

**Delaware Coalition for Open Government
Virtual Board Meeting by Zoom
October 4, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: Keith Steck called the board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Pre-board reports:

1. Treasurer's Report of September 30, 2022.
2. Minutes September 6, 2022

PRESENT: Letty Diswood, John Flaherty, Al Jackson, John Kowalko III, Coralie Pryde, Anita Rush, Keith Steck, Nick Wasileski.

ABSENT: David Breen, John Morgan, excused.

DelCOG members: Katherine Ward.

GUESTS: No guests present.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. **Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves and Keith Steck welcomed everyone.
2. **Meeting Minutes:** It was moved and seconded, to accept Draft #2 of the minutes of the September 6, 2022, board meeting. Motion approved unanimously.
3. **Treasurer Report:** Anita Rush reported that the deposit of \$200 for the reception for elected officials at Ed Oliver Golf club has cleared.. She gave the Treasurer's Report for September 30, 2022.

The current balances in the checking and savings accounts:

WSFS checking account balance as of September 30, 2022, was \$3,511.55

WSFS savings account balance as of September 30, 2022, was \$2,776.98

Total account balance as of September 30, 2022, was \$6,288.53.

The Treasurer's report was adopted as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Status of Chapter for Inspector General Book.** Ward reported that the publisher will not allow DelCOG to obtain copy right to the chapter DelCOG is writing. This is a problem since we do not want to lose that right to publish. Ward will call committee meeting in middle October to work on the chapter and publish it on our website and give what we have to Robin Kempt. DelCOG will let them have coy right after DelCOG publishers on or website.
2. **Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Minor Errors and Omissions in DelCOG's Bylaws:** Steck reported that the committee is reviewing the bylaws and will submit a draft to the board for its consideration. Committee members are: Steck, Kowalko, III and Ward.

UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS:

- 1. Reception for Elected Officials:** Ward reported that she is in contact with person to finalize contract and will sign it. She will send out a notice to possible cosponsors by email shortly. Please send any contacts for organizations we would like to include in the “Ask” to Ward. The fees are lead sponsors minimum \$100, \$25 cosponsors, and \$5 donation for attendees, no fee for elected officials.
- 2. Downstate Issues – Local and State Meetings & Hearings in English only:** Steck reported that he attended a public hearing by DNREC on the bio energy project proposed in Sussex County to manage chicken manure and waste from food processing plants. He reiterated that there was no translation into Spanish or other languages at the meeting but heard that there was translation for people living in the area off site. *(Keith please review and make any additions or corrections.)*
- 3. Medicate Advantage Issue for state retirees:** Steck reported that a suite has been filed in Superior Court and oral arguments are to be held October 17, 2022. Keith is working on a white paper on this issue and is collaborating with Rise Delaware. The hearing is to request a stay and hope to delay the implementation of the new health care advantage plan. Rallies are planned in Wilmington and next week at Legislative Hall. *(Keith please review and make any additions or corrections.)*

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

OPEN FORUM

1. Wasilewski discussed a news article (**which paper?**) about abuse in prisons (**Delaware?**)
2. There is an article in *The News Journal* regarding lead found in many schools throughout Delaware. Please read it.
3. The Governor has been signed H.B. 244 a bill that reforms the fines and fees system in Delaware. The lead organization was the Campaign to End Debtors Prison. Wasileski had attended all its meetings. A huge thank you to Wasileski for his efforts and representing DelCOG at these meetings.
4. Ward reviewed a few details to the letter that will go out to cosponsors for the reception for elected officials.
5. The annual meeting for DelCOG is held in November, please send ideas for a speaker to Steck. The meeting will be held virtual by zoom. Suggestion was Rep. Kowalko, Jr. retired, to talk about open government issue in Delaware and the future of open government in Delaware.

The next DelCOG Board meeting will be Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. by Zoom. Note changed schedule for board meeting was moved because of the elections and other conflicts to our regular meeting date for November only. It will be DelCOG’s the annual meeting.

Adjourned: 7:20 p.m.

Submitted by Letty Diswood, Secretary