

# CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

2643 Gateway Drive, Suite 3 State College, PA 16801  
Phone: (814) 231-3077 Fax: (814) 231-3083 Website: [www.crcog.net](http://www.crcog.net)

## GENERAL FORUM

In-Person Meeting (COG Building)  
February 23, 2026  
7:00 PM

GENERAL MEETING INFORMATION	
In-Person Participants	<b>COG Building – General Forum Room</b> 2643 Gateway Drive, State College, PA 16801
Meeting Contact: Scott Binkley   email: <a href="mailto:sbinkley@crcog.net">sbinkley@crcog.net</a>   814-235-7818	
<a href="#">Click HERE to locate the AGENDA and ATTACHMENTS</a>	

**VOTING PROCEDURES:** Members will provide their vote by voice. The Chair will seek clarification if the vote is unclear. For additional information on COG Voting Procedures, click [HERE](#).

**PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES:** Members of the public may comment on any items not already on the agenda (five minutes per person). Comments relating to specific agenda items should be deferred until that point in the meeting. For additional information on COG public meeting guidelines, please click [HERE](#). Written public comments or requests to speak to the Executive Committee for items not on the agenda and requests to comment on specific agenda items listed below may be submitted in advance by emailing [sbinkley@crcog.net](mailto:sbinkley@crcog.net).

**ACCESSIBILITY:** The COG is committed to making its public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. For special accommodations, please visit us online at [www.crcog.net/accessiblemeetings](http://www.crcog.net/accessiblemeetings) or contact COG Administration at [admin@crcog.net](mailto:admin@crcog.net) in advance of the meeting.

**NOTE:** To access agendas and minutes of previously held meetings and learn more about the COG Executive Committee, please visit our website by clicking [HERE](#).

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## AGENDA SUMMARY

1.	CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL
2.	PUBLIC COMMENTS
3.	NEW AGENDA ITEMS

4.	<b>CONSENT AGENDA – 1 (All Municipalities)</b>
CA1-1	Code Board of Appeals – Reappointments
CA1-2	Independent Workplace Investigation Services

5.	<b>CONSENT AGENDA – 2 (All except for Halfmoon Township)</b>
CA2-1	Independent Contractor Agreements – Centre Region Council of Governments

6.	PROCLAMATION 2026-1 – RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH
7.	BUDGET AMENDMENT: PURCHASE OF AN 8’6” V-PLOW FOR UTILITY 5-5
8.	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – FUTURE LAND USE MAP (FLUM) PRIMER
9.	UNIVERSITY REPORT
10.	STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT
11.	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
12.	AGENCY DIRECTOR REPORTS
13.	AUTHORITY, BOARD, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
14.	OTHER BUSINESS
15.	CALENDAR
16.	REFERENCE LINKS
17.	ADJOURNMENT

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## AGENDA

### 1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Chair will convene the meeting and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Staff will take a roll call of members.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public are invited to comment on any items not already on the agenda (five minutes per person, please). Comments on specific agenda items should be deferred until that point in the meeting. Submitted comments will be read into the record by the Recording Secretary at the appropriate time in the meeting.

### 3. NEW AGENDA ITEMS

In accordance with state law, members may not take official action on a matter unless it is included on the meeting agenda or is **de minimis in nature**. For more information on exceptions to the agenda requirement, please see the *Reference Links* Section of this agenda.

Ideally, items for future agendas should be proposed to the Chair, or the COG Executive Director.

### 4. CONSENT AGENDA – 1 (All Municipalities) (Action)

The following items listed on the Consent Agenda portion of the General Forum agenda may be approved with a single motion by a member or, if a member of the public requests that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for a question or further discussion.

#### CA1-1 CODE BOARD OF APPEALS – REAPPOINTMENTS

The Joint Articles of Agreement state that the Public Safety Committee shall recommend appointments to the Centre Region Building & Housing Code Board of Appeals through the COG General Forum. The COG General Forum shall consider the appointments and recommend a slate of nominees to the participating municipalities for appointment. Appointments to the Board of Appeals are for three-year terms, and members may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms or a total of nine years.

Staff recommend the following reappointments to serve on the Building and Housing Board of Appeals, starting March 1, 2026:

**Douglas Workman** (Three-year term, March 1, 2026 – March 31, 2029)

**J. Michael Leakey** (Three-year term, March 1, 2026 – March 31, 2029)

**Jonathan Peno** (Three-year term, March 1, 2026 – March 31, 2029)

The resumes and bios of the recommended board members are **enclosed** for your review.

To proceed with the appointment of these individuals, the General Forum should consider advancing an Executive Committee and Public Safety Committee recommendation to the Centre Region municipalities.

