



Natural Resources Assistance Council

District 3 – Franklin County – 614-228-2663

Kyle Wilson,
Chair

Laura Ball,
Vice-Chair

Ryan Andrews
Stephen Farst
Nathan Johnson
Matt Brown
Steve Studenmund
Terry Seidel
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

FY 2026 – Working Session Meeting

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

**Thursday, March. 20, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

Staff:
Edwina Teye
614-233-4233

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

AGENDA

1. Meeting Call to Order
2. Approval of Nov.4 Minutes
3. FY 26 Available Balance: **\$\$4,968,619**
4. OPWC Update
5. Review and Approval of Methodology for FY 2026
 - a. Discussion on Restoration Project Criteria
6. Other Business
 - a. NRAC Vacant Seat
7. Adjournment

If you require special assistance, please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or lkaufman@morpc.org

Discussion on Restoration Project Criteria

Members had an in-depth discussion on restoration projects, including the criteria for scoring and the importance of water quality and natural stream channel functioning. They debated the weight of educational opportunities versus water quality and decided to table the discussion for the next round.

Enhancement Projects and Scoring

Members discussed the scoring of enhancement projects, particularly the use of Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI) and Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) for Wetlands scores. They decided to remove the enhancement project section and add "protects or enhances" to the criteria to ensure both acquisition and enhancement projects have the opportunity to earn points. Members noted that these scores are often not provided by applicants due to the complexity and cost involved. Applicants are required to provide documentation to support their claims of protecting or enhancing natural resources, which will be used in the scoring process.

Other Relevant Factors and Scoring

Members discussed the use of other relevant factors in scoring, emphasizing the importance of consistency and the need to document reasoning for awarding points. They debated whether to remove the 20 points from the maximum score or the 50% threshold but ultimately decided to leave it as is for this year. Members were reminded to document their reasoning for awarding points under other relevant factors to ensure transparency and consistency in the scoring process.

Economic Condition of Communities

Members considered updating the economic condition of communities' scoring based on the most recent data. They discussed the possibility of increasing points for lower-income communities but decided to revisit the topic after consulting with OPWC staff.

Member Brown moved to approve the methodology for Fiscal Year 2026, as discussed and edited during the meeting; Member Studenmund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Other Business

NRAC Vacant Seat

Members were encouraged to share information about the vacant seat and about the Council.

Adjourned at 12:15 pm.



Natural Resource Assistance Council

Working Session Meeting –
March 20, 2025



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

AGENDA



MORPC

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7. Adjournment

Other Business

Kyle Wilson

Chair

**D3 Natural Resource
Assistance Council**

KWilson@franklinswcd.org

Edwina Teye, Ph.D.

Sr. Water & Natural Resources Prog.

Mgr.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning
Commission

eteye@morpc.org

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



District 3 – Franklin County
NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE COUNCIL
PROGRAM POLICIES
3-201-20254

In addition to current OPWC Rules and Advisories, the District 3 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) has adopted the following program policies. If any policies listed below conflicts with OPWC Rules or Advisories, the latter must be upheld. These rules, advisories and policies should be carefully reviewed before the application materials are completed.

1. Score Tie Breakers – (Adopted 1-8-2002)

When scores are tied the following criteria will be used to break the tie:

- a. 1st tie breaker - project with highest % of match dollars
- b. 2nd tie breaker - project receiving the most points under “community benefits” (Part 2, question 17)

2. Time Extensions

A. Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Applications:

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)

B. Time Extension Requests for Active Projects:

The NRAC will consider requests for time extensions only to for July 1 or January 1, ~~dates to make administrative tracking easier~~ NRAC recommendation will be and forwarded them to OPWC for approval. (Adopted 1-20-2011; Revised 8-10-2020; Revised 3-20-2025)

3. Minimum Points for Funding

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)

4. Last Project on Funding Line

If the last qualified project on the funding list cannot receive its full funding request, then it will be offered partial funding for thirty days after the date of NRAC approval. After that date any available funds will be offered for thirty days to the next qualified project on the approved funding list until all funds are allocated. (Adopted 10-10-2002; Revised 2-3-2003; Revised 12-18-2003; Revised 5-6-2009; Revised 3-20-2025)

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5. **Appraisal Must Accompany Applications with Acquisition**

An Appraisal Report or a Restricted Appraisal Report by an appraiser who is a certified general real estate appraiser holding a current certificate as issued by the Ohio Department of Commerce and is also an Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Prequalified Appraiser credential in Appraisal shall accompany the application in order for the District 3 staff to consider the application complete and eligible for funding. Find full OPWC Appraisal Standards here, [Appraisal Standards Jan 2023.pdf \(ohio.gov\)](#). ((Adopted 06-05-2013; Revised 07-18-2013; Revised 8-10-2020; Revised 01-11-2023)

6. **Purchase Price Exceeds Appraised Value**

Justification for acquisitions that fall within 5% above the appraised value may be considered by the NRAC for recommendation to OPWC; must be provided to the NRAC for any acquisition contemplated above the appraised value but cannot exceed 5%. Any difference greater than 5% must be paid for with other funding outside the project. (Adopted 6-4-2014; Revised 8-10-2020; Revised 03-30-2025)

