

Meeting Minutes

ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY WORKING GROUP  
MEETING MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION  
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

Tuesday, July 23,  
2018 2:00p.m. –  
3:30p.m.

**1. Welcome and Introductions. *Matthew Stephens-Rich***

Attending:

Matthew Stephens-Rich, Vice Chair, Smart Columbus  
Andrew Hall, Ohio EPA  
Eric Porr, AEP Ohio  
Sara Olshevski, Ohio EPA  
Andrew May, The Ohio State University  
Randi Leppla, The Ohio Environmental Council  
Tama Ricks, MORPC  
Joe Garrity, MORPC  
Ira Weiss, Fairfield Heritage Trail Association  
David Poole, CTP Sinto America  
Jeremy Druhot, Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority  
Mike Schuiling, Liberty Township  
Tobi Otulana, MORPC  
Brandi Whetstone, MORPC  
Nolan Rutschilling, Ohio Hospital Association  
Matthew Wolf, Columbus Outdoor Pursuits  
Jon-Paul d'Aversa, MORPC  
Allegra Wiesler, OhioHealth  
Niki Lemin, FCPH  
Alex Evans, FCPH  
Intern, FCPH

**2. Featured Presentation: The OEC's Energy Portfolio and HB6, *Randi Leppla***

Please see slides in meeting materials

Featured Presentation Discussion:

Andrew Hall: The natural gas industry may seek referendum to the bill, have you heard this?

Randi Leppla: That is a possibility based on the financial power of that industry, I do expect to see something like this.

Joe Garrity: What do you think are the next steps are after HB6?

Randi Leppla: For renewables, costs are coming down and we are still seeing a lot of development. Will potentially impact small residential installers. \$20 million of the fund

will go to the large-scale utility solar projects but those projects are already in the process so new ones will no longer be supported.

Joe Garrity: Is there anything that you support in the bill?

Randi Leppla: One amendment allows Ohio to ask for additional Federal funds for the LIHEAP.

Brooke: With this bill in mind, do you foresee inclusion of energy efficiency in State implementation plans to achieve National Ambient Air Quality Standards as a way to continue to achieve energy efficiency goals? Is this something we should ponder?

Randi Leppla: The real loser within energy efficiency are the consumers. Our bills are going to rise. The wholesale prices are increasing. We do need to think creatively. OEC will be brainstorming ways to bring all of our goals, including clean air, align.

Nolan: For the mercantile opt-out, at this point, does it even matter since the energy efficiency programs will be going away in 2020?

Randi Leppla: No, it does not make any difference. There is no reason to have an opt out for large entities seeing as the energy efficiency standards are going away soon.

Matthew Stephens-Rich: Will the bill effect energy cooperatives?

Randi Leppla: No, it will not.

Eric Porr: Will the energy efficiency programs run through 2020?

Randi Leppla: The requirement is that they reach 17% which will likely happen by or before 2020.

Brandi Whetstone: Are there any mechanisms or options for voluntary energy efficiency programs?

Randi Leppla: Not in the way it is written in this bill.

### **3. Ohio EPA Update, *Andrew Hall***

Air Quality update: Columbus ozone re-designation was submitted to U.S. EPA on April 23<sup>rd</sup> based on 2016-2018 data . The U.S. EPA put it in the federal register, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and will receive comments until August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Final approval is expected by the end of the summer.

For the current 2019 ozone season, we have only one exceedance at the New Albany monitor. There have been more exceedances in Cleveland and Cincinnati.

Matthew Stephens-Rich: What is our non-attainment status?

Andrew Hall: We are in full attainment with the current federal standards for all pollutants.

### **4. Energy & Air Quality Policy Update, *Joe Garrity***

HB6 was signed into law today. First energy solutions gave funding to candidates elected in 2018. MORPC testified against the bill, sent thank you letters to those who supported the bill, and advocated for the LIHEAP funding within the bill. For the budget, MORPC sought to protect \$70 million funding for the transportation fund which was protected. We also worked to dedicate dollars for a complete count in census, among other advocacy efforts. In point, we worked to influence every single department within MORPC.

Matthew Stephens-Rich: For the Green Bank funding, is that something is on MORPC's radar?

Joe Garrity: It is something that MORPC does not support actively. I do not have expertise on this initiative.

Jon-Paul d'Aversa: Conceptually it is great, but it is ambiguous on how it will function. Until there is more clarification, we will not define our stance.

**5. Technical Assistance Program, *Tobi Otulana***

Please see slides in meeting materials

**6. MORPC Energy & Air Quality Updates, *Brandi Whetstone & Brooke White***

Please see slides for update on Summit for Sustainability.

No updates on the Energy Program.

Air Quality Program is working to transition into more accessible ways to put out public service announcements. The National Weather Service has been putting out Air Quality alerts that have been reaching a broader audience. The idle free program from last year had yielded great results by increased interest so we will be expanding our educational efforts. We currently have received low costs AQ monitors, and we hope to bring in added support to better explore ways to utilize them.

**7. E&AQ Working Group Action Plan Implementation, *Matthew Stephens-Rich***

Please see working topics timeline in meeting materials.

Working on how we can focus on establishing the working group and offer support to MORPC. Currently, MORPC staff is working on some topics that they need support on and will email the list in August. In September, we will have a discussion and finalize the deliverables and critical structure.

By January 2020 subcommittees will be established.

**8. Roundtable**

Matthew Wolf: Midwest Green Transportation event from Clean Fuels Ohio, September 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. The E&AQ working group will receive 60% off for attendance.

Brooke White: The Environmental Network Professionals (EPN) Breakfast, August 13<sup>th</sup>, will be focused on Air Pollution and other drivers.

The Summit on EcoDistricts will be held November 4-5<sup>th</sup> in Pttisburgh

Brooke White will send out information on these events.

Adjourned, 3:26p.m.