

Clean Ohio Applicant Workshop

October 6, 2020



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

District 3 Liaison & OPWC Representative



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Ohio Public Works Commission

65 East State Street, Suite 312

Columbus, Ohio 43215



Clean Ohio Fund



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- Approved by Ohio voters in 2000 & 2008
- Called for \$400 million bond program to be spent to:
 - Conservation Program: preserve natural areas & protect streams
 - Agricultural Easement Purchase Program: preserve farmland
 - Trails Fund: develop recreational trails
 - Revitalization Fund: Clean up brownfields for redevelopment
- In 2018, \$100 million was allocated for the Clean Ohio Program through the capital budget.



Clean Ohio Conservation Program

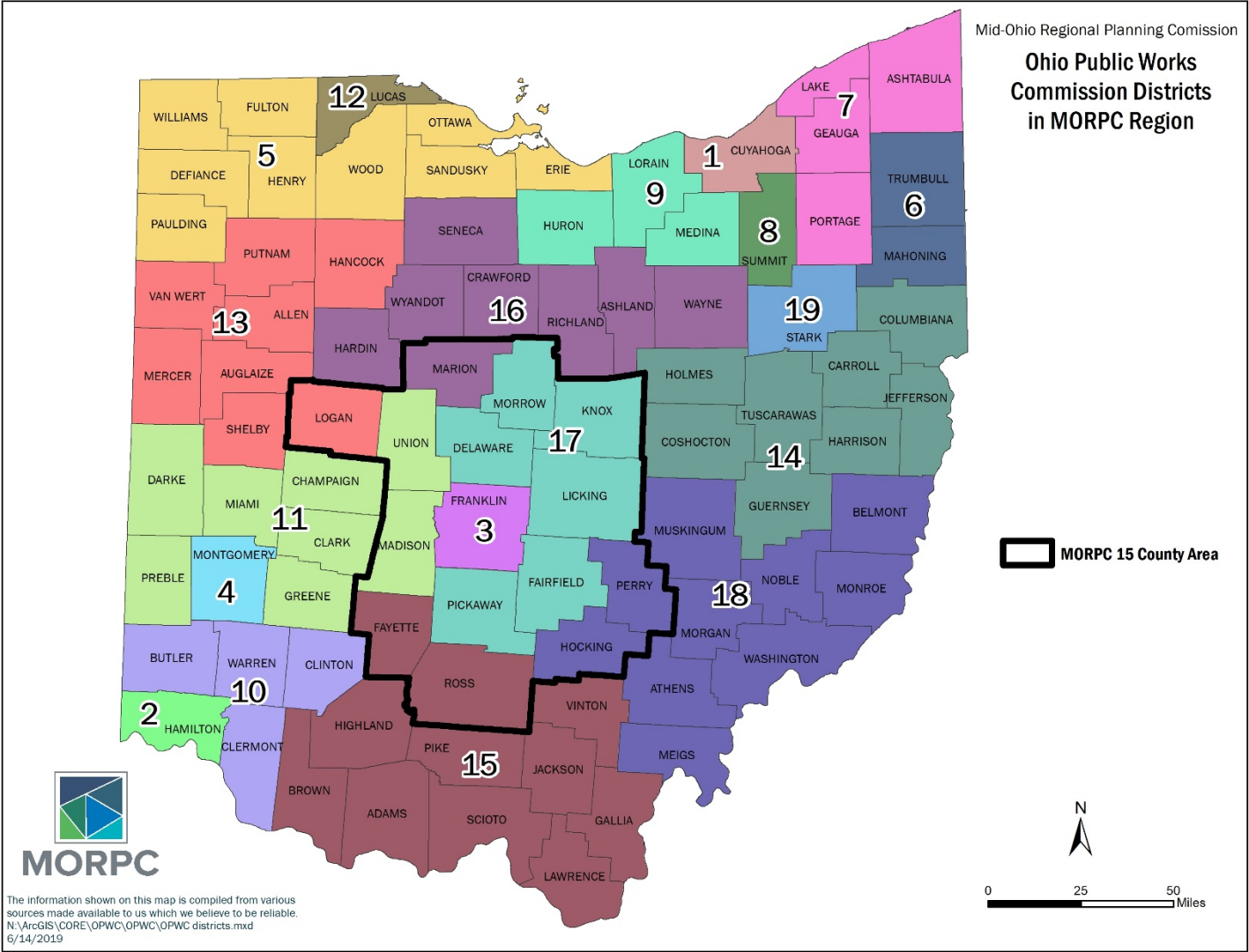


- Purpose
 - Acquire “open space” – parks, forests, wetlands, natural areas
 - Protect and enhance riparian corridors or watersheds
- Eligible Applicants
 - Local Governments
 - Non-Profit Organizations
 - Soil & Water Districts
 - Other Political Subdivisions (Conservation/Parks/Recreational Districts)
- Minimum Match – 25%
- Administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)
- OPWC has 19 Districts

OPWC Districts



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District 3 – Franklin County



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A project located in part of a subdivision that is located outside of Franklin County is deemed a part of the district in which the population is greatest.

Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC)



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- Committee in each District that selects applications to fund
- Develop local criteria
- Review & score applications
- Recommend project approval
- Forward applications to OPWC for implementation & award of funds



Composition of NRACs



- 11 members
- 1 member of the Public Works Integrating Committee (PWIC)
- 1 member appointed by Franklin Soil & Water District
- 9 members selected from five groups (must have 1 from each):

Group 1 Political Jurisdictions

Group 2 Environmental Agencies & Organizations

Group 3 Park Systems

Group 4 Agriculture & Forestry Agencies & Organizations

Group 5 Business, Realtors & Planning

- Terms are 3 years

* Natural Resources Assistance Council



District 3 NRAC Members



