



Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM Virtual Meeting

ATTENDANCE

Board:	Clairton	Lori Schmidt
	Duquesne	
	East Pittsburgh	Tom Michlovic
	Glassport	Viola Garis (Rep Senator Pisciotano)
	Homestead	
	McKeesport	
	Munhall	Jill Foys
	Pittsburgh	Rob Witherell
	Rankin	John McDonough
	Swissvale	Amy Starrett
	Turtle Creek	
	West Homestead	
Staff:	Tom Croft; Bob Value; Carrie Mihalko; Deb Lutz; Anita Prizio; Ama Germain	
Solicitor:	Mike Healey	
Guests:	Rep. John Inglis Shardae Jones	

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

PROXY VOTE REVIEW

Staff member Carrie Mihalko conducted roll call. Quorum was met with attendees.

MINUTES

Copies of the minutes were made available in member packets.

The minutes of the November 2024 meeting were approved on motion by Tom Michlovic and seconded by Amy Starrett. The motion passed unanimously by members Foys, McDonough, Michlovic, Schmidt, Starrett, and Witherell with no abstentions.

GUESTS

Chardae Jones and Rep. John Inglis provided introduction and their backgrounds.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bob Value provided an overview of the financials noting the books have good liquidity. The committee approved the retention of Holsinger LLC as the SVA auditors for a new 3-year contract.

The Finance Committee report was approved on a motion by Rob Witherell and seconded by John McDonough. The motion passed unanimously by members Foys, McDonough, Michlovic, Schmidt, Starrett, and Witherell with no abstentions.

SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary Amy Starrett provided an overview of the documents provided by staff in the board packet. Tom Michlovic gave kudos to recognition from the U.S. Department of Labor.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

No updates from Personnel

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Carrie Mihalko presented an update on the ad hoc committee meetings and date for the 40th Anniversary Celebration on September 11, 2025 at the Omni William Penn. All board members are encouraged to participate.

PROGRAM/TECH REVIEW COMMITTEE

No updates from the committee

STAFF REPORTS

Will Bernstein reported on the final summit for the Appalachian Commission to be held in Pittsburgh on April 1st and 2nd. The summit will include a site visit at the Pittsburgh Glass Center and a full day program discussing key case studies of sustainable infrastructure projects from around the country and Appalachia. He encouraged the group to share information about the summit with other interested parties.

Ama Germain discussed the growth of the fellowship program, including a record number of applicants and plans for an alumni mixer in DC. She also mentioned the creation of a junior board and local alumni groups. Tom highlighted the program's achievements, including raising \$450,000 for college students and helping them change their careers. Carrie acknowledged Ama's significant contributions to the fellowship program, particularly her ability to communicate effectively with the students. Tom added that many of the program's graduates have gone into fields related to finance, economics, labor, and policy.

Tom Croft discussed the upcoming visit of two Heartland investment partners, Harpreet Pelag and Kevin Collins, who will be involved in the site visit and funding panel. He also reported on the work being done in relation to capital policy, including a \$65,000 grant from Jobs 4 Justice to provide investment advice to Allegheny County and local municipalities on decarbonizing and retrofitting housing projects.

Tom mentioned a contract with the Department of Energy, which aims to assist in filling financial, regulatory, and legislative gaps in helping former fossil communities. Annie Malhotra and Bernie Gallagher have been hired to work on this project.

Bob Value provided a report on the current status of active clients in 17 counties, totaling 926 employees. He added that some of these clients were expected to close by the end of the year, while others were still in the monitor phase. He also mentioned that the outlook hasn't changed much since the election, with concerns about the effects of tariffs and federal job cuts on the economy.

Bob also announced the retirement of Southeast director Greg Olson and the potential for Northeast director Jeff to take on Bucks and Berks County. The team is hopeful a new director with knowledge of the Philadelphia market can help improve their performance in that area.

Carrie Mihalko provided an administrative update, mentioning her and Deb Lutz's presentation on the Zoom program to 26 States in Philadelphia, hosted by the US Department of Labor. She also discussed the redesign of the SVA Zone website and her upcoming attendance at the Afl CIO Legislative Conference and the Allegheny League of Municipalities Conference. Carrie also mentioned the invitation to present at the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Association Conference and the job posting for the southeast position. Lastly, she played a video for the team.

The formal meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.