

**South Central Assembly for Effective Governance
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
January 24, 2007**

Room 217, Campus Union Building
Penn State Capital Campus, Middletown

Officers:

- [p] Honorable Stephen Reed
- [p] Honorable Nancy Besch
- [e] Honorable John Brenner
- [p] Steven Peterson
- [p] Honorable R. Glenn Snyder
- [p] Honorable Jo Ellen Litz

Members

- [e] Honorable Robert Anspach**
- [e] Honorable Bruce Barclay
- [p] Mark Berg
- [p] Harrison Bink
- [e] Keith Chase****
- [e] Honorable Nick DiFrancesco***
- [e] Honorable G. Warren Elliott
- [e] Michael Fesen
- [e] Honorable Mauree Gingrich
- [e] Honorable Richard Gray
- [] Barbara Groce
- [p] Francis B Haas, Esq.
- [e] Prof. Irving Hand
- [p] Roger T. Karsnitz, Sr.
- [p] George Klaus, Jr. ¹
- [e] Raymond Klein
- [] Julie Lalo ³
- [] Joe McCarthy
- [e] Honorable Lori Mitrick*
- [p] Russ Montgomery
- [p] Penny Myers
- [] Susan Parry ²
- [] Honorable John Payne
- [e] Honorable Cheryl Plummer
- [e] Stephen Powell
- [e] George Rettew
- [e] Honorable Howard Pete Shaub
- [p] Rusty Shunk

- [p] Steve Snell
- [p] Honorable Ted Streeter
- [e] Honorable Michael Sturla
- [p] Honorable. Rose Marie Swanger
- [e] Honorable William Troxell
- [e] James Turner, Esq.
- [e] Boyd Wolff
- [] Lori Yeich
- [] Merrill Yohe
- [p] Sherri Zimmerman

Representing Board members:

- ** Melissa Quinones
- *** Skip Memmi
- **** John Bradley
- * Felicia Dell

Others Attending:

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- Craig Zumbun (Executive Director)
 - Gary Signor (Staff)
 - Stephen Scanlon (Staff)
 - Gail D'Angelo

<p>p - present t - participated by telephone e - excused absence (prior contact)</p>
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1 *Ex Officio* USDA
2 *Ex Officio* RC&D
3 *Ex Officio* 10,000 Friends of PA

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

Minutes

The minutes of the December 13thth meeting were reviewed.

MOTION: Motion by Mr. Montgomery seconded by Mr. Bink approving the Dec. 13th minutes. Unanimous approval.

Communications

The Chair noted several pieces of correspondence received during the past six weeks.

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director filed a written report. An abbreviated version follows.

1. Overview: Operations have been severely curtailed to conserve funds. With regard to fund-raising efforts, responses to appeals made to all past members and events participants have yielded approximately \$1,500 to date. Craig, Gary and Stephen had a personal meeting with Janice Black of the Foundation for Enhancing Communities. She indicated a willingness to support the Assembly's next Health and Human Services event. Craig also met with the York Foundation. Among prospective projects, the PHFA R&R Program remains a possibility, as does an Adams County Housing Study. KOZ program administration work continues. We hope to soon receive a sub-contract renewal that will provide us a maximum of \$18,000 per year for the next three years.
2. Meetings & Networking: We continue to support affordable housing efforts in York and Adams counties, as well as continuing with PLTF training in Adams. We continue to strive, through the Housing Alliance of PA, to affect state housing policy and related legislative issues. Our support for the Adams-York Smart Growth Coalition continues. Our dialogue with 10,000 Friends and RENEWPA is on-going. We continue, through the participation of Irving Hand and Gary Signor, to host the MPC-PPA Task Force as they deliberate on framing recommendations for revisions to the Municipalities Planning Code. We are continuing in our capacity as a local administrator for the KOZ program. The Assembly's Land Use and Growth Management Committee has not been meeting, which is a cause for concern, inasmuch as its work represents one of the guiding reasons for the creation of the Assembly in the first place. Gary Signor attended the Modern Transit Partnership meeting last month. He reports that work on the first operating segment between Lancaster and Harrisburg is now scheduled to commence in 2008. Planning is underway for our H&HS Spring event.
3. Events/Public Participation

Craig attended HAP strategy sessions with PHFA and DCED leaders along with Governor's Housing Policy staff and met with Ken Klothen afterwards. Craig also hosted, lead and presented at the annual PPA Conference.

