



Leadership Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

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

Call to Order/Welcome – The Leadership Development Committee met in the TMACOG Boardroom on Friday, September 12, 2023, at 3 p.m. Chair Mike Aspacher called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from April 14, 2023, were amended to show Lisa Sobecki was not in attendance at the meeting. A ***motion*** was made by Craigh Stough and ***seconded*** by Rhonda Sewell to approve the amended minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Sobecki's name was omitted from the attendance list in the minutes from May 12, June 16, and August 11 meetings. These minutes were amended to show Lisa Sobecki's was present at each meeting. A ***motion*** was made by Mayor Stough and ***seconded*** by Ms. Sewell to approve the amended minutes. The motion carried. A ***motion*** was made by Ms. Sewell and ***seconded*** by Commissioner Sobecki to approve the amended minutes. The motion carried unanimously. A ***motion*** was made by Ms. Sewell and ***seconded*** by Commissioner Sobecki to approve the amended minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

NWO Economic Development District Update – Sandy Spang updated the committee on the status of TMACOG application to the USEDA for an EDD designation. The application will be submitted by the end of the month. Letters of support are being sought from the Ohio Department of Development, CEDS members and its member counties (Lucas, Ottawa, and Wood counties), TMACOG members, and other regional stakeholders to accompany the application. It was suggested that letters be requested from BGSU and UT presidents as well.

Mrs. Spang shared statistics from a recent Urban Institute report. There are 400 EDDs across the country. Per capita, the total project cost invested in EDD areas is more than three times the amount of investment outside of EDD areas, while the number of grants in EDD areas is more than two times the number of grants outside of EDD areas. SEMCOG received its designation a few months ago, and MORPC received theirs last week.

If approved for the EDD designation, TMACOG would also be responsible for conducting the next CEDS. After submitting an application, TMACOG will meet with CEDS members and discuss potential ways to raise money to fund the EDD. Mrs. Spang noted that after reviewing the structure of other COGs, not only would an EDD director be needed but a grants coordinator will also be needed. There is an unprecedented number of funding opportunities available. A grants coordinator would be hired as soon as possible to help understand what state and federal grants. She noted how EDDs are funded varies from one organization to another. SEMCOG's is funded through the Henry Ford Fund.

Action Item: *Sandy Spang will ask Nate Reiter and Bill Best to run the normal TMACOG membership formula to determine how the EDD could collect dues to support the program through assessments.*

Action Item: *Sandy Spang will research how SEMCOG as well as other organizations fund their EDDs.*

TMACOG Leadership: 2024 Chair and Vice Chair – At the last meeting, Mrs. Spang provided a list of potential candidates to serve as TMACOG Vice Chair in 2024. Vice Chair Mackin was unable to attend the meeting. This agenda item was tabled for the next meeting.

Action Item: *Sandy Spang will follow-up with Vice Chair Mackin regarding the list of potential candidates.*

Membership on the Leadership Development Committee – Chair Aspacher announced that Toledo City Council Member George Sarantou has agreed to serve on the Leadership Development Committee. Council Member Sarantou was unable to attend today's meeting.

2024 General Assembly Topic/Speaker – Susan Brehm, regional director of the Chicago USEDAs Chicago regional office, has been invited to deliver the keynote address at the January 19, 2024, General Assembly.

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

Any and All Other Business – The kick-off for the Water Workforce Development program will take place on September 18th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Collins Park Treatment Plant. Twenty-four student operators will be trained and mentored for careers in water and wastewater treatment. This program is sponsored by EPA.

Next Meeting/Adjournment – The next regularly scheduled committee meeting will take place at TMACOG on October 13 at 9:30 a.m. A motion was made by Craig Stough at 4:01 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. The Chair adjourned the meeting.