

**Delaware Coalition for Open Government
Board Meeting via Zoom
February 3, 2026**

Meeting Minutes

Board Attendance

- Keith Steck, President
- Bill Shields, Vice President
- John Kowalko, Secretary
- Anita Rush, Treasurer
- Joe Edelen
- John Flaherty
- Al Jackson
- Connie Merlet
- Coralie Pryde
- Nick Wasileski
- Katherine Ward, Advisory Board

Call to Order

Keith Steck called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Regular Business

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Appointment of Board Members

Keith Steck appointed Joe Edelen, John Flaherty, Al Jackson, Coralie Pryde, and Nick Wasileski to the DelCOG Board.

Motion was made by Al Jackson to increase DelCOG Board size to 10 members. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Coralie Pryde to add Connie Merlet to the Board. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Minutes of Jan. 8, 2026 Meeting

Keith Steck deferred approval of January minutes until next month in order to make two substantive changes.

4. Monthly Treasurer's Report

Anita Rush reported that the DelCOG account balances as of January 31, 2026, were:

- Checking Account: \$6,171.57
- Savings Account: \$9,816.27
- Total: \$15,987.84

One donation was deposited in January in the amount of \$100, from an online donation through Givebutter.

Committee Reports

1. Inspector General Committee

Keith Steck reported that the Inspector General Selection Committee is still interviewing candidates for the Inspector General position.

2. Data Center Committee

Keith Steck reported that the committee has recently sent a message to the Governor urging a moratorium on data centers in Delaware.

3. Sunshine Week Committee

Katherine Ward reported that the committee had selected Monday, March 16, for the Sunshine Week event, with Mark Fowser, Vice President of the Delaware Press Association, as the moderator and the panelists to include:

- Danielle Swallow, Coastal Hazards Specialist, Delaware Sea Grant
- Olivia Marble, Land Use Reporter, *Spotlight Delaware*
- Dave Carter, New Castle County Councilman, District 6
- Frank Burns, Delaware State Representative, District 21 (pending confirmation)

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday, 2/9, at 6:00 p.m.

4. DE Corporate Law Committee

No committee report.

5. Technology Committee

John Kowalko reported that the Constant Contact mailing list has been set up, and the first email was sent to our members announcing the February Board meeting.

Unfinished Business

1. Need for Future Tax Preparation/Filing

Keith Steck reported that DelCOG needs to find a replacement for Nick Wasileski to prepare and file the organization's taxes. Anita Rush said she would contact Nick about the taxes.

2. Legislation Updates

A. DelCOG op-eds on [SB 13](#) (Hospital Assessment Commission) & [HB 311](#) (School Safety Zones)

John Kowalko will send letters drafted by Amy Roe and approved by Board in April 2025.

B. [HB 133](#) (Court Fine & Fees Waiver)

C. [HB 174](#) (Victim Compensation Assistance Program)

D. [HB 155](#) (PIC Annual Reporting)

E. [HB 233](#) (PCS Creation of Large-Load Rate)

3. Lead Poisoning Transparency

Amy Roe reported on an AG complaint she filed regarding her recent public comment.

Amy also reported that [HB 259](#) was filed by Kim Williams and would require greater clarity on information provided by schools regarding lead.

4. DE Prosperity Partnership FOIA

Keith Steck reported that he filed a FOIA request on behalf of DelCOG on December 8, 2025, to the Delaware Prosperity Partnership, and has not received a response.

Motion by Connie Merlet to approve Keith Steck speaking about funding for the Delaware Prosperity Partnership at the upcoming Department of State budget hearing.

Discussion by Board of including following questions in hearing comments:

1. DPP has gotten \$2.3 state money each of the past two years, but it is not subject to FOIA
2. Why is DPP getting funding? How is this money being used?
3. Why is DPP not subject to FOIA so that the public can see where funding is going?
4. Why is DPP funding allocated through the capital budget ("Bond Bill"), rather than operational budget, which provides line item breakdowns of funding, such as funding for employee staffing?

Prior AG complaint filed by former Representative John Kowalko in 2016:

<https://attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/2020/01/03/20-ib01-1-3-2020-foia-opinion-letter-to-rep-john-kowalko-re-foia-complaint-concerning-the-delaware-prosperity-partnership/>

New Business

1. Status on DE General Assembly

JFC hearings started today and will last until March 10. Bond Bill hearings will take place during the week of April 27, with the Bond Bill drafted about a month later.

2. Discussion Regarding Executive Sessions

Open Forum

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2026.

Anita Rush reported that she will not be able to attend. John Kowalko will present the Treasurer's Report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Keith Steck at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted by John Kowalko, Secretary