

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of  
January 30, 2012 – 4:30 p.m.

31st Floor • Regional Enterprise Tower • 425 Sixth Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15219

The ninety-fifth meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Rod Ruddock.

Members present were: Charles Anderson, Shirl Barnhart, David Battaglia, Robert Bower, Robert Brooks, Tom Ceraso, Daniel Cessna, Jack Cohen, Tyler Courtney, Steve Craig, Albert D'Alessandro, Terry Daughenbaugh, Mary Ann Eisenreich, Patricia Evanko, Richard Fink, David Frick, Rich Fitzgerald, Jim Gagliano, Jr., Lynn Heckman, Dave Johnston, Robert Macey, Larry Maggi, Jeff Marshall, Robbie Matesic, Bruce Mazzoni, William McCarrier, Kevin McCullough, David Miller, Mary Jo Morandini, Dennis Nichols, William Peduto, A. Dale Pinkerton, Luke Ravenstahl, James Ritzman, Carmen Rozzi, Rod Ruddock, Mark Schneider, Harlan Shober, Kelly Shroads, Pam Snyder, Joe Spanik, Byron Stauffer, Jr., Wendy Stern, Diana Irey Vaughan, Christopher Wheat, Angela Zimmerlink, and Yarone Zober.

Dana Henry joined the meeting via conference call.

Members absent were: Tony Amadio, Alfred Ambrosini, Stephen Bland, Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Joseph Dubovi, Joe Grata, Jessica Greathouse, Rich Palilla, Richard Shaw, Dan Shimshock, Renee Sigel, Robert Del Signore, Michael Silvestri, Mark Snyder, Rob Stephany, Joe Szczur, Archie Trader, Daniel Vogler, and Jake Wheatley, Jr.

Others: Robert Johnson, Governor's Office; Amie Downs and Jennifer Liptak, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald's Office.

Staff: Jim Hassinger, Kirk Brethauer, Kathleen Colbert-Gibson, Domenic D'Andrea, Chuck DiPietro, Chuck Imbrogno, Vince Massaro, Dee Pamplin, Matt Pavlosky, Shannon O'Connell, Kay Tomko, David Totten, Debbie Tritsch, Lew Villotti and Sara Walfoort.

Commissioner Ruddock, the new acting chair, welcomed everyone saying that this was a great turnout for the first meeting of the new members. Commissioner Ruddock had everyone introduce themselves and the county they represent.

1. Action on Minutes of the December 12th Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2011 meeting of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission by Commissioner Pinkerton which was seconded by Mr. Schneider. The affirmative vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

2. Public Comment – None

3. Staff Profile – Chuck DiPietro /Matt Pavlosky

Chuck DiPietro introduced staff member, Matt Pavlosky, who serves SPC in the role of Public Involvement Coordinator/Outreach Specialist.

Matt is a return SPC employee. He received his B.A. in Communications/Marketing degree from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. He was with the Johnstown Chamber of Commerce, and then he came to SPC the first time as an economic development coordinator working with Lew Villotti. He left and went to the Pittsburgh Technology Council as the managing director of their advance manufacturing network. He made another stop before he returned to SPC in December of 2007, finally realizing that SPC was the place he wanted to work.

Matt maintains the functions and operations of SPC's Public Participation Plan, which consists of working with the ten counties and performing our public outreach consistent with that Plan.

