

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Natural Resources Assistance Council
Meeting Notes – Policies/Criteria & Project Updates

May 10, 2021, 1:30 pm

Members Present

Vice-Chair Laura Ball, City of Westerville
Karl Craven, City of Westerville
Stephen Farst, City of Groveport
Nathan Johnson, Ohio Environmental Council
Jim Palus, The Nature Conservancy
Shannon Sorrell, City of Whitehall

Tyler Stevenson, Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Steve Studenmund, Metro Parks
Chair Kyle Wilson, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District

Public Present

Jennifer Kline, Ohio Public Works Commission

MORPC Staff Present

Lynn Kaufman

Edwina Teye

Nathaniel Vogt

Meeting Called to Order at 1:32 pm.

Approval of April 21, 2021 Minutes

Vice-Chair Ball moved to accept the minutes, Member Craven seconded the motion, motion carried.

OPWC Update – Jennifer Kline, Ohio Public Works Commission

- The new Ohio Public Works Commission portal is launching July 1 and will be called WorksWise. Training dates are posted on the OPWC website.
- The State of Ohio Attorney General ruled informally earlier in 2021 that the ethics law applies to NRAC Members.

Approval of Budget & Work Plan 2021-2022

Nathaniel Vogt presented the 2021-2022 Budget and Work Plan.

Member Sorrell moved to approve the Work Plan and Budget for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, Member Craven seconded the motion, motion carried.

Project Updates

Edwina Teye gave a brief overview of recent projects and their status. See [Meeting Packet](#) for details.

Taylor Farm Acquisition on Rocky Fork Creek

The City of New Albany requested an extension of the completion date to January 1, 2022.

Member Studenmund moved to approve the City of New Albany's extension from July 1, 2021, to January 1, 2022, Vice-Chair Ball seconded the motion, motion carried.

Discussion of Policies & Criteria for Round 16 – Chair Kyle Wilson

Nathaniel presented the District 3 Franklin County Natural Resources Assistance Council Program Policies document dated 8/10/2020. Please see [Meeting Packet](#) for details of the program policies.

Policies

Chair Wilson asked Members for any thoughts or changes that should be made to the Program Policies; Members agreed that no changes were necessary.

Criteria

Vice-Chair Ball suggested adding restoration or preservation of headwater streams or vernal pools to the criteria. Member Sorrell suggested adding that preference will be given to projects that focus on naturalization of creek corridors. Chair Wilson suggested that these changes be discussed in more depth at a later meeting.

Approval of Policies & Criteria for Round 16

Member Craven moved to approve the Round 16 Policy, which will remain intact from Round 15, Member Stevenson seconded the motion, motion carried.

Member Stevenson moved to approve the criteria with the addition of vernal pools to number 12 and modification of Section 1 project to better allow applicants to answer the Section 1 criteria questions, Member Palus seconded the motion, motion carried.

Schedule for Round 16

Vice-Chair Ball moved to approve the schedule with the amendment that the June 10 meeting will no longer take place, as the topic has been discussed, Member Palus seconded the motion, motion carried.

Other Business

MORPC staff was contacted by the City of Reynoldsburg's consultant that the City will accept partial funding, and OPWC is aware of that decision.

Adjourned at 2:28 pm.