

BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM
Thursday, June 6, 2013
Chalfont Borough, Forrest Park Water Treatment Plant
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at the Forrest Park Water Treatment Plant in Chalfont Borough building on June 6, 2013 and called to order by Consortium President Carolyn McCreary.

Roll Call and Introductions:

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

Carolyn McCreary, Plumstead Township	Linda McNeill, Tinicum Township
Dan Olpere, Perkasio Borough	Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township
Gail Weniger, Warwick Township	Herb Schoell, Upper Southampton
John Boyle, Yardley Borough	Sally Slook, Upper Makefield Township
Rick Schnaedter, Hilltown Township	Marianne Morano, East Rockhill Township
Eileen Bradley, New Britain Township	Andrea Coaxum, Perkasio Borough
Scott Swichar, Bristol Township	John Davis, Doylestown Borough
Joe Pantano, Wrightstown Township	Bill Cmorey, Bensalem Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township	Sandra Zadell, Doylestown Township
Bill Wert, Dublin Borough	Ryan Martin, Middletown Township
Stephanie Mason, Doylestown Township	Jeff Vey, Milford Township
Judy Decker, West Rockhill Township	

Sponsors:

Ted Dorand, PECO
Brian Jeter, Comcast
Steve Huntzinger, GHD Consulting Engineers
Charles Winslow, GHD Consulting Engineers
David Jones, Boucher & James Engineers
Tom Hough, Hough Associates
Elisabeth Sibley, Hough Associates
Jim Gray, RBC Capital Markets, LLC

Guests:

Senator Chuck McIlhinney, PA's 10th District
Heather Cevasco, Chief of Staff for Sen. McIlhinney

Approval of Minutes – May 2, 2013:

The meeting minutes from the May 2, 2013 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:

The Treasurer's report for the month of May 2013 was approved.

Presentation:

President Carolyn McCreary introduced Senator Chuck McIlhinney to the group.

Senator McIlhinney began with a discussion on the priorities list for PennDOT. He asked the managers to provide his office with their projects soon if they have not already done so, in order for him to be able to present it to the State Transportation Secretary.

The Senator updated the group on the Governor's initiative to privatize liquor sales in the Commonwealth. According to the Senator, there are 22,000 liquor stores in PA. He said that he cannot support the Governor's plan and has developed a plan that he thinks will work much better for the Commonwealth. Under his plan, the Commonwealth would maintain the wholesale aspect of liquor sales, but phase out retail sales as leases expire on current stores. PA currently makes over a half million dollars on liquor sales annually and getting out of the business at once would leave a huge budget gap.

He is recommending that the current 1,100 beer distributors and 800 select grocery stores be allowed to sell liquor and wine, which would compete with the state stores. And again, as the leases run out on the state stores, they would be individually evaluated to see if the store is still needed or if the private stores in the area are competitive enough that the state store can be closed. He stated that his plan is similar to how New Jersey's system works. According to the Senator, 18 states still sell liquor wholesale and only PA and Utah sell retail.

Going back to a transportation-related topic, the Senator discussed the bill that passed the day before the meeting which changes vehicle inspections and registrations to every two years, while raising the fee slightly. This will result in more transportation funding. The bill also lifted the cap on the oil franchise tax and reduced the state gas tax by 2%.

The Senator then went on to speak about the state's pension funding problem. He supports changing the pension for all new employees immediately to a 401k-type plan to stop the problem from becoming worse in the future and then tackle the underfunding issue on the plan with current employees.

Other Business:

Ms. McCreary stated that it was the Montgomery County Consortium's turn to host the annual ICMA training. Based on feedback from a few members in the Bucks group, she recommended to Montgomery that they select the workshop titled 'Moving Your Organization Towards Higher Performance'. The location will most likely be the Horsham Township Community Center and no date has been selected.

She announced that the Consortium would be holding a July meeting this year instead of the picnic. The meeting will be held on July 11th at the New Britain Township building and the topic will be healthcare reform. An attorney from Ballard Spahr, who spoke at PELRAS, will be the guest speaker along with a representative from the Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust.

Community Updates:

Eileen Bradley gave an update on the TCC. She stated that municipalities will notice a charge against their account on their May report for the annual assessment, which was taken out on or around May 15th. She also told the group that the annual audit report will be posted on the TCC website soon and suggested that each municipality ask their auditor to review it.

Sandra Zadell had a question for the group on military leave pay and asked municipal managers to send her any policy they may have related to that.

John Davis announced that the newly formed Central Bucks Regional Police Department authorized the issuance of an RFP for legal services and asked members to forward it to their Solicitors.

Tom Hough, with Hough Associates, gave an update on Section 904 Recycling Grants.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea L. Coaxum
Consortium Coordinator