

EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT
July 31, 2025

Call to Order

Halli Watson called the Eastern Delaware County Joint Recreation District meeting to order on Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Berkshire Township Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Those answering roll included Ms. Jody Grieger, Ms. Halli Watson, Mr. Todd Musacchio, and Mr. Bernard Kooi. Ms. Maria Sobota was absent. Mr. Greg Elliott arrived later. Others in attendance included Sunbury City Administrator Daryl Hennessy, Berkshire Township Administrator Tyler Lane, and Becky Princehorn from Bricker Graydon.

Minutes

Motion by Mr. Kooi to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Watson. Upon roll, 4 yeas minutes passed.

Visitors

There were no visitors who wished to speak.

Old Business

Mr. Hennessy provided the Board with an update on the Community Needs and Market Analysis, noting that three firms submitted proposals through the RFQ process. The review committee met on July 9 to review the process and again on July 17 to complete scoring. The most qualified applicant has been identified, and legal counsel has confirmed that negotiations can move forward. The consultant is now drafting a detailed scope and budget, and a meeting with them is expected next week, at which time more information and expectations will be shared.

New Business

Mr. Hennessy reviewed the 2025 budget with the Board, noting a total allocation of \$20,000, which includes \$5,000 for insurance, \$10,000 for legal services, and \$5,000 for consulting services. To date, approximately \$6,200 has been spent on legal fees, leaving \$13,800 remaining. He added that a reallocation of funds between legal and consulting may be necessary.

Ms. Watson reviewed the insurance quotes she obtained, outlining each policy's coverage and benefits, as well as her concerns about the available options. The CNA quote covered Directors and Officers only at \$292 per year, while the Ohio Plan offered broader coverage, including liability, with a \$3,087 premium and \$550 credit, bringing the net cost to \$2,537. The Board discussed that current risk remains low until contracting begins and expressed a preference for the Ohio Plan due to its broader coverage, though there were concerns about the standard coverage amounts.

Motion by Mr. Kooi to table the insurance discussion, seconded by Mr. Elliot, upon roll all yeas.

Becky Princehorn gave the Board an overview of the bond and levy process, explaining that JRDs can place property tax-backed bond issues on the ballot for projects such as parks, recreation centers, and pools, but cannot levy income or sales taxes or combine a bond issue with an operating levy. She outlined the required steps, including defining the project, estimating its life, passing a Resolution of Necessity, obtaining millage certification from the County Auditor, and adopting a Resolution to Proceed at least 90 days before an election. If approved by voters, the Board must then vote to issue the bonds, which may involve a public sale and coordination with rating agencies. She stressed the importance of timing to avoid costly special elections and noted that user fees are permitted without affecting tax-exempt status.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the Board, **Mr. Elliot** moved to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by **Mr. Kooi**. The motion was approved 5-0.