The Center for Local Government Board of Directors Meeting

May 14, 2025

1:30pm – 3:00pm

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

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

Absent: None

* Call to order
  + The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm
* OCMA Conference
  + T. White moved the official vote on a $2,000 sponsorship for the 2026 OCMA Conference to the front of the agenda.
  + MOTION by V. Earhart, seconded by A. Zimmerlin to purchase a $2,000 sponsorship for the Ohio City / County Management Association 2026 Conference at the Sharonville Convention Center. The motion passed 5-0.
* March 12, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
  + MOTION by N. Powers, seconded by J. Lukas, to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2025 meeting. Motion passed 4-0. V. Earhart abstained.

* Succession Planning for new Executive Director
  + T. White stated that pending an official offer, he would be accepting the position of Risk Management and Loss Control Manager for the Miami Valley Risk Management Association (MVRMA).
  + T. White thanked the Board for their work over the previous 12 years that he served as Executive Director. He also stated that he is enthusiastic about helping with the transition to a new Executive Director.
  + T. White strongly recommended that the next Executive Director start at a salary of $90,000 / year. This is to ensure that a quality candidate is hired who will remain in the position for a long period of time. T. White stated that CLG easily has the money to support a $90,000 salary for the Executive Director, as well as a higher salary for the Assistant Director and Director of Operations:
  + T. White reported that CLG has a cash reserve of roughly $180,000. It also has over $250,000 in the investment account. This is before factoring in 2025 revenue such as membership dues. Additionally, CLG has not raised their dues since 2007. This has primarily been due to membership growth (from 43 in 2007 to 70 today). Even a nominal rise in dues (e.g. $300) would generate $21,000 in new revenue that can be put into salaries. CLG accomplishes its mission with its people.
  + In the more immediate timeframe, there was a suggestion from the Board to hire an Interim Executive Director. J. Lukas recommended Mike Rahall as Interim Executive Director. He knows CLG from his time on the Board and served as a Manager of multiple member communities. There was a consensus of the Board to hire an interim. T. White stated that he would reach out to M. Rahall.
  + In terms of permanent candidates, T. White stated that he keeps a list of potential replacements for all staff, including himself. This is because CLG is only a 3-person organization.
  + J. Lukas asked about potential full-time interest in T. White’s replacement and asked whether we knew if Cody Smith would be interested. T White stated he would contact him.
  + T. White stated that he would stay in the position through mid-June to ensure a smooth transition. He also could function as a “consultant” after a new Director is hired. T. White stated that Z. Huett is handling training, information sharing is being handled by L. Stuckey, and that major projects such as SWORRE would all be completed by the time he leaves the position. T. White went on to state that he extended CLG’s lease with Rookwood Properties for one year.
  + J. Lukas asked if T. White was still interested in serving on the OCMA Planning Committee. T. White said yes.
  + T. White ended by stating that CLG has only had 3 permanent Executive Directors in 35 years. That is remarkable stability. The Board thanked him for his service.
* Southwest Ohio Regional Refuse Consortium (SWORRE)
  + T. White stated that the SWORRE bid was published on April 12th. Results are expected on May 19th.
* Payroll Administrators Roundtable
  + Z. Huett stated that the first Payroll Administrator Roundtable took place in April. This was an idea that came from Montgomery’s payroll administrator.
  + 28 people from 19 governments attended. Using a model like the CAO Roundtable, all attendees had conversations at their tables related to payroll issues and best practices. The event was well received, and another will take place in the fall.
* Upcoming Trainings (HR Luncheon, Work for America, Cyber Security)
  + Z. Huett updated the Board on upcoming training sessions. These include the Spring HR Luncheon (internship development), a cybersecurity training, and a workshop on recruitment. T. White stated that Ziah is doing an excellent job with training organization, and that CLG has a healthy curriculum so far this year.
  + Z. Huett also stated that CLG recently held a webinar on federal employee recruitment.
* Membership Renewals Update
  + T. White stated that 9 governments had not paid their membership dues yet. 8 of the 9 governments are involved in a major CLG program and he expects their renewal. He is unsure if Union Township will renew however.
  + T. White also stated that 2 new governments had joined CLG so far in 2025, meaning that the organization is ahead of its revenue projection. Both governments have also involved themselves in a major CLG program
* Executive Session
  + MOTION by N. Powers, seconded by V. Earhart, to move into Executive Session.
* Adjourn
  + The meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm