Leadership, Policy, and Programming Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 22, 2026
Submitted for approval on August 14, 2026

Members present: Quinton Babcock, David Borer, Marcus Hansen, Scott Miller, George Sarantou, Ed Schimmel, Lisa Sobecki, Rhonda Sewell, Craig Stough; **Excused**: Mike Aspacher, Doris Herringshaw, Mark Stahl, Dan Sanchez; **Lake Erie West Regional Council staff present**: Sandy Spang, Jennifer Allen

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions – The Leadership, Policy, and Programming (LLP) Committee met on Friday, May 22, 2026, at 2 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room at One Maritime Plaza, located at 720 Water Street, Toledo. Chair George Sarantou called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes – The Chair bypassed reading of the February 27, 2026, minutes since they were sent to the board prior to the meeting. A ***motion*** was made by Ed Schimmel and ***seconded*** by Quinton Babcock to approve the minutes as presented. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Old Business

Lake Erie West's Updated Code of Ethics – Sandy Spang presented an update to Lake Erie West's Code of Ethics policy, a copy of which was included in the agenda packet. The proposed update was a result of inquiries from private sector representatives who serve on Lake Erie West's Economic Development Policy Board. Staff consulted with legal counsel, and it was recommended that the previous Section 2B and 2C be removed from the policy. A ***motion*** was made by Marcus Hansen and ***seconded*** by Lisa Sobecki to accept the updated Code of Ethics policy. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

The committee engaged in further discussion and recommended an update to the first sentence in Section 2 of the policy, the new item B to read: No member, policy board/committee or employee at Lake Erie West shall authorize or employ..." A ***motion*** was made by Mrs. Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Mr. Hansen to accept the above language. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Rhonda Sewell suggested that a conflict of interest policy be included as an addendum to the Code of Ethics policy.

Action Item: *Staff will present a conflict of interest addendum to the Code of Ethics at the next LPP Committee meeting.*

New Business

Executive Director's Report – Sandy Spang gave an update on current and upcoming events including Bike Month activities, the spring virtual Village Caucus and Township caucuses, and the Summer General Assembly. Virtual caucuses will take place in the fall. Mrs. Spang reported on the Regional Trails Maintenance Study and the Transportation, Housing, and Workforce Study that Lake Erie West is currently conducting. She also gave an update on Lake Erie West's air quality initiatives, including the placement of billboards throughout the region to promote AQ education and awareness as well as PurpleAir monitors to track local air quality. Committee members suggested placing PurpleAir monitors at the Arts Commission, Imagination Station, Toledo Zoo, UT. It was also suggested that Lake Erie West staff connect with local meteorologists on air quality initiatives.

With regards to economic development, Lake Erie West's application for an economic development district (EDD) will soon be reviewed by the USEDA. In the meantime, staff will apply for a $100,000 implementation grant through USEDA to fund economic development work. The economic development staff has visited 35 communities and is tracking grants for them.

Lake Erie West Office Lease – Sandy Spang reported on efforts to locate a new office for Lake Erie West as the current space no longer meets the needs of the organization. She stressed the need for staff to be located on one floor for better collaboration. Lake Erie West leases 12,000 sq. feet of space from the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority (TLCPA) but only uses 5,200 of it. Mrs. Spang has toured potential office space over the past few months. Of those considered, One Maritime Plaza, another TLCPA property, would best meet the needs of Lake Erie West. Diagrams and renditions of the office space on the 2nd floor of Maritime Plaza were passed around the room. The space is currently under construction, and the TLCPA will fund the complete gutting and renovation of the space, and Lake Erie West will pay for moving expenses and furnishings.

Lake Erie West's current lease at the train station is $12,500 per month, $145,000 annually. The TLCPA has proposed a 10-year lease for the space at One Maritime Plaza at the current rental rate, with no increase. The lease agreement would include free parking for staff and guests. Mrs. Spang asked the LPP Committee to consider a provisional recommendation to the Governing Board that would authorize Lake Erie West's relocation to One Maritime Plaza under the TLCPA proposed lease terms. Before responding to the recommendation, the committee was given a tour of the office space at One Maritime Plaza. Construction would begin in the spring of 2027. After the tour, a ***motion*** was made by Quinton Babcock and ***seconded*** by Lisa Sobecki to support Lake Erie West's move to the 2nd floor of One Maritime Plaza, to authorize Sandy Spang to enter into negotiations with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority for a 10-year lease agreement at the current rental rate, and recommended approval by the Governing Board. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Amending Employment Contract of Lake Erie West Executive Director Sandy Spang – A ***motion*** was made by Ed Schimmel and ***seconded*** by David Borer at 3:25 p.m. to enter into executive session to consider the compensation of a public employee, per ORC 121.22 (G) (1). ***The motion carried unanimously.*** A ***motion*** was made by Lisa Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Scott Miller at 3:50 p.m. to exit executive session. ***The motion carried unanimously.*** The LPP Committee expressed their support of Mrs. Spang's work. A ***motion*** was made by Mrs. Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Mr. Miller to increase Mrs. Spang's annual salary to $185,000 and her vehicle allowance to $650 and to recommend approval of amending her contract by the Governing Board. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Other Upcoming Events – The Ohio Conference on Freight is scheduled in August 24-26 in Columbus. OARC Candidates Forum is scheduled July 30-31.

Any and All Other Business – There was no other business discussed.

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

Next Meeting/Adjournment – The next committee meeting is scheduled on August 14th at noon. A ***motion*** was made by Ed Schimmel and ***seconded*** by Marcus Hansen at 3:55 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

George Sarantou, Chair
Lake Erie West Regional Council

Sandy Spang, Executive Director
Lake Erie West Regional Council