



Mid-Ohio Regional  
Planning Commission

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**Meeting Minutes**

**Sustainability Advisory Committee & Regional Policy Roundtable  
Ohio Energy Mandates Joint Meeting**

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Friday, February 26, 2016  
10:00AM-11:30AM

**Committee Members:**

Paul Wise, Genoa Township  
Erin Miller, Columbus  
Stacey Boumis, Obetz  
Jack Knapp, Accurate IT  
Ashley Senn, Columbus  
Steve Stolte, Union County  
Steve Campbell, Columbus  
Kim Maggard, Whitehall  
Eric Phillips, Union County  
Jim Schimmer, Franklin County  
Karen Angelou, Gahanna  
Jack Shaner, The Ohio Environmental Council  
Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

**MORPC Staff & Consultants:**

William Murdock  
Laura Koprowski  
Christina O'Keeffe  
Brandi Whetstone  
Joe Garrity  
Bevan Schneck  
Jake Hollar  
Lloyd Pierre-Louis, Kegler Hill Brown + Ritter

- 1. **Welcome & Introductions – Steve Campbell, Chair Regional Policy Roundtable and Steve Stolte, Chair Sustainability Advisory Committee:**

Commissioner Stolte and Chair Campbell introduced themselves and thanked everyone for taking time out of their day to attend the joint meeting. Commissioner Stolte asked attendees to introduce themselves.

- 2. **Overview Purpose of Meeting– Chair Stolte and Chair Campbell:**

Commissioner Stolte kicked off the meeting with the purpose statement:

“To review, discuss and understand the Energy Mandates issue, namely, SB221 Energy Mandates and Standards (enacted 2008), SB310 2-year Freeze and Study Committee Creation (enacted 2014) and Study Committee Recommendations (issued 2015) as well as the current Legislative Climate surrounding the Energy Mandates issue; further, to draft a consensus MORPC position on the Energy

William Murdock, AICP  
Executive Director

Eric S. Phillips  
Chair

Matt Greeson  
Vice Chair

Rory McGulness  
Secretary

Mandates Study Committee Recommendations for consideration at the March 3rd MORPC Executive Committee meeting.”

**3. Background on Energy Mandates: Discussion & Questions – Christina O’Keeffe, Director of Energy & Air Quality and Dale Arnold, Chair of Energy & Air Quality Working Group:**

Chair Campbell explained how this issue fits with MORPC’s 2016 Public Policy Agenda and the 2015-16 Regional Sustainability Agenda. Christina and Dale then provided members with a background on the energy industry in Ohio and more specifically our region.

Dale reviewed the energy landscape in Ohio which is an on-going conversation. He stated that no one entity (federal, state, local) has control over the entire energy system and collaboration at all levels is key. Energy prices are constantly fluctuating and we will need to help our constituents control energy costs. The industry is changing rapidly and energy market trends are moving from larger centralized systems to smaller distributed systems which include renewable technologies. This is all part of a diversified energy portfolio.

Dale reviewed the ‘toolbox’ available to control energy costs and not every solution will work in every situation. He highlighted that there is technology development in the areas of wind and solar, biomass, oil and gas, and the process involves local planning and environmental considerations. There are also consumer technologies and software to address lighting, smart appliances and more. He suggested we can take what tools are available to weigh in on energy plans at the local level.

Christina presented on MORPC’s long tenure in providing direct energy services to consumers and manufacturers, highlighting the ME3 manufacturing program and Residential Energy Efficiency Programs that have served more than 15,000 households over the last 30 years. She referenced MORPC’s Regional Energy Action Plan in stating that Central Ohioans waste more energy than the rest of the state and more than the average American which puts us at a competitive disadvantage, especially in light of the anticipated growth highlighted from Insight 2050.

Dale stated the importance of a diversified energy portfolio to economic development efforts and that we should not sit on the bench and watch.

Chair Campbell opened the floor for questions and asked of how the freeze may harm our ability to advance economic prosperity in the region?

Dale and Christina both stated implications affecting economic development along with the tools for businesses to control energy costs. State policy can be useful for attracting businesses to communities and how to determine best options to meet their needs. Many businesses have strong corporate sustainability plans and they are looking for alignment with public programs and policies to meet these sustainability goals. Amazon for example invested over \$4.8 billion in Central Ohio and have a goal of 100% renewable energy for their data centers.

Dale also stated that utility companies have continued their demand side management/energy efficiency programs despite the freeze and have found that it makes economic sense and saves consumers money.

**4. Legislative Climate of Energy Mandates–Laura Koprowski, Director of Public & Government Affairs and Lloyd Pierre-Louis, Kegler Hill Brown + Ritter:**

Lloyd informed the team of the current legislative climate on Capitol Square, and what is to be expected from the Administration and members of the General Assembly for the remainder of the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly.

Lloyd reiterated the Governor's stance regarding the indefinite freeze being "unacceptable," so if the legislature were to move forward they face the threat of a veto from the Governor. He stated that legislation is not likely before summer. The issue is complicated but there is motivation to get something done in the middle and there is room for compromise. He recommended that it is an appropriate time for MORPC to weigh in on this issue.

Chair Campbell allowed attendees the opportunity to ask questions and facilitate discussion.

A question was raised about the best way to educate MORPC members and get them on board. Chair Campbell stated that we are tapping into our committee process for expertise, and we are carrying the information and recommendations forward to the Executive Committee and Commission. The discussion around energy mandates is grounded in our Public Policy Agenda and Regional Sustainability Agenda which have both been reviewed and approved.

**5. Chairs Proposed Approach–Chair Stolte and Chair Campbell  
(15 minutes)**

Each recommendation from the Energy Mandates Study Committee was presented to the group and discussed. Consensus was reached on each item.

The attendees deliberated over each recommendation from the lens of, should MORPC engage in the legislative process or not? The attendees were reminded by the Chairs that any recommended approach from the joint committee needed to concur with MORPC's 2016 Public Policy Agenda and 2015-16 Regional Sustainability Agenda. Attendees were then provided the following options for each recommendation:

- 1) Actively support the recommendation
- 2) Actively oppose the recommendation
- 3) No action
- 4) Nuanced approach

Overall, the participants of the joint committee meeting agreed to oppose the indefinite freeze or elimination of the energy mandates. In addition, the participants recommended support of a combination of incentives and mandates to help achieve

the goals as well as maximize the credit of advanced energy projects with acknowledgement that further detail or study may be needed.

Below is a list of each recommendation of the Energy Mandates Study Committee report followed by the draft position agreed upon at the joint meeting of the Sustainability Advisory Committee and Regional Policy Roundtable.

1. **Extend the SB 310 Freeze Indefinitely**
  - **Recommendation: Oppose the indefinite freeze.**
2. **Provide an Expedited Process at the PUCO for the Review of New Utility Plans for Energy Efficiency**
  - **Recommendation: No action.**
3. **Investigate and Ensure Maximum Credit for all of Ohio's Energy Initiatives**
  - **Recommendation: Supportive of appropriate credits and recommend taking a closer look at the details.**
4. **Switch from Energy Mandates to Energy Incentives**
  - **Recommendation: Supportive of a combination of mandates and incentives, with the idea that incentives will help meet the mandates.**
5. **Declare the General Assembly Retains Statutory Authority with Respect to Energy Policy and Dispatch Protocols**
  - **Recommendation: No action.**
6. **Discussion & Next Steps– Chair Stolte and Chair Campbell (10 minutes)**

Chair Campbell informed the attendees that MORPC's Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30PM. The Committee will discuss the results of the joint meeting.