The motion as approved by the Public Safety Committee at its February 10, 2026, meeting:

*“The Public Safety Committee recommends that the Executive Committee recommend to the General Forum that it forward the following nominations to the member municipalities for reappointment to the Centre Region Building and Housing Board of Appeals:*

***Douglas Workman*** (Three-year term, March 1, 2026 – March 31, 2029)

***J. Michael Leakey*** (Three-year term, March 1, 2026 – March 31, 2029)

***Jonathan Peno*** (Three-year term, March 1, 2026 – March 31, 2029).”

*Approval of this item forwards the slate of individuals to the Centre Region Building and Housing Board of Appeals to the member municipalities for reappointment.*

## CA1-2 INDEPENDENT WORKPLACE INVESTIGATION SERVICES

At its January General Forum meeting, Mr. Magruder and Ms. Mariner volunteered and were unanimously approved to continue serving as the COG’s Anti-Harassment Employee Representatives for 2026, consistent with the Anti-Harassment Policy. At that meeting, staff advised that proposals for external investigators were being reviewed to provide an independent reporting and investigation option in situations involving management or others within the normal investigative chain.

Staff reviewed proposals from three qualified firms with experience conducting workplace investigations in the public sector. All three proposals were determined to be capable of providing professional investigative services. Based solely on cost, the proposals ranked as follows (from lowest to highest): NJ Hess, Verita, LLC, and McNees, Wallace, & Nurick.

After considering cost and other relevant factors, staff are recommending Verita, LLC to serve as the COG’s independent workplace investigation provider on an as-needed basis. This recommendation reflects several considerations, including Verita’s role as an independent third-party with no prior relationship with the COG, the investigators’ legal background and experience in workplace investigations, and overall cost effectiveness relative to a full-service law firm.

*Approval of this item as recommended by the Executive Committee will allow staff to finalize engagement details with Verita, LLC and staff will update the Anti-Harassment Policy and related reference materials accordingly.*

Consent Agenda Approval Motion:

***“That the General Forum approves items CA1-1–CA1-2 as listed on the February 23, 2026, General Forum Consent Agenda – 1.”***

**All municipalities should vote on this motion.**

5. CONSENT AGENDA – 2 (All except for Halfmoon Township) (Action)

CA2-1 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT – CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Independent Contractor Agreements have been updated to provide standardized, modernized contract language for use across Centre Region Parks and Recreation programs. Separate agreements (enclosed) have been developed for the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority and the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) to clearly reflect their respective contracting roles, while maintaining a consistent structure, terms, and administrative approach.

The prior instructor and contractor agreements were developed several years ago, and staff have been unable to confirm the year of adoption or whether they were formally reviewed by the Authority. Since that time, program complexity, risk exposure, insurance standards, and legal requirements, particularly related to independent contractor classification, insurance coverage, and working with minors, have evolved.

The updated COG agreement establishes clear expectations regarding contractor status, risk management, and program administration; strengthen provisions related to insurance, safety, and youth clearances; and use standardized appendices to define program scope, compensation, and future program additions. Following review by the COG Solicitor, the agreements were finalized in late 2025 for use in the 2026 program year.

The Executive Committee recommended approval of this item at its February 17, 2026, meeting.

*Approval of this item by the General Forum as recommended by the Executive Committee, authorizes the use of the 2026 Independent Contractor Agreement template for programs administered by Centre Region Parks and Recreation on behalf of the Centre Region Council of Governments, and ratifies the replacement of prior instructor and contractor agreement forms previously used by the Agency.*

Consent Agenda Approval Motion:

***“That the General Forum approves item CA2-1 as listed on the February 23, 2026, General Forum Consent Agenda – 2.”***

**Halfmoon Township should abstain from voting on this item as a non-participating member of the Parks and Recreation Program.**

6. PROCLAMATION 2026-1 – BLACK HISTORY MONTH (Action) – Presented by Benjamin Estell, Executive Director

This item requests that the General Forum consider **enclosed** Proclamation 2026-1 – Recognizing February as Black History Month in the Centre Region.

If members agree, the following motion could be considered:

***“That the General Forum approves Proclamation 2026 Recognizing February as Black History Month in the Centre Region.”***

**All municipalities should vote on this motion.**

7. BUDGET AMENDMENT: PURCHASE OF AN 8’6” V-PLOW FOR UTILITY 5-5 (Potential Action) – Presented by Shawn Kauffman, Fire Director

The General Forum is asked to consider an Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Public Safety Committee recommendation to approve a budget amendment to purchase an 8’ 6” V-Plow for installation on the Ford F-350 Utility 5-5. The Plow would be an addition to the Fire Protection Program.