Matt presented background on the role of SPC's Public Participation Panels:

- 378 citizen members
- Ten (10) Counties/City of Pittsburgh
- Demographically representative of county
- Commissioner appointed
- 2 year term
- Resource Partners
  - County/City Planning
  - Transit
  - PennDOT
  - Elected Officials

Role of the Panels

- PPP Members
  - Citizens interested in the regional planning process
  - Appointed by the Commissioners
  - Demographically selected
  - Serve two-year terms
  - Next Re-appointment: December 2012
- PPP Chairpersons
  - Appointed by PPP members / ideally, 2 co-chairs
  - Help to create event agendas, identify locations
  -

- Preside over meetings
- Ensure members/public are involved on local level
- PPP Resource Members
  - Contribute pertinent knowledge, expertise, or networks
    - County planning, PennDOT, Transit, etc.
    - Members of local, state, or federal agencies
    - Elected officials (generally, staff members)
- The Public
  - Engage the public in their local community
    - To provide meaningful public comment on major transportation decisions of the Southwestern PA Commission.
  - Includes, but not limited to:
    - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
    - Long Range Plan for Southwestern PA
    - Air Quality Conformity Determination
    - Public Participation Plan

#### Role of SPC to the Panels

- Provide notice of public meeting locations and duration (30 or 45 days)
- Use extensive network to provide public information (including use of SPC website and regional libraries)
- Advertise meetings in papers of general circulation
- Meetings can be held on county-by-county or regional basis

#### Regional PPP Forum

- December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, SPC
- Invitees:
  - PPP Chairs
  - PennDOT
  - Transit Agencies
  - County Planning
- Purpose:
  - To involve the PPP Chairs in the TIP planning process, with guidance from SPC and the Resource Partners
  - To preview SPC's 2012 activities involving the Public Participation Panels, and seek Panels input into strategies for the coming year
- Update to the Public Participation Plan
  - March 2012
  -

- Requires 45-day public comment period
- 1 public meeting planned
- Update of the 2013-2016 Draft TIP
  - May/June 2012
  - Requires 30-day public comment period
  - 10 public meetings planned

#### Key Items for the PPPs

- PPPs would like enhanced role in the planning sessions
  - Involvement with SPC Committees
  - Attendance at SPC board meetings
- Enhance PPP meeting structure
  - Less Education/More Work Sessions
  - Keep regional meetings in addition to local workshop meetings
- Advancing Use of Media in Communications
  - Facebook, twitter
  - Email blasts/newsletter
- All SPC meetings are open to the public
  - Appoint a PPP liaison for meetings
- Meeting Structure
  - Continue county workshops and required public meetings
  - Add bi-annual regional meetings (Spring/Fall)
- Use of Electronic Media
  - Create presence for E-media, using SPC website
  - Utilize PPP webpage as conduit for regional stories and updates (funding, upcoming projects, issues)

#### 4. Financial Report – Vince Massaro

Mr. Massaro reported that the financial report for the six-month period July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 reflects the operations of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation and the Commission. Expenditures are related to the UPWP and Economic Development Program. The current six-month total project related revenues actual and encumbered revenues to date are \$8.3 million or 63% of the budget accounted for. In summary, on the total carryover project related revenues, actual and encumbered revenues to date are \$2 million compared to the annual budget of \$2 million or 100% of the budget recognized and encumbered for the reporting period.

This being a balanced budget, we have an equal number of revenues that equal our expenditures. Total project related expenditures we have actual encumbered to date \$8.3 million or 63% of the budget. On the carryover projects, we have \$2 million encumbered as 100% of the budget. All SPC funding contracts are in place and fully executed. We are still waiting for the final processing of the DCED-PREP contract and we should receive it by February 10<sup>th</sup>.

5. Action on Resolution 1-12 to Approve Submission of the 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program to the Funding Agencies – Chuck DiPietro

Mr. DiPietro presented background on the annual request to approve submission of the 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program to the funding agencies for their review and consideration.

