

District 3 – Franklin County

NATURAL RESOURCES ASSISTANCE COUNCIL

PROGRAM POLICIES

8-10-2020

The District 3 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) has adopted the following program policies. These policies should be carefully reviewed before the application materials are completed.

1. In-Kind Contributions

In-kind contributions required by local ordinances, resolutions, statutes or rules are not eligible and will not be considered as part of local match. *(Adopted 1-8-2002; Revised 11-8-2012)*

2. Donation of Easements

The donation of an easement other than those required in Policy #1 will be considered as a private contribution. The value of the easement will be determined by the appraisal which accompanies the application. *(Adopted 1-8-2002, Revised 5-6-2009)*

3. 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)

4. Time Extensions

A. Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Applications:

No time extensions will be granted for Clean Ohio Conservation Fund applications. The complete application (including all attachments) must be received by the District 3 Liaison at 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215 no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the application deadline. Any application received after this time will be rejected and not considered for funding during the current round. *(Adopted 1-8-2002)*

B. Time Extension Requests for Active Projects:

The NRAC will consider requests for time extensions for July 1 or January 1 dates in order to make administrative tracking easier and forward them to OPWC for approval. *(Adopted 1-20-2011; Revised 8-10-2020)*

5. 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 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)*

- 6. *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 only be funded in full or in part upon a majority vote of committee members and be contingent upon funding availability. (Adopted 10-28-2005)
- 7. *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, <https://www.pwc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Appraisal%20Standards%200120.pdf?ver=2020-01-27-090500-190>. (Adopted 06-05-2013; Revised 07-18-2013; Revised 8-10-2020)
- 8. *Clean Ohio Signage Requirement***
All funded District 3 projects are encouraged but not required to erect signage following District 3 signage guidelines. Temporary construction signs are highly encouraged but must follow the Ohio Public Works Commission signage guidelines. The cost of a sign is reimbursable and projects with multiple signs should check with the Ohio Public Works Commission for funding eligibility. A certification of signage location(s) and a photo should be submitted to the District 3 liaison within one year of the project closeout date. (Adopted 06-05-2013; Revised 07-18-2013; Revised 4-15-2016; Revised 6-21-2016; 09-12-2016).
- 9. *Purchase Price Exceeds Appraised Value***
Justification 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)
- 10. *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. (Adopted 4-21-2015; Revised 8-10-2020)



District 3 - Franklin County, Ohio
METHODOLOGY FOR NRAC SCORING
APPLICANT EVALUATION CRITERIA – ROUND 16
(For use by NRAC STAFF ONLY- Do NOT complete)

STAFF SCORE SHEET – ROUND 16

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 2 – LOCAL COORDINATION & SUPPORT (ORC 164.24(A)(3), (4), (5), (6), (8))

- ___ 14. **Matching Funds: include in-kind donation of land, etc)** \$ _____ or _____ %
(One point for each whole percent above 25% up to 30 points maximum)
- ___ 15. **Coordination:**
Document how project carries out goals of multiple agencies, organizations.
(1 point each – maximum points = 6)
___ local political subdivisions ___ state agencies ___ federal agencies
___ community organizations ___ conservation organizations ___ other (_____) (private, local business groups)
- ___ 16. **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. (maximum points = 3) ✓ all that apply**
___ fits into another related project or links an area together (2 points)
___ carries out an adopted community, watershed or other plan overlapping another district (1 point)
- ___ 17. **Community benefits: - ✓ all that apply (maximum points = 9)**
Relative economic, social/recreational and environmental benefits the proposed project will bring to the geographical area represented by the NRAC as compared to other projects.
___ economic (1 point) ___ social/recreational (up to 3 points) ___ environmental (up to 5 points)
- ___ 18. **Extent of public access once project is completed: (maximum points = 5) ✓ one**
___ open week days and weekends (5 points)
___ open limited, but regular hours (3 points)
___ open by appointment or with written permission (1 point)
- ___ 19. **How organization/agency will operate and maintain this project once it is completed. (maximum points = 10)**
___ operation plan and/or maintenance plan in place including an invasive species management plan (up to 10 points)
___ operation plan and/or maintenance plan (up to 5 points)
___ no operation plan and/or maintenance plan (0 points)
- ___ 20. **Unit cost of project. Cost per acre OR cost per linear foot of restoration of Clean Ohio Conservation Funds. \$ _____ (maximum points = 6) ✓ one**
(Cost per acre/cost per linear feet is defined as the total amount of COCF funding requested divided by the number of acres/linear feet restored. The NRAC will determine low, medium and high costs each round based on all projects submitted)
___ low cost per acre or linear feet of Clean Ohio Funds (6 points)
___ medium cost per acre or linear feet of Clean Ohio Funds (3 points)
___ high cost per acre or linear feet of Clean Ohio Funds (0 points)

SCORE – Section 2 (69 max. pts)

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)

Enhancement Project:

___ Number of linear feet of stream or acres of habitat to be restored.

- _____ 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 a globally endangered species or biological community (0-3 points)
___ protects 1 or more state Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) endangered species (0-3 points)
___ protects 1 or more state NHI ranked rare, threatened or otherwise listed species (0-3 points)
___ protects a high-quality example of a regionally endangered biological community (0-3 points)
___ protects 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 as 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 2010 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 land owner(s) (5 points)

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

___ a signed purchase agreement with the land owner(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	2010 Per Capita Income	Score
Urbancrest	\$11,678	10
<u>Lockbourne</u>	<u>\$14,964</u>	<u>10</u>
Franklin Township	\$17,865	8
Clinton Township	\$18,419	8
Obetz	\$18,921	8
Whitehall	\$19,182	8
Brice	\$19,258	8
Hamilton Township	\$19,334	8
Valleyview	\$19,371	8
Prairie Township	\$21,614	8
Columbus	\$23,472	8
Truro Township	\$24,579	8
<u>Madison Township</u>	<u>\$25,883</u>	<u>8</u>
Reynoldsburg	\$26,243	6
Blendon Township	\$27,003	6
Groveport	\$27,311	6
Jackson Township	\$27,635	6
Grove City	\$27,727	6
Pleasant Township	\$28,176	6
<u>Harrisburg</u>	<u>\$29,499</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Canal Winchester</u>	<u>\$31,905</u>	<u>6</u>
Washington Township	\$32,143	6
Minerva Park	\$32,694	6
Hilliard	\$33,571	6
Mifflin Township	\$33,992	6
Westerville	\$34,899	6
<u>Norwich Township</u>	<u>\$34,935</u>	<u>6</u>
Brown Township	\$35,195	4
Gahanna	\$35,583	4
Grandview	\$36,028	4
Jefferson Township	\$40,361	4
Sharon Township	\$42,515	4
Worthington	\$42,793	4
Bexley	\$43,619	4
Perry Township	\$44,282	4
Dublin	\$50,949	4
Upper Arlington	\$51,384	4
<u>Riverlea</u>	<u>\$52,953</u>	<u>4</u>
Marble Cliff	\$60,250	2
Plain Township	\$61,217	2
<u>New Albany</u>	<u>\$69,063</u>	<u>2</u>

**Source: American Community Survey (US Census)*