



Leadership Development Committee Meeting Minutes Friday, February 12, 2021

Members Present: Michael Aspacher, Doris Herringshaw, Dennis McMickens, Mark Stahl, David Thompson, Craig Stough; **Members Excused:** Sandy Spang; **TMACOG Staff Present:** Tim Brown, Jennifer Allen. *Sandy Spang was present and left early from Exec. Session

Call to Order – The Leadership Development Committee met on Friday, February 12, 2021 via GoToMeeting video teleconference. Chair Mark Stahl called the meeting to order after a quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Minutes – A *motion* was made by David Thompson and **seconded** by Michael Aspacher to approve minutes from the November 13, 2020 meeting; the motion carried.

Public Comment Period – There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

Approval of the FY 2022 Leadership Development Annual Work Program – The committee was presented the FY 2022 Leadership Development Committee Annual Work Program. The AWP remains unchanged from the current fiscal year's document. A *motion* was made by Dennis McMickens and **seconded** by Michael Aspacher to approve the document as presented; the motion carried unanimously. The committee's AWP will be incorporated in the FY 2022 TMACOG Consolidated AWP, which will be presented to the Board of Trustees for adoption in June.

Approval of Non-Governmental Members Board Nominees – At the General Assembly, the Non-governmental Member Caucus nominated 13 members to serve as trustees and 10 to serve as alternates on this year's Board of Trustees. According to TMACOG bylaws, the nominees are subject to and pending approval by the Executive Committee. A *motion* was made by Dennis McMickens and **seconded** by Doris Herringshaw to accept the Non-governmental Members Caucus nominees and to recommend them for appointment by the Executive Committee; the motion carried unanimously.

County Legal Counsel for COGs/ORC167 – Mr. Brown reported on two legal matters that resulted in TMACOG seeking legal counsel. He noted that the claims have been costly. OARC members have discussed whether it makes sense for COGs/MPOs to collectively pursue legal counsel through their respective counties to help defray legal costs. COGs and MPOs are considered units of government under ORC 167. They are not provided legal counsel like county and city governments. Several OARC members have their legal services discounted and some of them pay for legal services only when needed.

President Brown mentioned that there is some overlap in county prosecutors representing local levels of governments besides just the county and county departments. He asked committee members their thoughts about TMACOG being represented by a county. Their questions and comments included the following.

- Has OARC members considered creating a consortium with other state associations or joining an existing consortium. ***Mr. Brown noted that a consortium had not been mentioned by OARC members as a potential solution, and he is not aware of any existing legal consortiums or know whether COGs have the legal authority to participate in one. He will research this and report back to the committee.***

- Since there are different prosecuting attorneys representing the various member counties. At some point there may be differing opinions from different prosecutors. If legislation was pursued, the statutory language would be broad and would state that a COG may contract or institute an agreement with one of its member counties—either the county in which the organization physically resides or one of its member counties—for legal counsel. This would mitigate having a myriad of different legal opinions.
- At some point there may arise a potential for conflict of interest between a COG and the county representing the agency. Dennis McMicken noted that a COG could always consult with legal counsel outside the county if such a situation should arise.

Mr. Brown noted that the County Commissioners Association of Ohio may have an interest in any legislation that would impact their members. If OARC decides to pursue legislation, the association would obtain feedback from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) and Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association. If there is any agreement, OARC would determine if there is a legislator who would be interested in introducing a bill. Mr. Brown will take the committee's comments back to OARC.

2021 Leadership in TMACOG – A *motion* was made by Dennis McMickens and **seconded** by Craig Stough at 10:11 a.m. to exit the public meeting and enter into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. The motion carried unanimously. Committee members left the meeting and logged in to another GoToMeeting reserved specifically for the executive session. A *motion* was made by Dennis McMickens and **seconded** by Michael Aspacher at 11:12 a.m. to exit executive session. President Brown and Leadership Development Committee members, with the exception of David Thompson, returned to the regular public meeting.

Leadership Development Committee Membership – The committee discussed potential members to recruit to serve on the committee and prepare for future leadership to serve as chair. There isn't a set number of members for the committee. With the exception of Mr. McMickens, the current committee composition includes the current chair and vice chair as well as past chairs. If there are any members in or around the region, to bring their suggestions back to the committee.

Executive Committee Membership – The TMACOG bylaws state that the committee shall be comprised of no fewer than 13 and no more than 21 representatives. Fourteen seats are currently filled on the Executive Committee. It was noted that the Chair of TMACOG may appoint other at-large members to promote balanced representation from the region, the types of members, and the activities under way, within TMACOG. Staff noted that the Sandusky County and Lucas County voice at the table was diminished with the departure of Kay Reiter and Carol Contrada. Chair Stahl and Vice Chair Aspacher will reach out to and extend an invitation to Lucas County Commissioner Gary Byers to join the committee. Mayor Aspacher mentioned that there are also a couple of Bowling Green council members who may be interested in serving on the committee.

Monthly Meeting Schedule/Time – The committee will continue to meet the second Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. The remaining 2021 meeting dates are as follows: March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10.

Any and All Other Business – President Brown announced that the current legislation that grants public bodies authority to conduct meetings via teleconference expires on July 1. Reps. Lisa Sobecki and Jim Hoops introduced HB 43, a bipartisan bill that would grant permanent permissive authority for governments to conduct some of their meetings via teleconference. The bill's first hearing was held in the House Government Oversight Committee yesterday. It was well received by the chair of the committee, and they are garnering support of the bill in the House.

At its regular meeting yesterday, the Finance, Audit, and Administration Committee had unanimously approved of amending the TMACOG Employee Handbook to include Juneteenth as an additional paid holiday for TMACOG staff. A conversation on equity and race relations was discussed at a OARC meeting, and absent state and federal leadership what they could do to make a difference on the local level. One of the thoughts that surfaced was to declare Juneteenth as a holiday, as it is meaningful to so many people in the U.S. The FAA Committee will present the proposed amendment to the Executive Committee for approval on February 17.

The committee commented on the January General Assembly. The caucuses were well attended. The virtual meeting allowed members to attend multiple caucuses. The Summer Caucuses is scheduled on July 28 and the format of the event is yet to be determined. Committee members suggested a hybrid event, both in person and teleconference for future GAs and Summer Caucuses.

Next Meeting/Adjournment – The next regularly scheduled committee meeting will take place on Friday, March 12th at 9:30 a.m. A ***motion*** was made by Dennis McMickens and ***seconded*** by Michael Aspacher at 11:43 a.m. to adjourn the meeting; the motion carried.