



SEDA-Council of Governments
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 25, 2021
Start Time: 1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS

County	Member	Present
Centre	Commissioner Mark Higgins	✓
	Ms. Lisa Strickland	✓
Clinton	Commissioner Jeffrey Snyder	✓
	Mr. Steve Stevenson	✓
Columbia	Commissioner Richard Ridgway	
	Mr. George Forese	✓
Juniata	Commissioner Mark Partner	✓
	Mr. Scott Fritz	
Lycoming	Commissioner Scott Metzger	✓
	Mr. Howard Fry III	✓
Mifflin	Commissioner Kevin Kodish	✓
	Mr. Jim Shilling Jr.	✓
Montour	Commissioner Kenneth Holdren	✓
	Vacant	
Northumberland	Commissioner Samuel Schiccatano	
	Mr. Greg Klebon	
Perry	Commissioner Brenda Watson	✓
	Mr. Larry Reisinger	✓
Snyder	Commissioner Joseph Kantz	✓
	Mr. Dennis Van Benthuyzen	✓
Union	Commissioner Preston Boop	✓
	Mr. David Cooney	

STAFF

Kim Wheeler, Mike Fisher, Rose Orner, Betsy Lockwood, Bo Hornberger, Amanda Owens, Jim Saylor, Kristen Moyer, Karen Smith, Jeff Stover, Tina Showers, Mandy Fox, Doug Wilburn, Tyler Dombroski

GUESTS

None

CALL TO ORDER

The SEDA-COG Board of Directors virtual meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., by President Partner, there being a quorum present.

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Holdren moved for approval of the June 23, 2021, meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Shilling seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

OPEN FORUM**Opportunity for Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Non-Agenda Items of General Interest to the Members

There were no Non-Agenda Items of General Interest to the Members.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing was presented under Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS**Local Loan Review Committee Report****Kyle P. Barrick**

Mr. Doug Wilburn, Director of the Business Finance Department, presented the request on behalf of Kyle P. Barrick for an \$80,000 SEDA-COG PIDA/FIF Ag loan. Kyle Barrick is seeking financing for the acquisition of 27.85 acres of farmland to raise beef cattle to sell as well as grow hay and corn.

Mr. Van Benthuyzen moved to approve the loan request on behalf of Kyle P. Barrick for an \$80,000 SEDA-COG PIDA/FIF Ag loan, for a term of 15 years at an interest rate of 1.75% for the first seven years, then re-set to the current PIDA rate, not to exceed 3.75% for the remaining eight years. Commissioner Higgins seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Omniwealth Group, Inc. and TAJSC RE LLC

Mr. Wilburn presented the request on behalf of Omniwealth Group, Inc. for the submission of an application for a \$100,000 SEDA-COG ARC RLF loan. Joshua Knauss formed Knauss, Inc. in 2013, became Omniwealth Group, Inc. in 2019. It is the only fee-only financial firm in the Susquehanna Valley, and they offer investment management and financial planning services. The ARC RLF loan is needed in the project since the borrower plans on making some small cosmetic renovations to the building outside the project.

Mr. Fry moved to approve the request for the submission of an application for a \$100,000 SEDA-COG ARC RLF loan to Omniwealth Group, Inc. and TAJSC RE LLC, for a term of 15 years at an interest rate of 2.50%, fixed for the life of the loan. Commissioner Kodish seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) RLF Defederalization Resolution 2021-05

Mr. Wilburn presented the Economic Development Administration (EDA) RLF Defederalization Resolution 2021-05, which seeks to release EDA's federal interest. SEDA-COG commits to continue using the RLF award funds as a Revolving Loan Fund, in compliance with on-going restrictions required by the PWEDA Act as articulated in the release agreement.

Mr. Shilling moved to adopt Resolution 2021-05, Economic Development Administration (EDA) RLF Defederalization as presented. Commissioner Holdren seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Resignation

President Partner presented the Board with the resignation of Montour County Additional Representative, Brian Wiktor. Mr. Wiktor has submitted his resignation from the SEDA Foundation and the SEDA-COG Board of Directors, due to a new opportunity that will reduce the time he can devote to SEDA-COG activities.