<u>Group</u>	<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Community Organization</u>
PWIC	Karl Craven	Public Works Integrating Committee
Soil & Water	Kyle Wilson	Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District
1	Vacant	Local Government
1	Laura Ball	City of Westerville
1	Stephen Farst	City of Groveport
2	Anthony Sasson	Midwest Biodiversity Institute
2	Maureen Lorenz	Friends of the Ravines
3	Shannon Sorrel	Whitehall Parks & Recreation
3	Steve Studenmund	Metro Parks
4	Tyler Stevenson	ODNR Division of Forestry
5	Matthew Brown	Franklin County Economic Development & Planning

- 1 – Local Gov’t
- 2 – Env. Org/Agency
- 3 – Park System
- 4 – Ag./Forestry
- 5 – Business/ Planning

District 3 – Clean Ohio Awards

Round 14



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Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	COCF Amount Requested	Total COCF Awarded
Columbus	East Broad Street Preserve	\$241,700	\$181,275	\$181,275
Appalachia Ohio Alliance	Utzinger Bog Preserve	\$765,397	\$487,397	\$487,397
Columbus	Brice Road Parkland Preserve	\$277,364	\$208,024	\$208,024
Metro Parks	Westchester Park Acquisition	\$1,710,000	\$1,282,500	\$1,282,500
Metro Parks	Nature Reserves Park Acquisition	\$230,000	\$172,500	\$172,500
Columbus	Stockbridge Urban Forest Project	\$1,061,000	\$636,000	\$636,000

Total: \$2,967,696

Schedule – Round 15

- **Step 1:** Preliminary Screener – December 11
- **Step 2:** Applicant Presentations – January 6
- **Step 3:** Applications Due – March 19
- **Step 4:** Site Visits – March 26 (rain date March 29)
- **Step 5:** Application Scoring Session – April 8
- **Step 6:** Awards Final Action – April 21
- **Funds available:** Beginning July 1, 2021

Step 1: Preliminary Screener



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2020 Deadline – December 11

District 3 Preliminary Screener



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Round 15 – Preliminary Screener

- Complete pages 1-3
 - Electronic Copy
 - Submit to: Nathaniel Vogt | 614-233-4183 | nvogt@morpc.org
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission | 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 | Columbus, OH 43215



Page 1: Basic Information

- Applicant Name:
- Project Name:
- Type of Project:

☐ **Land Acquisition**

Property Owner Owner(s) _____

Address: _____ Parcel #: _____

Has anyone contacted the property owner about acquisition?