4. Financial Matters

We amended our contract with Brown Shultz Sheridan and Fritz to allow us to pay only for requested services on a month-to-month basis. Megan Ardary comes in occasionally to help with our bookkeeping. She may not be able to for much longer. We continue to wait for our new 3-year subcontract for DCED KOZ program administration to be approved. We are near completion of a proposal for the Assembly to partner with Commerce Bank on administering PHFA's Renovate and Repair Loan program. We have been given verbal notice that the Assembly will be awarded the contract for the Adams County Housing Study. We did some PLTF training for the PA Human Relations Commission, for which we were paid.

5. Upcoming Events

Health and Human Services Spring event is scheduled to be held at PSU-Harrisburg on April 12, 2007. Tier 1 PLTF training is planned for Lebanon in late February.

6. Special Projects

Following the release of the Goods Movement Study by the regional intermodal freight study group, Gary attended the group's January meeting. He voiced to the group Craig's on-going concern for data maintenance and updates to keep the information current. Craig had recommended that the Assembly along with PSH ISRA be the responsible agent. The Daytime Purchasing Study was rolled out to the Harrisburg City Economic Development staff as well as to the Dauphin County Director of Economic Development. More roll-outs are hoped for this winter.

Regional County Commissioners Association

Commissioner Litz distributed copies of the Lebanon County Commissioners' report on the State of the County - January 2007.

Regional Roundtable

No report.

Committee Reports

A. EXECUTIVE

The Chair announced that the Executive Committee will meet at City Hall in Harrisburg on Friday, February 9, 2007 at 1:00 P.M.. The purpose of the meeting will be to arrive at decisions regarding the future of the Assembly. Staff is to develop a compendium of known or certain sources of income for 2007 for distribution to Committee members by February 5th. All issues and questions will be on the table. All Board members, as well as Mr. Zumbrun, are asked to attend. Regarding the Assembly's solicitations for financial contributions, the

Chair announced that the City of Harrisburg will be making a contribution of \$1,000. He urged everyone else present to pledge support as well.

B. NOMINATING
No report.

C. PLANNING
No report.

D. FINANCE

Mr. Zumbrun reported that there are presently known financial commitments to the Assembly for 2007 of approximately \$75,000. The Assembly presently has PLTF funds of approximately \$14,000 in a restricted account. KOZ accounts receivable for 2006 amount to \$18,000, with another \$18,000 due after July 1, 2007. The Adams County Housing Study is expected to garner a fee of \$20,000. The Foundation for Enhancing Communities is interested in supporting the Spring H&HS event. The financial prospects involved with the prospective PHFA R&R program are unknown at this time.

The Chair asked if the future KOZ funds (\$50,000 over the next three years) were guaranteed. Mr. Zumbrun responded that DCED wants assurance that if the Assembly fails, the City of Harrisburg will take over program administration. Mr. Reed stated that the City would do so.

The Chair also observed that Board member and newly-elected Representative Rose Marie Swanger now has access to Legislative Initiative Grants. A grant of perhaps \$25,000 is possible. He asked Ms. Swanger if she would consider applying for such a grant on behalf of the Assembly, perhaps seeking the support of Senator Payne and Representatives Buxton and Gingrich. She agreed to look into the matter.

E. LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT
No report.

F. LEGISLATIVE
No report.

G. TRANSPORTATION
No report.

H. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
No report.

I. PREDATORY LENDING TASK FORCE

Ms. D'Angelo announced that two predatory lending outreach events will be held at the Ag Center in Gettysburg on February 20th. The first will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. and the second from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M..

J. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Mr. Zumbrun noted that planning is now underway for the next H&HS Expo. It will deal with the opportunities for, and obstacles inhibiting, communication and collaboration among regional entities. The Expo is scheduled for April 12, 2007.

In answer to a question from the Chair regarding the anticipated means of publicizing this event, Mr. Zumbrun stated that the intention would be to issue information on it as part of a Spring newsletter, which would be sent to approximately 2,500 recipients. The Chair suggested that, alternatively, the Assembly prepare a circular which the City would then print in the requisite number of copies and mail at no cost to the Assembly.

K. AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

No report.

L. DOWNTOWN AND RETAIL

No report.

M. RC&D

No report.

N. CONSERVATION, RECREATION AND HERITAGE

No report.

Old Business

- A. Consideration of the Chesapeake Bay Task Force recommendations for adoption by the Board: After a review of the salient points of the recommendations by Mr. Zumbrun, the Chair asked for a motion.

Motion to approve by Mr. Berg, seconded by Mr. Shunk. Approved unanimously.

- B. Consideration of the Transportation Summit 2006 recommendations for adoption by the Board: After a presentation by Ms. Dell of the principal findings and recommendations growing out of the Summit, the Board decided to table the matter to allow for further consideration at the next Board meeting.

- C. Mr. Klaus presented his suggestions for restructuring the Assembly, refining its focus and making it more attractive to regional entities. Highlights of the five-page paper he distributed include:

1. Define what makes us different from other regions.
2. Make the case for the need for a regional Assembly.
3. Describe in detail what the Assembly should be and do.
4. Lose the "anti-local-government" image.
5. Consider a name-change for the organization.
6. Revise the funding strategy.

7. Keep operations budget small and focused.
8. Support the creation of regional legislative caucuses.
9. Promote the “new” Assembly in the context of its tenth anniversary.
10. Confine annual Summits to subjects and themes having regional interest.
11. Have specialty events be self-supporting.

Mr. Klaus finished his presentation with a list of immediate strategy suggestions, which initially are concentrated on helping the organization survive for the next 6 months. These include reducing all possible expenses by eliminating or severely curtailing current staff and making determined and wide-ranging efforts to secure adequate funding. He presented a proposed budget for such an operation, including a method of calculating fair-share revenues from all county members, who would be encouraged to enlist other sources from within each county (municipal, foundation, college, corporate, individual) to participate financially.

Ms. Swanger noted that a south-central PA caucus exists. She said that she and Rep. Gingrich will bring the Assembly issues before that group.

Mr. Bradley agreed that the Assembly has a reputation as being anti-local-government. The Assembly is perceived as refusing to engage local government officials. This has to change.

The Chair asked Mr. Bradley and Mr. Memmi to craft a strategy to engage municipalities and other local-governmental entities.

Mr. Shunk and Mr. Berg talked about ways that local colleges might be brought into participating in the Assembly’s work. Mr. Berg noted that he will be meeting with officials from Gettysburg College to try to elicit their participation. Mr. Shunk stated that there is a Central PA Consortium of colleges that meets periodically and could be approached. He also noted that the regional Keystone Opportunity Zone, which covers an area served by 13 colleges, might present an opportunity for Assembly-academe cooperative efforts. Finally, Mr. Shunk suggested that college students be invited to be involved in the Assembly. This could provide a “hook” to eliciting college participation.

The Chair observed that if the Assembly survives, it will have much more focused mission. Rather than encouraging consolidation of governmental entities, the emphasis will be on consolidation of services delivery through taking advantage of economies of scale. Individual governmental identity and autonomy will be respected.

New Business

None.

Motion by Ms. Litz, seconded by Mr. Shunk to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the Assembly Board will be held at 3:00 P.M. on March 21, 2007, in a location at Penn State Harrisburg to be determined.

Minutes prepared by Assembly Staff