While timely, this addition is not due to recent snowfall. The Program has considered adding a plow for many years but has not purchased one due to cost and storage limitations.

A local business with which the Program has regularly done business is downsizing and has offered to install a plow at a competitive price. Additionally, our current leased Strategic Operations Center (SOC) in College Township will provide storage for the plow.

**This action does not require new municipal or university funds.** The current Fire Protection Capital budget would support this purchase in 2026. Additionally, the cost of operational support for this plow will be minimal and covered by staff.

The new plow cost is \$7,575.00, including the plow and installation on Utility 5-5. The Program has received two additional quotes, **enclosed**, totaling more than \$10,000.00.

If General Forum members agree, the following motion could be considered:

***“That the General Forum, as recommended by the Executive, Finance, and Public Safety Committees, approve a budget amendment to purchase an 8’ 6” V-Plow for installation on Utility 5-5 for \$7,575.00.”***

**Halfmoon and Harris Townships should abstain from voting on this matter as non-participating members of the Regional Fire Protection Program.**

8. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE – FLUM PRIMER (Discussion) – Pam Adams, CRPA Director

As recommended by the Executive Committee, the General Forum will receive a staff presentation on the Comprehensive Plan Update.

CRPA is entering the next phase of the update, One Vision for 2045, that will result in a final Future Land Use Map. To begin that process staff will provide a Future Land Use Primer to orient Planning Commissioners (PCs) and elected officials to key components of the Comprehensive Plan update. This will occur between February and April for the PCs and at the February 23, 2026, General Forum meeting for elected officials. The presentation will include an overview of the updated Land Use categories, a recap of the Trend Reports—including the newly developed Sustainability Trend Report—and an introduction to a live, web-based Existing Land Use Map to allow participants to view current land use conditions.

The presentation will also include a review of the Regional Development Capacity Report (REDCAP) to help Planning Commissioners understand development capacity within the Regional Growth Boundary (RGB) and Sewer Service Area (SSA) in advance of the upcoming joint meeting with elected officials for the Future Land Use Map for each municipality. The joint meetings are expected to occur in the April to June timeframe. An open house will be held prior to these sessions at each municipality to present information and gather additional community input.

8. UNIVERSITY REPORT

Mr. Morales will provide a report on current university activities of interest to the municipalities.

9. STATE COLLEGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

Mr. Barlow will report on current State College Area School District activities of interest to the municipalities.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Executive Director will report on current activities of interest to the General Forum.

- As recommended by the General Forum, Active Violence Training will take place following the conclusion of the February 23, 2026, General Forum meeting in the General Forum room.

11. AGENCY DIRECTOR REPORTS

Agency Directors who may wish to report on items of note will do so at this time. Agency Directors are also available to answer any questions.

- Mr. Kauffman, Fire Director, will deliver the 2025 Annual Fire Report.

12. AUTHORITY, BOARD, AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Executive Committee** – Mr. Hameister will report on the meeting held on February 17, 2026.  
**Chair:** Betsy Whitman; **Vice Chair:** Denny Hameister  
**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 12:15 PM.

**Finance Committee** – Mr. Francke will report on the meeting held on February 12, 2026.  
**Chair:** Rich Francke; **Vice Chair:** Nalini Krishnankutty  
**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 8:30 AM.

**Human Resources Committee** – By action of the General Forum at its November 24, 2025, meeting, this Committee has no scheduled meetings for the first half of 2026.

**Parks Capital Committee** – Ms. Stephens will report on the meeting held on February 19, 2026.  
**Chair:** Rich Francke; **Vice Chair:** Patty Stephens  
**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 12:15 PM with the CRPR Authority at Sunset Park.

**Public Safety Committee** – Ms. Trainor will report on the meeting held on February 10, 2026.  
**Chair:** Susan Trainor; **Vice Chair:** Kevin Kassab  
**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 12:15 PM.

**Facilities Committee** – By action of the General Forum at its November 24, 2025, meeting, this Committee has no scheduled meetings for the first half of 2026.

**Land Use and Community Infrastructure Committee** – Mr. Hameister will report on the meeting held on February 5, 2026.  
**Chair:** Dennis Hameister; **Vice Chair:** Matt Herndon  
**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 5, 2026, Joint meeting with CAS, at 12:15 PM.

**Climate Action & Sustainability Committee** – This Committee did not meet.  
**Chair:** Betsy Whitman; **Vice Chair:** Matthew Heller  
**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 5, 2026, Joint meeting with LUCI, at 12:15 PM.

