




MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JEFFREY MANSION
165 N. Parkview Ave., Bexley, OH 43209
December 13, 2023, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.**

AGENDA


- 2:15 p.m.** **Introductory music from the SAC Holiday Band** 
- 2:30 p.m.** **Welcome and Introductions** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 2:35 p.m.** **Bexley Sustainability Update** – *Ben Kessler and Elizabeth Ellman, City of Bexley*
- 2:45 p.m.** **MORPC Updates** – *William Murdock, Executive Director*
- Passenger Rail Funding
 - State of the Region and Data Day
 - Regional Water Study
 - RAPID 5
- 2:55 p.m.** **Policy Update** – *Joe Garrity, Sr. Director of Government Affairs & Community Relations*
- 3:05 p.m.** **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Engagement around Implementation Funding** – *Brian Filiatraut & Karina Peggau, MORPC; Alana Shockey, City of Columbus & Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health*
- 3:25 p.m.** **Board and Working Group Reports**
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Matt Stephens Rich
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board – Mike Andrako
 - Sustainable2050 – Laurie Jadwin
 - Sustaining Scioto Board – Glenn Marzluf
- 3:40 p.m.** **New Business and Member Updates** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Grooms
Interim Chair

Michelle Crandall
Interim Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Interim Secretary

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- 2024 meeting schedule and agenda topics
 - Bylaws changes

4:00 pm Adjourn

Please notify Brandi Whetstone at 614-233-4174 or bwhetstone@morpc.org to confirm your attendance at this meeting or if you require special assistance.

The next Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting will be on March 20, 2024, at 2:30 pm





Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Mike Andrako, P.E.)

Next meeting: January 17, 2024

The Central Ohio Greenways Board met on Nov. 15th to learn about the State Capital Budget process and hear a RAPID 5 update.

The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus was relaunched in April. Since the relaunch we have seen a significant increase in the number of people interacting with and using the pass. Over 1000 people have checked into destinations along the COG trails since April. In 2024 the pass will be improved to include locally designed trail-based itineraries.

A Trail Alerts page has been added to the COG website to communicate trail closures and detours. Partners are encouraged to share their trail closures with MORPC staff.

The Designing Local consultant team is under contract to complete the COG Wayfinding Strategy. The last stakeholder meeting will take place at the end of December and the draft final report will be shared with MORPC staff and stakeholders for final comments in January.

Cycle Forward completed the Trail Town Framework Expansion. MORPC staff and communities will begin implementing the Framework through a new collaborative Trail Town Working Group.

The Trail Development Working Group hosted Regional Partnership Meetings in November to discuss potential Regional Trail Vision updates. A “Trails in the Intel Region” meeting is scheduled for mid-November.

All proposed changes to the Regional Trail Vision should be submitted to Melinda Vonstein by December 11, 2023.

COG received partial funding for a Natural Asset Mapping effort from the Columbus Foundation. When fully funded, the project will provide data to support holistic decision making around how development impacts the sustainability of our region’s watersheds.



Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Matt Stephens-Rich)

Next meeting: February 28, 2024

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group (EAQWG) held its final meeting of 2023 on November 29. The Working Group heard updates on both funding opportunities and MORPC programming. Additionally, the Working Group began to discuss topics to focus on in 2024. Lastly, the EAQWG is recruiting candidates who are interested in serving as either the Chair or

Vice-Chair. Please email recommendations to Brian Filiatraut, MORPC’s Energy and Sustainability Program Manager (bfiliatraut@morpc.org).

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG): The MORPC team is continuing its collaborative work with City of Columbus and the rest of the core project team to lead in regional planning

and pollution mitigation actions. The regional efforts are being led by the CPRG Strategy Subcommittee (CSS) and its co-chairs—Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health, and Alana Shockey, Sustainable Columbus. The CSS held its second meeting on December 7, narrowing potential implementation projects for our regional application focusing on high greenhouse gas reduction potential, low-income and disadvantaged community benefits, and scalability throughout the 10-county metropolitan statistical area. To include your voice and potential projects to our regional approach, we are asking residents and stakeholders to complete [this survey](#) by **December 31, 2023**. To learn more about the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, our region's efforts, and how you can be involved, please attend the virtual informational meeting on December 15, 2023 from 1 – 2 PM. [Click here](#) to access the virtual meeting link and other resources, and please feel free to contact Brian Filiatraut, MORPC's Energy and Sustainability Program Manager, at bfiliatraut@morpc.org.

Air Quality: MORPC recently welcomed Mauro Diaz-Hernandez as the new Air Quality & Sustainability Program Coordinator. Ozone season concluded on October 31, and the End of Season report is underway with a release date in early 2024. MORPC will also be posting an RFP for air quality forecasting services in January 2024.

The team continues to move forward the EPA air monitoring project working in partnership with Franklin County Public Health. The US EPA approved the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), and the team can soon begin to collect sensor data. The first project advisory committee meeting is scheduled for December 15, where the team will introduce the project and identify the next steps.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: February 15, 2024

The final Sustainable2050 meeting of 2023 took place on December 7, where the group welcomed Mount Vernon as the newest member and recognized City of Columbus for their Platinum Plus Equity Champion certification. The team highlighted recent media disinformation around Sustainable2050 and will be working on talking points along with other ideas for communicating the benefits of sustainability in the region. The MORPC team provided several program updates and an informational presentation on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. Members and stakeholders in the 10-county MSA are encouraged to provide their ideas and input for a regional grant application through a survey due on December 31, 2023.

Membership and tier status certification is open to MORPC members. Please contact MORPC's Sustainability Officer, Brandi Whetstone, for more information at bwhetstone@morpc.org.



Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Glenn Marzluf)

Next Meeting: February 28, 2024

The Sustaining Scioto Board met on October 25, where Amy Holthouse (The Nature Conservancy) presented on Central Ohio Water Projects and Corporate Investments. Sustainable Columbus also presented on their One Water Plan. One Water is an integrated planning approach to water resources management, which is becoming important to ensure a resilient water supply considering rising temperatures, increasing precipitation, and population growth.

The Board also met on December 6 and heard a presentation on the state's regional watershed plans spearheaded by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The Department welcomes feedback from interested stakeholders on the [Scioto Watershed Plan](#) as well as feedback on plans across the state.

The MORPC team updated the Board on the Regional Water Study. The Ohio Water Development Authority will be funding this 15-county study, working in partnership with MORPC, Ohio EPA, and ODNR. Among other objectives, the study will explore current and future water supply and demand to identify gaps. The study will also include recommendations such as strategic locations for growth, potential regionalization of utility services, and innovative practices for water reuse and stormwater management.

We expect the RFP for consultant services to be posted on Dec. 15, and the selected consultant will start in early March with the project concluding at the end of 2024. As part of the board priorities in 2024, the Board Chair communicated the importance of expanding the membership to reflect our growing region and to potentially become implementors of the upcoming water study.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team:

The Outreach Team met on November 16 and heard a presentation from Brian Brandt on the Farms Under Threat report by the American Farmland Trust. The report utilized spatial mapping analyses of agricultural land conversion to provide unprecedented insights into the status and fate of American farmland. The findings of the analysis, which can be accessed at the state, county, and sub-county levels show that between 2001 and 2016, 11 million acres of farmland and rangeland were converted to urban and highly developed land use (4.1 million acres) or low-density residential land use (nearly 7 million acres). The working team continues to strategize on how to recruit new members to the working group and identify ways to effectively support the goals of the larger Sustaining Scioto Board. The working team will meet again on January 18, 2024.