7. **Projects with Life Estate**

~~The Ohio Revised Code allows the Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program to acquire properties with life estates. In a life estate, two or more people each have an ownership interest in a property, but for different periods of time. The person holding the life estate (the "Life Tenant") possesses the property during his or her lifetime. The other owner (the "Remainderman") has a current ownership interest but cannot take possession until the death of the life estate holder. The Ohio Revised Code allows the Clean Ohio Greenspace Conservation Program to acquire properties with life estates. Life estates are permitted in which the original landowner (seller) has occupancy rights limited to their lifetime (referred to as the "life tenant").~~

~~(Adopted 4-21-2015; Revised 8-10- 2020; Revised 3-20-25)~~

Commented [ET1]: Ask Kyle and Jennifer about current Advisory language on Life Estate

STAFF SCORE SHEET – FY 2026

SECTION 1 – PROJECT EMPHASIS (ORC 164.24(A)(1), (A)(7))

The District 3 NRAC has prioritized the project emphasis into three categories: Low; Medium and High. A project type that is of High interest will have a weight of 10; Medium interest a weight of 6; and Low interest a weight of 2. All answers can receive a raw score of between 0 and 5 points. Applicant must provide documentation from appropriate authority to receive full credit.

X 2 (1) The support of comprehensive open space planning and incorporation of aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design (Low interest - weight=2)

X 2 (2) The enhancement of economic development that relies on recreation and eco-tourism in areas with relatively high unemployment and lower incomes (Low interest - weight=2)

X 10 (3) The protection or increase of protection for rare, threatened, and endangered species or the preservation of high-quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species (High interest - weight=10)

X 10 (4) The preservation of existing high-quality wetlands or other scarce natural resources within the geographical jurisdiction of the council (High interest – weight = 10)

X 10 (5) The enhancement of educational opportunities and provision of physical links to schools and after-school centers (High interest – weight = 10)

X 6 (6) The preservation or restoration of water quality, natural stream channels, functioning floodplains, wetlands, streamside forests, or other natural features that contribute to the quality of life in this state and to the state's natural heritage (Medium interest – weight =6)

- ___X 6 ___ (7) The reduction or elimination of non-native, invasive species of plants or animals
(Medium interest – weight = 6)

- ___X 2 ___ (8) The proper management of areas where fishing may take place in a manner that will
preserve a balanced natural ecosystem (Low interest – weight = 2)

- ___X 10 ___ (9) Inclusion as part of a stream corridor-wide or watershed-wide plan (High interest–weight=10)

- ___X 2 ___ (10) The provision of multiple recreational, economic, and aesthetic preservation benefits
(Low interest – weight = 2)

- ___X 6 ___ (11) Protection and enhancement of riparian corridors or watersheds by fee simple acquisition of
lands OR acquisition of conservation easements. (Medium interest – weight = 6)

- ___X 6 ___ (12) The restoration or preservation of headwater streams or vernal pools (Medium interest –
weight = 6)

- ___X 6 ___ (13) The restoration and preservation of aquatic biological communities
(Medium interest – weight = 6)

_____ **WEIGHTED TOTAL**
(390 maximum points)

SCORE – Section 1 (78 max. pts)
(Weighted Total divided by 5)

SECTION 3 – ADDITIONAL CRITERIA (ORC 164.24(A)(11))

The NRAC may adopt additional criteria that reflect local priorities as long as the criteria complement and do not negate Parts I-II, which carry out ORC Sec. 164.20-164.27.

- ___ 21. **Riparian Buffer: Project provides an adequate width of riparian buffer. (maximum points =12)**
 - ___ Over 300 feet from top of bank per side (up to 12 points)
 - ___ 150-300 feet from top of bank per side (up to 8 points)
 - ___ 50-149 feet from top of bank per side (up to 4 points)

Restoration/Enhancement Project:

___ Number of linear feet of stream or acres of habitat to be restored. (maximum points = 12).

- ___ 22. **Regional Significance: What is the impact on the geographic area or watershed?**
Is it regionally significant because of its impact on passive recreation or its impact on a natural area in terms of geography and watershed or both? Please explain. (maximum points =12)

Passive Recreation

- ___ project will have a major impact on passive recreation (up to 4 points)
- ___ project will have a medium impact on passive recreation (up to 2 points)
- ___ project will have a low impact on the passive recreation (0 points)

Natural Area or Watershed

- ___ project will have a major impact on the natural area or watershed (up to 8 points)
- ___ project will have a medium impact on the natural area or watershed (up to 5 points)
- ___ project will have a low impact on the natural area or watershed (up to 2 points)

- ___ 23. **Natural Resource Viability: How important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project? (maximum points = 15)**

Supportive documentation must be provided by ODNR or other qualified entity.