**Parks and Recreation Governance Special Committee** – Mr. Francke will report on the meeting held on January 28, 2026.  
**Chair:** Rich Francke; **Vice Chair:** Kathy Matason  
**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 8:30 AM.

**Schlow Centre Region Library Board** – The Schlow Centre Region Library Board of Trustees met on February 11, 2026.  
**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

**Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority** – The Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority met with the Parks Capital Committee on February 19, 2026.  
**Chair:** Kathy Matason; **Vice Chair:** Corey Gracie-Griffin  
**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 12:15 PM.

**EM Council** – The EM Council met on January 27, 2026.  
**Chair:** Amy Farkas; **Vice Chair:** Jonathan Risley

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 12:15 PM.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Matter of Record – The next hybrid meeting of the General Forum is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2026, at 7:00 PM.
- B. Matter of Record – On February 7, 2026, staff conducted a COG Orientation training session. This session provided a high-level overview of COG operations and how COG serves the Centre Region municipalities. Following this general session, Lisa Rives Collens provided a tour of the Schlow Centre Region Library. A link to the recording and presentation can be found here: [COG Orientation](#).

Additional Orientation Sessions:

The second session will be held on March 14, 2026, at 9:00 AM. Fire Director Shawn Kauffman will meet with those interested in learning more about COG's Fire and Emergency Management Agency at the Patton Fire Station (2598 Green Tech Drive, State College), then tour the Strategic Operations Center (SOC), the College Township Station, and finally the Borough Fire Station. Once again, the CRPR transit van will be available to assist with transportation. This event will conclude at Noon.

In April (date and time TBD), we will once again meet at the COG Building for a session with the Administrative Team, the Planning Agency, and, finally, the Code Agency, during which elected officials will be taken through the permitting process, plan reviews, and inspections for new construction and rental properties. We expect to be able to offer a virtual inspection for those willing to participate. This event will last three hours.

Finally, CRPR will conduct a tour of regional parks and facilities once the weather improves in May (date and time TBD). This event is expected to last 2.5–3 hours.

- C. Matter of Record – CRPA will host (4) Planning Commission trainings in 2026. The first training will be on Tuesday, February 24, from 5 – 6:30 PM at the College Township Municipal Building. [Register here](#). **Enclosed** is the flyer with more details on all training.
- D. Matter of Record – The Centre County Solar Group will meet on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 8:30 AM at the SCASD Panorama Village Administrative Center located at 240 Villa Crest Drive, State College, PA 16801.
- E. Matter of Record – Connect with Us! To be included on email distribution lists to receive agenda packets and more, sign up at [www.crcog.net/connect](http://www.crcog.net/connect).
- F. Matter of Record – A COG Committee assignments roster can be found on the COG website at <https://www.crcog.net/cogcommitteeassignments>.
- G. Matter of Record – You can subscribe to the official COG YouTube channel by going to

youtube.com/@crcog. Some COG meetings are live-streamed, and informational videos on the COG and its services are available to educate viewers.

#### H. Matter of Record – Rules of Order Tip: Tabling vs. Postponing Agenda Items

At times, certain topics will draw more debate than others. If members lack sufficient information on the subject or if it's too sensitive, members will either “table” or “postpone” the item.

##### **Postpone**

If members decide that an item is taking up too much time or that their time would be better spent elsewhere, they can defer the matter. Under this structure, members intend to revisit the matter at a later date, either in the same meeting or in a future one. These items can be postponed to a definite time. The motion to postpone requires a second, is debatable, and requires a majority vote to pass.

If an item is postponed indefinitely, it cannot be raised in the same meeting.

##### **Table**

A motion to lay an item “on the table” takes precedence over all other motions when made. It requires a second, cannot be debated, and requires a majority vote to pass. If it passes, there is no set time to take it up again. The motion waits until it is “Taken from the Table.” The matter doesn't automatically come up at the next meeting. A motion is required to take that topic off the table. The motion to take the matter off the table can be made only during certain classes of business, such as “unfinished business” or “general orders.” This motion also requires a second and a majority.

#### I. Matter of Record – General Forum Unit Voting Procedure (as supported by the Executive Committee in 2021).

##### **Type I – Unit Voting Procedure:**

- A quorum of each governing body must be present (combined in-person/remote) for a unit to vote. If a unanimous decision is required, but one or more participating municipalities lack an in-person/remote combined quorum, the vote for that municipality will be postponed until that unit has had an opportunity to vote. Once that unit has voted on the issue, the vote will be recorded and communicated.
- A Type I – Unit Vote only requires that each of the participating member municipalities produce a simple majority vote within each unit. A unanimous vote within each unit is not required.
- Public comments should be provided to the entire group before the Chair adjourns a General Forum meeting for municipalities to enter their unit groups, and members of the public may observe these unit discussions.
- Once the Chair recesses the meeting, the meeting recording is stopped, and minutes are no longer taken. Individual votes are not recorded. If a General Forum member requests an individual vote record before recessing for the unit vote, municipalities will provide the individual votes to the recording secretary for inclusion in the meeting minutes.

