Regional Water Discussion Policy Subcommittee Meeting Notes
Monday, August 23, 2010
TMACOG Boardroom

Members Present: Paul Barnaby, Carol Contrada, Nelson Evans, Steve Herwat, John Quinn, James Sass, Craig Stough, Connie Velliquette

Members Absent: Mike Bell, Jim Carter, Pete Gerken

TMACOG Staff Present: Tony Reams, Warren Henry, and Jennifer Allen

Opening/Welcome/Meeting Purpose – The first meeting of the Regional Water Discussion Policy Subcommittee was held on Monday, August 23, 2010 in TMACOG’s Boardroom, located at 300 Martin L. King Jr. Drive in Toledo, Ohio. The co-chairs of the Subcommittee—City of Toledo Mayor Michael Bell, Wood County Commissioner Jim Carter, and Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken—planned to attend today’s meeting but were unable to attend due to Vice President Biden’s visit to the Toledo area.

TMACOG President Anthony Reams opened the meeting with a brief overview of the purpose of today’s meeting, which is to develop a mission statement, discuss membership (if necessary), generate a list of deliverables, and recommend resources needed to produce the deliverables. Mr. Reams emphasized TMACOG’s role in the regional water discussion, which is to facilitate versus direct the regional water discussion. An overview summary describing the benefits of a regional water system, the purpose of the regional water discussion, working structure, as well as the mission statement deliverables and resources needed to produce the deliverables for the other two subcommittees was distributed to everyone.
Subcommittee Purpose – The ultimate goal of the Policy Subcommittee is to determine what a regional water authority or collaboration could and should look like, how a regional water authority could benefit everyone in the region, and how the group would deal with demography, politics, and economics side of this issue.

Mission Statement – Mr. Reams asked each Subcommittee member what would like to see in a regional water authority. Responses included one uses water as our region’s greatest assets and not a tool for dispute, one that uses water as a marketable, economic development tool that benefits individual communities and the region, a system that is equitable, sustainable, flexible, affordable, and reliable, while increasing the competitive advantage of the region and reducing intra-regional water conflicts. Subcommittee members concurred that a regional water authority that addresses the above concerns would likely make communities less defensive.

Based on the above comments, the following mission statement was formulated. Warren Henry and Carol Contrada will meet to refine the mission statement.

To propose a regional water system that makes water a marketable, regional and economic development asset and one that is reliable and affordable.

Deliverables – The Subcommittee agreed on the following deliverables:

- Work with the Technical Subcommittee to identify all existing water systems/sources in the region along with their quality, system capacities, and limitations
- Consider a menu of services to offer regional water authority’s member jurisdictions
- Identify jurisdictional issues and stumbling blocks
- Identify where system redundancies would be required
- Seek input from jurisdictions involved in this discussion

**Recommended Resources** – The Subcommittee will identify sources as the list of deliverables gets refined.

**Next Steps** – Each person at the table discussed their jurisdiction’s water source, capacities, the communities, and their limitations. From that discussion, several questions were generated including: Who would be responsible for billing? Who would determine where infrastructure improvements are needed to service region? Would a bulk rate be charged to all members? Would new members be charged the same rate? What are the legal and technical issues? Who would address any issues that may arise from the monthly reporting to state? The Policy Subcommittee will ask the Technical Subcommittee to prepare a matrix of all of the water sources, a list of the communities that those water systems serve, their capacities, and limitations. The Legal Subcommittee will identify and existing water agreements/contracts, issues, regulations, etc.

**Next Meeting** – A follow-up meeting will be scheduled within the coming days.