☐ **YES**

If yes, who contacted the property owner? _____

Date of contact: _____

Is the property owner willing to cooperate with the applicant? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ **NO**

☐ **Riparian Corridor/Watershed Protection & Enhancement**

- Applicant Contact:
- Signature

Preliminary Screener



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PART 1: Project Description

- **Purpose**

(Provide a general description)

- **Location**

- **Project Components**

- **Status of Easements or Acquisition**

- **Include Photos & Map of Project Area**



(map and photos must clearly identify project limits and adjacent existing amenities)



PART 2: Estimated Total Project Cost: (25% match required)

Local Match \$ _____

Other Match (specify all sources) \$ _____

Clean Ohio Grant Requested \$ _____

Estimated Total Project Costs \$ _____

Who provided this cost estimate? _____
(Name, Title, Agency)

(Phone Number)



PART 3: Project Emphasis

- A. Land Acquisition (ORC Sec. 164.22 A)
- B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection & Enhancement (ORC Sec. 164.22 B)
- C. Other Characteristics (Potentially Ineligible)

A. Land Acquisition



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PART 3: Project Emphasis - A

Acquire land for:

- Passive parks
- Public forests
- Wetland preservation or restoration
- Natural areas protecting endangered species
- Other natural areas
- Corridors connecting natural areas
- Permanent, publicly accessible conservation easement
- Enhancing educational opportunities/physical links to schools

OR:

- Constructs or enhances facilities to make Clean Ohio land accessible

B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection



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PART 3: Project Emphasis - B

- Establishes & maintains riparian buffers with native vegetation
- Restores permanent natural stream channels using natural channel design principles
- Restores & maintains natural function of the floodplain such as through the removal of streamside levees
- Removes artificial in stream structures such as low-head dams and old bridge piers
- Employs & maintains “best management practices” to improve water quality

Restoration projects will be required to provide a concept plan and demonstration of resource improvement at the time of the application.

C. Ineligible Activities



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Part 3: Project Emphasis – C

- ☐ includes hydro-modification projects such as dams, dredging, sedimentation, bank clearing, ditch development or channelization?
- ☐ accelerates untreated water runoff?
- ☐ encourages invasive non-native species?
- ☐ funds current legal obligations (such as fines, penalties, litigation expenses, mitigation or reclamation) under state or federal laws or local ordinances or achieves a stormwater permit or other requirement associated with a private development or redevelopment project?
- ☐ funds facilities other than those required to provide public access to or use of open space?
- ☐ funds facilities for active recreation, such as tennis courts, ball fields or recreation centers?
- ☐ funds storm water facilities as primary purpose?
- ☐ funds facilities or improvements (other than invasive species removal) on an easement?

If Yes to any of the above in C, the project is ineligible.
Please see [Eligible Costs](#) on the OPWC webpage.

Improvements Eligible for Clean Ohio



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Only on land acquired with Clean Ohio funds

- Parking
- Boat ramps
- Fencing (property perimeter only)
- Trash cans
- Benches/Picnic tables
- Bike racks
- Kiosks/Signs
- Portable restroom enclosures
- Observation decks
- Hiking/Biking trails
- Pedestrian bridges
- Vehicular bridge (access only onto the property if needed)
- Mitigation (for conservation purposes)
- Restoration
- Naturalization
- Boardwalks
- Archaeological surveys
- Invasive species removal (one-time)
- Lighting (environmentally-sensitive)

