

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Full Commission | Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2025
4 p.m.
The Terminal
42 21st Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

The one hundred and seventy-fifth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Chairman Pat Fabian.

Members: Darin Alviano, Tony Amadio, Brad Berlin, Kevin Boozel, Douglas Chew, Mark Critz, Jesse DiRenna, Bonni Dunlap, Scott Dunn, Jared Edgreen, Pat Fabian, Kim Geyer, Sheila Gombita, Mark Gordon, Kelly Gray, Bob Griffin, Dan Grzybek, Sherene Hess, Mark Hillard, Charles Jones, Fred Junko, Katharine Kelleman, Jeremy Kelly, Dan Kennedy, Sean Kertes, Brandon Leach, Bob Lesnick; Larry Maggi, Jack Manning, Jeff Marshall, Betsy McClure, Amy McKinney, Kristin Mulkerin, Don Myers, Leslie Osche, Joylette Portlock, Johnna Pro, Chris Sainato, Chris Sandvig, Nick Sherman, Byron Stauffer, Kelly Shroads, Laura Sohinki, Vince Vicites, Jason Zang, and Blair Zimmerman.

Others: Lauren DeDomenic, Sara Innamorato's Office, Mavis Rainey; OMTA, Lisa Frank, Ed Gainey's Office, Chuck Kolling Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney; Dusty Kirk, Reed Smith LLP; Col. Nick Melin, USACE; Steven Vriesen, USACE; Marc Greheir, USACE; Neil Miller, USACE; Dawn Orlic, USACE; and Craig DeBiase, USACE

Staff: Bel Ayele, Kristin Baum, Mary Brangan, Kirk Brethauer, Melissa Brown, Faith Collins, Ronda Craig, Tiffany Cummings, Yingjie Feng, Julia Ferri, Mason Fish, Rich Fitzgerald, Lillie Gabreski, Ryan Gordon, Chuck Imbrogno, Jenn Lasser, Caleb Leechilla, Jen Liptak, Nick Mannone, Jeremy Papay, DJ Ryan, Mason Secreti, Evan Schoss, Greg Shermeto, Ailisa Sobien, Devon White, and Megan Zelch

1. Chairman Fabian called to order the August 25, 2025 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission.
 - a. Quorum – There being a quorum present the meeting proceeded.
 - b. Any Conflict of Interest Declaration on Action Items – None
2. Action on Minutes of the June 23, 2025 Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2025 meeting by Commissioner Amado which was seconded by Commissioner Vicites. The motion was unanimous.

3. Public Comment – None.
4. Executive Director's Report – Rich Fitzgerald, Executive Director
 - DC Fly-In September 16th
 - County Spotlight Meeting
 - FTA Recertification Process is Complete
 - Final report issued
 - DOT Recertification – In-person sessions earlier this month
 - Awaiting final report

Thank you to the commissioners who joined us for the public meeting

5. Presentation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Buffalo District) addressing the Shallow Land Disposal Area – Steven Vriesen and Craig DeBiase, Project Managers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gave a presentation addressing the Shallow Land Disposal Area.

Project Fast Facts:

- **Location/Site:** 23 miles NE of Pittsburgh (Parks Township, PA) / 44 acres
- **History:** NUMEC buried radiological waste in 10 trenches during the 1960s
- **Authority:** SLDA added to Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) by Congress in 2002
- **Objective:** Safely excavate, process, transport, and properly dispose 30,000 cubic yards of radiological waste
- **Risks:** Worker exposure to radiation and beryllium, and community safety.
- **Schedule:** Remediation is expected to take approx. six years through 2032

Waste Composition:

- Trench wastes resemble buried trash.
- Random mixtures of radiologically and chemically contaminated debris

Waste Packaging

- Heavy duty, sealed plastic bags (IP-1 containers)
- Steel bulk containers, a.k.a., intermodal containers (IMCs)

USACE transports waste in accordance with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations regarding the interstate shipment of wastes.

- All acceptable wastes will be packaged, marked, labeled, and manifested for transport per DOT and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requirements.
- Shipments of low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) that are under the normal weight/width/height do not require PADOT permitting.
- USACE personnel will inspect transport vehicles and waste containers at the SLDA project to ensure compliance with DOT regulations and that shipping equipment is suitable for transport of hazardous materials.
- Energy Solutions will ensure they are using transporters who are licensed to transport hazardous wastes in PA.
- Twelve waste shipments per week are planned – two days per week with three trucks delivering two waste containers per day.
- Wastes will be driven on designated routes to a licensed railroad transload facility (Alaron Corp.) in Wampum, PA, about 60 miles NW of the site.
- No immediate hazards from waste exposure are anticipated in the unlikely event of a transport incident.

