

2025-2026 Board of Directors Meeting #3 – Minutes

September 8, 2025, 9:00AM

Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg
And Virtual

Attendees:

Name	Position	Present		
		P	PV	NP
EXCOM				
Michael Girman	President			X
Mark Markosky	Immediate Past President/National Director	X		
Rosanna Smithnosky	President-Elect	X		
Eric Meyer	Vice President		X	
Casey Moore	Treasurer	X		
Anthony Dougherty	Secretary	X		
General Board		P	PV	NP
Daniel Laird	Western Chair		X	
David DiGioia	Western Vice Chair	X		
Jennie Louwerse	Central Chair			X
Michael Miller	Central Vice Chair	X		
Mark Kinnee	Eastern Chair			X
Kenneth McClain	Eastern Vice Chair	X		
John Robinson	Western At-Large		X	
Maggie Talarico	Western At-Large	X		
Josh Wilson	Central At-Large	X		
Larry Bankert	Central At-Large	X		
Jeffrey Roken	Eastern At-Large	X		
Colleen Meiswich	Eastern At-Large	X		
ACEC/PA Staff		P	PV	NP
Brent Sailhamer	Executive Director	X		
Sarah Babski	Director of Member Engagement	X		
Laura Haines	Marketing/Communication Specialist	X		

(P-Present, PV-Present Virtual, NP-Not Present)

Guests: Kimberlee Waiwada-HNTB, Jeremiah Fritz-Markosky, Don Blough-AECOM

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

- Smithnosky called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and reminded all about the Antitrust Policy.
- Roll call was conducted by Dougherty. **(Quorum satisfied)**

II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda

- Consent Agenda – *Approved*
 - Moore Suggested that committee reports indicate the chair and vice-chairs.
 - Smithnosky suggested that a divider page be added to the Board Meeting Packet before the committee reports that lists every committee as well as their chairs, vice chairs, and if their report is included in the packet or not.
 - **Action Items:** Sailhamer to add Committee Report cover/divider page to future Board Meeting Packets.
- Prior Minutes Reviewed: June 30, 2025 BOD Meeting
 - Corrections: Meiswich noted the following changes:
 - Meiswich was present at the meeting and asked that the notes be revised to indicate such.
 - Moore motioned to approve with noted changes, seconded by McClain. *Unanimously approved.*
- Previous Action Items – Dougherty reminded all board members to submit their Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct, and Pledge to PA forms.
 - **Action Items:** All Board Members to submit above referenced forms.

III. Financial Report

- Treasurer’s Memo/July 2025 Financial Report – Meyer presented summary of prior fiscal year and Moore presented July 2025 Financial Reports
 - 2024-2025 Fiscal Year - Leadership conference and other events did great. Collection of membership dues improved but one affiliate member didn’t pay dues as of June 30th.
 - Current Fiscal Year – Report in Packet.
 - CEPA PAC – Current at half of goal – Still work to do.
- Outstanding 2025-2026 Dues – Sailhamer noted that 51 of 143 member firms and affiliates are still outstanding.
 - Novi software is automating much of the process and updates account statuses in real time.
 - Organization is getting more diligent will follow-up to those outstanding longer than 90 days and will possibly cut-off membership access to those who are not paid. McClain asked if ACEC/PA ever offered a discount for early pay, or late fees for late payments. Moore suggested checking with other MO’s.
 - Individual ExCom outreach to delinquent members will intensify as deadline approaches.
- Tax Filings and Audits
 - Form 990 Tax forms – RKL (accountant) finalizing – does not require board action.
 - Audits required every three years; review in interim years. Current review is almost complete; no issues expected.
- Meyer motioned to approve both reports, seconded by Roken. *Unanimously Approved* both

reports)

IV. Membership Report

- Report in packet
 - T2 Utility Solutions dropped (no response to outreach).
 - Increased new member interest, partly due to recent changes in Life Health Trust.
 - Recent new members: Obnovit (AI/engineering focus), Patel Infrastructure, **Wilson Consultants (attended infrastructure conference)**.
- Staff and ExCom to coordinate a structured outreach to existing and lapsed member firms.
- Moore motioned to approve membership report, seconded by Wilson. *Unanimously approved*

V. National Director Report

- News from ACEC:
 - Highlights from the “Big Beautiful Bill” that benefit the industry:
 - Permanent R&D deductibility and retroactive relief.
 - Permanent 20% pass-through deduction for S Corps
 - Corporate tax rate preserved at 21%.
 - ACEC Research Institute Chair (Steve Lefton) appointed to US DOT Advisory Board
 - Participated in key Federal roundtable with Transportation Secretary.
 - Further news expected after ACEC Conference in San Diego including FAR overhead discussions.
- PAC Contributions:
 - Emphasis on meeting national and CEPA PAC goals.
 - Board commitments: \$500 per board member + \$2,000 solicited (per ACEC/PA Board member).
 - Last year, a representative from Mid-Atlantic member firm had to cover shortfall personally. Our goal is to avoid repeat of that scenario.
 - Fundraising period: January–December; The sweepstakes are good opportunities to meet your goals.
 - Several states have already met their goals; PA is roughly halfway.
- Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Structure:
 - Proposal provided previous board meeting packets. Requires the President-Elect to serve as the Chair; Past President will be Vice Chair.
 - Tie the GAC responsibility directly to the board.
 - Regional representatives will be part of the GAC committee leadership for the West, Central and East.
 - Requires a bylaw change.
 - McClain motioned to approve restructuring of the GAC including bylaw change, seconded by Markosky. *Unanimously approved*