Allowable Improvements without Clean Ohio Funds



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Must specify in deed restrictions

- Restrooms
- Pavilions/Picnic Shelters/Shelter Houses
- Dog parks (small footprint, fencing and waste disposal)
- Playground and work out stations (small footprint)
- Rental spaces (if already in existence, no new structures – funds must go back to preserving the site)
- Council circle/natural amphitheater
- Fountains
- Statues
- Solar panels (on buildings/for lights)

Ineligible / Not Allowed on Clean Ohio Lands



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- Camping - primitive or otherwise, including cabins
- Wind turbines
- Manicured flower beds
- Sports fields
- Storm Water/Drainage infrastructure
- Hydromodification
- Solar fields
- Administrative and monitoring costs
- Maintenance items
- Seller paid items/seller settlements costs
- Taxes
- Non-native plants
- Rail banking
- RV parks
- Improvements for well fields
- Aesthetic landscaping/decorative items
- **Access improvements on easements**

Screeners Review



- Applicants will be invited to present a brief project summary to the NRAC
on

January 6, 2021

Step 2: Application



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Deadline: March 19, 2021

District 3: Round 15 Application



Parts 1-7 required

1 electronic copy (preferably PDF in a single document)

Submit to Nathaniel Vogt, District 3 Liaison
Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

nvogt@morpc.org

614.233.4183

Application Package



- Part 1: Submission Checklist
- Part 2: OPWC Application
- Part 3: Application Evaluation Criteria
- Part 4: Cost Estimates
- Part 5: Required Certifications
- Part 6: Maps & Photos
- Part 7: Supportive Documentation

PART 1: Submission Checklist



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- Must be signed by a Certifying Representative

1. ☐ OPWC Application for Financial Assistance Form, pages 1-6 and attachment A
2. ☐ District 3 - **Round 15** - Applicant Evaluation Criteria
3. ☐ Formal, Detailed Cost Estimate by Certified Individual
4. ☐ Appraisal Report – Appraisals must follow OPWC Standards & Procedures for Appraisal Reporting for Round 15
5. ☐ Approved Authorizing Legislation by governing body of the applicant
6. ☐ Certification of Local Match – signed by applicant's chief financial officer
7. ☐ Cooperation Agreement (if multi-jurisdictional)
8. ☐ Resolution of Support (if required) – refer to ORC 164.23 (B)
9. ☐ Map Defining Geographic Scope of Project
10. ☐ Photographs of the Project Site
11. ☐ Supportive Documentation- letters, newspaper articles, etc.
12. ☐ Non-Profits – attach a copy of your IRS 501(c)(3) certification

**** I understand the voluntary staff administrative fee for the Clean Ohio Conservation Fund program is funded from a contribution of up to 1% of the original award.***

PART 2: OPWC Application



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PART 2: OPWC Application



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- Fillable form PDF on OPWC website
- Summary Sheet (page 1)
- 1.0 Project Financial Information
 - 1.1 Project Estimated Costs (page 2)
 - 1.2 Project Financial Resources (page 2)
 - 1.3 Availability of Local Funds (page 3)
 - 1.4. Partnerships (page 3)
- 2.0 Project Schedule (page 3)
 - 2.1 Planning & Implementation
 - 2.2 Land Acquisition & Easements
 - 2.3 Site Improvements
 - **Acquisition within 1 year of agreement**
 - **Complete improvements 2 years after acquisition**
- 3.0 Project Description (page 4)
 - A. Specific Location
 - B. Project Components
 - C. Terms of Easements
 - D. Access
 - E. Ownership/Management Operation
- 4.0 Project Officials (page 5)
- 5.0 Attachments/Completeness Check (page 6)
- 6.0 Applicant Certification (page 6)
- Attachment A – Project Emphasis

PART 3: Applicant Evaluation Criteria



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PART 3: Applicant Evaluation Criteria



