Leadership, Policy, and Programming Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 25, 2026
Submitted for approval on November 6, 2026

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

Call to Order/Welcome – The Leadership, Policy, and Programming (LLP) Committee met virtually via Microsoft Teams on Friday, September 25, 2026, at 10 a.m. Chair George Sarantou called the meeting to order. No votes were taken on any of the agenda items.

New Business

Discuss Nominations for 2027 Chair, Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair – Commissioners Lisa Sobecki and Scott Miller were asked if they were willing to serve as Chair and Vice Chair respectively in 2027, and both confirmed their interest. With regards to the Second Vice Chair seat, Marcus Hansen has expressed an interest in serving in a leadership role in 2027. Prior to the meeting, the committee was forwarded Councilman Hansen's letter of interest, resume, and three letters of recommendation. Hansen shared his background information with the committee. Lake Erie West staff identified other potential candidates including the following people. Mayor Babcock was present at the meeting and confirmed his interest in serving. Mayor Babcock gave a summation of his background.

- Quinton Babcock, Mayor, Oak Harbor
- Marcus Hansen, Council Member, City of Sylvania
- Don Mennel, Mayor, City of Fostoria
- Mike Moulton, Trustee, Middleton Township
- Dan Sanchez, Mayor, City of Fremont
- Bob Vasquez, Board Member, Toledo Public Schools

Craig Stough endorsed Marcus Hansen for Second Vice Chair. Commissioner Scott Miller endorsed all of the above candidates. Commissioner Sobecki thanked Mayor Babcock for his interest in the role of Second Vice Chair. She stressed the importance of diversity and regionalism approach and suggested school board members be recruited to serve on the Leadership, Policy, and Programming Committee. It was suggested that the above candidates who aren't committee members be invited to serv on the LPP Committee.

Next Steps: *Chair Sarantou will reach out to the candidates prior to the next committee meeting. The committee will evaluate the list of potential candidates for Second Vice Chair and officially nominate the 2027 candidates at the next meeting.*

Executive Director's Report – Sandy Spang gave an update on membership recruitment efforts. All member units will be visited annually. Director Spang gave an update on recent new hires including: a grants administrator, manager of engagement and communications, data analyst, and an air quality specialist. Spang gave update on the status of the 2027-2029 Lake Erie West

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Regional Policy Agenda. A draft of the document will be presented at the next LPP Committee meeting.

Other Business – Director Spang gave an update on the 2027 Winter General Assembly, which is scheduled to take place on Friday, January 29th at the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons in Perrysburg. The keynote presentation will focus on Pathways to Public Service. She also discussed plans for rotating the caucuses. The committee briefly discussed House Bill 96, the cybersecurity and AI legislation and mandatory requirements by governmental entities. Lake Erie West is hosting a free, 90-minute virtual webinar on website accessibility on November 16th at 10 a.m.

The General Assembly are considering a 90-day suspension of the gas tax. A question was asked if this move will affect the US 23/I-71. It was noted that progress will continue. However, a gas tax holiday will fiscally impact ODOT. Legislators are exploring options to backfill ODOT's losses through either the Rainy Day Fund or the General Revenue Fund.

Director Spang gave an update on status of Lake Erie West's move. Cleanout day was held last Friday at Lake Erie West to prepare for the move. The Port Authority's architect costs are far higher than originally expected. Lake Erie West and the Port Authority will meet in the near future to discuss renovation costs. More frequent meetings will be held to keep the project moving forward. Chair Sarantou offered to attend meetings with Sandy. A construction agreement will be signed before signing a new lease. Lake Erie West could request adjustment to rent if the construction goes beyond the original movement date. Director Spang will report back to the committee at its next meeting.

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 committee is currently being polled regarding its next meeting. An Outlook calendar invitation will be sent out after a date has been confirmed. The meeting concluded at 11 a.m.

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