Mr. Wiktor has served on the Board since 2013, along with serving as a member of the Personnel Committee and as the President of the SEDA Foundation. It is hoped that SEDA-COG will be able to retain his expertise on the LLRC, CEDS, and LDC, serving as an At-Large Member, but that is not yet confirmed. The Montour County Commissioners are actively working on his replacement.

President Partner expressed his gratitude for Mr. Wiktor's many years of commitment, dedication, and service.

Commissioner Holdren moved to accept the resignation of Mr. Brian Wiktor, Additional Representative, Montour County. Mr. Forese seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE & STAFF REPORTS

Community Development Director Report

Mr. Tyler Dombroski, Director of the Community Development Program, presented an annual report to the Board of Directors. The Program has administered over 1,000 public infrastructure and community projects. Staff are experienced in a variety of state and federal grant programs, including the federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which is being administered for 30 communities in the counties of Centre, Juniata, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, and Union. In addition, staff assist three counties outside of the SEDA-COG region - Fulton, Potter and Sullivan.

Mr. Dombroski stated that in addition to the CDBG program, the department provides ongoing grant administration services for sources such as the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the state Redevelopment Assistant Capital Program (RACP).

The Community Development program has administered COVID-19 related programs through the CARES Act, such as the County Relief Block Grant (CRBG) program. Staff are prepared to provide similar services for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Community Relations Director Report

Ms. Kristen Moyer, Community Relations Director, provides a report on her recent activities.

- Met with Representatives Hamm & Wheeland, along with Ms. Wheeler, to provide an overview of SEDA-COG services.
- Met with Tom Gerhard, Congressman Meuser's office and representatives of the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce and Service electric to discuss funding for broadband projects.
- Met with Harrisburg staff from Senator Gordner and Senator Corman's office to discuss SEDA-COG projects.
- Ms. Wheeler, Mr. Fisher, and Ms. Moyer have either met or are planning to meet with several county boards of commissioners and municipalities to discuss ARPA funding. To date, staff have met with Juniata and Lycoming counties, and will have meetings this week with Union and Mifflin counties. Staff also plan to attend some of the township municipal conventions, along with Perry County's convention in September.

Fiscal Update

Mr. Bo Hornberger, Fiscal Controller, provided a fiscal update to the Board:

- Balance Sheets – provides a comparison of June 30, 2021, versus June 30, 2020.
- Income Statements – provides a review for the periods July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, as compared to July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.
- Currently there is a surplus of \$230,000 for the fiscal year. This could change with any adjustments that may take place prior to the financial audit.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Kim Wheeler, Executive Director, provided an agency update to the Board of Directors:

- American Rescue Plan (ARP)
 - Staff submitted comments on the Interim Rule - due July 16, 2021. Still awaiting the final rule to be released.
 - Meeting with counties and municipalities to offer education on the ARPA program and to discuss project ideas.
 - Assessing whether there are any regionally significant projects, such as public health or infrastructure.

Commissioner Watson offered her appreciation to Ms. Wheeler for her efforts with the upcoming Perry County municipal meeting, scheduled for September 11th. The Commissioner also noted that the municipalities have been invited to a dinner, sponsored by the Perry County Commissioners, and to include their consultant for the ARPA funds and their grant writer, to start the conversation about this funding.

- Centre County Small Business Grant (SBG) Program
 - \$3.0M of ARPA funds
 - Staff have worked with Centre County and Mr. Harry Mathias on executing the program.

Commissioner Higgins offered his appreciation for the efforts of the SEDA-COG staff through this process.

CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION ITEMS

President Partner noted the items listed under the Correspondence/Information Items section.

ADJOURN

President Partner adjourned the meeting at 1:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Larry Reisinger, Secretary
SEDA-COG Board of Directors