



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

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GREEN PACT MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, December 16, 2015
9:30 - 11:00 AM

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Conference
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Participants:

Linda Rosine, City of Grove City
Eliza Thrush, City of Columbus
Paul Wise, Genoa Township
Kevin Weaver, City of Westerville
Randy Bowman, City of Columbus

Charlie Hottel, Franklin County
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington
Dorothy Park, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Julie Colley, City of Westerville

MORPC Staff:

Claire Jennings and Brandi Whetstone

Welcome and Introductions

Claire Jennings started the meeting by thanking the Gahanna Jefferson School District for hosting the Green Pact meeting and for Dottie Franey for helping set it up. Introductions went around the room.

Discuss Green Pact and How Meetings are Structured

Claire started a discussion on how the Green Pact and its meetings are structured. The Green Pact was adopted in 2007, and it was last updated in 2012. The group reviewed the [Green Pact's 10 principles](#) and discussed how those could be woven more tightly into the structure of each meeting. The group brainstormed different discussion topics and speakers for each principle. Each meeting next year will be tied to 2-3 Green Pact principles. Claire will create a plan for the 2016 meetings and share it with the group via email in January.

Justin Milam of Upper Arlington also agreed to work with Claire to establish some metrics or ways of taking stock of activities happening with each principle. If anyone else would like to join this subcommittee, please contact Claire (cjennings@morpc.org). This project will be shared with the group as it gets fleshed out.

The group agreed that changing locations for the meeting was useful and enjoyable. Both the Cities of Westerville and Upper Arlington offered to host meetings next year. Please contact Claire if your community or organization would be willing to host. She will also be reaching out to communities and organizations to ask to host.

Green Pact Member Updates

City of Columbus (Randy Bowman and Eliza Thrush)

- The City will have a new mayor in January.
- Two divisions of the City of Columbus received Green Fleet Awards this year. The City continues to expand its CNG use for its fleets. A fourth CNG station at 1400 McKinley

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Eric S. Phillips
Chair

Matt Greeson
Vice Chair

Rory McGuinness
Secretary

Avenue was just opened and the City is in discussions with COTA to possibly share this facility.

- The City continues to work on its [Connect Columbus](#) project, the multimodal thoroughfare project.
- Over the next 12-18 months all of the City's sites will undergo review for environmental compliance.
- The City may have a second pilot project of its project using recycled asphalt shingles in repaving city streets.

City of Upper Arlington (Justin Milam)

- The City has been updating its buildings with new HVAC systems, boilers, and lighting.
- In 2016, there will be 4-5 LEED certified development projects in the City, totaling \$3-4 million.

Franklin County (Charlie Hottel)

- The County has expanded its community gardens in 2015. There is 1 acre at the International Harvest Garden and 1 acre of wildflowers.
- The County has identified 2 locations for beehives on County properties.
- The County buildings replaced all water fountains with bottle fillers, which also keep track of how much water has been used and gives equivalent bottles diverted from landfills.
- The County is planning for a new jail and will be going for LEED certification. The new jail will be in the Hague Ave. and Fisher Rd. area and will replace the downtown jail.
- On Saturday, April 23 the County will hold an e-waste drive from 9 am to noon at Huntington Park.

City of Grove City (Linda Rosine)

- The City is in the process of updating its comprehensive plan.
- The City is going through its 3rd national accreditation for its recreation and parks program.
- There is a lot of development happening in downtown Grove City, including the library apartment project with Pizutti, and Pinnacle Park, which was land donated by M/I and is partial wetlands. This park may have an educational piece.
- The City's blue roof project continues to go well and they are waiting to get the latest metrics from Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (Brandi Whetstone)

- MORPC's [2015 End of Ozone Season Report](#) is now available. The overall trend is of improvement in Central Ohio's air quality and there is less pollution in its air. Mobile emissions are the largest sources of pollution in Central Ohio, and better practices have helped lower emissions.
- The US EPA has a new ozone standard of 70 ppb, down from 75 ppb. The 3 year average for Central Ohio is 71, which is closer to the new standard.
- There have been public service announcements in local media (ABC 6 and Fox) during air quality season to encourage people to reduce air pollution. NBC 4 had a segment on air quality and its connection to weather.
- MORPC has No Idling signs available to those communities and organizations who have no idling policies. Contact Brandi (bwhetsone@morpc.org) for more information.

- The next Energy & Air Quality Working Group is on January 26 at MORPC. A subcommittee of this group has been reviewing the Clean Power Plan. Contact Brandi for more information.

Genoa Township (Paul Wise)

- 2016 is Genoa Township's Bicentennial.
- The Township is updating its comprehensive plan. A recent survey for this effort showed that 97% of Township residents think the Township is doing a good job with the level of service and amenities offered to them. Residents continue to be very supportive of the expansion of parks and trails. They also want to keep the Township greener with less dense development. The feedback received through this survey will be reflected in changes to the zoning code.
- The Township is expanding no mow zones in parks and will be converting areas around trees and trails to wildflowers.
- The Township is undergoing a fleet reduction with its safety forces. There were previously too many police vehicles.
- The Township continues its asphalt recycling and will get a discount in pavement prices next year.

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (Dorothy Park)

- FSWCD is wrapping up the year. They are updating storm water management plans and looking for new ways to connect with communities.

City of Westerville (Kevin Weaver and Julie Colley)

- The City is finishing an update to its comprehensive plan. It will be looking at, among other things, densities, walkability, and COTA's new BRT bus route.
- The City has its own electric company and it has grants available for community businesses related to updating lighting and HVAC systems. It is also doing a rates study and is looking to transition from a use charge to a facility charge. This is to make up for losses due to energy efficiencies.
- The City's parks and recreation department received a Clean Ohio grant to purchase land to establish a greenway.
- The City is adding parking behind its Planning & Zoning building and its library by removing a little-used playground. Sunrise Rotary is working with [Kids Around the World](#), which takes old playground equipment, refurbishes it, and sends it worldwide.
- The City has an anti-idling program and has found it very effective.
- The City has seen a 10% reduction in fuel usage for the police force. The City is looking into CNG in the long term.

Green Pact Member Projections for 2016

City of Columbus (Randy Bowman)

- The City will rebid its recycling program at the end of 2016. Currently the contract is with Rumpke. The City is looking into expansion into different parts of the city and possibly expansion of items it picks up.
- The City is changing how it does recycling within its offices. Republic recently won the contract, coming with a 40% cost savings from the previous contract.

City of Upper Arlington (Justin Milam)

- The City's trash pick up contract is up for rebid, and the City might be moving away from the sticker program for trash pick up.

Franklin County (Charlie Hottel)

- The County is looking for new vendors to recycle fluorescent bulbs and batteries. There is only one company locally. Please contact Charlie (cchottel@franklincountyohio.gov) if you have any vendors you use.
- The County is still concerned about losing the composting ability at some of its facilities.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (Brandi Whetstone)

- MORPC is partnering with several jurisdictions to start a PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program. MORPC is looking for large buildings to be included in this program.

City of Westerville (Kevin Weaver and Julie Colley)

- The City is looking to limit its use of road salt through better calibration and more efficient throwing.

Next meeting date: March 3, 2016. Location: TBD.

2016 Meeting Dates: March 3, June 2, September 1, and November 3. Locations: TBD.