

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 20, 2015
Meeting Summary

MORPC
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendees: Steve Stolte, Dale Arnold, Mark Barbash, Kate Bartter, Jack Knapp, Paul Wise.

MORPC Staff: William Murdock, Kerstin Carr, Christina O’Keeffe, Claire Jennings, Brandi Whetstone, Brian Williams, Evelyn Ebert, David Rutter, Marion Dean.

1. **Welcome.** Co-Chair Steve Stolte called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. and welcomed guests.
2. **Meet our members.** Kate Bartter gave a brief presentation of her role as Director of the Office of Energy and Environment and the focus areas of the group and how it pertains to the functions of The Ohio State University. This office focuses on research, student efforts, policy, outreach, and sustainable resource management on campus.
3. **Regional Sustainability Agenda & Survey Results.**

A draft of the Regional Sustainability Agenda was reviewed and discussed. The document was modeled on the MORPC Public Policy Agenda, which is drafted by the Regional Policy Roundtable and adopted by MORPC’s Commission each year. This is a guiding document for policies that MORPC works on for the year. The Regional Sustainability Agenda would guide the Sustainability Advisory Committee’s working groups and MORPC staff for the next two years.

The content was created by reviewing the goals for the working groups, receiving feedback from the subcommittees, and from information gleaned from a survey sent to MORPC members and working group members. About 30% of MORPC members completed the survey.

The survey consisted of three questions over five categories, related to the working group topics. The survey questions were open-ended, and word clouds were created to show the main themes that emerged for the first question, which asked how people were currently working on these sustainability issues.

The information from the survey will be shared with the working group staff leads to help guide their goal setting for 2015.

Members provided feedback to the draft Agenda. It was discussed why there was no performance measures associated with these goals. This document is meant as a primary step towards an ongoing effort to move toward identifying and measuring progress. For now, the Agenda is an umbrella document for the activities being done by MORPC staff and the Working Groups. In the future, it would be appropriate to include performance measures.

Members also discussed that the Agenda may need some sort of organizing vision statement as a preamble to the document, to help explain what sustainability means to MORPC and this committee. Members wanted to make sure that both economic and environmental sustainability was captured and that it reflected the goals of the document. Members gave suggestions for some wording, and staff will complete the vision statement.

There is some overlap in the goals for each category under the “Collaboration” section. This was addressed by adding “and leverage existing programs” to the end of the description of this section.

MORPC staff will create the updated agenda and preamble and share with the committee for consensus. The finalized document will be brought to Commission for adoption in March or April.

Steve Stolte voted to approve the agenda per updated preamble and other minor edits. Dale Arnold moved the motion, Paul Wise seconded the motion. The agenda was approved per the updates and the preamble.

4. **2015 Program Outlook.** Kerstin Carr gave a brief update on insight2050 and shared preliminary ideas for the next phase. MORPC staff and partners are currently on a speaking circuit with local governments, city councils, rotary clubs, and others. If anyone is interested in having them speak to a group, reach out to Kerstin Carr or William Murdock.

Kerstin also shared that the Regional Food Council and the Materials Management Working Groups will be working together on the issue of composting food waste by creating a task force. There is a pent up demand for food waste diversions, with communities and local businesses looking for compost facilities.

Christina O’Keeffe shared with the group that MORPC’s Energy and Air Quality Department is in the beginning stages of establishing a PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program. The initiative is a follow-up on the Regional Energy Action Plan released by MORPC in 2014 that included several recommendations, including the Economics of Green. PACE is among the strategies, and several local governments have asked MORPC to lead a regional effort in the administration of a PACE district on their behalf.

Christina also shared that the U.S. EPA’s new proposed ozone rule is out for comments. MORPC will be participating in the comment period which ends March 17. The comments will be solicited through the Energy & Air Quality Working Group, the Community Advisory Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, Transportation Policy Committee, and through online communications. MORPC’s final position on the proposed standards and official comments will be consistent with the Public Policy Agenda and reviewed by the Regional Policy Roundtable and Sustainability Advisory Committee in early March with final approval considered by the Commission on March 12.

5. **Next Steps.** The next few meetings will include presentations from our Committee members to highlight how they work on sustainability efforts as well as topic-specific discussions.
6. **New Business.** William invites everyone to come to any of the working group meetings or Commission meetings to get updates and reports as to what is going on in the region.
7. **Adjourn.** Steve Stolte adjourned the meeting at 3:31pm. Next meeting will be April 28, 2015.