



Contact: **Bernice Cage**
Tel.: 614-233-4157
Cell Phone: 614-626-1117
Email: bcage@morpc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Upper Scioto Watershed Balanced Growth Plan Endorsed

(Columbus – April 15, 2015) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Upper Scioto Watershed Balanced Growth Plan has been endorsed by the State of Ohio Water Resources Council, meaning that 21 participating communities are now eligible for state incentives related to projects they pursue to implement the plan.

To be eligible for endorsement by the Ohio Water Resources Council, the Plan needed to be adopted by at least 75 percent of the participating Upper Scioto Watershed communities. In addition, at least 75 percent of the total watershed planning area population and the land area must be represented by the endorsing communities. The communities that adopted the plan included:

- City of Columbus
- City of Dublin
- City of Marysville
- Village of Magnetic Springs
- Village of Ostrander
- Village of Marble Cliff
- Village of Shawnee Hills
- Village of Urbancrest
- Concord Township
- Franklin Township
- Hamilton Township
- Jackson Township
- Jerome Township
- Leesburg Township
- Liberty Township (Union)
- Millcreek Township
- Norwich Township
- Prairie Township
- Scioto Township (Delaware)
- Washington Township
- York Township

-more-

Working to Build a Better Region

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5222
Phone (614) 228-2663 Fax (614) 621-2401
www.morpc.org

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“The City of Delaware, Ohio was able to save \$1.2 million through a reduced interest rate on a loan to improve their water treatment plant as a result of being part of an endorsed balanced growth plan,” states David Rutter, MORPC Watershed Coordinator. “These same incentives are now available to participating communities in the Upper Scioto Watershed Balanced Growth Plan.”

There are 25 state programs that include special consideration for Balanced Growth participating communities. A Balanced Growth participating community is one that has passed a resolution of support for a Watershed Balanced Growth Plan that has been endorsed by the state. Incentives include:

- Additional points when applying for grants.
- Technical assistance in prioritizing staff resources toward watersheds in Balanced Growth communities.
- Prioritize state matching funds and in-kind staff assistance for Balanced Growth Communities.

-30-

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of local governments and regional organizations which envisions and embraces innovative directions in economic prosperity, energy, the environment, housing, land use, and transportation. Our transformative programming, services and innovative public policy are designed to promote and support the vitality and growth in the region.