

SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
10:00 A.M., Wednesday, December 4, 2024
COMMISSION OFFICE

Call to Order.....Hon. Scott Walls

Public Comment Period.....Hon. Scott Walls

1. Minutes

- **September 18, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting**

Recommendation: Approval of Minutes, as presented.

2. FY 2023-2024 SAP&DC Single Audit

Maher Duessel has completed the FY 2024 Single Audit for SAP&DC as required under 2 CFR Chapter 1, Chapter II, Part 200, et al., Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. The audit is now presented for review and comment from the Commission’s Board of Directors.

Recommendation: Approval of SAP&DC FY 2023-2024 Audit, as presented.

3. Finance Report

- Accounts Payable
Represents bills paid for September/October 2024

- Bank Accounts Summary
Summary of available Commission funds

Recommendation: Approval as presented.

4. Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board (SAWDB)

The Southern Alleghenies Workforce Development Board (SAWDB) recently hosted Pennsylvania Secretary of Labor and Industry on an insightful visit aimed at showcasing their ongoing efforts to strengthen the region’s workforce. This visit spotlighted the board’s commitment to creating job opportunities, supporting local businesses, and aligning workforce skills with industry needs.

The SAWDB works to address workforce challenges across its communities. Through partnerships with local businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations, the board strives to equip individuals with relevant skills that meet the evolving demands of the job market. The Secretary’s visit underscored the department’s support for these initiatives and highlighted the board's innovative programs, including job training workshops, apprenticeship programs, and youth employment initiatives.

During the tour, the Secretary met with local industry leaders, workforce development professionals, and program participants who shared their experiences and success stories. The Secretary commended SAWDB's achievements, noting that its strategic approach aligns closely with state goals for economic growth and workforce resilience. The visit concluded with a roundtable discussion, where board members and the Secretary explored new opportunities for collaboration and resources to further bolster workforce development in the southern Alleghenies region.

Informational: **No Action Needed.**

5. EARN Program

Update on the EARN Program status.

Informational: **No Action Needed.**

6. Southern Alleghenies Greenways Plan

At the last Board of Directors meeting, Mr. Lee Slusser asked the counties for feedback on how to fund the 50% match (\$150,000) required to finance an estimated \$300,000 regional greenways plan. The first option was to apply to DCED or PennDOT for the match and start work in January 2027. The second option was to use local funds spread out over two fiscal years, which would enable work to start in January 2026 instead. The third option will be to complete the regional greenways plan and a new regional comprehensive plan at the same time under the same contract. This is a discussion item only, although staff desires some feedback on how the Board wishes SAP&DC to proceed.

Informational: **No Action Needed.**

7. 2025-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

As an Economic Development District under the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), SAP&DC is required to maintain an active and up-to-date Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The CEDS functions as a roadmap for economic development and federal grant applications. It includes a list of goals, objectives, and strategies to help guide investments in the region. EDA requires that the strategy document be updated every five years to ensure the data and analysis are relevant to the current economic climate of the region. The 2020-2024 CEDS is thus due to be updated.

Staff began the process of writing *Advancing the Alleghenies: the 2025-2029 Southern Alleghenies Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)* in November 2023. After having developed it across 2024, the CEDS Committee approved a draft of this document for a 30-day public comment period on October 15, 2024. This period has now concluded, and the draft CEDS is being presented to the Board of Directors for their approval. Staff is recommending adoption of the new CEDS, which is available for review on SAP&DC's website (<https://sapdc.org/plans-reports-and-publications/>). A one-page summary of the seven overall goals is included in your agenda packet. Following adoption by the Board, the 2025-2029 CEDS will be provided to the EDA for final review and approval.

Recommendation: **Approval as presented.**

8. Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program Projects

Under the terms of an April 2024 grant contract with PaDCNR for \$150,000, SAP&DC announced the tenth round of the Southern Alleghenies Regional Greenways Mini-Grant Program in March 2024. Four projects totaling \$68,374 were awarded in July 2024. The Mini-Grant round was reopened to award the remaining \$81,626. Antis Township submitted an application requesting \$30,000 in grant funding to install trail enhancements along the Bells Gap Trail. The summary of the four previously awarded Mini-grants and a summary for the Antis Township project have been provided in the meeting packet.

Recommendation: **Approval as presented.**

9. Executive Order 12372 Projects

The Federal Office of Management and Budget designated SAP&DC, under E.O. 12372, to review requests for Federal financial assistance within its six-county service area for concurrence with relevant regional planning documents.

SAP&DC staff have reviewed the proposed projects as listed.

Recommendation: **Approval as presented.**

10. Business Lending Report

The following loan applications have been approved by the Commission's Loan Review Committee and are now submitted for review and action by SAP&DC's Board of Directors.

- Loan Submissions
 - Kunsman Beef Farm, LLC
 - Construction of Poultry Layer Barn
 - \$400,000

 - Montana Gates
 - Acquisition of Farm Real Estate
 - \$170,000

Recommendation: **Approval as presented.**

11. Other Business

- Renewal of Solicitor Agreement

Mr. George Gvozdich has indicated his interest in reappointment as SAP&DC's solicitor for calendar year 2025 with no requested increase or adjustment.

Recommendation: **Approval as presented.**

- SAP&DC Holiday Schedule 2025
- SAP&DC Board of Directors 2025 Meeting Schedule
- Next SAP&DC Board of Directors Meeting: January 15, 2024, 10:00 A.M. at the Huntingdon Country Club.

Adjournment