

## 2025-2026 Board of Directors Meeting #5 – Minutes

January 22, 2026, 12:00 PM

Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square, 25 South Queen Street, Lancaster  
And Virtual

### Attendees:

Name	Position	Present		
		P	PV	NP
<b>EXCOM</b>				
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		
<b>General Board</b>		<b>P</b>	<b>PV</b>	<b>NP</b>
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		
<b>ACEC/PA Staff</b>		<b>P</b>	<b>PV</b>	<b>NP</b>
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:** Justin Gibbons – Construction Services Committee, Crystalann Deardorff – Small Business Committee, Sarina Tufano - Multimodal Committee

### I. Call to Order/Roll Call

- Girman called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM 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* – *A note was made requesting a summary report of committees that submitted reports vs. those that didn't submit a report for the meeting.*
- Prior Minutes Reviewed: November 12, 2025, BOD Meeting
  - Markosky motioned to approve, seconded by Roken. *Unanimously approved.*
- Previous Action Items –
  - All board members are to submit their Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct, and Pledge to PA forms. *Two Board Members need to submit above referenced forms. Larry stated that he would submit his electronically after the meeting.*
  - Question regarding the September 2025 Financial Report - 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? *Moore reported that the difference was due to timing of dues payments from member firms as well as increases in member firm Full-Time Equivalent staff numbers (FTE's) which is what dues payments are based upon.*
  - Outstanding 2025-2026 Dues – Several member firms has still not paid their dues. Staff will provide ExCom with updated list. *Sailhamer reported that only two firms remain to pay their dues (Century and Atkins-Realis). Both have committed to pay.*
  - Investment Account Review – Gail 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. *Girman and Sailhamer reported that ExCom recommended to the full board modify our investments as recommended by Gail Weigle via email and the board voted electronically to proceed forward.*
  - 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. *ExCom discussed and notes that the Whova App will be going away and we will be using Feed Loop which will result in savings through ACEC National. No job boards will be available in apps at conferences but will remain on the ACEC/PA website.*

## III. Financial Report

- Treasurer's Memo/October – December 2025 Financial Reports – Moore presented the reports included with the Board Meeting Packet, specifically the December 2025 report that

- indicated that ACEC/PA is going well financially half-way through the fiscal year with \$171,000 in assets and noting strong performance on registrations and sponsorships for the Diamond Awards Event.
- Meyer motioned to approve the Treasurer's report and December 2025 Financial report, seconded by Talarico. *Unanimously approved.*
  - Markosky motioned to approve the October 2025 Financial Report, seconded by Smithnosky. *Unanimously approved.*
  - Meyer motioned to approve the November 2025 Financial report, seconded by DiGioia. *Unanimously approved.*
  - *Comments: Smithnosky suggested that in budget planning for next fiscal year, that we plan for increased legal fees since spent more than budgeted thus far due to amicus brief regarding the statute of repose legal case in Clearfield County. Markosky noted that we should also consider the goal of having 9 months of operating expenses in reserve.*
  - Outstanding 2025-2026 Dues – *This item was discussed in the Action Item Review section of the meeting.*
  - Signatory Policy – Discussion was had regarding revision to the checking account signatory policy to allow the full ExCom (except Past-President) to have signatory authority to provide greater flexibility at regional events. Currently, only the Executive Director, President and Treasurer have this authority.
    - Motion was made by Roken to add ExCom members (except Past-President) to the list of those that have signatory authority, seconded by Smithnosky. *Unanimously approved.*

#### IV. Events Report

- Babski presented Events Report provided in the Board Meeting Packet and noted the following:
  - Scholarship
    - Noted increase in scholarship payouts to \$20,000 (distributed to 10 students) due primarily to strong participation in the golf outing.
  - Future Now Program
    - Going very well in all regions.
  - Regional Meetings
    - Performing well in all regions.
    - Government Affairs Receptions-Ongoing challenge with low attendance. Hoping to see increased attendance with February event with Judy Ward being held in downtown Harrisburg.
  - Diamond Awards
    - 52 project submissions (compared to prior highest of 36).
    - 372 tickets sold, record attendance.
    - Some additional touches this year, additional bar in lobby after the event, photo room for award recipients, etc.

