The Center for Local Government Board of Directors Meeting

March 12, 2025

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Center for Local Government (4015 Executive Park Dr. Suite 226, Sharonville, OH 45241), and virtual

In attendance: Noah Powers, Mike Thonnerieux, Jim Lukas, Amanda Zimmerlin (board); T.J. White, Ziah Huett (Staff)

Absent: Vicky Earhart

* Call to order
  + The meeting was called to order at 1:31pm.
* January 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
  + MOTION: by J. Lukas, seconded by A. Zimmerlin, to approve the minutes. Passed 4-0
* Assistant Director Introduction and Initial Goals
  + New CLG Assistant Director Ziah Huett introduced himself. He stated that his background is Political Science and Economics, and that he has developed passions for local government, urban planning, and economic development.
  + Z. Huett went on to discuss some of his goals, which include taking over the JUFS program, continuing to build his network of local government, gaining experience managing programs, and starting the CLG Payroll Resource Forum.
  + T. White stated that one of Z. Huett’s goals is to have meetings with as many Chief Administrative Officers as possible to build his network.
  + T. White also stated that Z. Huett had obtained $3,000 in funding from the Duke Energy Foundation for the CLG Leadership Academy.
* 2026 OCMA Conference
  + T. White stated the 2026 Ohio City/County Management Association (OCMA) Conference would be held in Sharonville. He turned it over to J. Lukas to discuss.
  + J. Lukas stated that the conference would take place from 2/25 – 2/27. It is the first time the conference has been held outside of Columbus.
  + J. Lukas stated that some of the initial ideas included a Tuesday night social session, and that he reached out to ICMA Executive Director Julia Novak about attendance.
  + J. Lukas suggested that CLG sponsor the conference at the $2,000 level. T. White endorsed sponsorship- stating that it raises CLG’s profile.
  + All Board members present were supportive of the $2,000 sponsorship. A vote will be taken at the May meeting once all Board members are back in attendance.
  + J. Lukas also suggested that the Streetsmarts Virtual Reality Police Training (SSVR) machine could be set up for people to try. Sharonville already has the machine the week of the Conference. The board members supported the idea of performing a SSVR machine demo.
  + J. Lukas stated that another idea was to have a presentation on how Mason managed to keep the tennis tournament local. M. Thonnerieux suggested an evening mobile workshop to the Mason Tennis Center. J. Lukas asked if people would drive to workshops themselves, since Metro is unable to provide a bus for legal reasons. T. White stated that he is trying to find bus information from the Congress of New Urbanism (CNU) conference from 2024, as it may be helpful for OCMA.
  + Finally, J. Lukas asked people to keep an eye out for compelling speakers.
* 2026 CLG Leadership Academy
  + T. White stated that the CLG Leadership Academy will have 27 people in it, which will be the second highest number ever after 2023 (30). He also stated that due to grant funding, the cost of tuition will go down from $1,040 per person to $810 for the first attendee for each government and $890 for any additional attendee.
  + T. White stated that the first class will take place on March 26th.
* Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Consortium (SWORRE)
  + T. White stated that work is continuing on the 2025 SWORRE bid. Governments include Fairfax, Mt. Healthy, Loveland, Greenhills, and Springdale. Riverside is also joining this bid effort, and Norwood is looking into it.
  + T. White stated that the average regional price for solid waste and recycling collection in 2020 was $14.60 / house / month. The current regional average price is $20.91 / house / month. He informed the SWORRE group to expect pricing in this range.
  + T. White stated to N. Powers that it was unlikely that the next SWORRE contract would give him better pricing than he can get under his current contract’s option year.
  + T. White said Riverside will be priced separately and rolled into the 2027 Dayton group.
* DISCOVER Local Government
  + T. White stated that he will apply for a grant to fund a professional firm to build the DISCOVER local government website.
* JUFS Consortium Expansion
  + Z. Huett stated that the City of Cheviot would be joining the group. They will be the 9th government in the consortium.
  + T. White stated that Cheviot joined CLG in 2024, so seeing them join a core shared service program is a good thing for retention.
* Payroll Administrators Roundtable
  + Z. Huett stated that the first Payroll Administrator Roundtable will take place in April.
  + T. White stated that the format would be similar to the CAO Roundtable program.

* Membership Renewals Update
  + T. White stated that 49 governments have renewed to date. Usually by the time of the March Board meeting, 40 governments have renewed in prior years. He stated that he is confident in all remaining governments renewing except for Union Township.
  + A reminder will be sent in April.
* New Member Government
  + The City of Riverside is joining CLG to participate in the SWORRE bid. They are in the $3,825 membership range.
  + The Village of South Lebanon will potentially join to participate in the Center for Local Government Benefits Pool.
* Additional items
  + T. White stated that they have not begun looking at office spaces yet.
  + T. White stated that the health insurance renewal will range between 12% and 15%
* Adjourn
  + The meeting adjourned at 2:15pm