- ___ Protects/ restore a habitat of a globally endangered species or biological community (0-3 points)
 - ___ Protects/ restore a habitat of 1 or more state Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) endangered species (0-3 points)
 - ___ Protects / restore a habitat of 1 or more state NHI ranked rare, threatened or otherwise listed species (0-3 points)
 - ___ Protects/ restore a habitat of a high-quality example of a regionally endangered biological community (0-3 points)
 - ___ Protects/ restore a habitat of a threatened biological community or important example of Ohio's natural heritage (0-3 points)

If Enhancement project:

Pre-Construction QHEI: _____ ORAM _____

Post-Construction QHEI: _____ ORAM: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Qualifications/Training or Certifications _____

Supporting documents and concept plan included

___ 24. **Urban Environment:** Is this project located within an urban area inside or contiguous to the 270 outer belt? (up to 5 points)

Describe the unique benefits related to preserving natural resources in an urban environment.

___ 25. **Other Relevant Factors:** Other factors include the total amount of funding necessary to complete the project (ORC 164.24(A)(2)) (maximum points = 20) (Note reasoning)

___ 26. **Economic condition of community where project is located:**
(Based on 2020 per capita income for political jurisdiction/community where project is located – see chart attached) (maximum points = 10)

SCORE – Section 3 (74 max. pts)

SECTION 4 – COMMUNICATIONS WITH LAND OWNER (ORC 164.24(A)(10))

___ 27. **Applicant has:**
(Select one) (maximum points =20)

___ had some communications by phone, person or email with landowner(s) (5 points)

___ a letter of intent to purchase from the landowner(s) (10 points)

___ a signed purchase agreement with the landowner(s) or ownership of the land (20 points)

SCORE – Section 4 (20 max. pts)

TOTAL SCORE:
(Maximum points = 241)

NRAC - Reviewed & Scored by: _____

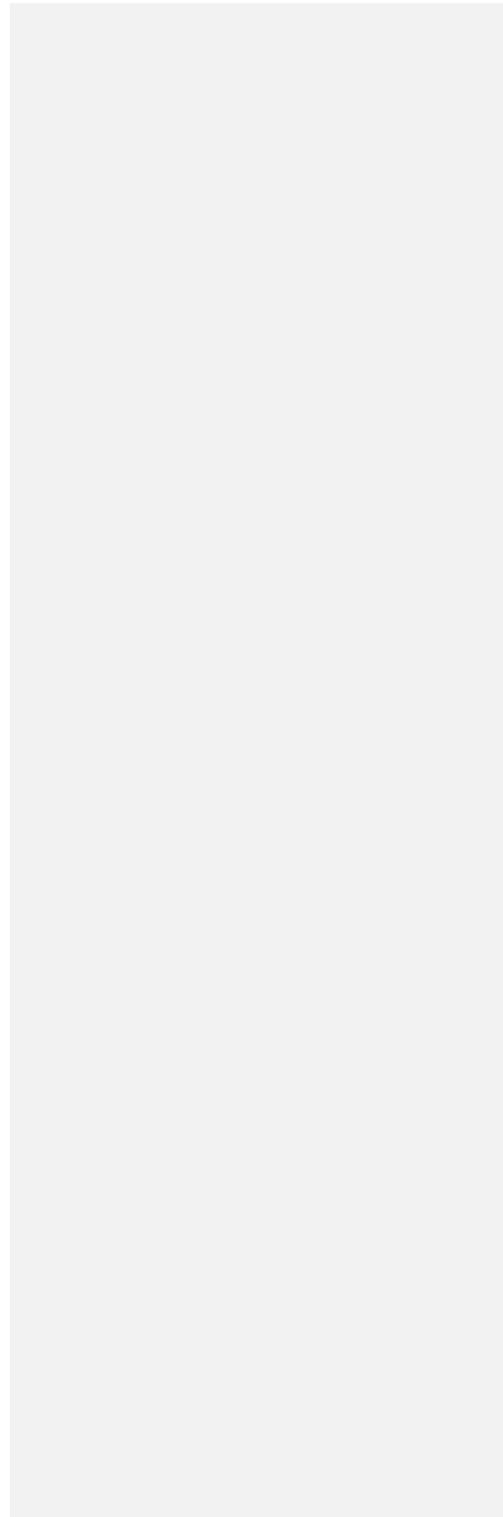
RANK: _____

Criterion 26 – Economic Condition of Community Where Project Is Located

| Community | 2020 Per Capita Income | Score |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Urbancrest</u> | <u>\$12,079</u> | <u>10</u> |
| Whitehall | \$21,938 | 8 |
| Lockbourne | \$22,557 | 8 |
| Franklin Township | \$22,587 | 8 |
| Valleyview | \$26,589 | 8 |
| Brice | \$26,916 | 8 |
| Hamilton Township | \$27,127 | 8 |
| Clinton | \$27,257 | 8 |
| Obetz | \$28,262 | 8 |
| Truro | \$28,820 | 8 |
| Harrisburg | \$29,013 | 8 |
| <u>Columbus</u> | <u>\$30,056</u> | <u>8</u> |
| Groveport | \$31,464 | 6 |
| Reynoldsburg | \$31,626 | 6 |
| Prairie Township | \$31,683 | 6 |
| Blendon Township | \$32,231 | 6 |
| Madison Township | \$32,283 | 6 |
| Pleasant Township | \$35,758 | 6 |
| Jackson Township | \$37,150 | 6 |
| Grove City | \$37,557 | 6 |
| Minerva Park | \$38,227 | 6 |
| Mifflin Township | \$41,233 | 6 |
| Westerville | \$41,397 | 6 |
| Gahanna | \$42,660 | 6 |
| <u>Canal Winchester</u> | <u>\$42,841</u> | <u>6</u> |
| Hilliard | \$46,037 | 4 |
| Norwich Township | \$46,088 | 4 |
| Jefferson Township | \$48,864 | 4 |
| Sharon Township | \$53,656 | 4 |
| Worthington | \$54,057 | 4 |
| Brown Township | \$56,538 | 4 |
| Washington Township | \$57,297 | 4 |
| Dublin | \$60,152 | 4 |
| Bexley | \$60,387 | 4 |
| Perry Township | \$61,951 | 4 |
| Upper Arlington | \$68,163 | 4 |
| Riverlea | \$69,098 | 4 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| <u>Grandview Heights</u> | <u>\$72,534</u> | <u>4</u> |
| Plain Township | \$76,519 | 2 |
| New Albany | \$78,957 | 2 |
| <u>Marble Cliff</u> | <u>\$81,922</u> | <u>2</u> |