6. Transportation Report—Lillian Gabreski, Director of Transportation

FTA Triennial Review – Final Report Issued

DOT TMA Certification Review – Debrief to occur in September

- Thank you for participating!

PennDOT NEVI Program is underway again – DOT Interim Guidance Issued

Transit Operators Meetings being scheduled in member counties

TIP Development Underway

- Public Meetings being scheduled for Fall

Long Range Plan

SPC Competitive Programs

SMART MOVES DEVELOPMENT

- Task Force Creation: SPC identifies experts in planning across the region through the creation of a Task Force.
- SPC Commissioner Workshop: SPC and consultant team identify “forces of change” then convene with commissioners to present findings and begin discussion on strategies. Held at California University.
- Expert Panel #1: Workshop with 5 Breakout Groups – Each chaired by County Commissioner – held at Marriot City Center
- Expert Panel #2: Workshop with 5 Breakout Groups – Each chaired by County Commissioner – held at Regional Learning Alliance in Cranberry Township
- Regional Plan Workshop: All-day event at Station Square – focused on urgency of each force of change and priority investment in strategies developed by expert panels

7. Strategic Initiatives Report – DJ Ryan, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives

- Newsletter Refresh
 - Subscribe on spcregion.org
 - We want to highlight your success – let us know!
- Events Dashboard
 - Online calendar for all SPC meetings/workshops/etc.
- Regional Freight Plan
 - Initial meetings underway
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)
 - Public meetings ongoing
 - Expect final draft for public comment late fall
- Public Meetings
 - 2027 TIP PPP meetings scheduled for this fall
 - DOT Recertification Public Meeting
- NEVI Program
 - Was paused for the last few months
 - Target communities in each county for expanded charging infrastructure
 - Public suggestions will be compiled and sent to county planning offices

PBDA Announced preliminary approval of \$800M in funding to 21 ISPs

- Company info and amounts are available on the PBDA website
- Specific geography is TBA
- “Will connect all Pennsylvanians with high- speed internet”
- Map forthcoming from PBDA
- Strongly urge counties to utilize public comment process by THIS FRIDAY

8. Workforce and Economic Development Report – Jenn Lasser, Director of Workforce and Economic Development

- Business Finance
 - 6 Loans in for FY 25/26
 - 2M+ in pipeline
- Export
 - Bring the Word to PA – Sept 12
- Water Resource Center
 - Chartiers Creek Support
 - Army Corps Project
 - CPRG Meetings
- DCED – PREP/Engage

- Waiting on State Budget to pass
- ARC – Grant Season Kicks off!
 - POWER/Area Development/ARISE
- Build Back Better
 - Dollar Re-Allocation Project
 - 13 months remaining
- Speaking Engagements
 - Data Centers
 - Workforce Needs
 - Rural Relationship Building

ARC Power Initiative

- For coal communities in Appalachia that meet one of the following funding priorities: fostering entrepreneurial activities, developing industry clusters in communities, building a competitive workforce, or broadband
- POWER is competed across Appalachia
- Requests can go up to \$2M
- Must contact state program manager with LOI ahead of due date
- Match does not have to be secured at time of full application submission, but does need to be secured by 3/20/26
- If awarded, start date is 5/1/26
- Construction, implementation, and planning allowable
- Notice of Solicitation of Applications (or NOSA) available online
- Letter of Intent (LOI) due: September 12, 2025
- Applications due: October 22, 2025.

Fancy Food Show – 2025

- June 29th-July 1st
- Held in New York City
- SPC's Rena & Jackie, Pitt SBDC and SPC regional small businesses attend to connect with buyers
- Sponsored by DCED PREP and Regional Export Network (REN) Program
- Additional PREP dollars via DCED we were able to send more businesses this year – we pay for entrance fee and booth rental cost

NACO Rural Leaders for Economic Mobility

- July 10th 2025
- Held in Philadelphia PA
- Part of NACO pre-sessions
- SPC asked to serve on panel discussing innovative approaches to rural population loss, philanthropic investment and implementation of data informed solutions to build resilient economies

Western Pennsylvania Data Center Education Workshop

- August 7th 2025
- Held at IUP
- Discussion on Data Centers, Workforce Needs and Career Pathways
- Presentations from Robin Gorman, Gwen Ross, Panel Discussion and more!

Fayette Housing Roundtable

- August 6th 2025

- Hosted by Fayette County Economic Development Coalition
- Held at Penn State Fayette
- Data Presentation – Patrick Bowen
- Builder Panel
- Discussion about housing needs, workforce, current challenges and opportunities

9. Reminder on Next Meeting Date (October 27, 2025)

10. Adjourn – 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy McClure
Secretary-Treasurer