**UPWP Background**

- The UPWP document outlines the major transportation planning tasks we will perform in the upcoming state fiscal year:
  - July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013
- Provides a central source of information about major transportation planning priorities

**Seven Broad Program Areas**

- Data Systems and Modeling
- Transportation Plans and Programs
- Modal Transportation and Operations/Management
- Projects to Assist PennDOT
- Outreach and Coordination
- Program Administration
- Supplemental Funding Requests

**Data Systems and Modeling**

- GIS Maintenance and Operations
- Maintain Data and Graphic Files
- Air Quality Planning
- Land Use Models and Regional Forecasts
- Transportation Models

**Transportation Plans and Programs**

- Long Range Plan Implementation
- TIP Management
- Financial Planning
- Linking Planning and NEPA
- Environmental Justice Report

**Modal Transportation and Operations/Management**

- Freight Planning
- Intermodal Initiatives
- Congestion Management Process
- Transportation Operations and Safety Program
- Regional Traffic Signal Program

- Transit Technical / Planning Assistance
- Accessible Transportation and Workforce Interagency Cooperative (ATWIC)
- CommuteInfo Program (Ridesharing)
- Port Authority of Allegheny County – Transit Planning Program

**Projects to Assist PennDOT**

- Highway Performance Monitoring System – Traffic Count Program
- Highway Performance Monitoring System – Inventory
- Highway Performance Monitoring System – Lawrence County
- Technical Assistance to PennDOT
- Traffic Forecasts and Needs Reports

**Outreach and Coordination**

- Member Planning Agency Participation
- Public Participation / Communications Program

**Program Administration**

- UPWP Administration
- General Support Services

**Supplemental Funding Requests**

- Linking Planning and NEPA
- Local Asset Management
- Local Technical Assistance Program
- Smart Transportation
- TOD Corridor Plan

He then presented a series of graphics showing where the money is projected to be spent.

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve submission of the 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program to appropriate funding agencies.

WHEREAS, the 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program documents all transportation and transportation-related planning activities to be undertaken within the SPC region from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program identifies planning tasks to be performed by SPC staff and the staffs of the member Counties, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Port Authority of Allegheny County using planning assistance funding from the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission approve submission of the 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, on behalf of SPC, is hereby authorized to enter into Agreements and/or Supplements with the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration of the Department of Transportation, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation relating to the 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program and pursuant to application requests; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Executive Director, on behalf of SPC, is authorized to enter into Contracts with the Counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Washington, Westmoreland, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Port Authority of Allegheny County covering work items delineated in the 2012-2013 Unified Planning Work Program.

Commissioner Snyder seconded and the affirmative vote to approve Resolution 1-12 was unanimous.

6. Report of Nominating Committee and Action on Resolutions 2-12 and 3-12 to Elect an Executive Committee and Officers of the Commission for 2012

Jim Hassinger introduced Mr. Stauffer, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, to report the Committee's appointments. Mr. Stauffer reported that the Committee recommended to elect the following members to the Executive Committee for calendar year 2012.

Allegheny County, Rich Fitzgerald  
Armstrong County, David Battaglia  
Beaver County, Joseph Spanik  
Butler County, Dale Pinkerton  
Fayette County, Pending recommendation from County  
Greene County, Pam Snyder  
Indiana County, Rodney Ruddock  
Lawrence County, Steve Craig  
Washington County, Larry Maggi  
Westmoreland County, Charles Anderson  
City of Pittsburgh, Luke Ravenstahl  
At-Large, Jake Wheatley  
At-Large, Tom Ceraso  
At-Large, Pending Nomination from SPC Chairman  
PennDOT, James Ritzman  
Governor's Appointee, Mary Ann Eisenreich  
Department of Community and Economic Development, Albert D'Alessandro  
SPC Executive Director, James Hassinger, ex officio

Commissioner Pinkerton motioned to approve Resolution 2-12 which was second by Mr. Barnhart to elect Executive Committee for calendar year 2012. The affirmative to approve Resolution 2-12 was unanimous.

Commissioner Fink moved to approve Resolution 3-12 election of Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission officers for calendar year 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following persons be and the same hereby are elected to serve as Officers of the Commission in the capacity set forth opposite their name below, from the date hereof until their successors are elected and qualified by the Commission:

Rodney Ruddock, Chairman  
Steve Craig, Vice Chairman  
Pam Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer

Mr. Rozzi seconded. The affirmative vote to approve Resolution 3-12 election of Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission officers for calendar year 2012 was unanimous.