Source: 2020 American Community Survey



DISTRICT 3 - FRANKLIN COUNTY

FISCAL YEAR 20265

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND

PRELIMINARY SCREENER

Deadlines

Preliminary Screener – June 23, 20254

Application – August 2930, 20254



DISTRICT 3 - PRELIMINARY SCREENER
(Franklin County, Ohio)

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND – FISCAL 2026

Applicant Name: _____
(County, municipal corporation, township, conservancy district, nonprofit organization, etc.)

Project Name: _____

Type of Project: **Land Acquisition**
(√ one) Property Owner Owner(s) _____

Address: _____ Parcel #: _____

Has anyone contacted the property owner about acquisition?
 YES
If yes, who contacted the property owner? _____

Date of contact: _____

Is the property owner willing to cooperate with the applicant? Yes No

NO

Riparian Corridor/Watershed Protection & Enhancement

Applicant Contact: _____

Address: _____
Street

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone Number: _____ **Fax #:** _____

E-mail Address: _____

Certifying Representative:

(Original Signature) Please use blue ink (Date Signed)

(Certifying Community/Agency Representative - Type or Print Name and Title)

Submit to: **Edwina Teye**
District 3 Liaison
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614-233-4233
Fax: 614-621-2401
E-mail: eteve@morpc.org

PART 1: PROJECT DESCRIPTION (attach response on separate sheet of paper)

Clearly define the scope of the project and identify the boundaries of the property or watershed area involved in this project.

- A. Purpose**
(Provide a general description)
- B. Location**
- C. Project Components**
- D. Status of Easements or Acquisition**
- E. Include Photos & Map of Project Area**
(map and photos must clearly identify project limits and adjacent existing amenities)

PART 2: ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST: (25% match required)

Local Match \$ _____

Other Match (specify all sources) \$ _____

_____ Clean Ohio Grant Requested \$ _____

Estimated Total Project Costs \$ _____

Who provided this cost estimate? _____
(Name, Title, Agency)

(Phone Number)

PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS: (✓ all that apply from A or B and provide a written explanation of how this relates to your project. Note at least one of these criteria is required to be eligible.

A. Open Space Acquisition (Sec. 164.22 A)

- acquires land for passive parks.
- acquires land for public forests.
- acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration.
- acquires land for natural areas protecting endangered species.
- acquires land for other natural areas.
- acquires land for connecting greenway corridors.
- acquires permanent publicly accessible conservation easement.
- acquires land to enhance educational opportunities and provide physical links to schools and after school centers.
- constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make the acquired open space area accessible & useable by the general public.

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B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection & Enhancement (Sec. 164.22B)

- establishes and maintains permanent riparian buffers with native vegetation.
- restores permanent natural stream channel using natural channel design principles.
- restores and maintains natural function of the floodplain such as through the removal of streamside levees.
- removes artificial in stream structures such as low-head dams and old bridge piers.
- employs and maintains "Best Management Practices" to improve water quality.

Note: Restoration projects will be required to provide a concept plan and demonstration of resource improvement at the time of the application.

C. Other Characteristics: (✓ if applicable)

- accelerates untreated water runoff?
- encourages invasive non-native species?
- funds current legal obligations (such as fines, penalties, litigation expenses, mitigation or reclamation) under state or federal laws or local ordinances or achieves a stormwater permit or other requirement associated with a private development or redevelopment project?
- funds facilities other than those required to provide public access to or use of open space?
- funds facilities for active recreation, such as tennis courts, ball fields or recreation centers?
- funds storm water facilities as primary purpose?
- funds facilities or improvements (other than invasive species removal) on an easement?

If Yes to any of the above in C, the project is ineligible.
Please see [Eligible Costs](#) on the OPWC webpage.

