

MINUTES

Thursday, September 21, 2006
Gratz Borough Municipal Building

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Alan Loesch with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. The following persons were in attendance:

Alan Loesch	Jefferson Township
Mark Long	Gratz Borough
Ray Kissinger	Gratz Borough
Larry Shade	Gratz Borough
Harry Shiro	Gratz Borough
Flo Mallonee	Halifax Township
Bonnie Lidle	Halifax Borough
Albert Morgan	Lykens Township
Robert Savidge	Mifflin Township
Colton Weber	Millersburg Borough
Jim Bullock	Millersburg Borough
Joe Snyder	Upper Paxton Township
Katharine Radomsky	Washington Twp./Dauphin Co. Recycling Coordinator
Dennis Coffman	Candidate for 104 th District
Sue Helm	Candidate for 104 th District
Lois Sterling	Diakon Volunteer Home Care
John Orr	Dauphin Co. Conservation District
Linda Bechtel	Secretary-Treasurer

There were nine municipalities represented. There are twenty members so ten are needed for a quorum.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the June 15 meeting were approved as read. It was also noted that meeting minutes are posted on the COG website www.udcog.org.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:

Balance June 15	\$4,429.87
Receipts	-0-
Expenditures	728.70
Balance September 21	<u>\$3,701.17</u>

Money Market CD:

Balance June 15	\$4,994.34
Interest	52.68
Balance September 21	<u>\$5,047.02</u>

CORRESPONDENCE

- The Harrisburg Area Transportation Study (HATS) Technical Committee will be held October 13 at 9:00 a.m. and the Coordinating Committee Meeting will be held October 27 at 9:00 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Board Room of Capital Area Transit offices, 901 N Cameron Street, Harrisburg.
- Information was received from Pennsylvania Construction Codes Academy (PCCA) on October thru December 2006 training courses.
- Application and Guidelines were received from Governor's Center for Local Government Services for the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence.

OLD BUSINESS

PENN-DOT Mandated Sign Upgrades

COG members discussed the new requirements for traffic signs. All signs must be purchased from a PENN-DOT approved manufacturer and must be high reflectivity. All regulatory traffic signs must be upgraded within the next seven years. COG members discussed the possibility of a joint purchase of signs and applying for a "shared municipal services grant" which would be a 50/50 match. This would be a great savings for municipalities in purchasing their signs. Each municipality must know how many signs they require and we need someone, possibly a Roadmaster from one of the municipalities, to coordinate the project.

Recycling

Katharine Radomsky reported on the Recycling situation. A third truck is expected to be delivered by October and a third driver has been hired for this truck. She also reported on the study that was done identifying illegal dumping and the problem of dumping in waterways was also discussed. COG members also discussed the possibility of having an upper Dauphin County cleanup day and an e-recycling and hazardous waste pick-up in upper Dauphin County rather than traveling to the one at HACC.

UCC Appeals Board

Colton is working with Mitch Hoffman to prepare the necessary paperwork (rules/by-laws) for the board to be formally appointed. Each municipality will need to adopt a resolution and the COG will also need a resolution to act on behalf of the municipalities.

ISO -700 NIMS Training

ISO NIMS required training is to be completed by September 30, 2006. When everyone in your municipality has completed their required courses you can go to the township or borough's association website and download a sample resolution that states your compliance, complete and adopt it, and forward a copy to PEMA.

Windmills

President Loesch reported that the city of Harrisburg is proposing putting a 400' tall, 2 mile stretch (13 windmills) on the top of Peters Mountain. Testing is being done to see if this is feasible.

Colton also reported that PP&L rate caps will go off at the end of 2009 and energy costs could raise dramatically at that time.

Amendment to By-Laws

Members then discussed the proposed resolution to amend the By-Laws to require only 1/3 of membership present for a quorum rather than ½.. This was started in 2005 and eleven municipalities had passed a resolution to approve the amendment. Berrysburg Borough had written a letter opposing it and no response was received from the other municipalities. It was agreed that we need to amend the By-Laws. A copy of the proposed resolution will be posted on the website for members to download for approval by their municipalities.

NEW BUSINESS

Lois Sterling, Program Manager for Diakon Volunteer Home Care, than gave a presentation on the services available through the Volunteer Home Care program. This is a “neighbors helping neighbors” volunteer program. They are an interfaith outreach ministry that offers assistance to individuals and families of all faiths through the support of volunteers. They provide no hands on or personal care. It is a short term assistance service and it is available to anyone, not just senior citizens. Their biggest service they provide is transportation and the volunteers can be reimbursed for mileage. . She explained how team leaders in different areas work with and train volunteers and how the program is set up.

John Orr, Dauphin County Conservation Service, then discussed the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program which is anticipated to be substantially reduced at the Federal and/or State level. The last spray program in Dauphin County was in 2001. At that time the cost was \$28.00 per acre and was paid 50% (\$14.00) by the Federal, 25% (\$7.00) by the State and the remaining 25% (\$7.00) was split between the county and local governments(\$3.50 each). It is anticipated that cost for 2007 spraying will be \$35.00 per acre and with no federal or state funding, it would have a definite impact on the local budgets. Mr. Orr wanted to make municipalities aware of the situation, get their input on how important the program was to them, and get an idea what they would be willing to pay for this service.

Mr. Orr also reported on the Wiconisco Creek cleanup at the Bear Creek Mine drainage site.

COG members then discussed Cable TV and franchises.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be October 19 and will be held in the Lykens Township Municipal Building. The two candidates for the 104th District, Sue Helm and Dennis Coffman, will address issues of interest to COG members at that time. Please get your list of issues to Alan Loesh as soon as possible so he can prepare a list for the candidates.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.