

2025-2026 Board of Directors Meeting #4 – Minutes

November 12, 2025, 8:30 AM

West Shore Country Club, 100 Brentwater Road, Camp Hill
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: Padideh Moghaddam-RK&K, Mike Kenawell - JMT

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

- Girman called the meeting to order at 8:33 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*
- Prior Minutes Reviewed: September 8, 2025 BOD Meeting
 - Wilson motioned to approve, seconded by Roken. *Unanimously approved.*
- Previous Action Items –
 - Sailhamer added page summarizing all Committee Leadership to the Board Meeting Packet.
 - Sailhamer reminded all board members to submit their Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct, and Pledge to PA forms.
 - **Action Item:** All Board Members to submit above referenced forms.

III. Financial Report

- Treasurer’s Memo/August and September 2025 Financial Reports – Moore presented the reports included with the Board Meeting Packet.
 - Smithnosky questioned line 25610 regarding dues payment to National. Indicates we have paid \$135k vs \$89k at this same point last year. Is this due to increase in dues or just timing of when dues were paid? **Action Item:** Moore will review data and provide explanation of increase as compared to last year.
 - Meyer motioned to approve the Treasurer’s / financial reports, seconded by Roken. *Unanimously approved.*
- Outstanding 2025-2026 Dues – Several member firms has still not paid their dues. Staff will provide ExCom with updated list. ExCom will make additional contact to get dues paid.
 - **Action Item:** Individual ExCom outreach to delinquent members.
- Tax Filings and Financial Review
 - Moore explained the financial review prepared by RKL and results of the Board’s Finance Committee who voted to submit the report to the board for action.
 - Dougherty motioned for the Board to accept the Financial Review prepared by RKL. Motion was seconded by Kinnee. *Unanimously approved.*
 - Form 990 Tax forms – RKL prepared the tax filing which was reviewed and subsequently accepted by the Board’s Finance Committee who voted to submit the report to the board for action.
 - Meyer motioned to accept Form 990 and authorize the accountant to file, seconded by Robinson. *Unanimously approved.*
- Investment Account Review – Gail Weigle from Wells Fargo presented a review of ACEC/PA’s investment accounts. Weigle stated that both investment accounts (short-term and long-term) have the same investment objective, moderate-income. Weigle stated that ACEC/PA’s financial procedures document recommends the short term have a conservative investment objective (currently 8.6% year-to-date return) with the long-term account having a moderate-

income objective (currently 9.3% year-to-date return). If ACEC/PA desires to change the investment strategies as noted in the financial procedures document, there would be no fees associated with the change, and it could be made easily. Moore and Smithnosky suggested the investment objective of the short-term fund be changed to a conservative growth objective.

- **Action Item:** Girman stated that ExCom will discuss and present a recommendation to the full board.

IV. Membership Report

- Meyer presented the membership report provided in Board Meeting Packet. The Board's Membership committee had their first meeting on October 29, 2025. Member firm contacts were assigned to each Board member (excluding ExCom) to conduct member outreach. Assignments are included in the spreadsheet on the MS Teams site. There are still member firms that need to be claimed.
 - Babski noted that many inquiries and new members have been received due to the Life-Health Trust. Currently, post cards are sent to new members highlighting perks of being an ACEC/PA member. Babski is interested in revamping this process of how this information is distributed and including information about the trusts.
- Kinnee motioned to approve membership report, seconded by DiGioia. *Unanimously approved*

V. National Director Report

- News from ACEC:
 - Key ongoing national issue: USDOT DBE IFR and open questions on implementation.
 - ACEC letter to DOT Secretary Duffy has yet to be answered.
 - ACEC and ACEC/PA continue to monitor DBE rule changes, timelines for recertification, and impact of the Mid-American Milling Court case.
 - ACEC PAC Report
 - Goal shortfall of ~\$7,500; deadline Dec 31, 2025.
 - Board members strongly encouraged to meet \$500 commitment and solicit contributions from staff.
 - Last chance sweepstakes promoted for contribution incentives.

VI. Events Report

- Babski presented Events Report provided in the Board Meeting Packet and noted the following:
 - Future Now Program
 - Focus on young leader retention and engagement; submitted to national as a best practice.
 - Recent events included a Western region social (12 attendees) and regional meeting/tour at Hershey Park/Central PA (30 attendees).
 - Seeking more engagement in Eastern region; committee is brainstorming

- ideas.
- Infrastructure Conference & Golf Outing
 - Infrastructure conference netted about \$20,000, substantially better than last year.
 - Golf outing raised at least \$15,000 for scholarship fund.
 - Plans to return to Gettysburg location next year.
- Government Affairs/GAC Receptions
 - Ongoing challenge with low attendance (12–20 members). Need to better promote value; legislators are engaged and receptive.
 - Feedback noted on timing of events; further consideration to be given.
 - Legislative Day at the Capitol planned for April, pending legislative calendar.
- Diamond Awards
 - 52 project submissions (compared to prior highest of 36). Judging underway.
 - Special awards nominations are open till 11/21/25.
 - Event is January 22, 2026.
- Workforce/STEAM Day
 - Planned for April in Western PA (Commonwealth Charter Academy) for middle schoolers; seeking volunteers, sponsors, and firm participation.
- Scholarship Applications
 - Remain open until the first Friday of December; last year received 40+ complete applications.