NOTE: All applicants shall meet with the NRAC for a brief (10 minutes or less) overview of their project. Staff will be contacting the applicant after the preliminary screening due date to set up the appointment. Fiscal Year 2025 presentation dates are set for June 23rd, 2025th, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at MORPC premises

FOR STAFF USE:

PRESENTATION: _____
Date Time

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DISTRICT 3 - FRANKLIN COUNTY

FISCAL YEAR 202~~6~~⁵

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND

APPLICATION

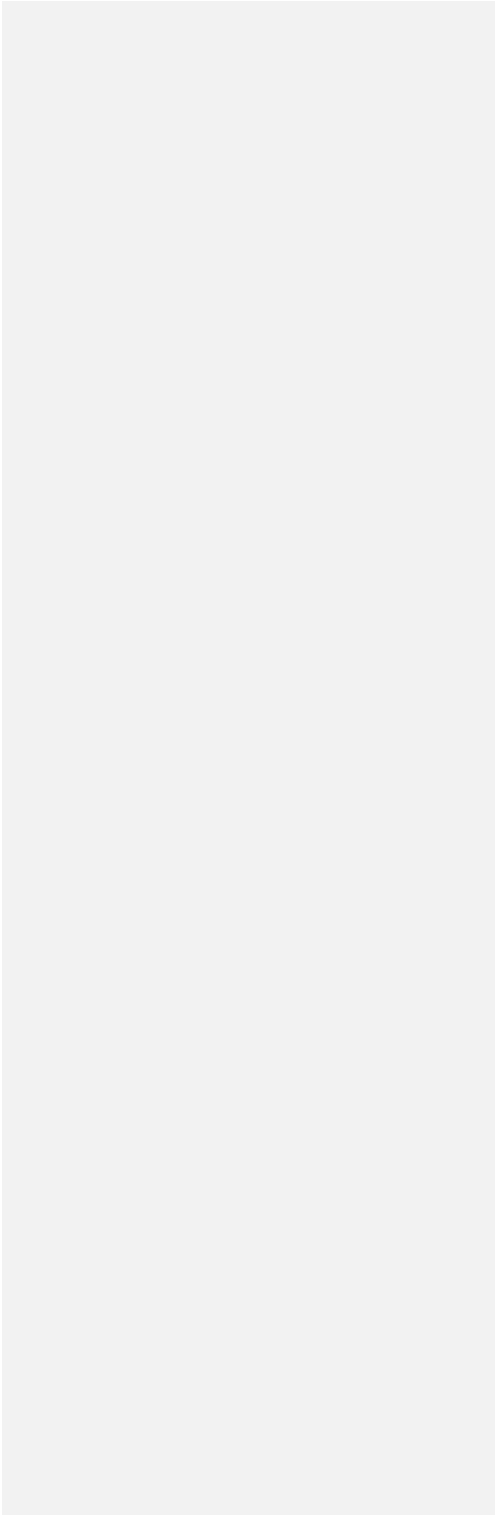
Parts 1-6 required.

Deadline for submission is August 29~~30~~, 202~~5~~⁴

District 3 - Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
FY 2026⁵

PART 1:

APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST



DISTRICT 3 - FRANKLIN COUNTY
FY2026

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST
(Required - Must Accompany Application)

Project: _____

Applicant: _____

In addition to the information required by OPWC, the following supplemental informational items shall accompany your application in WorksWise in order for the District 3 staff to consider your application complete and eligible for funding this round.

1. [] District 3 – FY 26 - Applicant Evaluation Criteria
2. [] Formal, Detailed Cost Estimate by Certified Individual
3. [] Certification of Local Match – signed by applicant's chief financial officer
4. [] Cooperation Agreement (if multi-jurisdictional)
5. [] Resolution of Support – refer to ORC 164.23 (B)(1)
6. [] Photographs of the Project Site
7. [] Supportive Documentation- letters, newspaper articles, etc.

All funded District 3 projects are encouraged but not required to erect signage following District 3 signage guidelines. If signage is erected, a certification of signage location and a photo should be submitted to the District 3 liaison within one year of the project closeout date.

I certify that the items listed above are contained in the attached application.

(Original Signature) (Date Signed)

(Certifying Community/Agency Representative - Type or Print Name and Title)

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District 3 - Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
Fiscal Year 2026⁵

PART 2:

APPLICANT EVALUATION

CRITERIA

See OPWC's [Greenspace Glossary](#) Page for definition of terms.

See the following websites for supportive documentation for Part 6.

Beneficial use designations (for streams)

<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/rules/01-09.pdf>

https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/rules/BUD2020_Proposal_FactSheet_15Aug2022final.pdf

Ohio Primary Headwater Habitat Streams (for headwater streams)

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/reports-data/primary-headwater-streams-in-ohio>

Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) for Wetlands Documents

<https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/401/ORAM%20Manual%205.0.pdf>

Ohio Natural Heritage Database (rare plants and animals)

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/ohio-natural-heritage-database>
<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/plants-trees/rare-plants>

Ohio Credible Data Program

<https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/reports-data/ohio-credible-data-program>

Additional information is available [at](#) on the Clean Ohio Fund website:

