



2022 TMACOG General Assembly Village Caucus Notes Monday, April 25, 2022

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions – The Village Caucus met on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 8:15 a.m. in Parlor A at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg, Ohio. Rosanna Hoelzle, administrator for the Village of Swanton, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She explained the purpose of the caucus for anyone who may be new to TMACOG.

Caucus members in attendance included:

- John Dierksheide – Council Member, Village of Risingsun
- Dana Dunbar – Council Member, Village of Ottawa Hills
- Chase Fletcher – Administrator, Village of North Baltimore
- Adam Greenslade – Mayor, Village of Green Springs
- Robin Hindall – Fiscal Officer, Village of Risingsun
- Rosanna Hoelzle – Administrator, Village of Swanton
- David Hower – Administrator, Village of Elmore
- Bill Kieffer – President of Council, Village of Elmore
- Nancy Perry – Council Member, Village of Haskins
- Gena Rathburn – Fiscal Officer, Village of Risingsun
- Rick Whetsel – Mayor, Village of Risingsun

Other TMACOG members and guests in attendance included:

- Jennifer Fehnrich, Client Relations Manager, Poggemeyer Design Group, Inc.

TMACOG staff members in attendance included:

- Kari Gerwin, Vice President of Water Quality
- Eric Kostecky, Water Quality Planner

Election of Representative to the TMACOG Board of Trustees – The first order of business on the agenda was the election of caucus members to this year's Board of Trustees. A ***motion*** was made by Dana Dunbar and ***seconded*** by David Hower to elect the following caucus representatives. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustees

John Dierksheide, Village of Risingsun
Dana Dunbar, Village of Ottawa Hills
Rosanna Hoelzle, Village of Swanton
David Hower, Village of Elmore
Quinton Babcock, Village of Oak Harbor (not present)

Alternates

Nancy Perry, Village of Haskins
Rick Sauerlender, Village of Metamora (not present)
VACANT SEAT
VACANT SEAT
VACANT SEAT

Appointment of Water Quality Council Representative – Water Quality Council operating procedures reserve seats for up to three representatives and three alternates for TMACOG member villages. There is currently one open seat for a member and one alternate. No nominations were made to fill these seats.

Appointment of Transportation Council Representative – Transportation Council operating procedures reserve a seat for one representative and one alternate for an elected official from a TMACOG member village in Lucas or Wood County. No nominations were made to fill these seats.

Discussion Topics – The following topics were discussed by the caucus.

- **Small community training needs**

- The villages expressed a variety of training needs for multiple components of their communities.
- Safety and professional training for operators and field workers, along with fiscal and administrative training for council members, are all needed.
- Contracting out can alleviate pressure but may come with additional limitations and issues.
- Training as well as on-boarding processes are needed for community officials.

- **Employee recruitment/ retention**

- Worker shortages are a problem across all sectors of the economy.
- Villages have seen good employees that they have trained leave for better pay at larger municipalities.
- Some villages are encouraging development to grow their tax base.
- Creating a development plan offers a strategy to work from as well as a document that serves to open communications with higher levels of government.

- **Legislation and rule-making impacting villages**

- HB 512 calls for the increase of Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund contributions to increase from 19.5% to 26.5% by 2027.
- This increase will cause a burden on small communities who already have tight fiscal constraints.
- Some villages are concerned that this will prompt them to eliminate their police departments as well as other services.

- **Difficulties of engagement in council meetings**

- Villages welcome engagement by members of their communities.
- Some villages publicly post livestream information for council meetings, while others reserve the meeting link for those who request it.
- Misinformation and misunderstanding in the public hampers the process and jeopardizes the legitimacy of governing.
- The creation of a Civic Engagement Academy in one village has proven to help inform those who were in attendance and has resulted in attracting new council members.

Adjournment – No other business was discussed. Rosanna Hoelzle adjourned the meeting.