 2021. On a motion by Dan Ouellet, seconded by DJ Austin their application for membership was accepted unanimously.
2. General Materials bid results are available on the COG website. This is the first year that delineator posts were bid and we received several bids, please let Jessica know if you make a purchase so that we can determine if the product specifications are correct to meet your needs.
3. Updates on American Rescue Plan Guidance: The Federal government has put out guidance that indicates that all non-entitlement communities will be required to have a DUNS number. Jessica can provide the website for applying for a Duns and Bradstreet number for those who need it. The PA Economy League provided some additional recommendations regarding the funding which Jessica shared with the delegates.
4. Project updates:
 - a. Greater Erie Regional Trails – new brochure: a 2021 version was created and delivered to the Welcome Center on I90 at the Erie County line, to VisitErie and the TREC.
 - b. Glass Recycling Pilot – we received a 3 month project report. Approximately 50 tons of glass have been collected so far. All locations are being monitored for performance, some locations are slow to fill. Jessica has asked Prism to not move containers without informing the host municipality.
 - c. Fire and EMS Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee
 1. DCED study updates: ISO ratings still needed for the consultant. The steering committee meets on 5/11 at 2:00 pm with the Fire Consultant, John Senft and at 3:00 pm with the full committee.

Member Governments

Boroughs of: Albion • Edinboro • Girard • Union City • Wesleyville • City of Erie • County of Erie

Townships of: Franklin • Girard • Greene • Greenfield • Harborcreek • Lawrence Park • LeBoeuf • Millcreek

North East • Summit • Venango

2. Public Safety Authorities State legislation status: the legislation now has 18 Senate sponsors including Senator Dan Laughlin and is moving through the committee process.

3. The 4th Ballot question on the primary election ballot is about making the Volunteer Fire Department Loan fund available to career fire departments. This ballot initiative has the support of both volunteer and career fire departments as it is a loan fund and there is plenty of money to lend. Also as departments switch to partial paid they will want to continue to have access to the loans as well.

F. New Business:

1. Updated marketing flyer – Strategic Plan for EACOG.

Dennis Howard, Chairman has suggested that the COG update its strategic plan flyer to use for marketing. This document summarized the activities of the COG in 2016 and set a 3 year plan in place and is now out of date. It was suggested that a committee could lead this task, Mary Rennie, Honey Stempka, Dennis Howard and Liz Allen will participate.

2. Environmental Advisory Board:

Sarah Bennett from Penn Futures, discussed the Our Water, Our Future report on the Lake Erie Watershed with Jessica. She asked if the COG would consider creating an Environmental Advisory Board. The delegates discussed her request and Earl Brown recommended evaluating what the Erie County Conservation District already has in place to prevent duplication. Jessica will ask Sarah to consult with the ECCD.

3. Host for future hybrid meetings?

Greene Township offered to host our upcoming work session on June 9 to give both an in-person and virtual option to delegates.

4. Open discussion of delegate updates: none

A motion to adjourn was made by Tim May and seconded by Dan Ouellet at 4:30 pm.

The next COG meeting will be June 9, 21 at 3:00 pm.

Member Governments

Boroughs of: Albion • Edinboro • Girard • Union City • Wesleyville • City of Erie • County of Erie

Townships of: Franklin • Girard • Greene • Greenfield • Harborcreek • Lawrence Park • LeBoeuf • Millcreek

North East • Summit • Venango