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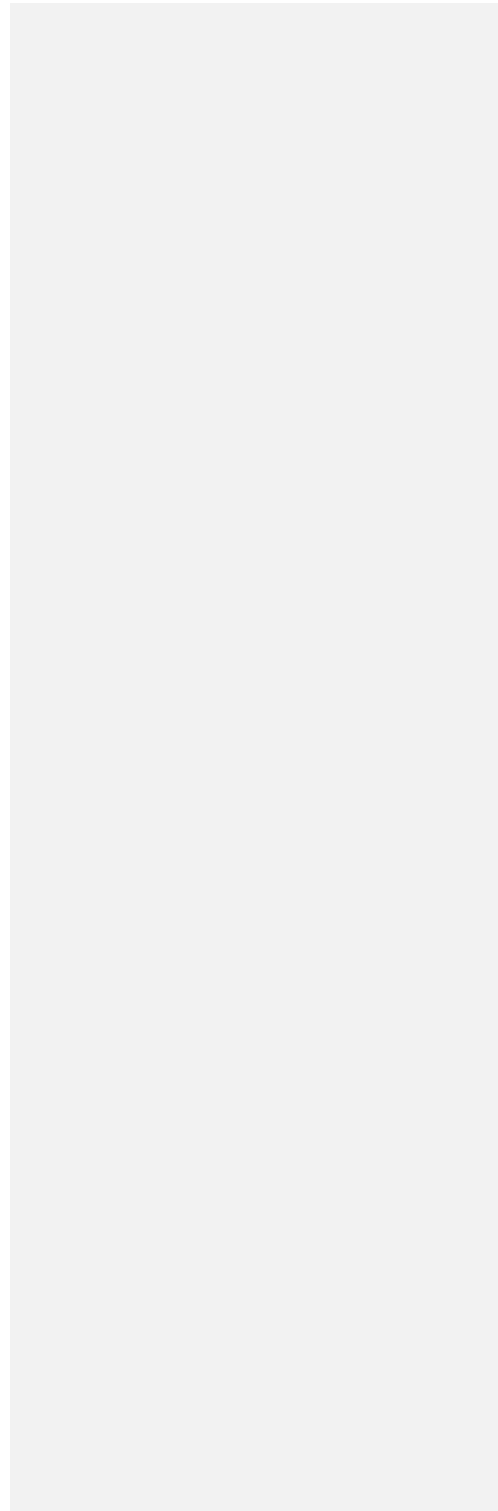
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<https://publicworks.ohio.gov/programs/clean-ohio>



Franklin County
DISTRICT 3 – APPLICANT EVALUATION CRITERIA

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND
FISCAL YEAR 20265

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Contact: _____

SECTION 1 – PROJECT EMPHASIS

√ Check all criteria that apply and provide a brief description of how your project emphasizes these criteria. Additional information and documentation can be included in Part 6. If no written description or documentation is provided, no points may be given.

- (1) The support of comprehensive open space planning and incorporation of aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design

- (2) The enhancement of economic development that relies on recreation and eco-tourism in areas with relatively high unemployment and lower incomes

- (3) The protection or increase of protection for rare, threatened, and endangered species or the preservation of high-quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species

- (4) The preservation of existing high-quality wetlands or other scarce natural resources within the geographical jurisdiction of the council

- (5) The enhancement of educational opportunities and provision of physical links to schools and after-school centers

- (6) The preservation or restoration of water quality, natural stream channels, functioning floodplains, wetlands, streamside forests, or other natural features that contribute to the quality of life in this state and to the state's natural heritage

- (7) The reduction or elimination of non-native, invasive species of plants or animals

___ (8) The proper management of areas where fishing may take place in a manner that will preserve a balanced natural ecosystem

___ (9) Inclusion as part of a stream corridor-wide or watershed-wide plan

___ (10) The provision of multiple recreational, economic, and aesthetic preservation benefits

___ (11) Protection and enhancement of riparian corridors or watersheds by fee simple acquisition of lands OR acquisition of conservation easements

___ (12) The restoration or preservation of headwater streams or vernal pools

___ (13) The restoration and preservation of aquatic biological communities

SECTION 2 – LOCAL COORDINATION & SUPPORT

Provide a written response to each criteria question below. If needed, provide documentation in part 6 to indicate how your project meets these criteria.

14. **Has land been donated for this project?** If yes, please describe in-kind contributions or donations.

15. **What agencies and organizations have been involved in the planning and preparation of this project application?** Provide a list of agencies and organizations and contacts.

What level of coordination has each agency or organization provided?
(Applicant must document how project carries out goals of multiple agencies and organizations.)

16. **Describe the level of conservation coordination this project provides to another related project or how it ties areas together with other open space, riparian corridor, trails, farmland protection or urban revitalization projects.** Please explain how this project fits into another related project or links an area together.

17. **Describe the benefits that the proposed project will bring to Franklin County.** (Please explain.)

Economic:

Social/Recreational:

Environmental:

18. **What is the extent of public access once the project is completed?** Please list days and hours of operation or how appointments can be made.

19. What agency will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of this project?

Describe how your organization/agency will operate and maintain this project once it is completed.

Provide a long-term operation and maintenance plan.

Does the plan include an invasive species management plan?

20. What is the unit cost of this project?

What is the total project cost per acre or post restoration cost per linear foot of stream restored by the project? (Example: Applicant is purchasing 10 acres of land for a total project cost of \$100,000; the cost per acre is \$10,000.)

What is the project cost per acre or post restoration cost per linear foot of stream restored using Clean Ohio Conservation Funds? (Example: Applicant is purchasing 10 acres of land and requesting \$50,000 in COCF funds; the cost per acre is \$5,000.)