VI. Events Report

- FutureNOW has been active providing tours and attracting sponsorships (Baker, TPD, Pennoni).
 - Pittsburgh Waterworks, Beaver Stadium, (Shell Plant, Phila Port, Hershey Park upcoming)
 - Social events planned as well. Trying to increase program support in East. One member is joining the committee but more desired. Any interested parties should be directed to Sarah Babski.
- Infrastructure Conference – 136 full attendees and 32 speakers. Revenue target nearly met.
- Scholarship Golf Outing will be held three weeks from today – 121 golfers. Close to selling out the tournament. Sponsorships exceeded targets.
- Regional Meetings starting in October.
 - Western region needed to change dates due to conflict with PennDOT District 11 golf outing – change date to 10/2.
 - Sponsorships have been strong, registrations will open soon.
 - November 12th – BOD Meeting, Central Region Lunch, and GAC reception.
- Diamond Awards – Call for entries is out. Deadline has been extended to changes to the format. Encourage folks to submit.
 - DEIB award changing to workforce impact award.
 - Grand Conceptor will be a surprise at the event!

VII. Government Affairs Report

- Smithnosky explained the new format which includes Smithnosky as Chair, Markosky as Vice Chair. Kathy Farrell (East), Damon Rhoads (Central), and Andrew Waple (East) will serve as regional representatives.
- Goal is to strengthen attendance from legislators and engaging with them overall
 - Freshmen Legislators invited to October 15th GA event
 - Additional Regional PAC events will be planned.
- A CEPA PAC Event will be held as part of the Infrastructure Conference.
- CEPA PAC Report – At 50% of goal, Board to encourage participation and solicit fundraising for CEPA PAC.

VIII. Committee Reports

- Three Committees provided updates on their activities:
 - **Administration** – J. Fritz discussed committee activities including working with PennDOT on tracking of payments to subconsultants on engineering agreements as well as developing proposals to improve the supplement process for PennDOT engineering agreements.
 - **PA Turnpike** - D. Blough provided report on recent committee meetings and upcoming meetings. Vice Chairs: Gary Graham and Mike Houser
 - **Top Focus Areas:**
 - Quality: Subcommittee successfully suggested manual changes.
 - Technology/Digital Delivery: Ongoing updates and discussion.

- Program Updates: Turnpike quiet on future plans; committee persistently requesting further info.
- Mentoring & Training: Prior environmental mentoring on hold; planning PS&E (Plans, Specs, & Estimates) packaging training for younger staff.
- Challenge: Robust attendance, but limited active participation; concerns that members may withhold firm-specific issues from discussion.
- **Workforce Development** - K. Waiwada report given highlighting working groups for:
 - K-12 – Planning a STEAM Day for middle school in Spring 2026 (4/13) Western PA, but looking to rotate through each region. All funded by sponsorships. It's a half-day event. 120 to 150 students is the target attendance. Transportation for students is a big cost to overcome for schools
 - FutureNOW - New co-chairs: Carolyn Bell, Marco Navarro with John Robinson moving to board.
 - Non-traditional - Stacy Ginkel leading.
 - Moore – suggested an announcement to describe role that is needed to solicit for East participation in committee.

IX. Executive Director's Report

- Operations:
 - Welcomed Laura Haines, new Marketing/Comms Specialist (noted improvements and branding).
 - Strategic Plan update (began July 2025; available on the website).
- PennDOT Executive Meeting (Aug 27):
 - Attendees: Sailhamer, Markosky, Smithnosky, Girman (virtual).
 - Focus: Transportation funding/budget impasse.
 - Takeaway: Senate Republican leadership (Pittman) and House (Bradford) need to reach compromise.
- Legislative Update:
 - As of July 1, 2025, PennDOT and other state agencies are NOT paying invoices for work performed after that date due to budget impasse (except federally funded portions, which may be processed).
 - Discussion on possible confusion between APC communications and PennDOT guidance on what gets paid.
 - Potential for partial payments (for federal portions), but tracking and execution uncertain.
 - Contractors in construction also impacted, raising risk of wider shutdowns.
 - Ongoing clarification sought on state/federal funding splits, obligations, and invoice processing.
 - House/Senate standoff over transit and road/bridge funding.
 - House proposal: \$400M more for transit, R&B fund for rural roads/bridges.
 - Senate proposal: Use \$419M from the Public Transportation Trust Fund (PTTF) for immediate transit needs (opposed by House/Governor).

MEETING MINUTES

- SEPTA/PRT, after resistance, supported using PTTF funds for survival; Governor approved \$394M capital-to-operations transfer for SEPTA alone—other operators not included and will have to pursue themselves.
- Political posturing continues; solution could be delayed.
- ACEC/PA supports comprehensive funding packages (transit and roads/bridges together).
- Members encouraged to increase advocacy, report payment delays, and contribute to PAC efforts.
- Wage rates: Possible legislative hearing; OA/PennDOT negotiations ongoing.
- DBE program: Small business set-aside contingency plan; Indiana DOT cited as model; awaiting outcome of Mid-American Milling case (final decision timeline: late September/October).
 - National ACEC quarterly sentiment survey included DBE-related questions; results available with graphical breakdown.
- Ongoing attempts to schedule a fundraiser with Governor Shapiro—status pending.

X. President's Report – No Report

XI. New Business

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- Member Feedback – if you hear anything, please note it in these meetings.

XII. Adjourn – 11:10 AM – Markosky motioned to adjourn, seconded by Bankert. *Unanimously approved*

**Next Meeting(s) – Wednesday, November 12, 2025 (8:30am-11:30am)
West Shore Country Club**