

Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration  
March 27, 2009  
Minutes

Attendance

Michael Cochran	Martin Jenkins	Charleta Tavares
Tim Downing	Chester Jourdan	Daniel Troy
Jennifer Economus	Lynda Murray	Tom Weidman
Dan Foley	Rob Roland	

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by co-chair Daniel Troy. Troy announced that he received a call the previous afternoon that co-chair Anita Lopez would not be able to make the meeting. Troy apologized for being late in getting an agenda for the meeting to members of the commission. Murray volunteered to take minutes of the meeting.

*Downing moved and Weidman seconded approval of the February 27, 2009 minutes.*

Troy and Downing provided an update on the Commission's funding request. The request to provide the Commission with \$160,000 to complete its work has been included in HB 2, the Transportation Budget. HB 2 has been approved in both the House and the Senate, and is now in Conference Committee. It is expected to be completed by March 31, 2009. Assuming the Governor does not line-item veto this appropriation, the Commission will receive \$160,000. Marvin Hayes, Office of the Governor, will act as the Fiscal Officer for the Commission through the Legislative Services Commission.

Troy asked Dowling to be the Finance Chair for the Commission. Dowling will provide the Commission with a budget and a budget process based on a completed Work Plan and Research Project Proposal.

There was a general discussion about staffing the Commission. The Commission decided that rather than spend money on support staff for the Commission, we would use funds for the actual work of the Commission, ie. the Research Project. We asked The John Glenn Public Policy Institute to provide a budget in their proposal, and suggested that the budget should not use all of the appropriation, since we may incur additional expenses. The Commission members agreed that we would cover administrative tasks of the Commission by using staff members from the various associations involved in the Commission. We agreed that the actual writing of the Commission's final report should be done by one person. Michael Cochran agreed to write the report.

There was a general discussion about the responsibilities of the co-chairs. Jenkins suggested that he interview by phone both of the co-chairs to their sense of what their duties entail. Jenkins will provide the results of that information for the next meeting. As part of this discussion, members asked that information

about the Commission meetings, as well as materials for the meetings, be provided to the members in a more timely fashion.

Jourdan and Murray provided a draft of a Work Plan. This proposed plan was based on our meeting facilitated by Bob Steinbach and in collaboration with David Wirick of the John Glenn Institute. Since the Commission was just given the report at the beginning of this meeting, it was decided that members would review the report and send suggestions to Murray or Jourdan prior to April 10. In addition, Murray and Jourdan will meet again with Wirick to include more detail from the Research Project Proposal. We will revise the report to include more of the information from the Steinbach session, and include more deadlines.

The Commission had a general discussion about public hearings. There was concern raised about setting up the logistics for these hearings. Again, the John Glenn Institute said that they would include that in their proposal. We discussed some venues, including community colleges, vocational schools, and public libraries.

The Commission discussed various ways to organize our work, either by political sub division or by subject. It was agreed that organizing by subject would support collaborative efforts. We reviewed some of the points that the Commission has made in previous meetings; identifying areas where collaboration is prohibited or made more challenging by law, providing statutory permission rather than requiring collaboration, how do we approach cross-jurisdictional issues in providing services. We also agreed that part of the recommendation of the final report may be for additional or ongoing work. The Commission requested the John Glenn Institute to provide their Research Proposal to the Commission by April 17, so that it can be sent to the Commission members a week prior to the meeting for their review.

Dowling agreed to meet with Mr. David Abbott, who conducted the recent Cuyahoga County Study. Dowling will provide the Commission an overview of that study.

Foley announced that Bob Steinbach is willing to support the Commission with five additional sessions at no charge to the Commission. At the next meeting we will discuss the best use of this generous offer.

We had a very brief discussion about locating additional funds to support the work of the Commission. We will look at several Foundations to determine if there are any possibilities.

*Tavares moved and Dowling seconded a motion to adjourn the Commission.*

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on April 24, 2009 at 10:30 AM, Riffe Tower, 31<sup>st</sup> floor.

Lynda Murray