7. Appoint 2013 Nominating Committee

Mr. Hassinger asked for a motion to appoint the Nominating Committee for 2013. Commissioner Frick motioned to appoint the committee:

2013 Nominating Committee

- Byron Stauffer, Committee Chair, Indiana County,
- Lynn Heckman, Allegheny County
- Rich Fink, Armstrong County
- Dick Shaw, Beaver County
- David Johnston, Butler County
- Joe Grata, Fayette County
- Robbie Matesic, Greene County
- James Gagliano, Lawrence County
- Michael Silvestri, Washington County
- Tyler Courtney, Westmoreland County
- Yarone Zober, City of Pittsburgh

Robert Macey seconded and the affirmative vote to approve this recommendation was unanimous.

8. Action on Resolutions 4-12, 5-12 and 6-12 to Honor the Services of Anthony Spossey, Ted Kopas and Norma Wintermyer

Chairman Ruddock read the resolution recognizing the services of Anthony Spossey, Ted Kopas, and Norma Wintermyer.

Commissioner Snyder motioned to approve Resolutions 4-12, 5-12 and 6-12 honoring the services of the above persons. Tom Ceraso seconded and the affirmative vote to approve was unanimous.

## 9. Staff Report/ Other Business/Announcements

Jim Hassinger relayed to the Commission of the Commissioner's Policy Conference which has been scheduled for March 1-2, 2012. We invite all Commissioners to join in a day and half of orientation briefings, subject briefings, interaction among the Commissioners, and conversation about priority items, policies from the state, regional and local levels. This is not a business meeting and does not require actions, but rather a great opportunity to get more familiar with the activities and programs of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission. The 2012 Policy Conference will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe. More details will soon follow.

Another event that SPC is sponsoring is the SPC Regional Freight Forum being held on April 12. This meeting will discuss freight from each of the modes, current conditions and issues within our own region and our neighbors.

The next Commission meeting scheduled for February 27, 2012 will be canceled.

The next event on the schedule today is the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation Members Annual Membership Meeting. All members of the Commission are members of the Corporation. The difference between the Commission and the Corporation is that fundamentally, the Corporation is the body that is the business agent for the Commission. It is a separate body which we have nominating committee recommendations for that board of directors and officers as well. Once that Board is elected we ask it to remain and meet in order to elect officers to that Board.

The third item we would like to do today, involves the Corporation that was created over a year ago to handle the remaining interests of the Regional Enterprise Tower. That Corporation will eventually close out, but to properly do business in the meantime, we would like to name members to fill vacancies for members of the Board for that body.

Chairman Ruddock mentioned that SPC would be relocating our meetings when new ownership of the Regional Enterprise Tower begins work here. Jim Hassinger said that the Corporation has almost concluded the negotiations on new office space and we will be confirming a move schedule when the negotiations are complete, but we will likely need to move some meetings to an alternative location outside the tower once the new owner begins conversion work on the building.

Rich Fitzgerald announced to the Commission that the National Association of Counties (NACo) is going to be holding its conference here July 13-17. Former Commissioners Scahill and Kennedy were very instrumental in doing this. There will be 3,000 county commissioners and officials that will be visiting Pittsburgh. We will be hosting a VIP Reception on July 14 at the August Wilson Center inviting these officials, as well as a full reception at Heinz Field. This is a very exciting opportunity for us to showcase our region and showcase all the things we are doing.

Chairman Ruddock thanked Mr. Fitzgerald for bringing that important event to our attention. We were just talking about that important event at Hershey with the County Commissioners Association. It's important to the counties across the nation and also important to the region and that we serve. It's important to Allegheny County and its countryside counties. I understand that they want to have our counties' participate in an event that would be a tailgating event at Heinz Field where each county will have some participation as a host facility or host food stand.

#### 10. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.