

Local Government Reform and Collaboration Commission
Worthington Board of Education Building
200 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, Ohio, 43085

January 29, 2010
Minutes

In Attendance:

Tim Downing	Anita Lopez	Daniel Troy
Michael Cochran	Lynda Murray	Tom Weidman
Martin Jenkins	Rob Roland	Larry Wolpert
Chester Jourdan	Charleta Tavares	

Motion to accept the December 2009 minutes was made by Ms. Tavares and seconded by Mr. Cochran. The motion passed.

Mr. Downing reported that there was an invoice for \$2,402.70 from the Glenn Institute that was ready for payment. There has been approximately \$109,600 paid or authorized from the original budget of \$160,000. There are some additional funds that will be needed to complete the research, but the Commission will have a balance of about \$20,000 to \$30,000 to use for the completion of the report. Mr. Downing moved to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tavares. The motion passed.

The Glenn Institute provided the commission with two additional completed research reports: Collaborative Behaviors of Non-Judicial and Non-School Affiliated Elected Officials in Lucas County, University of Toledo, Urban Affairs Center; and Collaborative Local Government in the State of Ohio, Wright State University.

Ms. Tavares reported on the Identification of Options for Encouraging and Incentivizing Local Government to Collaborate sub committee. This committee met on January 29, 2010. They are looking at broad-based enabling legislation to allow local governments to collaborate. They are also reviewing the use of Council of Governments as a way to help facilitate collaboration.

Mr. Wolpert reported for the Local Tax Structure subcommittee. This meeting included subcommittee members and other interested parties from OSU, the Ohio General Assembly, and the Department of Taxation. Mr. Steinbach facilitated that meeting, and will provide the commission with a report of that meeting.

Mr. Jourdan reported on the Current/Alternative Service Delivery Model subcommittee's work. This subcommittee has met twice, and will provide minutes of their meetings to the full committee. Mr. Troy talked about recommending state recognition of MPOs, providing greater authority to form more joint service provision districts, and also removing any arbitrary restrictions on their size and purpose that are currently in statute.

The Commission asked the Glenn Institute to review the public testimony and reports and categorize issues and recommendations by one (or more) of the three subcommittee. Chair Lopez urged that commission members who are representing local government groups have their recommendations and suggestions to the commission by the February meeting, so that commission members will have time to study them. Subcommittee reports should be completed by March 15.

February will be the last of the public testimony hearings, and will be held in Canton. We will discuss the research and recommendations at the March meeting, with the goal of having the 1st draft of the report done by the April meeting. The 2nd draft will be completed by the May meeting.

Mr. Jenkins moved, and Mr. Weidman seconded a motion to have the Glenn Institute organize the testimony and research in a format that follows the three sub committees, and make that report to the commission. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Wolpert suggested that the commission look at the success of the Atlanta Georgia Regional Commission. Mr. Jourdan volunteered to make arrangements to have someone testify either in person or via webcasting from that commission at the February meeting.

Mr. Weidman also recommended that we look at prevailing wage issues. Mr. Troy reminded the commission that at one of the first commission meetings, it was agreed that the issue of prevailing wage had been discussed numerous times, and that this commission could probably not add any additional information. After discussion by the commission, it was agreed that the Glenn Institute would identify research on both sides of this issue for review by the commission.

Mr. Jenkins suggested, and the commission agreed to ask Mr. Steinbach if he would be available to facilitate at least the April commission meeting.

Pam Hall, Chamber of Commerce of Marion County testified about the Chamber's project to consolidate the city and county health departments.

Mr. Downing asked if the campaign to oppose the consolidation was motivated by a concern that people would lose their jobs. Ms. Hall said that was the case, because the unions opposed it. She also said that there was a certain amount of parochialism and that people aren't comfortable with change.

Ms. Tavares asked if they had done any customer satisfaction surveys before and after to help measure the success of the project. Ms. Hall said that nothing was done officially, but some people spoke out about how confusing the system was.

Ms. Murray asked if they had done any collection of data to measure how money was saved by combining the entities. They had not done that research.

Mr. Troy asked how many cities are in Marion County. Ms. Hall said there is one city and five villages.

Mr. Jenkins said he wasn't sure what Ms. Hall was asking the Commission to consider. All of the mechanisms were in place for them to accomplish this, and it worked.

Chair Lopez reviewed the commission timelines and announced the next meeting for February 26 at Malone College.

Mr. Troy suggested inviting the CPAs to testify. Ms. Lopez took responsibility for contacting them.

Ms. Tavares moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 PM, Mr. Troy seconded the motion. The motion passed.