SECTION 3 – ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Please provide a written response to each criteria question below. If needed, provide documentation in part 6 to indicate how your project meets these criteria. 6. **Riparian Buffers:**

21. Does this project provide an adequate width of riparian buffer? How many feet from the top of the bank per side are provided? If this is an enhancement project, how many linear feet of stream or acres of habitat will be restored?

Regional Significance:

22. What is the impact on the geographic area or watershed? Is it regionally significant because of its impact on **passive recreation** or its impact on a **natural area** in terms of geography and watershed or both? Please explain.

Natural Resources Viability:

23. How important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project? Does your project protect any of the following groups? If so, please name the species and explain. (Supportive documentation by ODNR or other qualified entity is required.)

- globally endangered species or biological community
- State Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) endangered, rare, threatened or otherwise listed species:
 - If yes, how many endangered species? _____
 - If yes, how many rare species? _____
 - If yes, how many threatened species? _____
 - If yes, how many otherwise listed species? _____
- regionally endangered biological community.
- threatened biological community or an example of Ohio's natural heritage.

If Enhancement project:

Provide relevant pre- and post-construction metrics, such as QHEI for stream restorations or ORAM for wetlands. Who provided these scores? Must provide name, title and relevant qualifications, training, or certification (such as QDC – Qualified Data Collector as specified in ORC 6111.50-56 and OAC 3745-4-03). Provide supporting document and concept plan as attachments in Part 6.

Urban Environment

24. Is this project located within an urban area inside or contiguous to the I-270 Outerbelt? Describe the unique benefits related to preserving natural resources in an urban environment.

Other Relevant Factors:

25. Briefly describe any **additional** benefits, considerations, or metrics not addressed above that you feel should be considered in the evaluation of this project. *Examples: unique partnerships; innovative techniques; special opportunities; leveraging other funds that will be lost; proximity to schools and other educational areas and other unique factors) Please limit your response to 1 page or less.*

Economic condition of community where project is located.

26. In what political jurisdiction/community is the project located?

SECTION 4 – CONTACT WITH PROPERTY OWNER

Communications with Landowner

27. What communications if any has the applicant had with the landowner?

Name of Property Owner(s) _____

Address: _____ Parcel #: _____

A. Has anyone contacted the property owner about acquisition?

- Yes No

If yes, who contacted the property owner? _____

Type of contact: In Person By Phone By Email Other

Date of contact: _____

B. Is the property owner cooperating with the applicant?

- Yes No

C. Does the applicant have a “letter of intent” from the landowner(s)?

- Yes No

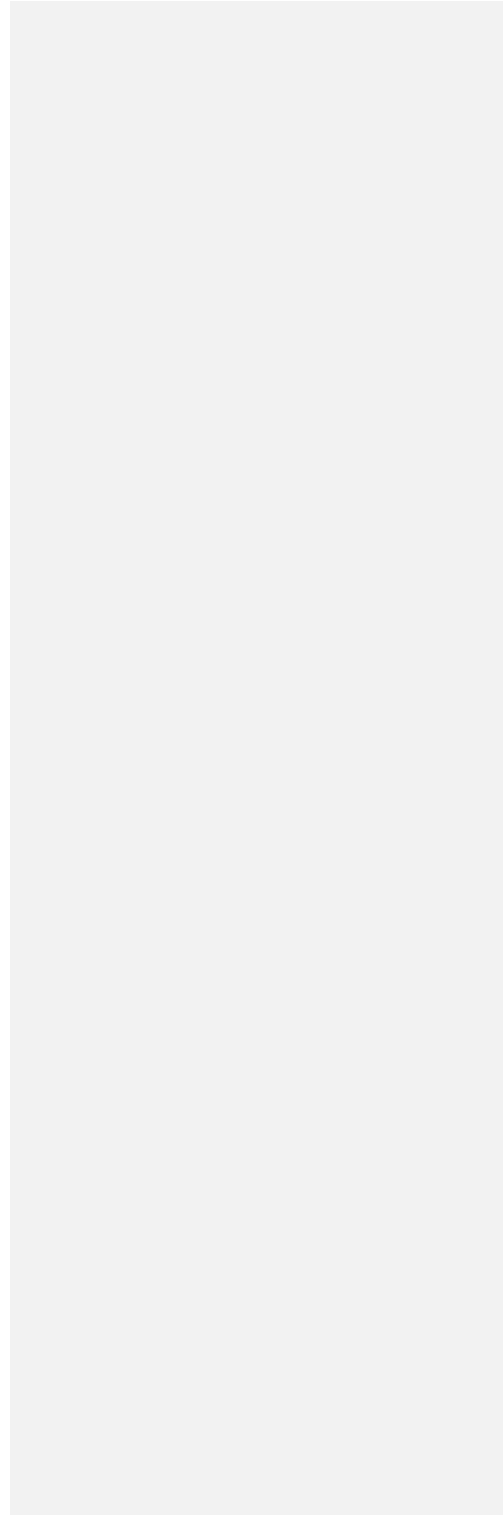
D. Does the applicant have a signed purchase agreement with the landowner(s) or ownership of the land?

