



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Submitted on March 18, 2020

Members Present: Michael Aspacher, Jon Eckel, Doris Herringshaw, Matthew Oestreich, Michael Pniewski, Theresa Pollick, Kay Reiter, Angie Ruiz, Edward Snyder, Mark Stahl, Craig Stough; **Member(s) Excused:** Robert Mack, Patrick McColley, Edward Schimmel, Joseph Shaw; **Guest(s) Present:** Ben Cordes, ODOT; **Staff Present:** Jennifer Allen, Marissa Bechstein, William Best, Tim Brown, David Gedeon, Kari Gerwin, Mary Pat McCarthy, Gilda Mitchell, Mike Tippett

A regular meeting of the TMACOG Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 2 p.m. in the TMACOG Boardroom, located at 300 Martin L. King Jr. Dr., Suite 300 in Toledo.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Welcome/Introductions – Chair Mark Stahl called the meeting to order, noting a quorum was present. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made around room.

Approval of Minutes – A *motion* was made by Edward Snyder and *seconded* by Michael Pniewski to approve minutes from the November 20, 2019 meeting; the motion passed.

Chair’s Remarks – Mark Stahl welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. He thanked members for electing him and Kay Reiter to serve as this year’s chair and vice chair respectively at the January General Assembly. Stahl gave a brief recap of the General Assembly. date of the 2021 General Assembly has been set: Friday, January 22nd from 8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg. Stahl reviewed a list of other upcoming TMACOG events and encouraged members to attend. Email blasts will be sent as the dates of the events approaches.

President’s Report – Tim Brown noted that this is the first paperless meeting. A link to the agenda and support documents was sent a week prior to today’s meeting. Members were welcomed to either bring or request a printed copy of the agenda packet or bring a tablet with them to future meetings and access TMACOG’s wifi to view documents at the meeting.

Mr. Brown reported on a meeting that he and TMACOG’s vice president of Transportation David Gedeon had in Columbus with the directors of ODOT and the Ohio Turnpike Commission in early-January. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the I-73/I-74/I-75 corridor concept, and the fact that we are the only major metropolitan area in the state that doesn’t have unfettered access to the Columbus. The directors indicated their willingness to seriously consider this challenge. On February 27th, ODOT is expected to make a major announcement relating to this subject matter.

ODOT Director Jack Marchbanks and the Consul General Joe Comartin with the Canadian Consulate of Detroit will be speaking at the April 15th Board of Trustees meeting. Consul General Comartin will give TMACOG members an update on the [Gordie Howe International Bridge project](#), which connects the U.S. to Canada and will have a significant on Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Director Marchbanks will update members on ODOT policies and strategic focus for the coming months. There is no fee to attend but registration is required. Register online at [TMACOG.ORG](#).

Lt. Governor Jon Husted was guest speaker at a recent Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) executive directors meeting. He thanked our members for their support of increasing the gas tax to address our state's aging transportation infrastructure. The Lt. Governor discussed the Governor's recently announced distractive driving safety initiative. The legislature will introduce, [SB 285](#), Hands-Free Ohio legislation, which would make driving while handling any electronic wireless device a primary offense. There have been an overwhelming number of fatalities directly related to drivers using cell phones while driving. OARC members have been asked to consider tightening up their cell phone use policies and setting an example for other government entities.

Public Comment Period – There were no representatives from the public present for comments.

Programmatic Councils Reports

Transportation Council – Council Vice Chair Michael Pniewski presented the report. A *motion* was made by Edward Snyder and *seconded* by Craig Stough to approve *Resolution No. 2020-02, Recommending the Award of FY 2020 Specialized Transportation Funds*; the motion carried unanimously.

Water Quality Council – Council Chair Jon Eckel and TMACOG Director of Water Quality Planning Kari Gerwin presented the report.

Administrative Committees Reports

Finance, Audit, and Administration Committee – Committee Chair Matthew Oestreich presented the report. A *motion* was made by Mr. Oestreich and *seconded* by Mr. Pniewski to approve the *President's Expense Report for the Period Covering October 1, 2019-December 31, 2019*; the motion carried unanimously.

A *motion* was made by Mr. Oestreich and *seconded* by Mr. Pniewski to accept the draft audit report and to recommend its acceptance by the Executive Committee; the motion passed unanimously.

A *motion* was made by Mr. Oestreich and *seconded* by Mr. Pniewski to approve *Resolution No. 2020-03, Approving Recommendation for TMACOG Banking Services Provider*; the motion passed unanimously.

A *motion* was made by Edward Snyder and *seconded* by Mr. Pniewski *authorizing Mark W. Stahl, Kay E. Reiter, Matthew R. Oestreich, Tim W. Brown, and William E. Best as signatories on TMACOG's business account with First Federal Bank*. Stahl, Reiter, and Oestreich abstained. The motion passed.

Membership Committee – Gilda Mitchell, TMACOG's Director of Membership and Outreach, presented the report.

Communications Committee – Committee Member Theresa Pollick presented the report. A *motion* was made by Mr. Pniewski and *seconded* by Michael Aspacher to approve *Resolution No. 2020-04, Approving TMACOG's Public Involvement Policy* and to recommend its adoption by the Board of Trustees; the motion passed.

Leadership Development Committee – Chair Stahl presented the report. A *motion* was made by Mr. Pniewski and *seconded* by Craig Stough to accept the Non-governmental Members Caucus nominees for this year's the Board of Trustees; the motion carried unanimously.

A *motion* was made by Angie Ruiz and *seconded* by Michael Pniewski to accept all council and committee reports; the motion passed unanimously.

Any and All Other Business – Intermediate Past Chair Doris Herringshaw was recognized for her service to TMACOG and for her continual involvement as Immediate Past Chair.

Lucas County Engineer Michael Pniewski reported on 2-staged ditch projects in Sylvania Township—Ten Mile Creek and Smith Ditch— as well as others that will be constructed in Lucas County. This type of ditch is the first of its kind in Lucas County, as most ditches in the county are trapezoidal channels. These projects, which are funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), is one of the best management practices for improving water quality and reducing phosphorus levels. The Lucas County Engineer’s Office will provide tours of the Ten Mile Creek and Smith Ditch projects on March 19th at 4 p.m.

Chair Stahl thanked TMACOG and members around the table for their support of a resolution in 2017, that encouraged lawmakers to adopt a balanced energy policy for Ohio, Michigan and the Nation. He announced that the Davis-Besse nuclear plant will remain open and 700 jobs will be saved.

Theresa Pollick, public information officer for the Northwestern Water & Sewer District, thanked everyone around the table who was instrumental in the formation of the Toledo Regional Water Commission. She attended the first commission meeting recently and appreciated seeing communities come together as a region to address water issues. NWWSD continues negotiation with other water partners outside of the Toledo area.

There was discussion about climate change and its effect on Lake Erie water levels. Water levels are have been high along the homes and businesses along the lake.

Next Meeting/Adjournment – The next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting will take place on March 19th at 2 p.m. in the TMACOG Boardroom. A *motion* was made by Mr. Pniewski and *seconded* by Michael Aspacher at 3:13 p.m. to adjourn the meeting; the motion passed.

Mark W. Stahl, Chair
Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments (TMACOG)

Tim W. Brown, President
Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments (TMACOG)