

**Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
Natural Resources Assistance Council  
Meeting Minutes**

Date: **June 24, 2024**  
Time: **1pm - 3pm**  
Location: **MORPC, 111 Liberty St. Unit 100,  
Columbus, OH 43215**



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

**1. Meeting Called to Order at 1:05 p.m. by Vice Chair, Laura Ball.**

Welcome & Introductions

a. Roundtable Introductions

All members and the public present introduced themselves.

**2. Approval of March 21, 2024, Minutes**

Member Steve Studenmund made a motion to approve March 21, 2024, minutes.  
Member Steve Farst seconded. Motion carried.

**3. OPWC Updates & Available Funds**

MORPC staff, Dr. Edwina Teye updated the Committee on available funds of \$5,745,295.94 which includes the administrative costs. OPWC Program Rep. Jennifer Kline clarified that the available balance included carryover from previous round. Additionally, Ms. Kline provided an update on the Capital Bill, which is the funding source for Round 19 and 20, which would be approved by the Governor before July 1.

**4. Project Updates**

a. City of Columbus

• CCPAD/ 16-03 West Franklinton Green Space

Two sites constitute the West Franklinton Green Space project including the West Broad Chapel is nearing closing and will be eligible for reimbursement and the West Park project which is also ongoing. The applicant is requesting an extension to July 1, 2025.

• CCOAA/15-02 Cherrybottom Park Expansion Venice Club

Requesting an extension to July 1, 2025.

• CCKAF/11-03B Eastmoor Green Line

Requesting an extension to January 1, 2025.

• CCOAF/15-03 Refugee Road – Mason Run Protection

Applicant is requesting an amendment on the scope

• CCRAA/24-01 Alum Creek Preservation (Agler and Sunbury Roads)

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- CCRAC/24-02 McNaughten Road Greenspace Preservation  
Deed recording has been filed and the applicant is requesting an extension to December 31, 2024.
- CCQAB/17-01 Linden Green Line Linear Park  
Acquisition is done and will be requesting reimbursement. The applicant is requesting an extension to December 31, 2024.
  
- b. Metro Parks
  - CCQAA/17-02 Clover Groff Headwaters Acquisition  
Metro Parks is still engaged in negotiations with the current property owner and has not closed on the property yet. Metro Parks is committed to continuing with negotiations and is requesting an [extension](#) to December 31, 2025.
  
- c. City of Reynoldsburg
  - CCOAE/15 – 08 Blacklick Creek Stream Restoration and Riparian Corridor Enhancement  
The city has received their letter for substantial completion. The City's Auditor's Office is in the process of submitting for payment (partial). They have also signed off on the Army Corps of Engineers completion of work form and submitted the NOT to the OEPA. The project is on track for completion.
  
- d. City of Hilliard
  - CCPAB/16-01 Clover Groff Restoration Phase II  
All grading, seeding and planting is complete. There are some areas where permanent seed has not yet germinated which may require re-seeding. Based on the installation date of the plants, the one-year plant warranty will extend to June 2025. Because of this, and the possibility of re-seeding, the city is requesting an [extension](#) to July 1, 2025.

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- e. Appalachia Ohio Alliance
  - CCNAB/14-08 Utzinger Bog Expansion & Enhancement – Scioto River Flyaway Corridor  
The project applicant will be submitting the final disbursement request and closing this project in the next few weeks
- f. City of Whitehall
  - CCQAC/17-03 Fairway Blvd. Big Walnut Trail Conservation Acquisition & Access  
The city is withdrawing its [Clean Ohio application](#).
- g. Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District
  - CCRAB/24-03 Ayres Conservation Easement  
Franklin Soil and Water has closed on the conservation easement and will be working to request reimbursement and close out the project in the next 30 days.

**5. Motions and Approvals**

- a. Committee Member Steve Studenmund made a motion to approve the Refugee Road, Mason Run rescope and extension, Member Steve Farst seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- b. Committee Member Shannon Sorrell made a motion to approve extension of the remaining Columbus projects i.e. West Franklinton Green Space, Eastmoor Green Line, Alum Creek Preservation, McNaughten Road Greenspace Preservation and Linden Green Line Linear Park.
- c. motion seconded, all in favor. Motion passed.
- d. Committee Member Matt Brown made a motion to approve extension request of the Venice Club project to January 1, 2025, with the intent to discuss further progress at the next NRAC project update meeting. Motion seconded by Member Steve Studenmund. Motion passed.
- e. Committee Member Matt Brown made a motion to grant a request for extension to December 31, 2025, for Metro Park's Clover Groff Headwaters Project. Motion seconded by Member Shannon Sorrell, 1 abstained. Motion passed.

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- f. Committee Member Steve Farst made a motion to approve City of Hilliard's request for an extension to July 1, 2025. Motion was seconded by Member Shannon Sorrell. Motion passed.
6. **Applicant Presentations**  
Applicants presented on their projects and received comments and feedback from the Committee.
- a. Columbus Recreation & Parks: Cooke Woods Preservation Project and Whitethorne Woods Protection
  - b. [City of Dublin: Dublin Waterways Improvements](#)
  - c. Metro Parks: Little Darby Watershed Acquisition and Little Walnut Corridor Acquisition
  - d. [Prairie Township: Hellbranch Run Preserve](#)
7. **Other Business**  
MORPC staff Edwina Teye informed the committee of a public request received in naming the McNaughten Project in memory of Lizzie Roberston-Rutland who lost her life while leaving school to her bus stop.  
Clean Ohio Rep, Jennifer Kline advised that it was within the purview of the applicant to consider the request.

**Adjourned at 2:27 p.m.**

**Next Natural Resources Assistance Council meeting is on October 7, 2024.**