

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

Mike Finnerty, Chair

Members; Sam DeMarco, Nick Futules, Paul Klein, Ed Kress, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni, Sue Means, John Palmiere

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA, County Manager or Designee

Mary Soroka, County Budget Director or Designee

Donald Newman, Chairman, Conservation District or Designee

Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Mr. Newman and Ms. Lauer were present from the Conservation District.

Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 3 - Finnerty, Sam DeMarco and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 5 - Nick Futules, Paul Klein, Bob Macey, Chuck Martoni and Sue Means

Members Phone: 1 - Ed Kress

Members 1 - Cindy Kirk

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[9698-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes from the Committee on Budget and Finance held on June 15, 2016.

A motion was made by Kress, seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Agenda Items

Discussion Topic

Presentation on the Conservation District.

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Newman gave a brief overview of the Conservation District, discussing its history and recent improvements in planning and other activities, relationship with the County and County appointment of the District board members, organization, function, and future goals. Mr. Newman discussed the District's areas of focus: soils, agriculture, stormwater and watersheds. Mr. Newman described the District's soil erosion and sediment permitting functions and project density by municipality. Mr. Newman summarized the District's agricultural farmland preservation activities. Ms. Lauer discussed recent stormwater solution activities, highlighting projects on Brown Street in Millvale and Buttonwood Street in the City of Pittsburgh, and Mr. Newman noted the District's outreach activities through the Municipality Advisory Committee. Mr. Newman highlighted the District's grant awards totalling just over \$100,000 in 2015 relating to watersheds. Mr. Newman and Ms. Lauer briefly summarized the District's annual Enirothon and the Allegheny Watershed Alliance as a means of assisting municipal watershed conservation efforts.

Mr. Newman summarized the District's current activities in each of its four primary focus areas.

The Chair and Ms. Lauer discussed the categorization of watersheds within the District, specifically highlighting the Milk Run mine drainage project.

Ms. Kirk, Mr. Newman and Ms. Lauer discussed the notion of sediment as a pollutant.

In response to a question from Ms. Kirk, Ms. Lauer discussed the current trend in municipal delegation of permitting authority to the District.

In response to a question from Ms. Kirk, Ms. Lauer and Mr. Newman noted that soil permits are individualized to the stream(s) impacted, rather than to projects.

Mr. DeMarco and Ms. Lauer discussed trends in soil permitting as reflections both of increased regulation and increased development.

Ms. Kirk and Ms. Lauer discussed the farmland preservation program as it is administered by the District on the County's behalf.

Mr. Newman agreed to provide the Committee with a summary of permitting by Council district.

At the request of the Chair, Ms. Lauer discussed the District's dirt & gravel road program, noting that the program exists to mitigate the transmission of sediment to waterways from nearby dirt or gravel roads and describing its funding mechanism and application process.

In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Lauer noted that watershed grants have been awarded for things like funding an engineering study for a green roof, stream bank restoration, and other planning and project implementation activities.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03.