



Economic Development Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 6, 2026

Submitted for approval on May 1, 2026

Board members and alternates present: Abby Aldrich, Mike Aspacher, Quinton Babcock, Mitch Blonde, Brian Dicken, Nick Dutro, Terry Farris (virtually), Nichole Fifer, Alan Filipiak, Shannon George, Bob Gross (virtually), Beth Hannam (virtually), Ashley Helmstetter, Matt Heyrman, Mark Hummer, Wade Kapszukiewicz (virtually), Craig LaHote, Dean Monske, Dan Nester, Charlene Page, Bryce Riggs, Brandon Selhorst, Chris Singerling (virtually), Lisa Sobecki, Sharon Speyer, Kate Sommerfeld, Andrew Stocking, Kati Thompson (virtually), Jason Westerdorf (virtual), Lee Wilkinson, Thomas Winston, Martha Woelke; **Guest(s) present:** Doris Herringshaw, County Commissioner, Wood County Board of Commissioners; **Lake Erie West staff present:** Marissa Bechstein, Annsley Mann, Sandy Spang, Jennifer Allen

Welcome & Introductions – The Lake Erie West Regional Council Economic Development Policy Board met on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Belvedere Room at The Toledo Club, 235 14th St. in Toledo. Due to weather conditions, several board members and alternates joined the meeting virtually. Virtual attendees were not able to vote. A quorum was noted consisting of board members who were present. Marissa Bechstein welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the room.

Overview of Lake Erie West Regional Council Economic Development Program – Marissa Bechstein gave a presentation on the Lake Erie West Regional Council, a copy of which was included in the agenda packet.

Election of Leadership – Marissa Bechstein sought nominations from the floor for Chair and Vice Chair seats on board. Alan Filipiak expressed an interest in service as chair of the board. A **motion** was made by Sharon Speyer and **seconded** by Eric Heintschel to close the nominations. A **motion** was made by Charlene Page and **seconded** by Brandon Sehlhorst to appoint Mr. Filipiak chair of the board. The motion passed unanimously.

Charlene Page expressed an interest in serving as vice chair. Lisa Sobecki was nominated by Craig LaHote. A **motion** was made by Eric Heintschel and **seconded** by Lisa Sobecki to close the nominations and cast a vote. The motion passed unanimously. By a show of hands, 15 board members voted for Mrs. Sobecki and 8 for Ms. Page. A **motion** was made by Eric Heintschel and **seconded** by Brandon Sehlhorst to appoint Lisa Sobecki as vice chair of the board. The motion passed unanimously.

Economic Development Policy Board Operating Procedures – Marissa Bechstein presented the proposed Economic Development Policy Board operating procedures, a copy of which was included in the agenda packet.

A **motion** was made by Lisa Sobecki and **seconded** by Brian Dicken to change any references to TMACOG to Lake Erie West Regional Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Hummer noted that township representatives were omitted from Article IV. Composition of the Board. A ***motion*** was made by Mark Hummer and ***seconded*** by Thomas Winston to update the membership composition to include township representatives. The motion passed unanimously.

A ***motion*** was made by Martha Woelke and ***seconded*** by Charlene Page to update the membership composition under Article IV. Composition of the Board to include the Wood County Port Authority. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee engaged in a discussion regarding term limits. The proposed term limit for each member and alternate is 1 year—from March to March. A ***motion*** was made by Lisa Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Bryce Riggs in favor of seeking reapproval of the board roster with 2-year, staggered term limits. The motion passed unanimously.

A ***motion*** was made by Mark Hummer and ***seconded*** by Lisa Sobecki to state in the operating procedures that the term for elected officials will expire with their term as an elected official expires. The motion passed unanimously.

FY 2027 Annual Work Program – Mrs. Bechstein presented the proposed annual work program goals and objectives for each program for the economic development (80000) and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (82000) program element. Nichole Fifer proposed changing any reference to economic development in the AWP to regional development to reflect the work of board members around the table. Feedback was sought from economic development practitioners on the board. A ***motion*** was made by Bryce Riggs and ***seconded*** by Nichole Fifer to the name of the board from Economic Development Policy Board to Regional Development Policy Board. The motion passed unanimously. A ***motion*** was made by Brandon Sehlhorst and ***seconded*** by Matt Heyrman to approve the AWP with the above amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

Any and All Other Business – Lake Erie West Regional Council will be hosting its first CEDS Summit on March 6 from 8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the City of Bowling Green Veterans Memorial Building.

Several board members had questions regarding the Lake Erie West Regional Council of Government Code of Ethics that they were asked to sign and acknowledge. Since Lake Erie West Regional Council is a governmental entity, all its meetings are open to the public and are subject to public record requests including text messages, email messages, meeting agendas and minutes). Anyone can attend a public meeting.

With regards the board's role, Sandy Spang explained that they will be asked to develop scoring criteria and score applications. Mrs. Bechstein will send board members EDA video that demonstrates their role as a board member and ideas across the country. Quinton Babcock recommended subscribing board members to the MoneyTalk newsletter.

Public Comment Period – There were no members of the public present for comments.

Next Meeting/Adjournment – The next board meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday, May 1st at 9 a.m. The location of this meeting will be announced. An updated calendar invitation will be sent to board members once the venue has been confirmed. A ***motion*** was made by Brandon Sehlhorst and ***seconded*** by Lisa Sobecki to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Alan Filipiak, Chair
Lake Erie West Regional Council

Marissa Bechstein, Program Manager
Lake Erie West Regional Council