

**Delaware Coalition for Open Government
Board Meeting via Zoom
January 8, 2026**

Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

President Keith Steck called the board meeting to order at 6:33 p.m., via Zoom.

PRESENT

Officers and Board: Keith Steck, president; Bill Shields, vice-president; Joe Edelen, John Flaherty, Al Jackson, Coralie Pryde, Nick Wasileski.

Advisory Board: Katherine Ward.

Members and Guests: Connie Merlet, Amy Roe.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Board Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2025, were approved.

Treasurer's Report for December 2025:

- Checking Account: \$6,061.57
- Savings Account: \$9,815.44
- Total Balance as of December 31, 2025: \$15,877.01

Concurrent with the Treasurer's Report, Pryde moved to stop payment of the annual dues, in the amount of \$110, to the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA). The motion passed unanimously after discussion that DANA spoke against the Inspector General Bill (SB 4) during Senate and House hearings in the 2025 legislative session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Inspector General Committee: Steck reported that the Inspector General position candidates are highly qualified, and the IG Selection Panel will provide 3 suitable candidates to the Governor, who will make the final choice for the IG. The board discussed advantages and disadvantages of disclosing the final 3 candidates to the public.

Delaware Corporate Law Committee: Wasileski reported that New York State's LLC

Transparency Act will now require all beneficial owners of foreign Limited Liability Companies to be reported to the NY Division of Corporations. This is the first act of its kind in the US.

Data Center Committee: Steck reported that Harrington, Delaware, is considering the approval of a data center, to be located in an abandoned building. Steck reported the Sierra Club's concern is that mega data centers are a new concept with many questions and few answers, and the Sierra Club continues to research pros and cons of data centers. Since the proposed Starwood mega data center, to be built on the southern parcel, north of the Delaware City oil refinery, meets current zoning regulations, there will be no public comment to address citizen concerns about electricity consumption, water usage, or noise and light pollution. Steck and Ward completed the position/white paper to address DelCOG's concerns about transparency and accountability issues of land use permits, including a moratorium on mega data center construction. The position/white paper will be disseminated to the news media in short order.

Sunshine Week Committee: The Sunshine Week event's focus will be the transparency and accountability implications of mega data centers, which aligns with DelCOG mission statement. Ward sent out a task-sheet bullet list to aid in organizing and implementing the Sunshine Week event. The suggested date for the event is March 16.

Technology Committee: No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DelCOG will defer discussion of the following bills pending in the General Assembly until the 2026 Legislative Session: Legislative Hall Building Renovations; HB 133, Court-ordered ordered fines and fees; HB 155, Publication of Public Integrity Commission Reports; and HB 174, Victims Compensation Assistance Program.

Roe op-eds concerning SB 13, Hospital Assessment Commission, and HB 311, School Safety Zone, are ready to be reviewed.

Lead Poisoning Transparency: Roe reported that Lead-free Delaware continues to wait 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: Steck sent letters to the Delaware Prosperity Partnership for information on the Starwood data center project. DelCOG discussed the need to file a FOIA complaint with the Delaware Attorney General if no response is received. DelCOG board members discussed the FOIA exemption and implications of non-transparency by the Delaware Prosperity Partnership and discussed the need for revisions to Delaware's Freedom of Information Act concerning the exemption of public-private partnerships.

Removal of House Education Committee Member: Without a formal announcement, Representative Sherae'a Moore (D-Middletown) was reinstated to the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Delaware General Assembly: The General Assembly will commence the 2026 legislative session on January 13.

Sussex County: Keith Steck proposed to County Council that it set up a Sussex County Legal Department rather than contract out such services as is the current practice, give the public the right to request correction to errors in public meeting minutes, and consider both maps and text in the County comprehensive plan to have the force of law.

OPEN FORUM

Data Center Moratorium: Steck has scheduled a ½ hour virtual meeting with Senator Coon's staff on January 9 to discuss a national moratorium on data center construction, as well as securing Senator Coons' influence for the need of a State of Delaware data center moratorium to address the excessive consumer electrical power bills, environment impact, and the regressive tax implications when the public foots the bill for infrastructure construction.

Delaware Franchise Tax: DelCOG must file its tax payment before March 1, 2026.

New Business for the February Board Meeting: Discussion of bylaws amendment concerning the appointment of board members.

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Submitted by Nick Wasileski, DelCOG Board Member