- Yes No

District 3 - Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
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PART 3:

PROJECT INFORMATION



PROJECT NAME: _____

Type of project for which funds are being requested:

Check the project type:

Acquisition of land

Check the type of land securement:

Fee Simple

Easement Purchase

Acquisition of land and facilities enhancement to make land accessible and usable.

Riparian corridor

Appraisal or Conservation Value*

Certified appraisal from an Ohio Department of Transportation Prequalified Appraiser who has credentials in value analysis:

\$ _____

Purchase Price

\$ _____

*Note if the purchase price is greater than the appraised value, written justification must be submitted, and the applicant must meet with the NRAC prior to final approval. (See NRAC program policy #5)

03/21/2024

03/21/2024

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PART 4:

REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS/AGREEMENTS

- ***Cooperation Agreement***

Required if only the project involves more than one entity – If needed, provide documentation in part 6 and it should identify the fiscal and administrative responsibilities of each participant.

- ***Resolution of Support***

(Reference ORC 164.23(B)) and ORC 164.23 (C)

This is a required District 3 Supplemental Document and must be submitted in WorksWise.



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SAMPLE
AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION # _

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE _____
TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT ASSISTANCE FROM
THE CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUND
ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS
COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, The Ohio Public Works Commission has grants available from the Clean Ohio Conservation Program Funds, and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the _____ (city/village/township) _____ to take advantage of the opportunities provided by this program by applying for funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Municipality of _____ County of Franklin, State of Ohio:

Section 1: [Insert Name and / or Title] is hereby authorized to apply to the OPWC for Clean Ohio Conservation Program funds. {NOTE: This must be the individual who signs the application.}

Section 2: [Insert Name and/or Title] is authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance. {NOTE: This must be the individual who is named as the CEO in the application.}

Applicant

Date

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

{NOTE: Execute a cooperation agreement if your project is a joint project in which there are two or more active groups. A letter from a subdivision is not a substitute.}

[Insert name of Group A] and [Insert name of Group B] enter into a cooperation agreement to submit an application to the Ohio Public Works Commission for the [insert project name].

[Group A] will provide funds equal to [insert percent] percent of the total project cost. Such funds will come from [insert name of account / fund].

[Group B] will provide funds equal to [insert percent] percent of the total project cost. Such funds will come from [insert name of account / fund].

[Group B] authorizes [Group A] to serve as lead applicant and to sign all necessary documents.

[Group A] agrees to pay its [insert percentage] of the cost as invoices are due / at the end of the project / as otherwise agreed upon.

[Group B] agrees to pay its [insert percentage] of the cost as invoices are due / at the end of the project / as otherwise agreed upon.

Signatures for Group A

Signatures for Group B

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
ORC 164.23(B)**

The grant application must adhere to the following:

(1) Except as otherwise provided in section 2 below, a copy of a resolution supporting the project from each county in which the proposed project is to be conducted and whichever of the following is applicable:

(a) If the proposed project is to be conducted wholly within the geographical boundaries of one township, a copy of a resolution supporting the project from the township;

(b) If the proposed project is to be conducted wholly within the geographical boundaries of one municipal corporation, a copy of a resolution supporting the project from the municipal corporation;

(c) If the proposed project is to be conducted in more than one, but fewer than five townships or municipal corporations, a copy of a resolution supporting the project from at least one-half of the total number of townships and municipal corporations in which the proposed project is to be conducted;

(d) If the proposed project is to be conducted in five or more townships or municipal corporations, a copy of a resolution supporting the project from at least three-fifths of the total number of townships and municipal corporations in which the proposed project is to be conducted.

However, if the applicant is a county and the proposed project is to be located wholly within the geographical boundaries of the county, the applicant shall not be required to include a copy of a resolution from any township or municipal corporation. If the applicant is a municipal corporation and the proposed project is to be located wholly within the geographical boundaries of the municipal corporation, the applicant shall not be required to include a copy of a resolution from the county in which it is located. If the applicant is a township and the proposed project is to be located wholly within the geographical boundaries of the township, the applicant shall not be required to include a copy of a resolution from the county in which it is located.

(2) Prior to submitting an application for a grant for a project under this section, an applicant that is a park district or other similar park authority shall consult with the legislative authority of each county, township, and municipal corporation in which the proposed project will be located.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT REVENUES
(Required format)

I, [Insert title] of the [Insert name of applicant], hereby certify that [Insert name of applicant] has the amount of [Insert amount of local funds] in the [Insert name of account / fund] and that this amount will be used to pay the applicant revenues for the [Insert name of project] when it is required.

Signature of Finance Director/Clerk/Treasurer (use blue ink) Date

Print Name and Title

District 3 - Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
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PART 5:

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs should provide context to your project application and should identify unique characteristics of the project.

3/204/2025

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3/201/2025

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PART 6:

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTATION

(Letters of support, news articles, special studies, etc.)

- ***Additional documentation (e.g. Communications with Landowner(s), Cooperation Agreement, Letters of Support etc.)***

ATTACH

COMMUNICATIONS WITH LANDOWNER(S)

3/20/2025

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ATTACH

“LETTER OF INTENT” FROM LANDOWNER(S)

3/20/2025

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3/201/2025

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