

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

April 21, 2021, 2:30 pm

Members Present

Kristen Atha, AECOM	Commissioner Christiane Schmenk, Union County
Kate Bartter, OSU Sustainability Institute	Megha Sinha, NBBJ
Vice-Chair Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley	Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification Coalition
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington	Eric Walli, Honda North America, Inc.
Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard	Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne
Chair Jim Schimmer, Franklin County Economic Development & Planning	

Public Present

Andy Shifflette, Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter	Steve Tugend, Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter
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MORPC Staff Present

Kerstin Carr	Lynn Kaufman	Bevan Schneck	Brandi Whetstone
Jon-Paul d'Aversa	William Murdock	Edwina Teye	Brooke White

Called to Order at 2:31 pm.

Welcome and MORPC Updates

MORPC Reopening Update & Partnership with OSU/Easton – *William Murdock*

Click [here](#) for the presentation.

Staff Change – Kerstin Carr

Kerstin Carr announced that Jon-Paul d'Aversa, Senior Energy Planner, will be leaving MORPC on May 7. Jon-Paul helped to conduct the Franklin County Energy Study, developed the Local Energy Partnership and Benchmarking Program, produced Solar Week in February 2021, and was instrumental in MORPC receiving its SolSmart designation. Jon-Paul will be missed.

Policy Update – Steve Tugend, Kegler, Brown, Hill & Ritter

Click [here](#) for the presentation.

Regional Sustainability Agenda –

Brandi Whetstone and Justin Milam, Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee Chair

Member Milam reported that the Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Subcommittee met on April 15, and unanimously agreed to forward the RSA to the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) for review and approval.

Brandi Whetstone reminded the Committee of the process used by the RSA Subcommittee to gather input for the RSA:

- Members and Staff conducted the Sustainable2050 member survey & interviews,
- MORPC Staff held a workshop focused on equity considerations,

- Members and Staff proposed and vetted goals, objectives, and strategies,
- Staff conducted a regional stakeholder survey,
- Members and Staff held a regional stakeholder presentation.

The metrics of the RSA were revised to ensure that they will be relevant, meaningful, and intelligible. This requires that the sources of the data be consistent, comparable, timely, statistically sound, and sensitive.

The RSA will be created in a pdf format to encourage online use. Targets for the RSA will be presented to SAC for approval in September, and will be updated online by Staff.

The Equity Resource Document created by Dr. Jason Reece, OSU will also be available online and will be linked to the RSA. That document will include:

- Examples of peer (best practice) data tools to analyze equity elements,
- Strategies and best practices to foster robust engagement with equity communities,
- Examples of best practices (in planning and policy to support equity in sustainability),
- Inventory of additional resource tools (data, best practices).

Brandi and Member Milam presented Goals 1-4 to the Committee for discussion.

SAC Member Comments:

Members Barter and Schmenk recommended revision of Objective 2.5 “Reduce the conversion rate of nationally significant farmland” to reflect the general reduction in the rate of farmland conversion. Nationally Significant Farmland is a term used by the American Farmland Trust and is an index used to identify farmland.

Members discussed revising Objective 3.1 “Improve transportation safety for all residents” to reflect safety in mobility. Members agreed that Objective 3.1 should be “Improve transportation and mobility safety for all residents”

Member Schmenk moved to approve moving the Regional Sustainability Agenda to the Commission for adoption, Member Stephens-Rich seconded the motion, motion carried.

Working Group/Board Updates

Energy & Air Quality Working Group -- *Matt Stephens-Rich*

The Energy & Air Quality Working Group met March 23 with a featured presentation from Cynthia Maves of Lordstown Motors Corporation. The Working Group is considering some new subgroup topics.

Central Ohio Greenways Board -- *Letty Schamp*

The Central Ohio Greenways Board met on March 17, and welcomed new Board Member Ariunaa Bayanjargal. The Board heard updates from ULI partner, Alicia Gaston on the Rapid 5 Initiative. The Initiative is a visioning effort to reimagine how the river corridors integrate into neighborhoods and other regional destinations. The visioning process will be conducted by five local landscape architecture firms and will kick off very soon.

Sustainable2050 -- *Brandi Whetstone*

Attendees of the Q1 Sustainable2050 meeting were introduced to two exciting new energy initiatives in Central Ohio: SWACO's Carbon Emissions Management Plan and a solar facility led in

partnership with BQ Energy. MORPC staff announced some new resources for Sustainable2050 members, including an updated and more robust program webpage and an opportunity to receive technical assistance from Ohio State University's Sustainability Studio.

Sustaining Scioto Board -- *Kristin Atha*

The Board met in February with a featured presentation from Danny Johnson of the Atlanta Regional Council. The Board discussed opportunities for supporting creation of updated precipitation frequency data for water infrastructure planning in the face of changing precipitation trends under climate change. The Board is planning a forum on May 11th to educate and consider multiple solutions to obtaining this data.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team

The Team met in March to discuss its social science survey objective to gather data and relevant information from key rural and agricultural stakeholders in the Upper Scioto watershed.

Adjourned at 3:58 pm.