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- Section 1: Project Emphasis
 - Questions 1-13
- Section 2: Local Coordination & Support
 - Questions 14 - 20
- Section 3: Additional Criteria
 - Questions 21 - 26
- Section 4: Contact with Property Owner
 - Question 27

Section 1: Project Emphasis



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- Check all criteria that apply
- Provide brief description & documentation for each applicable criterion
- No points awarded without written description or documentation
- Each of the 13 questions can receive a raw score of 0 to 5 points
- Each question's score is multiplied by a weight:
 - High Interest - weight of 10
 - Medium Interest - weight of 6
 - Low Interest - weight of 2
- Total weighted points possible = 390
- Maximum score Section 1 (total/5) = **78 points (32% of total)**

High Interest (Weight of 10)



- Protect rare species or preserve viable habitat for plants & animals (question 3)
- Preserve wetlands or scarce natural resources (question 4)
- Enhance educational opportunities & provide physical links to schools (question 5)
- Part of a stream/watershed plan (question 9)

Medium Interest (Weight of 6)



- Preserve or restore water quality & natural features (question 6)
- Reduce or eliminate non-native, invasive species of plants or animals (question 7)
 - **Higher Interest for Round 15**
- Fee simple acquisition of land or acquire conservation easements (question 11)
- Restore or preserve headwater streams (question 12)
- Restore & preserve aquatic biological communities (question 13)

Low Interest (Weight of 2)



- Support comprehensive open space planning (question 1)
- Enhance economic development related to recreation & eco-tourism in lower income areas (question 2)
- Proper management of areas where fishing can preserve a balanced natural ecosystem (question 8)
- Provide multiple recreational, economic and aesthetic preservation benefits (question 10)

Section 2: Local Coordination & Support



- Provide written response to each question
- Provide documentation where needed:
 - Copy of Appraisal Report or Restricted Appraisal Report
 - Agencies involved
 - Operation & maintenance plan

Section 2: Local Coordination & Support



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14. Matching funds - includes land donation (30 points max)
15. Level of coordination (6 points max)
16. Level of conservation coordination (3 points max)
17. Community benefits (9 points max)
18. Extent of public access (5 points max)
19. Operation/Maintenance plan (10 points max)
 - **New: More points possible if plan includes invasive species management**
20. Unit Cost (cost per acre or linear foot of Clean Ohio funds) (6 points max)

Maximum score Section 2 = **69 points (29% of total)**

Section 3: Additional Criteria



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- 21. Riparian Buffer (12 points max)
- 22. Regional Significance (12 points max)
- 23. Natural Resource Viability (15 points max)
 - State Natural Heritage Inventory threatened/endangered species provided by ODNR
 - Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index for streams
 - Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) for wetlands
- 24. Urban Environment (5 points max)
- 25. Other Relevant Factors (20 points max)
- 26. Economic Condition of Location (10 points max)

Maximum score Section 3 = **74 points (31% of total)**

Section 4: Contact with Property Owner



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SECTION 4 – COMMUNICATIONS WITH LANDOWNER (ORC 164.24(A)(10))

- _____ 27. Applicant has:
(Select one) *(maximum points =20)*
- ___ had some communications by phone, person or email with landowner(s) (5 points)
 - ___ a letter of intent to purchase from the landowner(s) (10 points)
 - ___ a signed purchase agreement with the landowner(s) **or** ownership of the land (20 points)

Maximum score Section 4 = **20 points (8% of total)**

PART 3: Applicant Evaluation Criteria



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- Section 1: Project Emphasis
 - 78 points max
- Section 2: Local Coordination & Support
 - 69 points max
- Section 3: Additional Criteria
 - 74 points max
- Section 4: Contact with Property Owner
 - 20 points max
- **241 total points max**

