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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Village of Galena (Delaware County) and the Village of Somerset (Perry County) join the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**

**(Columbus – November 13, 2014)** In order to maintain a strong collaboration on regional issues, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC's) members continue to seek opportunities to grow the organization. Today the Village of Galena's (Delaware County) and the Village of Somerset's (Perry County) applications for membership were approved by the MORPC Board.

The Village of Galena's membership will provide the opportunity for one representative to serve as a voting member at the MORPC Commission meetings. "I am excited to be a part of a major planning institution for Central Ohio and look forward to opportunities for expanding Galena's role with MORPC," states David A. Simmons, Village of Galena.

The Village of Somerset's membership will provide the opportunity for one representative to serve as a voting member at the MORPC Commission meetings. Somerset's Mayor Tom Johnson stated, "I'm excited that the Village of Somerset will be able to join the MORPC family of governments. They will be a tremendous resource for us and Perry County as we look at best practices and innovative approaches to solving community issues."

"We are pleased to welcome the Village of Galena and the Village of Somerset to our membership as we strengthen our collaborative efforts across all levels of local government. Villages are an important segment of our local government partners and we welcome their voice in our collective efforts to work on regional issues and challenges," states William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director.

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*Working to Build a Better Region*

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The MORPC Board meets 11 times each year to discuss important regional issues, guide the direction of MORPC's work, network with local leaders to discuss common problems, create solutions to shared regional challenges and provide input on funding decisions. Additional benefits of serving on MORPC's Commission include grants and funding opportunities, educational forums, training and seminars, technical assistance and data, policy development, collaboration and networking.

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*MORPC is a voluntary association of local governments in Central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.*