



Summer Caucuses with State Lawmakers Village Caucus Notes Wednesday, August 3, 2022

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions – The Village Caucus met on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 1113 at Penta Career Center in Perrysburg, Ohio. Village of Oak Harbor Mayor Quinton Babcock moderated the meeting and welcomed everyone present. Introductions were made around the room.

TMACOG members in attendance included:

- Quinton Babcock, Mayor, Village of Oak Harbor
- Dave Borer, Mayor, Village of Fayette
- Dana Dunbar, Council Member, Village of Ottawa Hills
- Chase Fletcher, Village Administrator, Village of North Baltimore
- Janet Goldner, Mayor, Village of North Baltimore
- Adam Greenslade, Mayor, Village of Green Springs and Director of Government Affairs, Ohio Turnpike
- Dave Hower, Village Administrator, Village of Elmore
- Nancy Perry, Council Member, Village of Haskins
- Angelina Roth, Fiscal Officer, Village of Bradner
- Shannon Shulters, Village Administrator, Village of Swanton

TMACOG staff in attendance included:

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

Overview of meeting & Discussion of Topics/Issues – The following topics were discussed by the caucus.

- **Topic 1 – Route 23 Connection from Toledo to Columbus**
 - Villages asked questions about the effects on communities where construction will occur.
 - What are the local impacts to these communities?
 - What are opinions like in the communities in question?
 - The 3 options of streamlining the existing route, and bypasses either to the east or west of Delaware were mentioned.
 - Outcomes of the Route 24 bypass through Waterville were discussed, due to possibly being similar to the Route 23 bypass options.
- **Topic 2 – Villages response to Ohio's revised fireworks law (HB172)**
 - Villages conveyed the reactions by their communities.
 - Responses through local ordinances varied.

- Discussion followed on scheduling of publicly planned displays around those of surrounding communities to bolster attendance.
- **Topic 3 – How villages can prepare for the next Capital Budget**
 - Villages discussed the basics of the capital budget process, including the overall Ohio budgeting process, project eligibility, and best practices for working with legislators on the capital budget
 - It was noted that the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce hosts a white paper process for those in its footprint.
 - The Legislative Service Commission website hosts resources on state budgets.
 - Villages also discussed other specific issues and opportunities for funding local projects.
 - Staffing constraints limit ability to apply for funds, some communities have relied on consulting firms for assistance.
 - American Municipal Power (AMP) offers grant writing and technical assistance for member communities.
 - Erica Krause, representing U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown’s office, can be contacted for assistance
- **Topic 4 – Use of Mayor’s Courts in Villages**
 - Villages discussed their application of mayor’s courts
 - Community responses varied
 - Retaining professional magistrates
 - Discontinuing mayor’s courts
 - Issues being seen in mayor’s courts were discussed, including struggles and positive outcomes that were shared for consideration.

Generate two (2) questions to present at Panel Forum with State Lawmakers

1. Many communities face issues with blocked railroad crossings. Is there any action that can be taken legislatively or are there any other uncaptured opportunities for collaboration with our legislators?
2. Still recovering from challenges like HB920 and changes to direct payments to municipalities, many villages have benefitted tremendously from ARPA funds. Understanding that ARPA funds will not continue, what do you think the future financial partnership between villages and the legislature looks like?

Adjourn – Everyone was thanked for attending the caucus and the session was adjourned.