PART 4: Cost Estimate



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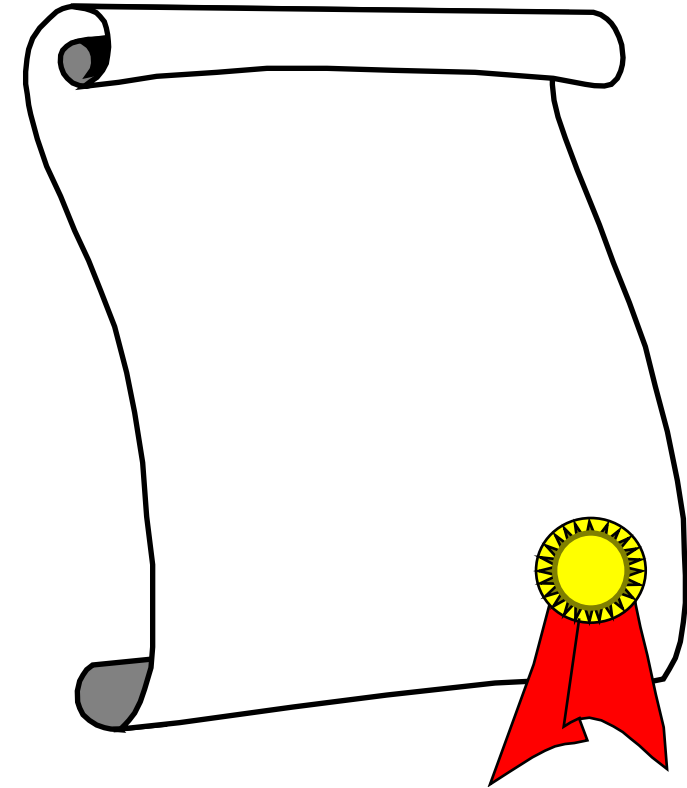


- Land Acquisition
 - **New standards for Round 15**
 - **Appraisal Report or a Restricted Appraisal Report required with Final Application**
 - *By an appraiser who is a certified general real estate appraiser holding a current certificate as issued by the Ohio Department of Commerce and is also an Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Prequalified Appraiser credential in Appraisal*
- Construction or Restoration
 - Formal estimate provided by an architect, landscape architect, or other professional.
 - Price quotes

PART 5: Required Certifications



- Certified copy of authorization for an official to sign the application
- CFO certification of local matching finds
- Cooperative agreement (if applicable)
- Resolution of support (if required)
- OPWC Proposed Declaration of Restrictions



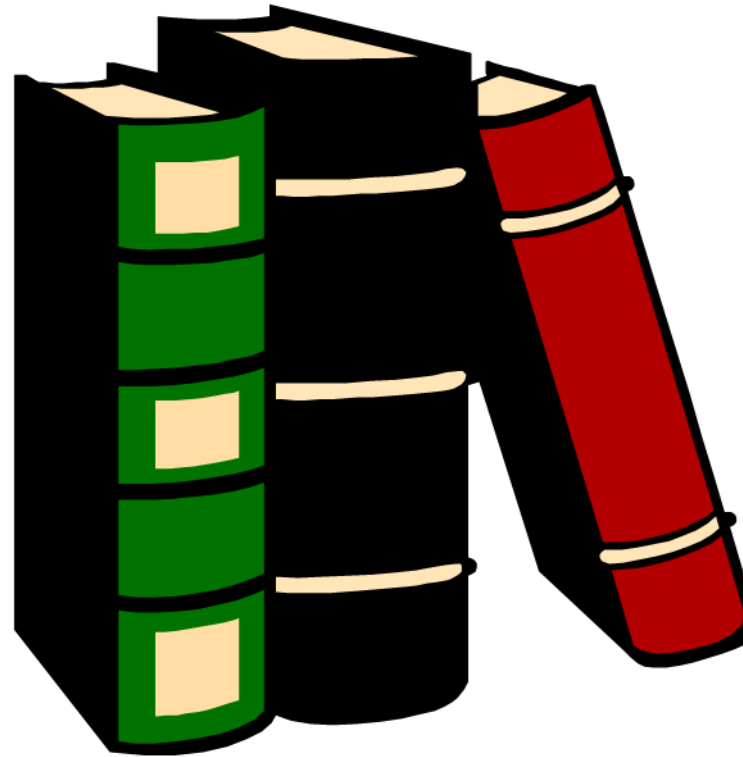
PART 6: Maps and Photos



PART 7: Supportive Documentation



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Program Policies



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1. In-Kind Contributions

- Required in-kind contributions are not eligible and will not be considered as part of local match.

