



**Lehigh Valley/Berks Section of  
APA Pennsylvania**

**Section Council Monthly Meeting**

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Virtual - Microsoft Teams

**Section Council in Attendance:** Craig Beavers, Samantha McLean, Rick Roseberry, Steven Schroyer

**Guest/Members in Attendance:** Mary Grace Collins, Ben Dinkel, Joseph Dotta, Isabella Fiume, Evan Gardi, Robert Gates, Jennifer Gomez, Corey Gray, Scott Greenly, Meredith Keller, Taylor Lawrence, David Manhardt, Tina Roseberry, Jillian Seitz, Christopher Stroehler, Melissa Velez, Simon Wangolo, Jeff Witman

**1. Welcome**

Craig Beavers opened the meeting at 12:01PM and thanked everyone for coming.

**2. Minutes Approval**

Craig Beavers asked if there were any corrections to the January minutes. There were none. The minutes stand approved.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Rick Roseberry provided the Treasurer's Report. The current balance is \$4,426.73.

**4. Planning Partner Reports**

**a. Berks County Planning Commission**

Taylor Lawrence provided an update for the Berks County Planning Commission.

BCPC is working on both their 2024 Annual Report and starting their County Comprehensive Plan Update

BCPC will be relocating to a new office this spring; more information to come.

**b. Lehigh Valley Planning Commission**

Ben Dinkel and Jillian Seitz provided an update for the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

LVPC's 30-day public comment period is open for a TIP amendment regarding Riverside Drive.

LVPC is continuing to work on the Functional Classification Update for roadways, as well as updates to the Safety Action Plan.

LVPC held the kickoff meeting for Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy last week and was well-attended. The next event will be a series of focus-groups held on March 27 and 28; more information to come.

**c. State Planning Board**

Tina Roseberry was unable to attend (arrived after reports); there is no State Planning Board report this month.

**d. Lehigh Valley Consortium of Professional Organization**

Samantha McLean provided an update for the LVCPO.

There was discussion about the worth of remaining in the LVCPO, as our section's participation has been weak, there are less relevant topics for us, and the money can be utilized for networking events focused on planning.

Rick Roseberry discussed that there is now an annual \$100 membership fee to participate. Attendance is open to anyone, regardless of if we are a member or not. Memberships are often paid for an organization by a company in that field.

There was consensus to not renew our membership with LVCPO and to suspend our participation.

**5. Pennsylvania Chapter Reports**

**a. Legislative Committee**

Charlie Schmehl was unable to attend; there is no Legislative Committee report this month.

**b. Professional Development Committee**

Samantha McLean provided an update for the Professional Development Committee.

The Call for Proposals is open for APA-PA Harrisburg; session proposals are due March 14th.

Penn State Extension is hosting an event next Wednesday called Motivating and Engaging Volunteers in Local Governance and Community Planning.

PDC's next Webinar Wednesday will be on February 5th at noon on Take a Ride on the Reading - Passenger Rail and TOD Planning in Reading, PA.

The Spring 2025 AICP Exam Prep session will be held on March 8th from 9am to 4pm.

**6. Section Updates**

**a. AICP Exam Scholarship**

Craig Beavers provided an overview of this item.

The Lehigh Valley/Berks Section of APA Pennsylvania is offering one need-based financial assistance scholarship for the Spring 2025 AICP exam cycle to supplement the cost of the exam registration fee (\$305) for section members who are currently students, recent graduates, or professionals.

**b. Education Committee – Molly Wood**

Molly Wood was unable to attend; there is no Education Committee report this month.

Our Education Committee will be working with Temple University to hold an educational session about their Masters in City Planning program this year; we will invite all of our interested planners, as well as the local colleges and universities. More information to come.

To find out more or get involved with our Education Committee, please reach out to Chair Molly Wood at [mwood@lantabus-pa.gov](mailto:mwood@lantabus-pa.gov).

**c. Events Committee – Samantha McLean**

Samantha McLean provided updates of the Events Committee.

Working with Chris S. and Dave M., the Events Committee is working on planning an Agricultural Panel for CM credits, as well as a community-based Land Planning 101 class to teach the public about what's involved in planning.

A few other ideas in the works: an Elected Officials Panel, Social Events (coffee, happy hour, etc.), and Local Walks and "Field Trips"

To find out more or get involved with our Education Committee, please reach out to Chair Samantha McLean at [samantha.mclean@mbakerintl.com](mailto:samantha.mclean@mbakerintl.com)

**7. Open Floor and Updates**

Craig Beavers reminded everyone to share the upcoming CM events and Job Postings on our section website.

Isabella Fiume reminded everyone that the deadline for the MAP Grant is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at South Whitehall Township.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 PM.