



# Advisory Board Meeting Minutes November 20, 2024 at 6:00 PM Virtual Meeting

## ATTENDANCE

<b>Board:</b>	Clairton	Lori Schmidt
	Duquesne	
	East Pittsburgh	Tom Michlovic – Dave Perla
	Glassport	
	Homestead	
	McKeesport	
	Munhall	Jill Foys
	Pittsburgh	Rob Witherell – Sabina Deitrick
	Rankin	John McDonough
	Swissvale	Amy Starrett
	Turtle Creek	Colleen Wooten
	West Homestead	

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

**Solicitor:** Mike Healey

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 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 September 2024 meeting were approved on motion by Jill Foys and seconded by Tom Michlovic. The motion passed unanimously by members Foys, Deitrick, McDonough, Michlovic, Perla, Schmidt, Starrett, Witherell, and Wooten with no abstentions.*

## ELECTIONS

Board members nominated and re-elected Lori Schmidt as Chair; Tom Michlovic as Vice-Chair; and Amy Starrett as Secretary. The board is still in need of a Treasurer.

## **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 Amy Starrett and seconded by Tom Michlovic. The motion passed unanimously by members Foys, Deitrick, McDonough, Michlovic, Perla, Schmidt, Starrett, Witherell, and Wooten with no abstentions.*

## **SECRETARY REPORT**

No correspondence

## **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

No updates from Personnel

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Carrie Mihalko presented an update on the ad hoc committee meetings and tentative dates. Amy Starrett asked to be included in upcoming meetings.

## **PROGRAM/TECH REVIEW COMMITTEE**

No updates from the committee

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Will Bernstein provided an update on the sustainable infrastructure development workshop held in Athens, Ohio, which brought together participants from across the region to learn about solar energy projects. He mentioned an extension of the grant period through February 2025, with plans for a final summit in Pittsburgh. Additionally, Will discussed a potential client in central Pennsylvania seeking assistance with financing a solar project.

Anita Prizio mentioned the \$1.21 million grant from the Department of Energy to support mobilizing capital for pension funds in energy communities, identifying supply chains affected by facility closures, and exploring assistance options for displaced workers. She also mentioned a \$65,000 grant to work with Allegheny County on energy efficiency projects in public housing.

Bob Value discussed the current active clients which include 15 companies spread across various industries representing 580 employees. He mentioned some of these companies are facing difficulties and may not survive. He also talked about the transition of clients from active to monitor status, and the process of closing out successful cases.

Bob expressed concerns about the economic outlook, mentioning the loosening of interest rates, high inflation, and the increase in bankruptcies. Lastly, he discussed the upcoming compliance for defense contractors, which begins in January 2025, and SEWN's efforts to understand the implications of this change.

Carrie Mihalko shared her experiences with a defense contract webinar and IT firm as well as the potential for additional funding for businesses to meet the CMMC certification. She also mentioned her recent visits to Erie, the eastern side of the state, and attendance at the Manufacturers Expo in York, PA. Carrie concluded by mentioning the upcoming impact report and a thank you gift from the SVA.

## RESOLUTIONS

**Resolution 24-03 to approve and validate the SVA corporate resolutions with AmeriServ was read and reviewed.**

*The resolution was approved on motion by Tom Michlovic and seconded by Jill Foys. The motion passed unanimously by members Foys, Deitrick, McDonough, Michlovic, Perla, Schmidt, Starrett, Witherell, and Wooten with no abstentions.*

**Resolution 24-04 to approve the SVA Budget for 2025 was read and reviewed.**

*The resolution was approved on motion by Jill Foys and seconded by Tom Michlovic. The motion passed unanimously by members Foys, Deitrick, McDonough, Michlovic, Perla, Schmidt, Starrett, Witherell, and Wooten with no abstentions.*

**The formal meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**