

**Delaware Coalition for Open Government
Virtual Board Meeting by Zoom
Tuesday, August 5, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-president Al Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Present: Al Jackson, vice president; Nick Wasileski, secretary; Anita Rush, treasurer; Coralie Pryde; and Keith Steck. **Absent:** John Kowalko III and John Flaherty
Advisory Board: Katherine Ward **DelCOG members:** Connie Merlet, Amy Roe

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Board Meeting Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting was deferred.

Treasurer's Report:

- Checking Account: \$4,610.47
- Savings Account: \$7,809.70
- Total Balance as of July 31, 2025: \$12,420.17

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• **Inspector General Committee:** Nick Wasileski reported that the Governor's signing of SB 4, the bill to create the Office of Inspector General, is scheduled for August 14, 2025, at the Carvel State Office Building in Wilmington.

• It was moved by Coralie Pryde to rename the Limited Liability Company Committee to the Delaware Corporate Law Committee (DCL Committee) to reflect changes to Delaware General Corporation Law. The motion was carried unanimously.

• Nick reported the "Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance" published an article on SB 21, which was signed into law on March 25, 2025. As reported in the article, SB 21 reduces shareholder rights relating to claims by majority stockholders.

Kowalko, Ward, Steck, Wasileski, and Jackson volunteered to be on the Bylaws Committee, which will meet in the near future to discuss revisions to DelCOG's bylaws.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

General Assembly building renovations will consist of building a new parking garage adjacent to Legislative Hall in Dover but no tunnel.

Efforts by DelCOG and the Civic League for New Castle County to encourage state investigations in the aftermath of the embezzlement of funds from the Division of Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund have been rejected by the General Assembly and the Public Integrity Commission.

Questions were raised and discussions continued on a number of bills with good government, open government, environmental, and lead safety concerns:

1. SB 13 (2024) - Hospital Assessment Committee.

2. HB 311 (2023) - School Safety Zones and UD property boundaries.
3. HB 196 (2023) - The disposition of the \$3.8 million in funding for school water filters.
4. SB 270 (2022) - State Facility Evaluation Bill overlooked lead contamination metrics.
5. SB 9 (2023) - The disposition of \$7 million to address lead remediation in older homes and the need for annual audits.
6. HB 133 (2025) - Fines and Fees bill to address low income individuals was not voted on in the House. DelCOG spoke in support of the bill at the House Judiciary Committee in May 2025.
7. HB 155 (2025) - Public Integrity Commission requirement that its reports will be made available on its website was not voted on in the House. DelCOG spoke in support of the bill at the House Administration Committee in June 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

- Keith Steck was elected to the DelCOG Board of Directors.
- DelCOG discussed the proposed hyperscale data center to be built on open space properties in the coastal zone north of Delaware City oil refinery and south of Wilmington. A number of concerns addressed included zoning laws, likelihood of rising consumer and business electricity rates, water consumption, noise pollution, Delaware's by-right laws, and impact on adjacent communities. It was reported Delaware Sierra Club is looking into the environmental impacts of the proposed data center. Questions raised addressed whether:
 - The construction of this data center is an environmental justice issue.
 - DelCOG should compose a letter to elected officials to address open-government issues that may apply to such an impactful project.
- Discussion of the New Castle County Property Tax Reassessment issue included the shift in tax burdens of increased tax assessments on private citizens while company tax assessments decreased in many cases; concern about public transparency in the reassessment process; lack of oversight of the company hired to reassess properties; and the issue of corporate giveaways without public input. The General Assembly plans to convene for a special session of the legislature on August 12, 2025, to discuss the reassessment issue.
- The exemption of FOIA, which applies to the Delaware Prosperity Partnership and other public-private partnerships established in Delaware were discussed.
- DelCOG's Annual Meeting Committee, to be held sometime in November will consist of: Flaherty, Kowalko, Jackson, Merlet, Shields, Ward, Wasileski.
- The Nominating Committee for officers for the 2025-2027 term will consist of. Flaherty, Ward, Wasileski.

The next meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by Nick Wasileski, Secretary