

**Delaware Coalition for Open Government
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 2, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: President John Kowalko III called the virtual board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., via Zoom.

PRESENT – Officers and Board Members: John Kowalko III, president; Al Jackson, vice-president; Anita Rush, treasurer; Nick Wasilesk, secretary; Joe Edelen, John Flaherty, Coralie Pryde, Keith Steck; **Advisory Board Member:** Katherine Ward; **Members and Guests:** Sarah Bucic, B.H., Connie Merlet, and Warren Rosenkranz.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Board Meeting Minutes were approved for the month of October 2025.

Treasurer’s Report for October 2025:

- Checking Account: \$4,950.57
- Savings Account: \$9,813.15
- Total Balance as of October 31, 2025: \$14,763.72

Treasurer’s Report for November 2025:

- Checking Account: \$4,950.57
- Savings Account: \$9,814.36
- Total Balance as of November 30, 2025: \$14,764.93

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Inspector General Committee: Steck reported that the Inspector General Selection Panel has established the criteria for the IG candidates. Applications for candidates were posted on November 16. The next IG Selection Panel meeting is scheduled for December 19.

Delaware Corporate Law Committee: Wasileski reported that no new material news was published in the past month.

Technology Committee: Kowalko III reported that DelCOG’s website was disrupted by outside individual(s) at a committee meeting and discussed the need for a “waiting room” to control future disruptions. Steck and Wasileski have the Zoom passwords.

Data Center Committee: Steck reported that New Castle County Council Commissioner Dave Carter’s zoning amendments to address data center construction did not meet a warm welcome by a majority of the Commissioners, and thus Carter tabled the amendments. Since the proposed data center, to be built on the southern parcel, meets current zoning regulations, there will be no public comment to address citizen concerns about electricity consumption, water usage, and noise and light position. Steck, Ward, and Wasileski are working on a DelCOG “white paper”

statement to address DelCOG's concerns about the transparency and accountability issues of the zoning approval process.

Note: After the Committee Reports, Kowalko III moved that the **New Business Sunshine Week** topic be moved up the agenda. The motion was approved.

Sunshine Week: Ward reported that Sunshine Week events are held nationally in March, and Delaware Press Association may wish to cosponsor an event with DelCOG. The following volunteered to be on the Sunshine Week Committee: Ward, Merlet, Wasileski, and Edelen. The Committee scheduled a meeting for December 8. (Note: Because of a conflict about the data center project, the Committee postponed its meeting to a future date, to be determined.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following bills are pending in the General Assembly, and DelCOG will defer discussion until the 2026 Legislative Session: Legislative Hall Building Renovations; SB 13, Hospital Assessment Commission; HB 311, School Safety Zone; HB 133, Court ordered fines and fees; HB 155, Publication of Public Integrity Commission Reports; and HB 174, Victims Compensation Assistance Program.

HB 242 - Local School Taxes Reassessment bill was passed and signed into law on August 12, 2025. On October 30, 2025, Delaware Chancery Court ruled and upheld that HB 242 is constitutionally valid.

Lead Poisoning Transparency: Bucic reported that Lead-free Delaware is waiting on reports from the school districts and Department of Education concerning the \$3.4 million allocated for school water filters to address lead contamination.

Delaware Prosperity Partnership: The board members discussed the FOIA exemption and implications of non-transparency by the Delaware Prosperity Partnership, as well as future consideration of filing a court case about the exemption.

Removal of House Education Committee Member: no update.

ACLU FOIA Lawsuit: Kowalko III moved and the motion was passed that DelCOG should be a signatory to an ACLU lawsuit challenging the lack of police transparency.

NEW BUSINESS:

Legislation Signed into Law: Flaherty emailed board members a list of all bills signed into law during the 2025 Delaware legislative session.

Website Subscription Renewal: Kowalko III moved and the motion was passed to reimburse Kowalko \$79.00 for DelCOG's website subscription renewal.

OPEN FORUM:

Kowalko III was acknowledged and commended by Ward and Steck for his exemplary work as the DelCOG president and noted that the OIG bill was passed under his leadership. All DelCOG board members concurred with gratitude and appreciation for his hard work.

Kowalko III discussed the need for the Constant Contact email system to simplify DelCOG communications with its members and discussed the donations received through Givebutter.

DelCOG discussed HB 13, an act sponsored by Sean Lynn to amend the Delaware personal income tax code, which needs support in the 2026 General Assembly.

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Submitted by Nick Wasileski, Secretary