



**APA Pennsylvania  
Lehigh Valley/Berks Section**

**Section Council Monthly Meeting**

Thursday, May 15, 2025

[Virtual – Microsoft Teams](#)

**Section Council in Attendance:** Craig Beavers, Samantha McLean, Steven Schrayner, Molly Wood

**Guest/Members in Attendance:** Meredith Keller, Taylor Lawrence, Isabella Fiume, Evan Gardi, Thiago Correa de Almeida, Brad Newhard, Lori Cole, Melissa Velez, Duane, Jennifer Gomez

**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 April minutes. There were none. The minutes stand approved.

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Rick Roseberry was unable to attend; there is no Treasurer's Report.

**4. Planning Partner Reports**

**a. Berks County Planning Commission**

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

BCPC has finally moved into the Berks County South Campus at 400 E Wyomissing Ave, Mohnton, PA 19540.

The Annual Report was distributed and approved by the BCPC last night.

BCPC held the kickoff for their County Comprehensive Plan Update and announced the meeting schedule for their Metropolitan Transportation Plan effort. Several meetings are being held around the county for both planning initiatives.

BCPC continues to coordinate with municipalities on several multi-municipal planning efforts.

**b. Lehigh Valley Planning Commission**

Evan Gardi provided an update for the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

LVPC is continuing to work on the Functional Classification Update for roadways, as well as planning for an SS4A grant application for updates to the Transportation Safety Action Plan.

A NEVI survey is released in the coming weeks, and a Planning and Pizza event will be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at noon. On Wednesday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am, the LVTS Technical Committee will hold a public workshop to determine criteria for Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding.

On Wednesday June 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am and Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am, the LVTS Technical Committee will hold a public workshop for Carbon Reduction regional funding allocations.

LVPC is working on the public engagement for the Housing Supply and Attainability Strategy, and they will be holding their final in-person event on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **c. State Planning Board / Office of Community Planning**

Isabella Fiume gave an update from DCED

MAP Grant awards are still being reviewed. They are hoping to announce winners in June.

## **5. Pennsylvania Chapter Reports**

### **a. Legislative Committee**

Craig Beavers provided an update for the Legislative Committee.

There have been no major updates from the Legislative Committee since the last meeting; work is continuing behind the scenes for discussing potential solutions for local government reform, updating MPC definitions in proposed legislation, and discussions on housing solutions.

HB 997 of 2025-26 – This bill proposes to amend the MPC to allow for zoning hearing boards to utilize audio recordings instead of stenographer transcriptions at hearings. (In Committee)

HB 1037 of 2025-26 – This bill proposes to amend the MPC to allow communities to add SALDO provisions for rebuilding pre existing single-family or two-family homes that may not conform to setback requirements. (In Committee).

Transit for All PA Funding Package is proposed to provide taxes on ride shared to fund transit; legislation has not been officially introduced yet.

Keep PA Moving Act is proposed to provide an annual appropriation to fund transit; legislation has not been officially introduced yet.

### **b. Professional Development Committee**

Samantha McLean provided an update for the Professional Development Committee.

The next Webinar Wednesday will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> on. Complete Streets, Connected Community: Integrating Land Use and Mobility [Webinar Wednesday: Complete Streets, Connected Community... - APA - Pennsylvania Chapter](#)

## **6. Section Updates**

**a. 2026 Conference Planning Committee**

Craig Beavers provided an overview of this item.

First Meeting will be Thursday, September 11th at 11:00 AM before the full section meeting.

We will have a social mixer and conference information gathering sometime in late July or early August to informally chat about the conference and share more information.

**b. Section Elections**

Craig Beavers provided an overview of this item.

Section elections will be taking place at the end of the year. We will be looking for the following positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, 5 Council (2 planners/ 2 PC members)

We are looking for 3 members to serve on the Nominating Committee. There is minimal work involved, but it is important to have three individuals who are not running to help oversee the election process.

The timeline is:

Ask for Nomination of Candidates – Running September 1 to October 1

List of Candidates shared with everyone by October 15

Election: November 1 to November 30; results announced in December

**c. Education Committee – Molly Wood**

Molly Wood provided an update for the Education Committee.

There is not much to report yet; gearing towards fall semester for outreach events.

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).

**d. Events Committee – Samantha McLean**

Samantha McLean provided an update for the Events Committee.

i. Land Planning 101 – Regrouping for the fall, not lost just on a brief pause

ii. Summer Social and Conference Planning Info - [APA PA LVB Summer Social & Conference Info Session](#) by June 6<sup>th</sup>

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 shared information about Palmer Township’s Bushkill Creek Greenway Master Plan, with a kick-off event in Easton’s Farmers Market

Taylor asked the group about joint comprehensive planning, MPC section that allows the sharing of uses without having joint zoning.

Bella – Governor’s Center for Local Government Center – new person in Kabir Hassan Kabir Hossain;  
[khossain@pa.gov](mailto:khossain@pa.gov) Local Government Policy Specialist

**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 12th at Upper Macungie Township (Presentation and Site Tour)

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.