



# Leadership Development Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### Friday, October 13, 2023

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**Members present:** Mike Aspacher, Doris Herringshaw, Tom Mackin, George Sarantou, Rhonda Sewell (joined virtually), Lisa Sobecki, Craig Stough; Dave Thompson; **Excused:** Scott Miller, Mark Stahl; **Staff present:** Sandy Spang, Jennifer Allen

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**Call to Order/Welcome** – The Leadership Development Committee met in the TMACOG Boardroom on Friday, October 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Chair Mike Aspacher called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes** – A ***motion*** was made by Lisa Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Doris Herringshaw to approve minutes from the September 12, 2023, meeting. The motion carried.

**NWO Economic Development District Update** – Sandy Spang gave an update on the status of TMACOG's application for an EDD designation. All three counties that are members of the Toledo Region CEDS (Lucas, Ottawa, and Wood) submitted resolutions and/or letters of support to accompany the application. Letters of support have also been received from other TMACOG members and regional stakeholders. TMACOG met with a representative from the U.S. EDA Chicago Regional Office and received feedback on ways to improve the application. It could take up to a year before the application is reviewed as the U.S. EDA is undergoing staff changes. If approved for the EDD designation, TMACOG will apply for CEDS funding. BGSU's Center for Regional Development will be asked to assist with updating the CEDS.

**TMACOG Leadership: 2024 Chair and Vice Chair** – TMACOG Vice Chair Tom Mackin reported that he had spoken with Northwood City Mayor Ed Schimmel about serving as TMACOG Vice Chair in 2024. Mayor Schimmel is interested in the position. He currently chairs the Membership Committee, serves on the Executive Committee, and represents the cities as an alternate on the TMACOG Board of Trustees. Mrs. Spang noted that it has been quite some time since a Lucas County commissioner has served as TMACOG Chair. Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak served as chair from 2008 to 2010. During the meeting, George Sarantou expressed an interest in the vice chair position. The committee will officially nominate the 2024 Chair and Vice Chair at its next meeting.

**2024 General Assembly Topic/Speaker** – The committee previously discussed inviting a representative from the U.S. EDA Chicago Regional Office to speak at the 2024 General Assembly. However, this idea was tabled for the 2025 annual meeting. The committee was in favor of TMACOG telling its story at the 2024 General Assembly and engaging members in the kick-off the strategic planning process. The keynote program will feature a video that will include testimonials/stories from members and presentations by program staff.

**Action Item:** *Lisa Sobecki will forward Sandy Spang the names of individuals/companies who facilitate strategic planning processes.*

**Bylaw Amendment** – Sandy Spang recently directed the organization's attorney to perform a routine review of the TMACOG bylaws, as they have not been reviewed by legal counsel in several years. During the course of the review, the attorney advised that TMACOG's current bylaws be amended to comply with the Ohio Revised Code membership requirements for Regional Councils of Governments (ORC 167.02). *Resolution No. 2024-01, Amending the Bylaws of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments*, was presented to committee members, a copy of which

was distributed at the meeting. ORC 167.02 states the following.

*“Membership in the regional council shall be the counties, municipal corporations, townships, special districts, school districts, and other political subdivisions entering into the agreement establishing the council or admitted to membership subsequently pursuant to the agreement establishing the council or the bylaws of the council.”*

The above language impacts non-governmental members as this category of members are not included in the ORC. Non-governmental were accepted as members of TMACOG beginning in 1996. Spang distributed a list of current members. Spang noted that non-governmental members make up 40 percent of TMACOG's overall membership and stated that the financial impact that they have on TMACOG's annual budget is minimal. Non-governmental members will be encouraged to continue to attend TMACOG meetings in an advisory capacity and will be invited to sponsor TMACOG events.

Mrs. Spang highlighted some of the other proposed revisions, which are noted in the draft resolution. Notable revisions include language regarding TMACOG's role as an EDD and support of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) and the addition of two new TMACOG policy bodies: Metropolitan Planning Organization and an Economic Development District Governing Board.

The committee discussed and recommended changing the language under Section IV (A), Policy Bodies: General Assembly, to read as follows.

c2: *Appointed members of the Boards of County Commissioners shall be the governmental representatives for member counties.*

c3: *The representative for all other governmental members shall be the highest-ranking elected official (Municipal Mayor, President of the Board of Trustees, CEO, etc.) unless a designee is identified in writing by the governmental member to TMACOG.*

A ***motion*** was made by Tom Mackin and ***seconded*** by Lisa Sobecki to approve the amended resolution with the above changes and to recommend it for acceptance by the Board of Trustees and for subsequent adoption by the General Assembly. The motion passed unanimously. Spang will make personal telephone calls to non-governmental members prior to the October 18 Board of Trustees meeting. A committee will be created to periodically review the agency's bylaws.

***Action Item:*** *Committee members will be forwarded an electronic version of the proposed bylaw amendment as well as the operating procedures for the Leadership Development Committee.*

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

**Any and All Other Business** – Sandy Spang announced that SEMCOG had received funding from Michigan legislators to assist communities with submitting projects for BIL funding.

TMACOG's certification review by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will take place December 12-13. A review is conducted every four years. A public meeting is scheduled for the evening of December 12 as well as during the Board of Trustees meeting on December 13.

**Next Meeting/Adjournment** – The next regularly scheduled committee meeting is scheduled to place at TMACOG on November 10 at 9:30 a.m. However, since government offices will be closed that day in observance of Veterans Day, the meeting will be rescheduled. A ***motion*** was made by Lisa Sobecki and ***seconded*** by Doris Herringshaw at 11:13 a.m. to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.