

**Kyle Wilson**  
Chair

**Laura Ball**  
Vice-Chair

Matthew Brown  
Karl Craven  
Stephen Farst  
Nathan Johnson  
Jim Palus  
Shannon Sorrell  
Vacant  
Steve Studenmund  
Terry Seidel

**Staff:**  
Edwina Teye  
614-233-4123

c/o MORPC  
111 Liberty Street  
Suite 100  
Columbus, OH 43215



## *Natural Resources Assistance Council*

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

Natural Resources Assistance Council  
Meeting Notes – FY 2024 – Final Action/Policies & Criteria

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November 6, 2023, 10:00 am

### Members Present

Karl Craven, PWIC

Stephen Farst, City of Groveport  
Jim Palus, FLOW

Terry Seidel, The Nature  
Conservancy

Chair Kyle Wilson, Franklin Soil &  
Water Conservation District  
Laura Ball, City of Westerville  
Nathan Johnson, Ohio Environmental  
Council  
Steve Studenmund, Metro Parks

### Public Present

Jennifer Kline, Ohio Public Works  
Commission

### MORPC Staff Present

Edwina Teye

### **Meeting Called to Order at 11:10 am.**

#### **Approval of June 26, and October 2 2023, Minutes**

Member Palus moved to approve both sets of minutes. Member Farst seconded the motion and the motion carried.

#### **Available Funds**

The current balance available for FY 24/Round 18 is \$3,825,607.03. This includes \$15,000 administrative costs.

#### **OPWC Update**

OPWC rep Jennifer Kline updated the committee on Clean Ohio Advisories now becoming rules which will be effective in FY 2025.

**Review and Approval of FY 24 Awards**

Rank by Score	COCF No.	Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	Match	COCF Amount Requested	Final Score	Total COCF Awarded
		<i>D3 NRAC</i>	<i>Administrative Costs</i>			<i>\$15,000</i>		<i>\$15,000</i>
<b>1</b>	24-01	Columbus	Alum Creek Preservation Agler/Sunbury Rd.	\$970,000	26%	\$717,000	146.2	\$717,800
<b>2</b>	24-03	FSWCD	Ayers Conservation Easement	\$189,000	26%	\$140,526	128.1	\$140,526
<b>3</b>	24-02	Columbus	McNaughten Rd. Greenspace	\$837,920	26%	\$620,120	103.9	\$620,120
<b>Total:</b>						<b>\$1,478,446</b>		<b>\$1,478,446</b>

**Minimum score to fund = 120.5**

**Funds Available: \$3,810,607  
 Funds Remaining: \$2,332,161**

Member Laura Ball moved to approve application #24-01 Columbus Rec & Parks Alum Creek Preservation Agler/Sunbury Rd for funding. Member Carl Craven seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Member Steve Farst moved to approve application #24-03 FSWCD Ayers Conservation Easement for funding. Member Jim Palus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Terry Seidel moved to approve application #24-02 Columbus Rec & Parks McNaughten Rd. Greenspace for funding. Member Steve Studenmund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Preparation for FY 2025**

- a. Discussion of Polices & Criteria  
 Chair Wilson proposed forming a voluntary working team that will be responsible for reviewing the application and materials requested by the NRAC as a means to streamline the application process and align it with OPWC materials. Changes made will be absorbed into the district's polices and criteria and will subsequently be approved by the NRAC Committee before April 1. Chair Kyle Wilson, Vice Chair Laura Ball and member Nathan Johnson volunteered to meet in January to start the review process.

