

WPAFB CoG Meeting
May 8, 2025 Minutes

Call to Order

- Attendance - Daniel Palmer (WSU), David Cordonnier (DDC), Vince King (WPAFB), Mike Gebhart (Fairborn), Josh Rauch (Riverside), Alex Zaharieff (Huber Heights), Dave Burrows (DDC), Emily Crow (Deputy Director Planning/Neighborhoods from Dayton), Greg Rogers (WPAFB), Dick Gould (Greene County), Andy Ehrhart (Beavercreek Township), Stephanie Goff (Greene County Engineer), Hilary Browning (Fairborn), and Martin Kim (MVRPC).

Meeting called to order by Josh Rauch at 10:08 AM.

March 27, 2025, Minutes – Motion to Approve by Mike Gebhart, seconded by Alex Zaharieff. No opposition; motion carried.

Old Business:

- **Approve full membership for Greene County and Beavercreek Township:** Greene County and Beavercreek Township were confirmed as full members of the CoG. A general discussion occurred regarding whether a formal vote was required for their approval. It was determined that, due to the by-law changes approved at the March 27, 2025, meeting, no vote was necessary. Andy Ehrhart (Beavercreek Township) advised that Beavercreek Township had passed a resolution, in accordance with the by-laws, formally joining the CoG and approving the CUP at their last meeting. Greene County is expected to place a similar resolution on the agenda at their next meeting. Dave Burrows (DDC) will reach out to Montgomery County to explore their interest in joining the CoG.
- **CoG Next Steps Survey of Members Continued Discussion:** Emily Crow (Dayton) initiated a discussion on establishing a set of priorities for the CoG and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. These priorities would be organized into action areas—specific to the base, the CoG, and external partners—with a focus on identifying top items to shape the CoG's future mission. A priority list will be distributed next week, and a summary of survey results, along with the highest-ranked items, will be prepared for discussion at the June 12 CoG meeting. The group discussed ensuring the survey distribution list includes new representatives from Greene County, Beavercreek Township, and potentially Montgomery County, should they join. A weighted prioritization format, such as SurveyMonkey or Google Forms, was recommended. There was discussion regarding whether the survey should permit multiple individual responses or be limited to one response per organization. It was agreed that each organization should speak with one voice to ensure consistency in survey analysis. To facilitate internal coordination, it was proposed that a PDF version of the survey also be provided so member entities can collect internal feedback before submitting a single consolidated response. This approach would help prevent the results from being skewed by organizations with more potential individual respondents. The group reached consensus that each member organization will submit one official response. After discussion, the group agreed to set June 5 as the deadline for survey responses, providing one full week for review and analysis ahead of the

June 12 meeting.

New Business:

- OLDCC Grant Closeout: Mike Gebhart (Fairborn) introduced Hilary Browning, Finance Director for the City of Fairborn, to provide an update on CoG finances, specifically regarding the closeout of the OLDCC grant. Hilary distributed financial handouts showing the grant's current standing and explained that a reconciliation determined a repayment of \$14,467 was necessary to finalize the closeout. It was noted that a 10% local match had not been properly accounted for when the grant was renewed and extended. The original intent may have been to increase the total grant award, but the corresponding local match was not included, resulting in a shortfall. Hilary reported meeting with federal representatives, who provided documentation and were supportive of the resolution plan. The repayment—representing the local portion—will be made via ACH to DFI. Once the payment is submitted, an additional six to eight weeks of federal processing will be required before the grant can be officially closed out. Hilary Browning also summarized the CoG's overall financial position. Reported revenues included a federal draw of \$4,226.40. Current balances in AES funds, funds from Congressman Turner's office. The \$14,467 repayment will be a direct cash transfer from the City of Fairborn. CoG funds are invested and collateralized, with interest earnings contributing approximately \$15,000 year-to-date.

Motion to approve the repayment was made by Josh Rauch (Riverside) and seconded by Emily Crow (Dayton). No opposition; motion carried.

- Discussion on House Bill 77^{JAZ} (135th General Assembly): Josh Rauch (Riverside) introduced David Cordonnier (DDC) to provide an overview of House Bill 77. David Cordonnier (DDC) explained his role in monitoring state legislation and local government relations. He shared that House Bill 77, sponsored by Representative Bernie Willis, was passed at the end of 2024 and went into effect on April 9, 2025. The bill prohibits and penalizes the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Unmanned Aerial Phenomena (UAPs) for purposes such as photographing, recording, or loitering over or near critical facilities, including military installations, with the intent to destroy or tamper. David Cordonnier (DDC) distributed the bill's final analysis. He emphasized the potential for the CoG to facilitate uniform enforcement or coordination with Wright-Patterson AFB, especially in light of recent UAV activity. The group discussed enforcement implications and the need for clarity in protocols. Josh Rauch (Riverside) noted that creating consistency could aid future funding requests and proposed convening police chiefs or sheriff's offices across member jurisdictions to explore a uniform enforcement strategy. Many local departments may be unaware of the law. Speakers also discussed current drone regulations and protocols near the base, with several members confirming their organizations already engage in required FAA coordination.

Concerns were raised about enforcement challenges, particularly when drones are operated remotely. David Cordonnier (DDC) acknowledged that the bill is likely a first step, while others pointed to additional legislation targeting drone manufacturing by foreign entities. There was agreement that clarity on interagency communication is needed, especially regarding incidents

inside versus outside base boundaries. The group discussed involving Greene and Montgomery County Fire and Police Chiefs Associations. Josh Rauch (Riverside) highlighted the importance of avoiding a fragmented enforcement strategy and suggested initiating informal coordination, potentially leading to a CoG letter to regional chiefs' associations.

Comments from members:


Members discussed House Bill 257 and its implications for virtual meetings. It was clarified that while cities, townships, villages, and counties are not permitted to conduct regular meetings virtually, special districts and Councils of Governments (CoGs) are allowed to hold virtual meetings, including voting, through platforms such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

The new members expressed appreciation for being included in the meeting and shared interest in continued participation. The group welcomed the new member and acknowledged the ongoing collaborative work and upcoming next steps for the CoG.

Adjournment

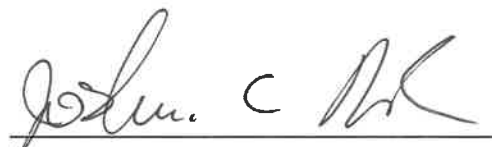
The meeting was adjourned by Josh Rauch at 10:48 am

Respectfully submitted,


Kassie Lester
Secretary

06/12/2025
Date


Mike Gebhart
Interim Executive Director


Josh Rauch
CoG Vice President

2025 Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be held at Wright State University's Student Union Building beginning at 10:00 am except for September 11th.

- June 12
- July 10
- August 14

- **September 11 at 1:00 pm**
- October 9
- November 13
- December 11