

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 12, 2026

Submitted for approval on September 11, 2026

Board members present: Quinton Babcock, Mike Hampton, Mark Hummer, Barry Kinsey, Don Mennel, Scott Miller, Mike Moulton, David Myerholtz, Tim Pedro, George Sarantou, Chris Smalley, Lisa Sobecki, Dione Somerville, Jennifer Van Horn; **Board members excused:** Abby Arnold, Joe Cappel, Jeffery Dennis, Jon Eckel, Joe Fawcett, Mark Frye, Bob Lloyd; **TMACOG staff present:** Sandy Spang, Jennifer Allen, Rosanna Hoelzle, Jim Kirtland

Call to Order/Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance – The Lake Erie West Governing Board met on Friday, June 12, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the Lake Erie West Boardroom. Chair George Sarantou called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Introduction of Consent Agenda – Chair Sarantou introduced and proposed the use of a consent agenda for future meetings. A ***motion*** was made by Mark Hummer and ***seconded*** by Dione Somerville to employ a consent agenda moving forward. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Approval of Consent Agenda Items – A ***motion*** was made by Josh Bender and ***seconded*** by Lisa Sobecki to approve the following items on the consent agenda, copies of which were included in the agenda packet. The motion passed unanimously.

- A. Minutes from March 13, 2026, Meeting
- B. Ratify appointments for Regional Policy Agenda Task Force, Force and the Committee and Water Workforce Ad Hoc and Dues Review Ad Hoc Committees
- C. Ratify updates to MPO Policy Board, Water Quality Council, Economic Development Policy Board, and Finance, Audit & Administration Committee Membership Rosters
- D. Governing Board: Mike Hampton's representation change from Springfield to Monclova Township

Remarks from Lake Erie West Chair George Sarantou – Chair Sarantou welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Board members were invited to attend the July 20th Summer General Assembly from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Catawba Island Club in Port Clinton. He also reported on the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Conference & Exhibition that he attended in Tulsa June 7-10 with Director Sandy Spang and three staff members from her team. Lake Erie West was congratulated for receiving the Regional Achievement Award related to its work on the CEDS Summit that was held in March 2026.

Report from Lake Erie West Executive Director Sandy Spang – Sandy Spang gave an update on the virtual Village and Township caucuses that were held on May 27th and May 28th. Brief updates were given on RFPs for the trail maintenance and housing studies, Regional Policy Agenda, the Toledo Regional Alliance, the Gordie Howe International Bridge, and a Federal Railroad Administration Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program grant awarded to Lake Erie West and Seneca County for improvements and repairs at two rail crossings in Fostoria.

Lake Erie West has partnered with Cleveland State for its Public Management cohort. Lake Erie West's member units will receive a 10% discount for participating in CSU's Certified Public

Management Program. For more information contact, Rosanna Hoelzle: 419-820-4510 or hoelzle@LakeErieWest.org.

Report from Finance, Audit, and Administration (FAA) Committee – Committee Chair Quinton Babcock presented two resolutions, copies of which were included in the agenda packet. A ***motion*** was made by Laura Koprowski and ***seconded*** by Chris Smalley to approve *Resolution No. 2026-13, Adopting the FY 2027 Annual Work Program and Budget*. ***The motion passed unanimously.*** A ***motion*** was made by Tim Pedro and ***seconded*** by Jennifer Van Horn to approve *Resolution No. 2026-14, Adopting the FY 2027 Governing Board and General Assembly Weighted Vote Table of Representation*. Chris Smalley opposed the resolution. ***The motion carried.***

Jim Kirtland, Lake Erie West finance manager, presented and reviewed a budget summary for FY 2027, a copy of which was included in the agenda packet.

Report from Leadership, Policy, and Programming Committee – Chair Sarantou presented two resolutions, copies of which were included in the agenda packet.

A ***motion*** was made by Tim Pedro and ***seconded*** by Lisa Sobecki to approve *Resolution No. 2026-15, Amending the Employment Contract of Lake Erie West Executive Director Sandy Spang*, as submitted. ***The motion passed unanimously.*** With regards to Director Spang's vehicle allowance, it was noted that should gas prices become taxing, the Governing Board will consider adjusting here allowance accordingly. Director Spang was recognized and thanked for her achievements, a list of which was included in the agenda packet.

A ***motion*** was made by E. Mark Hummer and ***seconded*** by Cher Johnson to approve *Resolution No. 2026-16, Updating the Lake Erie West Regional Council Code of Ethics*, as submitted. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

Chair Sarantou presented the board with a proposal to relocate Lake Erie West's office to One Maritime Plaza, located at 720 Water Street (2nd floor) in downtown Toledo. Photos were shared including a street view of the building as well as diagrams and renditions. A ***motion*** was made by Lisa Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Chris Smalley to authorize Lake Erie West to enter into a 10-year lease with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority; 5 years at the rental rate currently paid on the lease at the train station, with a 3 percent increase for years 6 through 10. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Any and All Other Business – Lake Erie West Second Vice Chair Scott Miller announced a ribbon cutting for Lake Erie West's satellite office in Fremont on July 8th at 10 a.m. Chair Sarantou shared information regarding litigation involving fire truck price fixing and PFAS in firefighter turnout gear. There is a July deadline approaching for the PFAS Cost Recovery Program for entities to claim their share of the multi-billion settlement funds.

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

Next Meeting/Adjournment – The next regularly scheduled board meeting will take place on Friday, September 11th at 9:30 a.m. A ***motion*** was made by Chris Smalley and ***seconded*** by Lisa Sobecki at 11 a.m. to adjourn the meeting. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

George E. Sarantou, Chair
Lake Erie West Regional Council

Sandy Spang, Executive Director
Lake Erie West Regional Council