



**Steel Valley  
Authority**

# Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM Virtual Meeting



**SEWN**

## ATTENDANCE

**Board:**

Clairton	
Duquesne	
East Pittsburgh	Tom Michlovic / Dave Perla
Glassport	John McDonough
Homestead	
McKeesport	Lori Schmidt
Munhall	
Pittsburgh	
Rankin	
Swissvale	Amy Starrett
Turtle Creek	
West Homestead	

**Proxy Votes:** Rob Witherell-Pittsburgh (Chair)

**Staff:** Tom Croft; Bob Value; Carrie Mihalko; Deb Lutz; Anita Prizio

**Solicitor:** Mike Healey

**Guests:** Will Bernstein / Rebecca Kiernan

Chairperson Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. allowing all members to login.

## PROXY VOTE REVIEW

Staff member Carrie Mihalko conducted roll call. Quorum was met with attendees and proxies. Introductions were made by all members and staff.

## MINUTES

Copies of the minutes were made available in member packets.

*The minutes of the November 2023 meeting were approved on motion by Tom Michlovic and seconded by John McDonough. The motion passed unanimously by members McDonough, Michlovic, Perla, Schmidt, and Starrett with no abstentions.*

## **GUEST – WILL BERNSTEIN / REBECCA KIERNAN**

Rebecca Kiernan introduced herself and the CONNECT program. She introduced Will Bernstein who will be the Hub Director.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Bob Value provided an overview of the financials noting the books are stable with a strong capital position. Almost \$200K in retained earnings with no debt.

*The Finance Committee report was approved on a motion by Amy Starrett and seconded by Dave Perla. The motion passed unanimously by members McDonough, Michlovic, Perla, Schmidt, and Starrett with no abstentions.*

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

Amy Starrett provided an overview of the pieces of correspondence from the last month. Tom Michlovic gave kudos to all for work on the ARC grant.

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Michlovic provided an update that SVA had a personnel issue that was taken care of through the committee.

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Smaller fundraiser for 2024; will focus on larger event in 2025 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SVA. Will do a formal press announcement after ARC provides their press release. Engage with Gainey and Innamorato. Mike Healey and John McDonough offered to assist with outreach. Will create an ad-hoc committee to help roll out the announcements.

## **PROGRAM/TECH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Mike Healey reviewed the by-laws. The by-laws are being sent to all members for approval voting.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Tom Croft provided the Executive Director report noting the following highlights:

- Big news is the ARC award to assist municipalities with clean energy projects and best practices.
- Will and Rebecca gave an overview of the proposal and how the program will work.
- Recruiting is underway to add one more staff person.
- Had meetings with Carrie and Carol Momjian at DL&I to provide resources and feedback.
- Met during the last few months with DL&I and other organizations around green jobs.
- Heartland Governing Board/Partners have been meeting with White House/DOE staff for roundtable events. Could lead to rustbelt roadshows in the future. (John McDonough asked for some additional information that he could share with potential partners).
- Finished the marketing/selection for the 2024 Summer Fellowship program.

Bob Value provided the following highlights on SEWN:

- Bob reviewed his report on the companies currently working with SEWN Directors.
- Two of SEWN's consultants have brought clients to the program.
- The Vital Leader program has been successful for bringing in SEWN clients.
- Consultant Donita Rudy has been working with Carrie to publish articles around economics and finance.
- Had a personnel issue that was resolved with help from the committee.
- Tom Michlovic asked about Allegheny County manufacturing companies. Bob noted gentrification in the region has placed a damper on that.
- Discussion was had around the difficulties of engaging with bankers and companies.

Carrie Mihalko

- Highlighted the PA Business Resource website ([www.pabusinessresources.org](http://www.pabusinessresources.org))
- Recruiting for Heartland Outreach Coordinator.
- Recruiting for board members/treasurer.
- Article is posted on the website.

## RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 24-01 was approved for the 2024 SVA Budget.

*The Resolution was approved on a motion by Tom Michlovic and seconded by Dave Perla. The motion passed unanimously by members McDonough, Michlovic, Perla, Schmidt, and Starrett with no abstentions.*

**The formal meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.**