

Westshore Council of Governments
Regular Meeting
Gemini Center, Fairview Park
November 12, 2014

Meeting began at 9:34 AM

1. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Mayors Bobst, Clough, Kennedy, Patton, Summers, and Sutherland;
Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney

Also in attendance: County Councilman Dave Greenspan

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of October 8 was made by Mayor Sutherland, second by Mayor Kennedy, Mayor Clough abstained; motion passed.

3. COMMISSION REPORTS

A. RTA – Mayor Clough reported that his appointment to RTA expires soon. A date for the vote has not yet been selected. Councilperson Greenspan will inquire as to the status of the appointment process. Mayor Clough asked the COG for support for his reappointment. Mayor Clough reported that RTA may face challenges based on projected loss of revenue from sales tax.

Discussion followed about the new Clifton Boulevard shelters; Mayor Patton would like to see upgrades made to the shelters along Lorain Road in Fairview Park due to the volume of ridership of the residents. RTA took away many bus services and routes. Mayor Patton is looking for a better working relationship with RTA. Mayors Bobst and Kennedy also expressed an interest in installing the new shelters in their respective communities.

B. NOACA – Mayor Sutherland indicated that there will be meeting on Friday for the policy committee and the government affairs committee; she will provide an update at the next meeting. Mayor Sutherland reported that a Geauga County representative has expressed an interest in leaving NOACA. Analysis shows rural area receives more NOACA funding than it gives. There is currently discussion about possibly providing support to only the urban areas of Geauga County. This would require agreement by the Governor as it is a federal program administered by the state.

C. Land Bank – Mayor Kennedy had nothing new to report. Councilman Greenspan reviewed Cuyahoga County's Demolition Fund.

D. County Planning Commission (CPC) – No report.

- E. Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association – Mayors and Managers continue to follow on HB5. The current legislature is considering delaying the issue and letting the incoming office holders address it.

ODNR Deer culling – as reported previously, the letter to ODNR regarding deer culling has been reworked and requests a meeting with ODNR to address the issue. Mayor Sutherland will attend a wildlife conference at which one of the agenda items is deer contraceptives.

- F. Suburban Water Council (SWC) – there were very few mayors in attendance at the October 10 meeting. The terms of both Mayor Bobst and Mayor Patton expire December 31 of this year. Both agreed to continue to serve on the council. It is important for the Westshore to be represented. Mayor Clough questioned why meetings were held at the Cleveland Water Department instead of in Independence. It was suggested that the council follow the agreement regarding meeting location. Suburban Water Council needs to work with Cleveland Water, but are an independent entity, therefore meetings should not be at the Water Department. Water Council Chairperson Mayor Bain from Pepper Pike is looking into it. Suburban Water Council should be setting the agenda, not Cleveland Water.

- 3. FINANCIAL REPORTS – Renee Mahoney reported the need for a better software system for financial reporting for WEB. They are currently using an Excel spreadsheet with no check writing system which can be cumbersome when generating financial reports. She is hoping that they can utilize Bay’s current system using separate identification.

Ms. Mahoney reported that two material weaknesses were found during the recent WEB audit, one of which could be rectified by using a better accounting system as it was a reporting issue. Audit recommendations included the development of formal policies. For example, a policy to discourage use of personal credit cards which may provide miles, points, etc.; a policy to address accrual policies, e.g. unused comp time; etc. Fiscal Officer Mahoney will work on the policies and bring to COG for approval.

The Auditor of State is requesting councils formally acknowledge that they have received financial reports. Ms. Mahoney asked that the group acknowledge that Westshore COG has received the reports. A motion was made by Mayor Patton, second by Mayor Kennedy. Vote was unanimous. The procedure will be duplicated each time financials are presented.

- 4. OLD BUSINESS –

Clean Fuels update: Mayor Summers reported that RTA is considering the installation of a fueling station in the Triskett Rapid Station in Cleveland. This would require a \$4 million investment to clean the gas of water and compress it in order to become rapid fuel

situation. There may be an opportunity to share with them. The benefit is to be able to fuel vehicles with cleaner, cheaper fuel. Modifying vehicles would be necessary. RTA should be receptive to sharing idea. Mayor Summers to pursue this strategy and keep the group informed. Mayor Clough to bring it up at RTA Board meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS –

Tactical SWAT & Medical Protocols & WeShare Shared Service

Members present discussed medical protocols supplied by Westshore Area Rescue Association (WeShare) used by EMS personnel. Treatment protocols are specific orders directing the actions pertaining to techniques and/or medications used by EMS personnel practicing under WeShare medical direction. Westshore communities are seeking other avenues due to a lack of value by WeShare.

The group deliberated the alternatives to the use of WeShare including obtaining training from the hospitals themselves. One of the issues is tactical (e.g. SWAT) vs. medical protocols. There is competition between medical facilities as well as a bit of competition between Police and Fire due to situational differences. The safety, health and welfare of residents is the most important issue and the key is to pay attention and make good decisions in order to achieve consistent protocols with all departments.

Mayor Summers suggested a meeting with the chiefs; get everyone in the same room at the same time. Mayor Summers offered to organize a roundtable discussion between mayors and chiefs to determine what is salvageable? Mayor Kennedy suggested having it at the next COG Meeting. Mayor Summers to put some shape to it and lead that portion of the meeting.

DEER CULLING

Mayor Kennedy reported on efforts to cull deer using various methods. The City of North Olmsted has arranged for a helicopter count of the deer to be completed during January and February (due to lack of foliage) using infrared technology. The cost is \$4-7,000 for North Olmsted; price is based on the size of the municipality. Mayor Kennedy invited other members of Westshore to participate. Cleveland Metroparks culls between 30 and 120 deer per year from Bradley Woods Reservation. Division of Wildlife must be notified before action is taken once count has been completed. Mayor Kennedy will send out the information.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dave Greenspan – County Council Updates:

Will present CERT check from softball tournament to the organization at its holiday party. He is seeking a professional fundraiser; the group is having a tough time getting participants for annual softball tournament. May open the tournament to all participants with the intent that teams of public safety forces would be exempt from tournament fees.

Councilman Greenspan reported that the CDBG qualifications for eligible projects have been amended. Qualifying activities will now include master plans, commercial and housing demolition, public safety, parks and playgrounds, community or senior centers.

He also reported on a new program to be introduced in in January: CDSG (Community Development Supplemental Grant) using HUD criteria which will be open to projects in communities using casino revenue. Outside of low mod ITA criteria – this program will be available for all communities in Cuyahoga County.

Mr. Greenspan also reported on an enhanced GIS system with visual overlay maps added to the existing GIS system which will be offered at no cost to every community in county. Will begin flying overhead as soon as possible as there is a very short window of opportunity – after leaves fall but before snow falls. Help with property tax appraisals – changes in property will reflect in photos.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 10

Gemini Center – Birch Room

9:00 AM

Additional parking is available at the FP Library, 21255 Lorain Road