- Each Board/Council President will manage their municipal breakout meeting with the assistance of their Municipal Manager.
- Municipal Managers will indicate to the Executive Director once unit voting is complete. The Chair will then reconvene the General Forum meeting and call for the Recording Secretary to record the Unit Votes.
- Should a second or multiple unit votes be requested, the same procedure will be repeated.
- Non-participating member municipalities should be identified before the vote, and these member communities should abstain from voting on the motion.

<b>UNIT VOTING BREAKOUT PHONE NUMBERS</b>	
<b>College Township:</b> 657-390-4784	<b>Harris Township:</b> 727-731-4231
<b>Ferguson Township:</b> 727-731-5754	<b>Patton Township:</b> 909-318-7376
<b>Halfmoon Township:</b> 609-663-1155	<b>State College Borough:</b> 775-799-9148

- J. Matter of Record – To watch an informational session on the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG), please go to <https://www.crcog.net/orientation>. This video offers an informative overview of COG, its operations, and its constituent agencies. If you have questions regarding this video, please contact COG Executive Director Ben Estell at [bestell@crcog.net](mailto:bestell@crcog.net).
- K. Matter of Record – Connect with Us! To be included on email distribution lists to receive agenda packets and more, sign up at [www.crcog.net/connect](http://www.crcog.net/connect).
- L. Matter of Record – A COG Committee assignments roster can be found on the COG website at <https://www.crcog.net/cogcommitteeassignments>.
- M. Matter of Record – You can subscribe to the official COG YouTube channel by going to [youtube.com/@crcog](https://youtube.com/@crcog). Staff livestream some meetings and include informational videos on COG and its services to educate viewers.

14. CALENDAR

A calendar of upcoming COG, General Forum, and municipal meetings is available at the following link: [COG and Municipal Meeting Overlay Calendar](#).

15. REFERENCE LINKS

Repositories of information have been assembled for use by elected officials and COG staff:

- Governance policies, procedures, and other related documents can be viewed on SharePoint by clicking [here](#) or going to <https://www.crcog.net/governance>.
- Updates on current COG Studies and Projects can be found by clicking [here](#) or going to <https://bit.ly/3vZP8Zs>.

- The COG’s *Program Preface* is online at <https://www.crcog.net/preface>. The *Program Preface* is designed to educate current, prospective, and incoming elected officials; prospective and current staff; municipal officials; and others by providing a historical background for each COG Budget.
- COG Facilities Reference information can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3qnEbMA>. The Facilities Committee uses this information as a collection point and serves as a resource for Committee members and others. Contact Scott at [sbinkley@crcog.net](mailto:sbinkley@crcog.net) for access.
- **New Agenda Items – Expanded Exception Descriptions:**

**For emergency business:** A public agency may take official action at a meeting on a matter of agency business relating to a real or potential emergency involving “clear and present danger to life or property,” regardless of whether public notice was given for the meeting.

**For business arising within 24 hours prior to the meeting:** A public agency may take official action on a matter of agency business that is not listed on the meeting agenda if (1) the matter arises or is brought to the attention of the COG within the 24 hours prior to the meeting and (2) the matter is de minimis in nature and does not involve expenditure of funds or entering into a contract or agreement.

**For business arising during the meeting:** If a resident or taxpayer brings a matter of agency business that is not listed on the meeting agenda to the attention of the COG, members may take official action to refer the matter to staff, if applicable, to research the matter for inclusion on the agenda of a future meeting, or, if the matter is de minimis in nature and does not involve the expenditure of funds or entering into a contract or agreement, the COG may take official action on the matter.

If approved by a majority vote of members, the proposed new agenda item(s) will be added to the agenda at the Chair's discretion.

16. ADJOURNMENT

ENCLOSURES

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Description</u>
CA1-1a	Workman Resume
CA1-1b	Leakey Resume
CA1-1c	Peno Resume
CA1-2a	VERITA LLC Brochure 12_2025_small
CA1-2b	3 Reasons to let VERITA conduct your workplace investigation
CA2-1	Independent Contract Agreement with COG
06	Proclamation 2026-1 – Recognizing February as Black History Month
07	Plow Quotes

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2025 Annual Report

14-C

Planning Commission 2026 Trainings