Ms. Del Corso called the February 20, 2018 meeting of the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) Executive Committee to order at 12:16pm in the COG Building meeting room.

Members present: Mses. Del Corso, Dininni (alternate for S. Miller), and Stilson; and Messrs. Abrams, Harden, and Myers.

Others present: Messrs. Downsbrough, Patton Township Supervisor; May, CRPA Director; C. Miller, UAJA Executive Director; Steff, COG Executive Director and Viglione, COG Finance Director; and Zilla, CRPA Planner; and Ms. Stamm, COG Office Manager and Recording Secretary.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were none.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Mr. Abrams that the minutes of the January 16, 2018 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

AD HOC COG BUILDING COMMITTEE

Ms. Del Corso reminded the members that at last month’s General Forum meeting it was asked that each municipality discuss the composition of the Ad Hoc COG Building Committee. She recommended that each municipal representative report on their municipal discussions so a recommendation can be made to the General Forum.

Ms. Stilson reported that College Township’s manager did not feel staff should be appointed to the committee. She added that State College School District has an Advisory Community Board which takes professionals from the community to make decisions regarding facilities.

Mr. Abrams reported that Patton Township would like to see one elected official and one finance staff person appointed to the committee.

Mr. Harden reported that Harris Township agreed that one elected official from each municipality as well as the COG Finance Director.

Ms. Dininni reported that Ferguson Township agreed that the committee should be comprised of elected officials.

Ms. DelCorso reported that Halfmoon Township decided that one elected official should be appointed to the committee. She added that there may be many other people or boards involved in this process but not as committee members.
Mr. Steff stated that the State College Borough discussed appointing one elected official and one staff member to the committee.

The Executive Committee agreed that one elected official per municipality should be a voting member and each municipality may appoint one other non-voting participant to the committee.

Mr. Steff stated that the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Building Committee would most likely be spent familiarizing the members of all the facilities and possibly review a list of priorities. Mr. Viglione mentioned that he would provide a summary sheet regarding each facility that the COG owns or leases. Mr. Downsbrugh stated that a facilities plan should be prepared for the entire COG.

A motion was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Mr. Myers that the Executive Committee ask the General Forum to request that each Centre Region municipality appoint a board/council member to the Ad Hoc COG Building Committee. These individuals will have voting privileges. In addition, municipalities may appoint a single non-voting staff member (for example a Finance Director or municipal Public Works personnel) to the committee.

2018 ROAD AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Zilla, Transportation Planner, informed the committee that there is not a formal recommendation made by the Transportation and Land Use (TLU) Committee due to meeting dates but that the TLU does support giving this presentation. Mr. Zilla continued by stating that there are 28 locations across Centre County that will go to construction at some point in 2018 and added that his presentation would focus on high-impact projects and the ones that will highly affect the Centre Region.

The committee briefly discussed some of the projects in the Centre Region. Ms. Del Corso questioned if there are sources to reference so people in the community know where to find more information pertaining to these projects. Ms. Stilson questioned if sources also reference emergency evacuation plans. Mr. Zilla responded that notices get emailed to Emergency Management personnel, Municipal Managers, and Public Works employees. He added that anyone can use 511 through PennDot for updates and information.

A motion was made by Ms. Stilson and seconded by Mr. Myers that this informational presentation relating to road and bridge projects in the Centre Region and Centre County that will begin construction in 2018 be forwarded to the General Forum.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENT COOPERATION ACT

Mr. Steff stated that a recommendation was given to the Finance Committee for COG to take an advocacy position for amendment to specifically give COG’s and similar organizations the ability borrow money when the appropriate guarantee agreements are in place. He added that as the Centre Region COG moves forward with certain projects, the law being amended may become useful to avoid confusion with needing and authority to borrow funds for different projects.
Mr. Downsbrough questioned if this amendment would change the municipal responsibility. Mr. Steff responded that it would not. He added that this amendment would benefit and encourage intergovernmental cooperation and used the possibility of a COG forming a Regional Fire Company as an example stating that a COG would be able to borrow funds rather than having to go through another authority.

A motion was made by Mr. Myers and seconded by Ms. Stilson that the Executive Committee desires to endorse this proposal and forward to the General Forum to authorize the COG Chair and COG Executive Director to express to state officials, the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Governments, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, and the Pennsylvania Municipal League its support for new legislation that would allow Council of Governments to borrow funds providing that the required loan guarantees have been approved by the governing bodies of the municipalities that have agreed to repay the loan.

RESOLUTION 2018-1

Mr. Steff explained that the Pennsylvania Historical Commission has guidelines for the destruction of public records. The committee discussed Resolution 2018-1 which declares an intent to follow the procedures provided in the Municipal Records Manual.

A motion was made by Mr. Myers and seconded by Ms. Dininni to present Resolution 2018-1 to the General Forum to authorize the destruction of records as set forth in the Municipal Records Manual, most recently approved by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Division of Archival and Records Management Services.

2017 YEAR END FIRE ACTIVITY REPORT

Ms. Del Corso stated that this yearly report is for informational purposes. Ms. Stilson suggested that in the future when the fire marshals and other fire personnel come to the first meeting of the year that it be made appoint to showcase them more. The committee agreed and Mr. Steff noted that he would discuss that with Mr. Bair, Fire Director, for the future.

A motion was made by Mr. Harden and seconded by Mr. Myers to schedule an information presentation by Steve Bair, Regional Fire Director, at the next General Forum.

RENEWAL OF THE KISSINGER MEADOW NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATE SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT

Mr. Miller, UAJA Executive Director, explained that the DEP has added temperature limits to UAJA’s draft discharge permit for the Kissinger Meadow project. He added that if the temperature limits go through as they are, UAJA would only be able to discharge 30% of the time and only during the summer months. Mr. Miller stated that a public comment period will end March 14th and UAJA will be responding extensively but the more comments that DEP receives, they will realize there are many entities involved.
Mr. May, CRPA Director, added that the new limits do not have a supporting study. He stated that the suggestion is that COG submit a comment asking DEP to not change the limits without a study being completed.

A motion was made by Ms. Stilson and seconded by Ms. Dininni to ask the General Forum to authorize the Chair of the Centre Region Council of Governments to send a communication to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that expresses its support for the renewal of the current National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and a University Area Joint Authority study that is to identify the thermal impacts of the beneficial reuse project on Slab Cabin Run.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Steff reported that the Request for Proposals to review and update the COG Personnel Policy Handbook has been prepared for the Human Resources Committee to review at its next meeting. He added that Jeff Luck has been retained to begin the Kinber project and the Public Safety Committee is continuing to explore options to resolve their concerns with the current dispatch system for hazmat services.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Del Corso reviewed the Matter of Records and asked if committee members had any questions. There were none.

Ms. Stilson stated that the recent update to the congressional map splits the Centre Region and questioned if there was anything that can be done to change that. The committee discussed the map and also that it is finalized so no changes can be made at this point.

TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

The committee reviewed and finalized the agenda items for the General Forum meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for the committee the February 20, 2018 meeting of the COG Executive Committee was adjourned at 1:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Stamm
Recording Secretary