

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Hybrid Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

June 8, 2022, 2:30 pm

Members Present

Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office

Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

Andrew Biesterveld, COTA

Bryan Clark, City of Columbus

Vice-Chair, Mayor Laurie Jadwin, City of Gahanna

Chair, Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley

Natalie Kruse-Daniels, Ohio University

Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water Company

Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health

Linda Rosine, Grove City

Commissioner Christiane Schmenk, Union County

Joshua Simon, Metro Parks

Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA

Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification Coalition

Mike Shelton, OSU Sustainability Institute

Megha Sinha, NBBJ

Carolyn Thurman, City of Westerville

Eric Walli, Honda

Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne

Public Present

Marcus Dumo, City of Bexley

Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley

Melanie Horton, Village of Buckeye Lake

Jim Schimmer, Franklin County

MORPC Staff Present

Brian Filiatraut

Amanda McEldowney

Shari Saunders

Joe Garrity

William Murdock

Megan Stein

Lynn Kaufman

Anabel Pederson

Brandi Whetstone

Called to Order at 2:30 pm.

MORPC Updates – *William Murdock*

Policy Update – *Joe Garrity*

Energy & Air Quality Working Group Recommendations on MORPC's Approach to Power Siting Issues (Action Item) – *Matt Stephens Rich, Chair, Energy & Air Quality Working Group & Brian Filiatraut, MORPC*

MORPC leadership, staff and the Energy & Air Quality Working Group have created proposed recommendations for MORPC's role related to power siting issues defined by SB 52, which changed the process for utility scale solar and wind development. The Working Group feels that MORPC can play a role engaging, educating, and empowering local community leaders in the region to make informed decisions when it comes to the power siting process.

Please see <https://www.morpc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/06-08-22-SAC-Meeting-Packet.pdf> for detailed written materials.

Member Andrako moved to approve the recommendations proposed by the Energy & Air Quality Working Group, Member Sinha seconded the motion, motion carried.

Working Group/Board Updates

Central Ohio Greenways Board – Member Andrako

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board met on May 18, 2022, tabling the formation of a Nomination Committee to the next COG Board Meeting and discussed ongoing Working Group projects.

Trail Development and Partnership Working Groups

Meetings with Central Ohio communities regarding current and future trail projects are ongoing. Next steps include compiling the information into a database to avoid overlapping efforts and to track ongoing trails projects.

Marketing & Communications and Operations & Access Working Groups

The Celebrate Trails Day on April 23rd, 2022, was successful, being the largest Celebrate Trails Day event in the United States.

Outdoor Trails Passport

The project was relaunched on April 23, in partnership with Experience Columbus. Trail pass usage spiked due to the Celebrate Trails Day event. Ongoing promotion will be needed.

Trail Town Framework

Part I of the project is near completion with Steering Committee comments submitted on May 20. MORPC Staff have also reviewed and submitted Part II, which will be distributed to the Steering Committee for additional comments. The project remains on schedule to complete in July 2022.

Regional Trail Wayfinding Strategy

The MORPC/COG proposal to complete a Regional Trail Wayfinding Strategy is awaiting FHWA approval. This project will assist communities to plan for and implement a cohesive wayfinding strategy that unifies the COG trail network and celebrates the uniqueness of Central Ohio's communities.

Sustaining Scioto Board – Member Marzluf

The Board met on April 27 with a featured presentation by Max Herzog of Cleveland Water Alliance on the topic of "The Lake Erie Volunteer Science Network: Organizing Communities for Credible Water Monitoring". Mr. Herzog talked about the need for regional collaboration without losing the local impact. Board Member Dr. Aaron Wilson, OSU Byrd Polar & Climate Research Center, also presented to the group an NSF Civic Innovation & Engagement Challenge Opportunity. Dr. Wilson and his team submitted a proposal with support from MORPC, City of Columbus and other cities in the region to update precipitation guidance in Central Ohio.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team

The Team met on May 19. Kori Gasaway, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District presented an overview of the "Be the Change for Clean Water" program. This is a consortium of eleven soil and water conservation districts in Central Ohio with support from stakeholders focused on communication of different water quality issues with emphasis on non-point sources. Chair Brandt led discussions on farmer and non-farmer outreach programming in July and August, which will consist of a webinar and an indoor event with a focus on cover crops, incentives, and nutrient reduction.

Sustainable2050 – Vice-Chair Jadwin

Congratulations to the City of Lancaster for joining as the newest Sustainable2050 member. The Village of Shawnee Hills is also considering a resolution to join. MORPC encourages all members and associate members to join by passing a resolution of commitment. Members have been encouraged to contribute examples of local sustainability-focused policies for the Local Government Legislative Toolkit.

Legislative Toolkit and Summit on Sustainability Updates – *Brandi Whetstone & Amanda McEldowney*

Legislative Toolkit

The goal of this project is to compile sample policies which local governments can enact to advance more sustainable practices and initiatives across the region, with special consideration of their Sustainable2050 commitments. MORPC staff is asking Members for their support this effort. Activities may include short-term monthly meetings, assistance with compiling sample policies, offering guidance, and lending intern time to participate in this project.

Summit on Sustainability

MORPC staff is requesting support from Members for the Summit on Sustainability. Soon, more information will be distributed regarding Summit sponsorship, Regional Sustainability Award voting, and event outreach and promotion.

Adjourned at 3:59 pm.