



## Governing Board Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2025

Submitted for approval on March 13, 2026

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**Board members present:** Abby Arnold, Mike Aspacher, Quinton Babcock, Bob Bethel, David Borer, Joe Cappel, Jon Eckel, Joe Fawcett, Allen Gallant, Mike Hampton, Mark Hummer, Cheryl Johnson, Laura Koprowski, Bob Lloyd, Tom Mackin, Mike Moulton, Tim Pedro, George Sarantou, Edward Schimmel, Chris Smalley; **Guest(s) present:** Marcus Hansen, City of Sylvania; David Myerholtz, Village of Holland; Chelsea Ziss, City of Maumee; **TMACOG staff present:** Sandy Spang, Jennifer Allen, Alex Aspacher, Marissa Bechstein, Dave Gedeon, Kari Gerwin, Rosanna Hoelzle, Jim Kirtland, Sean Sammon

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**Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance** – The TMACOG Governing Board met on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in the TMACOG Boardroom. Chair Edward Schimmel called the meeting to order after noting a quorum had been reached. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes** – A *motion* was made by George Sarantou and **seconded** by Tim Pedro to approve minutes from the September 12, 2025, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report** – Sandy Spang reminded the group that staff and committee members will be asked to sign and acknowledge receipt of TMACOG's Code of Ethic Policy in 2026. She thanked board members for their service on the board and for their organization's partnership with TMACOG this year. Mrs. Spang announced that the 2026 invoices had been mailed this week. Members were asked to contact her if they don't receive an invoice, have questions regarding the invoice, or to request a visit from program staff.

Effective January 1, 2026, Raj Nagisetty, a planner in the Transportation department, will be promoted to program manager, heading up data resources. Two employees will report to him. Mr. Nagisetty will be invited to attend a future meeting.

An update was given on TMACOG's Money Talks newsletter, which consists of a Curated List of Current and Upcoming Funding Opportunities. Mrs. Spang and the Economic Development Department team have visited 20 communities and discussed available grants opportunities. Board members interested in scheduling a visit were asked to contact Marissa Bechstein, program manager.

At its September 12, 2025, meeting, the Governing Board accepted a resolution authorizing TMACOG to do business as the Lake Erie West Regional Council. Alex Aspacher, TMACOG's director of communications, updated the board on the timeline and transition process. TMACOG's membership will be asked to adopt the name change at the January 30, 2026, Winter General Assembly.

**MPO Policy Board** – David Gedeon, TMACOG's director of transportation, presented the proposed 2026 MPO Policy Board roster. A *motion* was made by Joe Fawcett and **seconded** by Quinton Babcock to not list the City of Rossford representative until the designated person has been confirmed. A *motion* was made by Chris Smalley and **seconded** by Joe Fawcett to approve the amended 2026 roster. The motion passed unanimously.

**Water Quality Council** – Kari Gerwin, director of water quality planning, presented proposed updates to the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (AWQMP) also known as "The 208 Plan". A *motion* was made by Jon Eckel and **seconded** by Cher Johnson to accept *Resolution No. 2025-26, Updating*

and Adopting the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (AWQMP) Also Known as the “208 Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed updates to the Water Quality Council operating procedures were presented. A **motion** was made by Mike Aspacher and **seconded** by Tom Mackin, to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-29, Updating and Adopting the Water Quality Council Operating Procedures*. The motion passed unanimously.

**Economic Development Policy Board** – Marissa Bechstein, economic development program manager, presented the proposed, updated 2026 Economic Development Policy Board roster for approval. A **motion** was made by Laura Koprowski and **seconded** by Mike Moulton to approve the updated 2026 board roster. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Bechstein gave a presentation on the Lake Erie West Regional 2026-2030 *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood Counties*. A **motion** was made by Mike Hampton and **seconded** by Allen Gallant to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-23, Approving the Lake Erie West Regional 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wood Counties*. The motion passed unanimously. TMACOG will submit the updated CEDS to the U.S. Economic Development Administration as well as an application an Economic Development District designation in the coming days.

**Finance, Audit, and Administration Committee** – Rosanna Hoelzle, TMACOG’s chief of staff, presented the proposed updates to TMACOG’s salary range table. A **motion** was made by Mark Hummer and **seconded** by Tom Mackin to adopt *Resolution No. 2025-34, Updating and Making Changes to the Salary Range*. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hoelzle presented proposed updates to *Employee Handbook Section 202, Holidays and Personal Days*. The updates would become effective January 1, 2026. A **motion** was made by Jon Eckel and **seconded** by Mike Moulton to *adopt the updates as presented*. The motion passed unanimously.

**Leadership, Policy and Programming Committee** – Chair Schimmel presented the 2026 nominees for Chair, Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair, including Toledo City Council Member George Sarantou, Lucas County Commissioner Lisa Sobecki, and Sandusky County Commissioner Scott Miller, respectively. There was a call for nominations from the floor. Seeing there none, a **motion** was made by Cher Johnson and **seconded** by Tim Pedro to close nominations. A **motion** was made by Mark Hummer and **seconded** by Mike Aspacher to accept the 2026 nominees and to recommend them for election by the General Assembly on January 30, 2026. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Schimmel noted that Commissioners Sobecki and Miller were not in attendance as they were at the County Commissioners Association of Ohio’s Winter Conference.

**Chair’s Remarks** – Chair Ed Schimmel thanked everyone for attending the last meeting of the year. Board terms will end at the TMACOG Winter General Assembly on January 30, 2026. Anyone who would like to be considered for next year’s board was asked to complete and return the self-nomination form that was included in their agenda packet.

Chair Schimmel announced that Joel Mazur will be stepping down from his position as Oregon’s administrator. Holland Village Administrator Bob Bethel will be retiring next week. Mr. Mazur and Mr. Beth were both thanked for their dedicated service to TMACOG over the years. David Myerholtz, Holland Village’s new administrator, Chelsea Ziss, Maumee’s new mayor, and Abby Arnold, Toledo’s deputy mayor, were introduced and welcomed at the meeting.

The Winter General Assembly is scheduled on Friday, January 30, 2026, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Board members were asked to consider inviting new elected officials from their respective communities to attend.

**Any and All Other Business** – Mrs. Spang noted that this meeting is Ed Schimmel’s last meeting as TMACOG Chair. She and George Sarantou recognized and thanked Chair Schimmel for his leadership as TMACOG Chair this year.

**Public Comment Period** – Waterville Mayor Tim Pedro noted that our region should collectively look to the experts for guidance regarding property tax reform. Mrs. Spang announced that TMACOG would be hosting virtual caucuses quarterly in 2026, and these types of subject matters will be discussed at them. Caucus sessions will be held in the last afternoon or early evening.

**Adjournment** – A ***motion*** was made by Chris Smalley and ***seconded*** by Joe Fawcett at 10:22 a.m. to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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Edward L. Schimmel, Chair  
Toledo Metropolitan Area  
Council of Governments (TMACOG)

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Sandy Spang, Executive Director  
Toledo Metropolitan Area  
Council of Governments (TMACOG)

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