

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

February 16, 2022, 2:30 pm

Members Present

Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office
Andrew Biesterveld, COTA
Bryan Clark, City of Columbus
Mayor Laurie Jadwin, City of Gahanna
Chair, Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley
Natalie Kruse-Daniels, Ohio University
Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water Company
Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO
Linda Rosine, Grove City
Commissioner Christine Schmenk, Union County

Michael Shelton, OSU
Joshua Simon, Metro Parks
Megha Sinha, NBBJ
Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification Coalition
Council Member Shanette Strickland, City of Reynoldsburg
Carolyn Thurman, City of Westerville
Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne

Public Present

Crystal Crawford
Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley

Jim Schimmer, Franklin County

MORPC Staff Present

Kerstin Carr
Brian Filiatraut
Joe Garrity

Lynn Kaufman
William Murdock

Jennifer Noll
Edwina Teye

Melinda Vonstein
Brandi Whetstone

Called to Order at 2:31 pm.

Welcome and Introductions – *Chair Kessler & William Murdock, MORPC*

Policy Update – *Joe Garrity, MORPC*

Please contact Joe with questions: JGarrity@morpc.org

2022 MORPC Program Updates and Priorities –

Chair Kessler, Kerstin Carr & Brandi Whetstone, MORPC

The 2022 priorities are related to the four goals of the [2021 – 2024 Regional Sustainability Agenda](#).

Goal 1 Improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts to protect public health and the environment.

Air Quality & Energy Priority Programs/Projects

- Air Quality Forecasting, Alerts, Annual Report
- Neighborhood Air Quality Monitoring
- SolSmart
- Regional Solar Co-Ops
- Rickenbacker Area Consortium
- EV Infrastructure
- Regional Energy & Climate Strategy

Goal 2 Protect and preserve natural resources to support a healthy and resilient region.

Water & Natural Resources Priority Programs/Projects

- Sustaining Scioto Board
- 208 Water Quality Management Planning
- Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

Goal 3 Improve quality of life for all residents by creating sustainable and equitable communities

Mobility & Community Development Priority Programs/Projects

- Central Ohio Greenways
- Complete Streets
- LinkUS
- Home Weatherization, Repair, and Lead Abatement

Goal 4 Promote robust, inclusive, and sustainable growth and development.

Sustainable Growth Priority Programs/Projects

- Regional Housing & Development
- RAPID 5
- Sustainable2050

Working Group/Board Updates

Chair Kessler welcomed two new Board Chairs, Glenn Marzluf for the Sustaining Scioto Board, and Mike Andrako for the Central Ohio Greenways Board.

Sustaining Scioto Board – Chair Glenn Marzluf

The Board met on December 16 with a presentation from Dr. Carrie Shaffer-Morrison from The Ohio State University on the topic *Understanding Sustainable Land Management Among Farmers*. Glenn Marzluf, previously Vice Chair of the Board, will serve as the Chair in 2022. The Board will meet again on February 23.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team

The Team met on January 20, with a discussion led by Chair Brian Brandt regarding programming as a follow up to the Farmer/Non-Farmer Stakeholder Engagement Study recently conducted. The Team will discuss logistical considerations and other programming alternatives at their next meeting on March 17.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Chair Matt Stephens-Rich

The Energy & Air Quality Working Group met January 25 with a presentation from Mike Foley, the Sustainability Director of Cuyahoga County. In energy-related programming, MORPC continues with SolSmart designations among members to increase the ease of implementing solar. Additionally, MORPC is collaborating with the City of Columbus, Solar United Neighbors, IMPACT Community Action, and Simply Living to develop residential solar in the Greater Columbus region. For the first time since record-keeping began in 1980, no “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” Air Quality Index (AQI) days for ozone were observed during the previous year. The Working Group will meet again on March 22.

Central Ohio Greenways Board – Chair Mike Andrako

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board meet on January 19 and adopted a revised Regional Trail Vision to reflect requested changes from communities. The Board also discussed goals for 2022 and plans to focus on partnership building, utilizing federal funds, and evaluating the strategic plan. The next Board meeting will be March 9.

(Central Ohio Greenways Board continued)

Trail Development Working Group

The Group is supporting a trail monitoring pilot project with two state-of-the-art counters to be evaluated thru Summer 2022. A formal equipment recommendation to partners is expected after the evaluation period. Additionally, the Group will meet with communities to learn more about their trail projects and support regional grant applications over the next six months.

Marketing & Communications Working Group

The Group is advising MORPC's Trail Town Planning effort. The results of the effort will provide recommendations for establishing a Trail Town Program. The Group is organizing a Celebrate Trails Day to at Nelson Park on April 23. Experience Columbus will relaunch the Outdoor Trails Pass as part of the celebration.

Operations & Access Working Group

The Group supported a Wayfinding Strategy Application that was submitted for funding consideration to ODOT in January 2022.

Partnership Working Group

The Group finalized an Impact of Trails Report, which estimates a return on investment for the Regional Trail Vision. In 2022, the Group plans to focus on environmental and multimodal partnerships.

Sustainable2050 – Chair Ben Kessler

The Q4 Membership Meeting took place on December 10, with staff presentations on SolSmart and Energy Aggregation. Tristan Rader with Solar United Neighbors also gave a presentation about solar co-ops.

The S2050 certification process has been updated to align with the new Regional Sustainability Agenda and includes a new level of recognition to highlight the focus on equity.

The Q1 Membership Meeting will be on March 18 and will feature a presentation from SWACO.

Other Business

Chair Kessler reminded Members that the next Committee meeting will be April 20, and that the meeting is expected to be at the MORPC office.

Adjourned at 3:59 pm.