2. Donation of Easements

- The donation of an easement other than those required above is considered a private contribution.
- The value of the easement determined by the appraisal which accompanies the application.

3. Score Tie Breakers

- 1st tie breaker – project with highest % of match dollars.
- 2nd tie breaker – project receiving the most points under 'community benefits'.

4. Time Extensions

- No time extensions for applications will be granted.
- Extensions for active projects will be considered by the NRAC **and approved by OPWC.**

5. Last Project Offered Partial Funding

- Applicants have 30 days from the time of the award to decide to whether accept the partial funding.

Program Policies (cont'd)



6. Minimum Points

- Projects that obtain 50% or less of the total possible maximum points will only be funded in full or part upon a majority vote of NRAC members and if funds are available.

7. Appraisal

- **Application shall be accompanied by an Appraisal Report or a Restricted Appraisal Report by a certified appraiser.**

8. Clean Ohio Signage

- All funded District 3 projects are encouraged but not required to erect signage following District 3 signage guidelines. The cost of a sign is reimbursable.

9. Purchase Price

- **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.**

10. 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.**

Advisories



- Good place to look for answers
- Use search tool on the OPWC website
- Clean Ohio advisories are separate from infrastructure advisories

Subdivision Applicant Codes

- Local political subdivision
- Nonprofit organization (as defined in ORC Sec.164.20 (B))
 - Request a subdivision code from OPWC
 - Request in writing on nonprofit organization's letterhead
 - Signed by CEO
 - Include documentation on purpose and IRS tax exempt status



Long Term Ownership & Control Requirements:

- Land or rights in land acquired shall remain in the ownership and control of the grant recipient in perpetuity.
- Future transfer of ownership must be approved in writing by Director of OPWC.
- Must record deed restrictions or conservation easements as stated in application.

Policy clarifications:

- COCF \$ can be used to make an open space area accessible to the public.
- The cost of property or conservation easements acquired with COCF \$ may exceed its appraised value, by no more than 5%. Purchaser must be able to justify the higher cost to their NRAC & OPWC
- Value of future costs for monitoring conservation easements, deed restrictions or maintenance is not an eligible cost to meet the minimum 25% local match requirement.

Advisories



Policy clarifications:

- No improvements on easements
- Project Schedule – acquisition within 1 year of receiving agreement, improvements completed 2 years after that

District 3 Administrative Fees



- OPWC provides funding for program administration but does not cover indirect costs.
- MORPC requests an administrative fee of up to 1% of the award amount to cover indirect costs.
- Outlined on Application Submission Checklist signed by CEO and the Local Match form signed by the chief financial officer

Other Resources



- MORPC
 - www.morpc.org
 - Tools & Resources → Funding & Grants → Clean Ohio Fund – [Clean Ohio Conservation Fund](#)
 - District methodology and application materials
- OPWC - www.pwc.state.oh.us
 - Clean Ohio Application & Instructions
 - Advisories
 - Subdivision Codes
 - District Map
 - Funded Projects
 - **Helpful Links for Supporting Documentation:**
 - [Beneficial use designations](#) (for streams)
 - [Ohio Primary Headwater Habitat Streams](#) (for headwater streams)
 - [Ohio Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands](#) (ORAM Documents (for wetlands))
 - [Ohio Natural Heritage Database](#) (rare plants and animals)
 - [Ohio Credible Data Program](#)

Questions



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