

**BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, February 5, 2026**

**Call to Order:**

A meeting of the Bucks County Consortium was held at 12:15 p.m. at Solebury Township on February 5, 2026, and called to order by Consortium President, Christopher Garges.

**Roll Call, Introductions and Community Updates:**

The following Bucks County communities were represented at the meeting:

April Watson, Bristol Township  
Heather Satterly, Bristol Township  
Caroline Brinker, Doylestown Borough  
Calvin Trovinger, Haycock Township  
RF Shoup, Haycock Township  
Deanna Ferry, Hilltown Township  
Dave Kratzer, Lower Makefield Township  
Mega Bhandary, Lower Makefield Township  
Nick Valla, Middletown Township  
Joe Murpy, North Wales Water Authority  
Larry Kremsky, North Wales Water Authority  
Vanessa Heindel, North Wales Water Authority  
Bob Pellegrino, Northampton Township  
Bill Wert, Northampton Township  
Ashley Casey, Northampton Township  
Linda Reid, Perkasie Borough  
Stacey Mulholland, Plumstead Township  
Michele Blood, Solebury Township  
Christopher Garges, Solebury Township  
Caitlin Pedersen, Telford Borough  
Gregg Schuster, Upper Makefield Township  
Tim Hagey, Warminster Township Authority  
Daulton George, Warminster Township Authority  
Mike Walsh, Warminster Township  
John Ramey, Warminster Township  
Angela Benner, Warrington Township  
Lee Greenberg, Warrington Township  
Kyle Seckinger, Warwick Township  
Becki Marencik, Warwick Township  
Skye Sorresso, Warwick Township  
Greg Lippincott, West Rockhill Township  
Stacy Crandell, Wrightstown Township

**Sponsors:**

Mike Italia, Barry Issett & Associates  
Karen Duerholz, Boyle Construction  
Lauren Detweiler, Delaware Valley Trusts  
Amanda Giamalis, Carroll Engineering  
Joel Ardman, Carroll Engineering  
Jeff Calhoun, Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority  
Beth Kaufman, Equitable Advisors  
John Gault, Millennium Strategies  
Dave Ohman, Univest Financial Corporation  
Anna Linn, Univest Financial Corporation  
Morgan Cooper, Univest Financial Corporation  
Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, WK2 Consulting

Mr. Garges presented a plaque to Becki Marencik (Warwick Township) and thanked her for her time and dedication during her service as Bucks County Consortium President.

Mrs. Marencik thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve as President of the Bucks County Consortium during her tenure. She also expressed her appreciation to Ashley Casey for her assistance and guidance during that time.

**Presentation:**

Mr. Garges welcomed Stephanie Teoli Kuhls (WK2 Consulting) as the meeting presenter and turned the meeting over to Ms. Teoli Kuhls.

Stephanie Teoli Kuhls began her presentation with an introduction outlining the purpose of the discussion, which focused on strengthening working relationships between municipal staff, managers, and elected officials. The agenda included topics such as the manager's role as an institutional anchor, creating professional relationships, role clarity and trust, communication practices, and concluding reflections.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls' discussion highlighted the manager's role as the institutional anchor within an organization, emphasizing that while elected boards change, staff remain responsible for continuity and operational stability. Attendees were encouraged to reflect on areas where trust with their governing boards is strong and where it may need improvement.

The presentation then addressed the importance of maintaining professional relationships without allowing them to become personal alliances. It was emphasized that authority can erode through unequal access to information, unmanaged expectations, inconsistent communication, and informal commitments. Maintaining appropriate boundaries helps preserve neutrality, credibility, and effectiveness in the manager's role.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls focused on role clarity between staff and elected officials. Staff are responsible for informing and providing professional recommendations, while boards serve as advocates and decision-makers. Trust is often built during challenging circumstances, including delivering difficult news,

navigating split votes, managing public tension, and engaging in hard conversations. Communication strategies with elected officials were also reviewed, recognizing that many officials learn governance while serving in office. Managers were described as translators who simplify complex issues to create shared understanding among stakeholders.

She also highlighted the importance of maintaining a strong professional compass grounded in reputation, consistency, and steadiness. Participants were asked to reflect on how they would want to be described by their current board to future incoming members.

Ms. Teoli Kuhls concluded with final reflections emphasizing that when a board trusts a manager's judgment, the manager has fulfilled their role effectively.

Mr. Garges thanked Ms. Teoli Kuhls for the interactive presentation and the wealth of information and guidance she had shared with the membership.

Lauren Detweiler (Delaware Valley Trusts) announced a new value-added available through the Delaware Valley Trusts: Municipal Consulting Program. She noted that member entities are eligible to participate in consulting services designed to support municipal leadership, operational efficiency, and professional development. Services include mentoring, strategic planning, financial management, technology initiatives, human resources support, and public engagement. Each member entity is eligible for four consulting hours annually through the Trusts, with additional hours available by contract with Stephanie Teoli Kuhls. It was noted that if your municipality is interested in this program, to please contact the Delaware Valley Trusts.

**Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills:**

Upon motion by Becki Marencki, seconded by Nick Valla, the Treasurer's Report for October 2025, November 2025 and January 2026 was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Upon motion by Caroline Brinker, seconded by Angela Benner, November 6, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**Bucks County Consortium Professional Development Scholarship**

Mr. Garges announced that the following members were awarded the Bucks County Consortium Professional Development Scholarship:

- Catherine Cataldi, Executive Administrative Assistant to Township Manager at Solebury Township
- Lee Greenberg, Assistant Township at Warrington Township
- Skye Sorresso Stear, Assistant to the Manager at Warwick Township

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Vacancy**

Upon motion by Becki Marencki, seconded by Nick Valla, Dave Kratzer (Lower Makefield Township) was unanimously appointed as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President to the Bucks County Consortium.

## **Other Business:**

Ms. Marencki announced that the Consortium Committee is pleased to announce the launch of our 2026 Mentorship Program and are inviting members to participate as mentees. She noted that this program is designed to foster professional growth and leadership development, encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing, and build meaningful connections across the consortium.

Ms. Marencki shared that if you are interested in participating or would like additional information, please contact her at [bmarencik@warwickbucks.gov](mailto:bmarencik@warwickbucks.gov) by March 1st.

Mr. Garges reminded the membership that the 2026 Salary Survey has been shared and if there are any questions, please contact Nick Valla at [nvalla@middletownbucks.org](mailto:nvalla@middletownbucks.org).

Mr. Garges updated the membership that a letter had been sent to Morton Salt, Inc. He noted that the membership is working together to obtain a response from Morton Salt regarding expectations for how salt will be received by members participating in the Consortium Salt Bid. A discussion was held amongst the members in attendance.

## **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Casey  
Consortium Coordinator