

President Barbara Underwood called the July 28, 2011 Adams County COG meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following members were present: **Boroughs:** Abbottstown, Carroll Valley, East Berlin, Gettysburg, Littlestown; **School Districts:** Conewago Valley, Gettysburg **Townships:** Conewago, Cumberland, Germany, Hamilton, Hamiltonban, Huntington, Mt. Joy, Oxford, and Straban. **County:** Adams County.

Others present were: Skip Strayer, Representative for the 33rd District State Senator, Nick Colonna and Sarah Weigle, Adams County Office of Planning and Development, John Eline, Adams County Emergency Management, Judy Chambers and Alyssa Bender, Penn State Extension, and Mark Walters, Gettysburg Times.

MEETING MINUTES: A MOTION WAS MADE BY GORMONT (MT. JOY TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY WHEELER (LITTLESTOWN BOROUGH) TO APPROVE THE JUNE 23, 2011 MINUTES. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

TREASURERS REPORT: Lori Duncan presented the Treasurer's report which showed a balance of \$5,011.69. There was no activity in the past month.

MOMENT OF RECOGNITION: For Joe Brennan, Highland Township Supervisor, who died earlier this month. Underwood asked COG members to join her in remembering Joe as a friend of the COG whose voice will be missed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Emergency Services Committee: Sharon Hamm (Straban Township). The committee is meeting but has nothing to report at this time.

Public Works Committee: Underwood (Cumberland). A roadmasters meeting is planned for September, and all COG members will be advised of the date.

Legislative Committee: Bob Gordon (Hamiltonban). Update on COG legislative priorities: Dan Moul has introduced a bill to increase the pillow tax for Adams County from 3% to 5%. The bill will be considered by committee this fall. Prevailing wage – several bills have been introduced in the Senate, and Senator Alloway has signed on as a co-sponsor to all of them. The bills are in committee, and would raise the threshold for prevailing wages from \$25,000 to \$200,000 and institute triggers for future increases. Bid limits – three bills have been introduced to increase the threshold for requiring sealed bids, and Senator Alloway is supporting all of them. Gordon also pointed out that the Legislative Committee gets monthly updates from PSATS and PSBA (Pennsylvania School Board Association).

NEW BUSINESS:

PACOG (Pennsylvania Association of COG's): Following up on last month's presentation by PACOG Director Linda Costa, Underwood asked whether there was interest in joining PACOG. **A MOTION WAS MADE BY FRIDENVALDS (HUNTINGDON TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY HAMM (STRABAN TOWNSHIP) TO JOIN PACOG AT A COST OF \$100 PER YEAR. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Guest speaker: Nick Colonna, Director of the Adams County Office of Planning and Development, told COG members that he is interested in working with municipalities to incorporate local plans and goals into the county's planning efforts. He spoke of the need for a balance between economic

development and the county's agricultural and tourism base, and looks forward to launching an economic development update to the county comprehensive plan. He looks forward to working with the COG on the Citizen Planner's Roundtable concept as well.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Adams County: Commissioner George Weikert (ADAMS COUNTY) announced that the county is starting its budgeting process for next year and will also be holding another round of property tax appeals starting in August. Question: what is the current status of the lawsuit against the property reassessment? Weikert said the county has hired a consultant to evaluate the coefficient of dispersion and anticipates using this as the basis for a settlement. The county is hopeful that it will have the study results in place and be in a position to settle the lawsuit in September.

Emergency Management: John Eline (ADAMS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMNT) thanked COG members for adopting the county hazard mitigation plan by resolution. Only 2 municipalities have not yet adopted the plan, and they are not COG members.

Adams County Boroughs Association: Nothing to report for the Association, but Ron Harris (CARROLL VALLEY BOROUGH) announced the upcoming Carroll Valley Night Out which is an opportunity for the community to meet with first responders and is a popular event.

Township Supervisors Association: Steph Eggers (HAMILTON TOWNSHIP) reminded COG members that the Association will hold another series of workshops on September 29 at the EMS building. The 1-4 p.m. session will focus on Fire Company financial requirements, and the 6-9 p.m. session will include an update on Right to Know. She asked members to suggest other topics for the second evening session. The workshops are free but registration is required. For more information contact Eggers at Hamilton Township.

School Districts: Brad Hunt (GETTYSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT) reported that the school districts are busy trying to plan for school bus routes given all the road construction work. He urged members to contact their school districts when undertaking road closure projects.

Tax Collection Committee: Brad Hunt and Dave Wheeler discussed the need for municipal involvement. This was the 4th month in a row that the TCC was unable to enact any business because there was no quorum. 21 representatives are needed for a quorum. The committee meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the EMS building.

Penn State Extension: Judy Chambers passed out a save-the-date for a meeting of the Adams County Community and Economic Partnership on Sept 13 from 9-noon at the Ag center. The Partnership has started a broadband initiative and is holding a meeting of community leaders including municipal and school officials.

Legislators: Skip Strayer (Representative for SENATOR ALLOWAY) congratulated the COG on its efforts and encouraged it to keep going. He was disappointed to learn that the York County COG has just disbanded. Strayer previewed subjects that the Senate will tackle in September: Marcellus Shale, redistricting, transportation funding, and perhaps school vouchers.

Planning Office: Nick Colonna said the State Transportation Commission will hold its public hearing for our region at the Gettysburg Wyndham on August 26. He will be soliciting input from municipalities and will coordinate the testimony that is presented on behalf of Adams County. Brad Hunt asked that school districts also be asked for input as well.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GORDON (HAMILTONBAN TOWNSHIP) AND SECONDED BY GORMONT (MT. JOY TOWNSHIP) TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:20 a.m.

**Next meeting – 8/25 at 8:30 am at Adams County Emergency Management Building,
230 Greenamyre Lane, Gettysburg,**

Signed, Judy Chambers