- b. Approval of Schedule for FY 2025  
Chair Wilson reviewed the draft schedule for FY 2025. The committee agreed to adjust the schedule to include March 21, 2024 as the meeting date to approve new policies and criteria. Vice Chair Laura Ball moved to approve the schedule for FY 2025. Member Jim Palus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Budget & Work Plan 2024-2025**

MORPC staff Edwina Teye reviewed the budget and workplan for the 18 month period i.e July 1, 2023 to February 28, 2025. Member Karl Craven moved to approve the budget to cover work for both FY 2024 and FY 2025. Member Stephen Farst seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Project Updates**

#### Columbus Rec & Parks

- a. CCOAA/15-02 Cherrybottom Park Expansion – Venice Club  
The owner has agreed to CRPD submitting a draft purchase contract. Negotiations ongoing. \*Requesting an extension to December 31, 2024.
- b. CCKAF/11-03B Eastmoor Green Line  
The applicant is working out the final resolution with property ownership at the north end of the corridor. The applicant has also had detailed exchange with legal counsels of the railroad, Kroger, and the City Attorney.  
\*Requesting an extension to July 31, 2024
- c. CCNAF/14-10 Stockbridge Urban Forest  
The applicant will be submitting reimbursement request in November 2023.
- d. CCOAF/15-03 Refugee Road- Mason Run Protection  
\*Requesting extension until July 31, 2024.
- e. CCPAD/16-03 West Franklinton Green Space  
The first owner has accepted the purchase contract, and the applicant is currently working out due diligence. \*Based on anticipated schedules, the applicant is requesting an extension to July 31, 2024.
- f. CCQAB/17-01 Linden Green Line Linear Park  
Acquisition has been completed. The applicant is anticipating submitting reimbursement request in March 2024

\*Due to project updates made available after the NRAC meeting, no extensions were granted. The NRAC will meet on March 21, 2024 and will vote to approve extensions at that time.

#### Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks

- g. COAD/15-06 Big Walnut Acquisition  
Metro Parks has closed on this acquisition and is now the property owner. Pending NRAC [approval](#) of the [updated fee structure](#), Metro Parks will be

filing for reimbursement before the end of the year. Member Steve Studenmund provided a overview of the updated fee structure and current appraisal. Member Steve Farst moved the motion to approve the updated fee structure. Member Jim Palus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- h. CCQAA/17-02 Clover Groff Headwaters Acquisition  
Metro Parks is negotiating with the seller.

City of Reynoldsburg

- i. CCOAE/15-08 Blacklick Creek Stream Restoration and Riparian  
Work is ongoing and the project is on schedule.

City of Hilliard

- j. CCPAB 16-01 Clover Groff Restoration Phase II  
The project is near substantial completion and is on schedule. The plantings will be completed before the current grant completion date OF July 2024. An extension will be needed to accommodate the one-year plant warranty if necessary. Requesting extension to July 1, 2025. The Committee agreed to wait to vote on an extension pending continued progress updates.

Appalachia Ohio Alliance

- k. CCNAB 14-08 Utzinger Bog Expansion & Enhancement - Scioto River  
Flyway Corridor  
Most of Clean Ohio related activities have been completed with work being completed by the first quarter of 2024. AOA has completed two of the acquisitions (Hancock and Partlow-Austin easement) and will be making a final attempt to close/sell with the third party. Based on the update provided, Vice Chair Laura Ball moved the motion to grant an extension to July 1, 2024 with the condition that this is the final extension to be granted for this project and also the applicant must submit a formal request for the said extension before December 31, 2023. Member Karl Craven seconded the motion. Motion carried with one dissenting vote.

City of Grove City

- l. CCMAF/13-03 Marsh Run Stream Restoration in Gantz Park  
The City is on schedule to close this project out by the end of year. The replacement plantings will be installed in late November/early December.

**Other Business**

Member Steve Studenmund made a motion for all active projects, current deadlines and approved extensions be available to the committee.

Member Laura Ball made the motion to approve the May 1, 2023 meeting with changes to the attendance record. Motion carried.

Member Karl Craven informed the committee of his retirement from the Public Integrating Committee effective January 31, 2024. The NRAC wishes Member Craven a happy retirement.

Member Terry Seidel made a recommendation for the Committee to review a list of communities that have applied for Clean Ohio funds over the years. The goal is to encourage communities that have never applied to do so.

**Adjournment 11:49am**