



2023 TMACOG General Assembly Village Caucus Notes Friday, January 20, 2023

Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions – The Village Caucus met on Friday, January 20, 2023, at 8:15 a.m. in Parlor A at the Hilton Garden Inn in Perrysburg, Ohio. Quinton Babcock, Village of Oak Harbor mayor, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made around the room. Mayor Babcock explained the purpose of the caucus for anyone new to TMACOG.

Caucus members in attendance included:

- Don Atkinson, Mayor, Village of Whitehouse
- Quinton Babcock, Mayor, Village of Oak Harbor
- Bob Babjack, Council Member, Village of Elmore
- Ric Beals, Administrator, Village of Fayette
- David Borer, Mayor, Village of Fayette
- Colby Carroll, Administrator, Village of Haskins
- Jordan Daugherty, Administrator, Village of Whitehouse
- Dana Dunbar, Council Member, Village of Ottawa Hills
- Chase Fletcher, Administrator, Village of North Baltimore
- Janet Goldner, Mayor, Village of North Baltimore
- Bradley Grime, Mayor, Village of Archbold
- David Hower, Administrator, Village of Elmore
- Tom Jackson, Mayor, Village of Elmore
- Bill Kieffer, Council President, Village of Elmore
- Cory Panning, Mayor, Village of Luckey
- Nancy Perry, Council Member, Village of Haskins
- Richard Sauerlender, Mayor, Village of Metamora
- Jeremy Schroeder, Mayor, Village of Weston
- Neil Toeppe, Mayor, Village of Swanton
- Frank Wilton, Mayor, Village of Delta

Other TMACOG members and guests in attendance included:

- Darnita Bradley, Senior Manager Government Affairs & External Engagement, JobsOhio
- Paulette Mills, Client Representative, Kleinfelder
- Bill Sampson, Director of Business Development, CT Consultants, Inc.

TMACOG staff members in attendance included:

- Kari Gerwin, Vice President of Water Quality Planning
- 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 Janet Goldner and ***seconded*** by Tom Jackson to elect the following caucus representatives. The motion passed unanimously.

Trustees

Quinton Babcock
John Dierksheide
Dana Dunbar
Chase Fletcher
David Hower

Alternates

Ric Beals
Jordan Daugherty
Tom Jackson
Nancy Perry
Richard Sauerlender

Election of Water Quality Council Representative – A *motion* was made by Nancy Perry and *seconded* by Tom Jackson to elect Dave Hower to represent the Village Caucus on the Water Quality Council. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Transportation Council Representative – A *motion* was made by Cory Panning and *seconded* by Dana Dunbar to elect Janet Goldner to represent the Village Caucus on the Transportation Council. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- **Opportunities for municipalities in upcoming state budget(s)**
 - Caucus members discussed the process of proposing and developing project funding. Key points included:
 - Timelines for funding through the state's budgets
 - Engaging with state representatives early and often
 - Favorable types of projects
 - Effectively targeting the message considering the proportion of state funding needs and locally funded components
 - Communities in Lucas and Wood counties should work with the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
- **Lame duck session: Important new legislation and funding opportunities**
 - Expansion of mayoral wedding authority
 - Additional training on dementia for first responders
 - The accounting requirements for CPT training hours for police officers are complicated and cause difficulties.
- **Upcoming water quality policy and potential impacts on small wastewater facilities**
 - The new Wastewater General Permit may affect phosphorus discharge limits for communities operating wastewater facilities.
 - Proposed discharge limit of 0.5-1.0 mg/L (depending on facility size) for facilities within the Maumee River Watershed

- The general permit will not be in effect until the Maumee Nutrient TMDL is approved by U.S. EPA.
- TMACOG Water Quality committees will compile public comments for both the TMDL and the draft general permit.
- Dana Dunbar reminded members that links to the TMDL are on the TMACOG website.
- **Electric vehicle infrastructure for small communities and small community training needs**
 - ODOT's key charging corridors target funding toward specific areas.
 - Villages discussed siting for charging stations and the related opportunities and challenges.
 - One community utilized other funding mechanisms and saw positive outcomes of placing chargers near parks and businesses.
- **Community economic development**
 - The importance of developing a plan should be a key consideration
 - Communities need to know what character is desired for their future in order to address the path it takes to get there
- **Caucus member roundtable**
 - Some communities experience problems when homeowners plant trees in rights-of-way and tree lawns, particularly when it interferes with utility infrastructure.
 - Some communities allow, encourage, or fund tree planting in rights-of-way and tree lawns.
 - Local tree commissions can set guidelines and make decisions for a municipality's tree cover, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources is a good resource.
 - Villages discussed the complications of pedestrian safety and effectively conveying rules of the road to drivers passing through common pedestrian routes.

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