

**Alle-Kiski Intergovernmental Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting #1 - Organizational Meeting**  
**August 17, 2021**  
**Lower Burrell City Hall**

**Attendees**

**AK IGC:** Amy Rockwell (Lower Burrell), Dennis Scarpiniti (New Kensington), Tom Guzzo (New Kensington), Kristen Sarno (East Vandergrift), Rennick Steele (Allegheny Township), Greg Primm (Allegheny Township), John Andrejczik (Lower Burrell), George Hawdon (Arnold), Kathy Starr (Allegheny Township), Melissa Cortilesio (Upper Burrell Township)

**Westmoreland County Planning:** Victoria Baur, Corey Block, Daniel Carpenter

**Public:** None

Meeting started shortly after 5:00 PM.

Victoria began the meeting by introducing herself and County staff, and attendees went around the room introducing themselves. She expressed how excited County staff were to be kicking off the IGC with the participating communities. She noted that the Planning District process (and subsequent plan) with the Alle-Kiski communities was a first for Westmoreland, and the AK IGC is the first of its kind as well. She stressed the importance of the group (and its members) and ownership of the organization and its actions.

Victoria then reviewed the bylaws with the group, highlighting the purpose of the IGC, membership, and representation (confirmation of selections and confirmation for Allegheny Township - Ren as delegate, Kathy as alternate).

Tom asked which communities were not participating in the IGC (those being Vandergrift, Washington Township, Oklahoma, and Hyde Park). West Leechburg is participating but was not in attendance.

Officers were selected by the group from those who were in attendance - Tom Guzzo as Chair, Ren Steele as Vice-Chair, and Amy Rockwell as Secretary/Treasurer. Terms will be for one (1) year and they will make up the Executive Committee.

The group decided on an informal approach for the conduct of meetings.

The group was then asked to complete an evaluation survey of the past Planning District process. Some members shared their responses with the group. Greg stated that he liked having a neutral facilitator (Susan Hockenberry), the incorporation of technology, and collaboration with neighboring communities. George valued the

importance of networking and attention from the County. Kathy appreciated the frequent communication and reminders from the facilitator.

The group then reviewed the IGC action items from the plan (Remaking Our Westmoreland - A Plan for the Alle-Kiski District). Victoria expressed that the (land use and mobility) strategies and actions contained in the plan are ripe for municipal action, but the IGC action items really lend themselves to collaboration and cooperation among the member municipalities. Tom stressed the need to achieve quick successes. Greg expressed an interest in shared purchasing/service opportunities. Ren mentioned trail opportunities with New Kensington and Tom highlighted transportation. Kristen noted the issue of blight and property maintenance. Blight was echoed by George, as well as identifying corridors and gateways for beautification as a potential action for the IGC. John mentioned the opportunity for coordinated regional services and discussion regarding fire/EMS ensued. The group reached a consensus on investigating opportunities for joint purchasing/shared services and identifying corridors and gateways for beautification as initial actions of the group.

The Executive Committee set a meeting date, time, and location of the third Thursday of every month at 5:00 PM at New Kensington. The group felt monthly meetings were necessary for at least the first year of the organization. The Executive Committee then decided that agenda items should be submitted to the Secretary (Amy) by the Thursday before a scheduled meeting.

Meeting ended at 6:00 PM.