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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Blendon, Plain and Mifflin Townships in Franklin County and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District join the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission**

**(Columbus – February 13, 2014)** In order to maintain a strong collaboration on regional issues, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC's) members continue to seek opportunities to grow the organization. Today Blendon, Plain and Mifflin Townships and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District applications for membership were approved by the MORPC Board.

Blendon Township's membership will provide the opportunity for one representative to serve as a voting member at the MORPC Commission meetings. "We recognize the importance of collaboration among local governments in regards to regional issues and challenges. We appreciate the acceptance of our application and look forward to providing input from Blendon Township's perspective," states Bryan Rhoads, Blendon Township Administrator.

Plain Township's membership will provide the opportunity for one representative to serve as voting member at the MORPC Commission meetings. "Plain Township looks forward to partnering with MORPC's membership to address transportation and development in and around Plain Township," states Ben Collins, Plain Township Administrator. "With the opening of a new Metro Park in Plain Township along with increasing traffic and development from Columbus, New Albany and beyond, it is an opportune time to join MORPC."

Mifflin Township's membership will provide the opportunity for one representative to serve as voting member at the MORPC Commission meetings. "Having been affiliated with MORPC for 20 years and the Chair in 2003, I fully realize the value of membership in the organization as well as the wealth of information available from it outstanding staff," states Nancy White, Mifflin Township Fiscal Officer. "With the reduction in funds available to government entities, it is more important than ever to collaborate with other agencies to continue to maintain the level of services for our residents. As a member, there are numerous opportunities to network with other members who are facing the same issues and to work on solutions together."

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*Working to Build a Better Region*

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Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's associate membership will promote stronger partnerships among MORPC members and create opportunities to further advance regional collaboration.

"We are pleased to welcome these new organizations to our membership as we strengthen our collaborative efforts across all levels of local government. Townships are an important segment of our local government partners and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District brings a new partnership and voice to regional challenges," states William Murdock, MORPC Executive Director.

The MORPC Board meets 11 times each year to discuss important regional issues, guide the direction of MORPC's work, network with local leaders to discuss common problems, create solutions to shared regional challenges and provide input on funding decisions. Additional benefits of serving on MORPC's Commission include grants and funding opportunities, educational forums, training and seminars, technical assistance and data, policy development, collaboration and networking.

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*MORPC is a voluntary association of local governments in Central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.*