

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Regional Policy Roundtable Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2016
11:30 a.m.-1p.m.

Chair Steve Campbell called the Regional Policy Roundtable Meeting to Order at 11:30 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

- **Steve Campbell, Chair**

Steve Campbell welcomed members and requested that members of the Roundtable and guests introduce themselves. Once the introductions concluded, Campbell informed those present how the agenda has been revised due to some unexpected situations. Mayor Maggard and two other presenters could not attend. Campbell said they would reschedule Stephen White from Senator Portman's Office and Lindsey Gardiner from Greater Ohio at a future meeting.

Discuss Ohio Senate Bill 235 and Confirm MORPC's Position

- **Steve Campbell, Chair**
- **Laura Koprowski, MORPC Director of Public & Government Affairs**
- **Steve Tugend, Kegler Hill Brown + Ritter**

Steve Campbell informed members of the collaborative work of MORPC, the Columbus Chamber, and several statewide local government organization on Ohio Senate Bill 235. Steve Tugend said the intent of SB235 is to help encourage economic development, redevelopment, and creation of more job-ready sites in the state, but how there are several negative aspects to this bill and potential threats to other economic development tools and strategies.

The legislation would exempt developable properties and redevelopment properties from incurring property taxes due to land improvements before building construction. Laura Koprowski said the sudden attempts to have this legislation quickly move out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee caused MORPC staff and leadership to quickly respond and draft a letter of concern to Committee Chairman Bob Peterson and Ranking Member Charleta Tavares.

Campbell informed the members that a copy of the letter of concern was included with each member's agenda.

State Energy Mandates Follow-Up

- **Steve Campbell, Chair**
- **Laura Koprowski, Director of Public & Government Affairs**
- **Steve Tugend, Kegler Hill Brown + Ritter**
- **Christina O'Keefe, Director of Energy & Air Quality**

Steve Campbell provided background on the process and how MORPC arrived to its position. Committee members and commission members had the opportunity to be part of the process and to

express themselves on multiple occasions. The process resulted in a thorough, objective and well-reasoned recommendation.

Campbell said the Regional Policy Roundtable and the Sustainability Advisory Committee held a joint meeting to review the recommendations made by the Energy Mandates Study Committee and discussed the possibility of MORPC reaching a position on the recommendations.

Through the committee process, MORPC's full commission of more than 60 local governments adopted a resolution on the Ohio Energy Mandates Report with the following consensus position: MORPC opposes the indefinite freeze of the Ohio energy mandates. In addition, MORPC supports a combination of incentives and mandates to help achieve the goals of increased energy efficiency and renewable energy for diversity in our energy mix along with determining the best approach for maximizing the credit of advanced energy projects. Copies of the memo and resolution were provided to the members.

Steve Tugend segued to MORPC's next steps, beginning with a general political overview and outlook. He also brought up Senator Seitz's new energy bill. Christina O'Keeffe discussed some details of Seitz's bill.

Laura Koprowski wrapped things up and discussed the creation of a message document and meeting with legislators to convey MORPC's position.

Federal & State Legislative Update

- **Laura Koprowski, MORPC Director of Public & Government Affairs**
- **Thea Walsh, MORPC Director of Transportation & Funding**
- **Steve Tugend, Kegler Hill Brown + Ritter**

Steve Tugend mentioned the recent announcement of Rickenbacker receiving a KC-135 simulator. The simulator will bring in construction dollars as well as roughly 10 permanent jobs for those who will operate and maintain the simulator.

Thea Walsh provided the roundtable with a brief update on the Smart Cities grant and other pertinent grants and projects, including TIGER and FASTLANE, that had been recently submitted in the region.

On the state level, Steve Tugend provided an update on the capital budget bill and discussed MORPC's advocacy for the funding of a Regional Data Lab, which unfortunately was not included in the bill. However, Tugend reminded members that the Clean Ohio Fund received full funding in the capital budget. MORPC along with several other partner such the Nature Conservancy and the Ohio Environmental Council visited legislators and educated them on the importance and effectiveness of the Clean Ohio Fund. Jack Shaner added that a reception at the Statehouse was occurring later that evening, celebrating 15 years of the Clean Ohio Fund and said all were welcome to attend.

Tugend also mentioned the recent introduction of a water mid-biennium review bill and legislation that would legalize medical marijuana in the state. He expects the legislature to move quickly on the latter, because a similar initiative will be on the ballot in the fall.

Lastly, Koprowski informed the group that Representative Margaret Ann Ruhl was expecting to introduce a permissive license plate fee bill in the near future and was seeking co-sponsors.

Other Business

- **Steve Campbell, Chair**

Campbell continued the tradition started at the previous meeting by providing each member the opportunity to update the roundtable on any news or events. Campbell then asked the group if they were ok to schedule a meeting if necessary in mid-May before the state legislature breaks for the summer. There were no objections, so the meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 17 from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Campbell thanked everyone attending and the meeting concluded. The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.