VII. Communications and Social Media Report

- Haines explained the Communications and Social Media Report, highlighting the following metrics from July through October 2025:
 - Average open rate: 36.8% (above industry norm).
 - Click rate: 12.9% (also significantly above average).
 - Strong following and impression growth on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter.
 - Member content and event photos drive engagement.
- Social media and communications to be recurring board agenda item.

VIII. Government Affairs Report

- Smithnosky presented the Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Report provided in the Board Meeting Packet and noted the following:
 - Three meetings held this cycle; ~40 of 68 committee members participated in the committee call held on October 1st.
 - Emphasis on reinvigorating committee and legislative outreach—regional reps active; regular events scheduled.
 - GAC released new legislative priority flyer (transportation funding, indemnification, and design-build initiatives).
 - Discussed need for more support/attendance at receptions; ideas for alternate timing and sponsorships were discussed.

- CEPA PAC - 2025 goal is \$25,000, currently ~\$10,000 short (updated report date: August 31, 2025, but new contributors noted since).
 - Smithnosky and Markosky collaborating with staff to prepare a communication to appeal for contributions.
 - Board members responsible for encouraging contributions within their firms and broader participation.

IX. Strategic Plan Report

- Meiswich noted the plan is included in the Board Meeting Packet.
 - A meeting will be scheduled with the Strategic Plan Committee.
 - Currently on track with items noted to be completed during this year. A number of Advocacy items are due by mid-2026. It was noted that the calendar-year goals regarding CEPA PAC may not be aligned with ACEC/PA fiscal year. Committee will investigate matter and provide recommendations.

X. Committee Reports

- Two committees provided updates on their activities:
 - **DRPA/DRJTBC** – Moghaddam discussed committee activities including:
 - Prior cycle focused on solicitation and resident engineer requirements. recommendations made; some accepted by DRPA.
 - Ongoing work includes:
 - Retainage requirements (coordinating with national data and administration committee).
 - TA training and injecting new talent.
 - Collaboration with construction committee on updating guidelines.
 - Joint meetings with clients scheduled before year-end.
 - **Water, Energy, Environment** - Kenawell provided report on recent committee meetings and activity:
 - Leadership continued from prior year: Steph Kern (Environmental), Jason Harkcom (Energy), J.T. Graupensperger (Water).
 - Committee at 40 members; encouraging higher attendance.
 - Focus on guest speakers from PennDOT/resource agencies, policy trends, and inter-agency relations.
 - Quarterly liaison meetings with DEP and emphasis on expanding utility/water agency participation.
 - Permit task force remains active.

XI. IX. Executive Director's Report

- Biggest news is regarding the State Budget - PA budget (Senate Bill 160) passed in the House today, total \$50.1 billion. Budget includes withdrawal from RGGI (Greenhouse Gas). Previous impasses due to differences between Governor, Senate Republicans, and House Democrats

regarding use of rainy-day funds. Funding release expected within two weeks.

- Federal budget is also close to resolution.
- Workforce Award - Companies encouraged to submit workforce initiatives for awards; applications expected from key member firms.
- Job Board Discussion
 - Ongoing evaluation of value vs. potential conflict of interest: most job posts are from non-members (especially state agencies).
 - Board leans toward removing the job board, particularly as perceived benefit is limited and most recruitment is via other channels.
 - Discussion to disable in-app job listings at events (Whova app) after complaints of inappropriateness.
 - **Action Item:** ExCom will discuss and make recommendation to the Board.
- DBE Rule Implementation
 - PennDOT working group met with ACEC and APC to discuss implications of new DBE rule.
 - 3-month process to finalize recertification criteria (2 months internal/small group work; 1 month public forums).
 - Anticipated full recertification process ~12 months.
 - PennDOT encouraging dual SBE/DBE certification to keep firms eligible while recertification is underway.
 - FHWA has not yet provided clear direction; PA intending to be methodical rather than rushed like other states.
 - Multiple-owner DBE issues and hardship appeals discussed.
 - ACEC/PennDOT collaboration ongoing; regular updates promised to member firms.
- Fundraiser with Governor Shapiro—Discussions paused due to State Budget Impasse.

XII. President's Report

- Girman thanked everyone for dues collection efforts and encouraged everyone to do their part regarding PAC donations.
- AASHTO meeting next week in UTAH. Believe DOTs will have roundtable discussions on the DBE issue. Girman will be in attendance to listen in.
- Tony Potter (ACEC/PA Legal Counsel) – He recently advised on the indemnification issue as well as the Clearfield County case regarding statute of repose issue. He suggested creating a committee of in-house legal people from member firms. He wouldn't charge us for that committee involvement. More information to come but Girman asked Board members to think about the idea for future discussion.

MEETING MINUTES

XIII. New Business

- Member Feedback – if you hear anything, please note it in these meetings.
 - Smithnosky noted that several members reported that the State budget impasse as a reason for not attending government affairs events.
 - Dougherty noted some firms concerned about having to pay interest to borrow money while State not paying invoices due to budget impasse and inability to get that money back in overhead calculations.
 - Girman noted that these are the types of items that should be discussed with legislators in forums such as the GAC events.

XIV. Adjourn – 11:06 AM – Meyer motioned to adjourn, seconded by Wilson. *Unanimously approved*

Next Meeting(s) – Thursday, January 22, 2026 (11:30am to 2:30pm)
Lancaster Marriot