

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Natural Resources Assistance Council
Meeting Notes – FY 2025 –Working Session Meeting (Methodology, Policies & Criteria)

March 21, 2024, 10:00 am

Members Present

Ryan Andrews, EMH&T
Vice-Chair Laura Ball, City of Westerville
Stephen Farst, City of Groveport
Nathan Johnson, Ohio Environmental Council

Terry Seidel, The Nature Conservancy
Chair Kyle Wilson, Franklin Soil & Water
Conservation District

Public Present

Jennifer Kline, Ohio Public Works Commission

MORPC Staff Present

Edwina Teye

Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 am.

Approval of November 6, 2023, Minutes

Approval was tabled until the June 24, 2024 meeting.

Available Funds

The current balance available for FY 2025 is \$5,297,545.94. This amount includes administrative costs.

OPWC Update

Jennifer Kline, OPWC's Representative, provided an update on new administrative rules:

NRAC Nominations A Natural Resources Assistance Council is established in each of the 19 districts per ORC 164.21. Each NRAC consists of 11 members of which one must be a member of the appointing integrating committee and one must represent a soil and water conservation district located within the geographical jurisdiction of the NRAC. Members' terms of office are three years, with each term ending on the same day of the same month as did the term before it, except that the term may not extend beyond their terms as an elected or appointed official. Should a member no longer be employed by the organization that nominated them, they must resign from the NRAC. Committee rosters are maintained in WorksWise, OPWC's cloud portal.

Review and Approval of Methodology for FY 2025

Staff and Members discussed the following updates from FY 2024 to the FY 2025 Methodology:

- Delete FY 2024 paragraphs 1 and 2, In-kind Contributions and Donation of Easements.
- Revise Time Extensions. Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Applications paragraph to read: No time extensions will be granted for Clean Ohio Conservation Fund applications. The complete application shall be submitted through the WorksWise portal no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the application deadline. The NRAC reserves the right to reject an application that is judged to be incomplete. (*Adopted 1-8-2022; Revised 3-21-2024*)

- Revise Time Extensions. Minimum Points for Funding paragraph to read:
Proposed projects that do not obtain a mean minimal score from committee members of at least fifty percent (50%) of the total possible maximum points that could be awarded by District 3 NRAC committee members will not be funded. (*Adopted 10-28-2005*)
- Delete FY 2024 paragraph 6, Minimum Points for Funding.
- Delete FY 2024 paragraph 8, Clean Ohio Signage Requirement.
- Several grammatical / documentation organization updates were discussed.

Chair Wilson requested a motion to approve the updated Methodology for FY 2025. Vice-Chair Ball moved to approve the updated Methodology; Member Farst seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment.