



OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

REVISED MINUTES OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

**FOR THE MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013**

Call to Order:

Chair Kathleen Trafford called the meeting of the Coordinating Committee to order at 12:25 p.m.

Members Present:

A quorum was present with Chair Trafford and committee members Abaray, Mulvihill, Obhof, and Sykes in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the August 8, 2013 committee meeting were reviewed and approved.

Discussion:

Chair Trafford asked committee members to comment on the concern expressed by several of the subject matter committee chairs that they feel pressed for time with the current schedule of only two hour monthly meetings. Chair Trafford noted that there had been a suggestion that the Commission meet on a bi-monthly basis so that the subject matter committees could meet for a full day on even-numbered months and the standing committees could meet for a full day on odd-numbered months in advance of the Commission meeting.

Committee member Janet Abaray agreed that committees need more time to meet and discuss agenda items. Committee member Dennis Mulvihill suggested that the subject matter committees could meet for a full day every month, standing committees could meet when necessary, and the full Commission could meet when there is a need to act on issues requiring a vote of the full Commission. Representative Vernon Sykes agreed.

Senior Policy Advisor Steven H. Steinglass commented that committees could conflict and the schedule would need to be reorganized because all members serve on two subject matter committees. Organization and Administration Committee Chair Doug Cole, who was present for

the Coordinating Committee meeting, commented that the Commission's bylaws would need to be amended if the committee schedule is changed. The committee resolved to recommend to the full Commission that the full Commission meet bi-monthly so as to permit more time to be allocated to the subject matter committees, while reserving the opportunity to call a special meeting if there was an action item requiring more immediate attention by the full Commission. Mr. Cole commented that Subject Matter committees should meet every month unless canceled by the chair.

Ms. Abaray observed that because the subject matter committee meetings currently are not being recorded, there is no good way for an excused or absent member to have the full benefit of the presentations being made. She asked if commissioners could call in and listen so that they may still receive the information firsthand when they cannot be in Columbus. Chair Trafford said she believed that commissioners could listen but not speak or vote when calling in. Mr. Mulvihill suggested that the Ohio Attorney General's office be contacted to determine what exactly is allowed in terms of calling in to a committee hearing and participating. Chair Trafford said that she would contact the Attorney General's office. Ms. Abaray commented that it would be beneficial to review what commissioners are and are not allowed to do with respect to Ohio's Sunshine Laws and also whether small working groups could be formed.

Chair Trafford asked how committees are documenting their progress and what has been discussed. She added that each committee should be keeping a record but that the form will probably differ from committee to committee. Mr. Steinglass commented that timelines for committee reporting could also differ based on the flow of discussions or whether or not decisions for recommendations are reached. He added that committee minutes are useful for this purpose in the interim.

Mr. Steinglass discussed a timeline for General Assembly-initiated amendments in relation to Election Day and that both the public and the General Assembly will need time to consider ballot issues. Additionally, Mr. Steinglass said that the Commission will need to consider that there will be new commission members appointed after December 31st. He offered to circulate a memorandum with dates and deadlines and a list of possible ballot issues. Ms. Abaray agreed that time and notice need to be given to commissioners so they will have time to consider what will be voted on so they can make themselves available to be in Columbus for the votes. Chair Trafford observed that the public hearings need to be held before a recommendation is made to the full Commission for a vote on whether a particular recommendation should be made to the General Assembly.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Approval:

The minutes of the September 12, 2013 meeting of the Coordinating Committee were approved at the February 13, 2014 meeting of the committee.

/s/ Kathleen M. Trafford
Kathleen M. Trafford, Chair

/s/ Jo Ann Davidson
Jo Ann Davidson, Vice-chair