- Legislative Day/Infrastructure forum – End of March, new format this year, two days – additional updates will be coming.
- Workforce/STEAM Day
  - Planned for April in Western PA (Commonwealth Charter Academy) for middle schoolers; Additional regions planned for future.
- Annual Leadership Meeting – will be in Mid-June in Charlottesville, Virginia
- Regional PAC Events – discussions and ideas being discussed but nothing calendared yet.
- Now that we are in budget season, please advise Sarah of any ideas or thoughts you may have with respect to events.

## V. Communications and Social Media Report

- Haines explained the Communications and Social Media Report provided in Board Meeting Packet, highlighting the following:
  - Board video testimonials to be recorded after the board meeting.
  - 60-day report is provided and will be norm going forward.
  - Doing well with our metrics for emails and social media engagement but always striving for improvement.
  - QR Code being provided in Diamond Awards program that when scanned will provide a “one stop shop” for finding ACEC/PA on the web and social media channels.

## VI. Membership Report

- Meyer presented the membership report provided in Board Meeting Packet.
  - Member Engagement from the committee members is on-going, if any contacts need to be updated, please advise Sarah.
  - Discussion was had regarding feedback Brent and others received and other ideas such as providing a FAQ page, value proposition, and providing a Board Mentor for new members that can introduce them functions after they join, such as regional events.
- Dougherty motioned to approve membership report, seconded by Markosky. *Unanimously approved*

## VII. National Director Report

- News from ACEC:
  - There is a log going on at National as summarized in the emails from Linda Darr, Jim Hoffman, and Matt Reifer, such as:
    - Annual Conference and Legislative Day held in DC in the spring.
    - Fall Conference moves around (Phoenix this year).
    - May 20, 2026 – Engineering Excellence Awards.
    - Engineering and Public Works Roadshow
    - Young Professionals Award each year. MO’s can nominate. ACEC/PA should

- consider. Due around mid-May each year.
- Research Institute emails and surveys – Suggested that they be read and participated in.
- ACEC PAC Report
  - ACEC/PA met our goal for 2025 and now we are in a new year.
  - Board members strongly encouraged to meet \$500 commitment and solicit contributions from others.
  - Spring Sweepstakes are in effect now.

## VIII. Government Affairs Report

- Smithnosky presented the Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Report provided in the Board Meeting Packet and noted the following:
  - GAC Meetings are not doing well with attendance, averaging 14 to 15 people at each event. Hoping to do better with the 2/2/26 Judy Ward event. Need 30 attendees to not lose money on the event being held at Suba in downtown Harrisburg.
  - Meetings with legislators – list is on TEAMS site, please keep up with it.
  - GAC Meeting scheduled for 2/19/26
- CEPA PAC - 2025 goal was \$25,000, and we were only \$275 short.
  - Annual goal increasing this year based on our strategic plan, need to be aggressive and come up with new ideas. Raised \$1,000 so far.
  - Ideas and plans for events were discussed as follows:
    - DiGioia stated that members ask how money is being spent.
    - Moore suggested making receptions free and using sponsors.
    - Girman suggested having events in legislator's districts.
    - Wilson asked if a request for PAC donation could be made part of annual renewal.
    - Sailhamer is working on education for creating corporate PAC's and corporate reporting of political contributions.
    - Kinnee, McClain, and Cathy Farrell are working to schedule a PAC event in the eastern region. 33% of legislators are in southeast PA and they are trying to engage with them to educate them about transportation funding. Working with PennDOT on some ideas.
    - Laird stated that the western region is also working on ideas for events and trying to raise \$5,000.

## IX. Break – Meeting was placed in recess from 1:35 PM to 1:52 PM.

## X. Strategic Plan Report

- Meiswich noted the plan is included in the Board Meeting Packet.
  - Discussed progress since last meeting including an ExCom meeting with Committee to determine how to best measure progress and keep accountability. Committee working on modifying the previous process of tracking.

## XI. Committee Reports

- Three committees provided updates on their activities:
  - **Construction Services** – Gibbons provided an update and noted he is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year as chair of the committee. Committee has been very active as noted in the attached report and working on the following items:
    - Updates to the PennDOT Standard Scope of Work for Consultant Construction Inspection include the Minimum Experience and Training (MET's) associated with inspection classifications. Committee was successful in having PennDOT implement changes that improve the ability of firms to attract and develop their workforce.
    - Committee holds quarterly meetings with PennDOT's Consultant Agreement Section.
    - Committee has technology and wage rate working groups.
    - Committee members meet on a quarterly basis as well.
  - **Multimodal** – Tufano presented the report included in the Board Meeting Packet, with the following highlights:
    - Tufano is new chair since August.
    - Efforts to increase engagement by having virtual meetings with owner representatives, such as Kate O'Conner from SEPTA and Mike Venuto of PATCO/DRPA. PennDOT Multimodal Deputy Secretary will speak to the Committee as well.
  - **Small Business** – Deardorff presented the report included in the Board Meeting Packet, with the following highlights:
    - Committee has been in place since July replacing the DEIB Committee.
    - Working hard on the DBE Rule issue.
      - Keeping up with ACEC National work on issue.
      - Webinar held with PennDOT regarding preparation of the personal narrative for recertification of DBE status.
      - Participated in AxAdvocacy webinar on subject.
      - PAUCP is reviewing recertification applications on a rolling basis. Important to note that PennDOT and PA Turnpike are continuing with their good faith effort tracking even though DBE participation goals are currently suspended.
    - Working with the Workforce Development Committee on upcoming STEAM Day.
    - Committee is establishing goals for 2026 based on pain points raised in a previous roundtable discussion.

## XII. IX. Executive Director's Report

- Senator Ward event on 2/2/26 is an important event. Will need her committee to advance legislation on PennDOT bonding ability and Design/Build Best Value.
- GAC/PAC is hugely important due to slim margin of control in PA House of Representatives. We will need to be prepared for increased demands in political contributions.

- US Senate and House Committees met and proposed a funding bill. Proposed to keep most of IIJA funding. January 30<sup>th</sup> federal government shut down is looming, will need 6 bills to pass to get it done.
- State budget will be released on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Not optimistic that a PA transportation funding bill gets done this year due to Governor's ambitions for national office.
- ACEC/PA budget meeting scheduled for 3/22/26, preparation underway.
- Legal Counsel forum being constituted being led by Tony Potter, ACEC/PA counsel.
- Utility working group also being organized.
- PennDOT Executive Leadership meeting scheduled for 1/27/26.
- ACEC DC Residence trip is scheduled for 3/5/26.

### **XIII. President's Report**

- Girman thanked everyone for their efforts and noted that the organization is in a great position. Noted our good relationships with PennDOT and PA Turnpike and accomplishments, such as the indemnification issue.
- Girman noted that email will be coming out to seek interest in joining the ACEC/PA board. Everyone is reminded to submit a form if you have continued interest in participating on the board.

### **XIV. New Business**

- Discussion was held regarding impacts of mergers and acquisitions on ACEC/PA members/membership.
  - Deardorff noted that the Small Business Committee lost a member because the firm was acquired and no longer qualified as a small business.
    - Girman noted there is no reason they can't remain on the committee and suggested they be encouraged to continue their participation.
  - It was noted that Woolpert acquired Dawood and that Woolpert joined ACEC/PA after the acquisition.

**XV. Adjourn – 2:52 PM** – Moore motioned to adjourn, seconded by Markosky. *Unanimously approved*

**Next Meeting(s) – Monday, March 23, 2026 (2:00pm to 5:00pm)**  
**APC (800 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Harrisburg)**