



Clean Ohio Applicant Workshop

October 4, 2021



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

District 3 Liaison & OPWC Representative



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District 3 Staff - Franklin County

Edwina Teye

Office: 614-233-4233

Email: eteye@morpc.org

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100

Columbus, OH 43215

District 3 Program Representative

Jennifer Kline

Cell: 614-733-8117

Office: 614-752-8118

Email: Jennifer.kline@pwc.ohio.gov

Ohio Public Works Commission

77 South High Street, Suite 1846

(new address starting March 2022)

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



Clean Ohio Conservation Program

Statewide - \$37.5 million



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PURPOSE:

- Purchase of open spaces & the cost to make them accessible to the public
- Protection of stream corridors & areas along waterways that provide wildlife habitat & reduce erosion

WHO CAN APPLY?

Local governments
Park & joint recreation districts
Conservancy districts
Soil & Water Conservancy Districts
Non-profits

MATCH WHO AWARDS FUNDS?

At least 25%
Each PWIC will appoint an 11 member local NRAC - Natural Resources Assistance Council
NRAC reviews based on uniform statewide criteria
NRAC sends recommended projects to OPWC for approval

SPECIAL EMPHASIS:

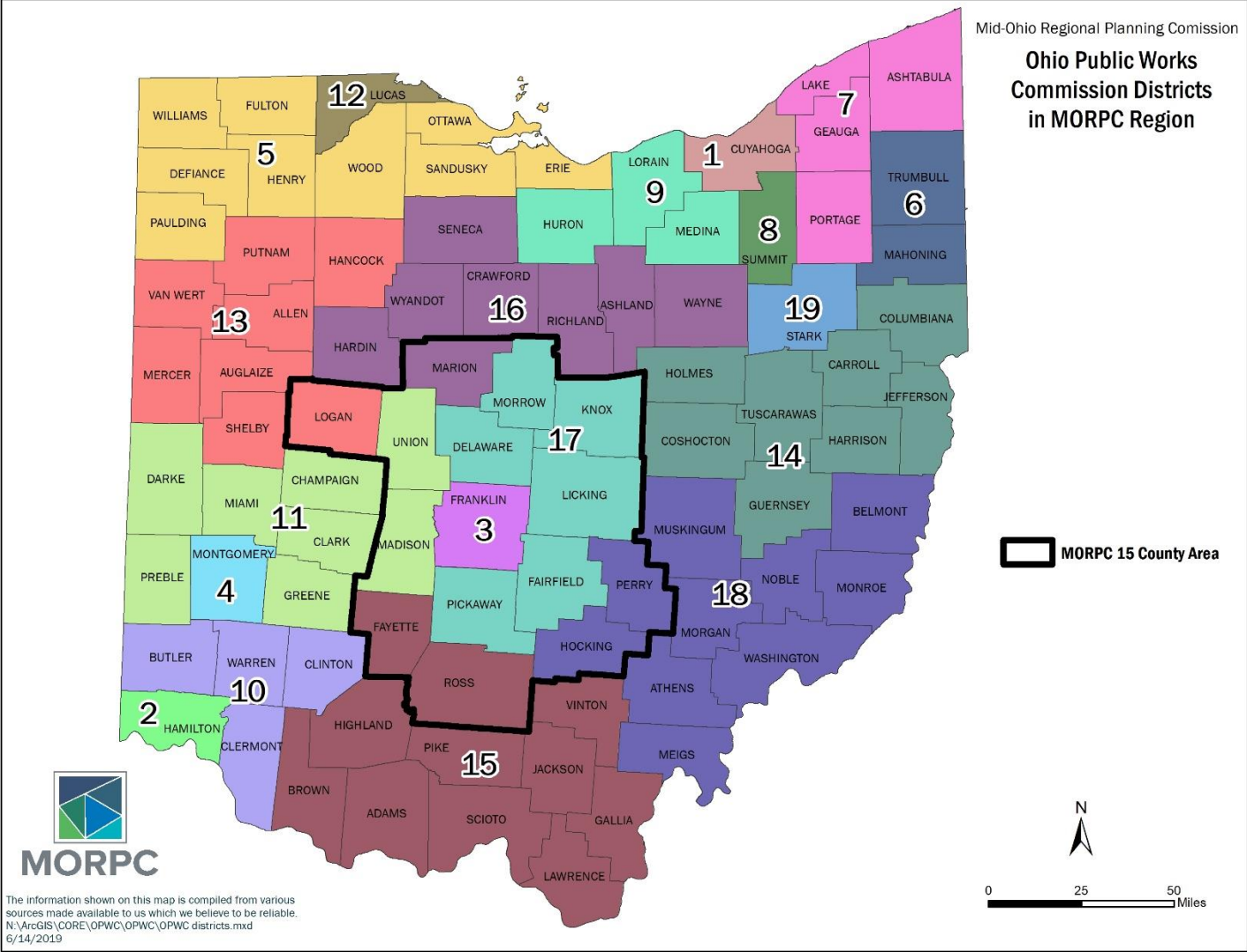
- Protect habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species
- Preserve high quality wetlands & other scarce natural resources
- Preserve streamside forests, natural stream channels
- Provide safe areas for fishing, hunting & trapping



19 PWIC Districts



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DISTRICT 3



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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.



- **9 members appointed by:**
 - **2 Franklin County Commissioners**
 - **2 Mayor of City of Columbus**
 - **2 Other Municipalities**
 - **2 Franklin County Township Association**
 - **1 Private Sector appointed by 8 PWIC members**
- **Members serve 3-year terms per ORC 164.04**

Composition of NRAC*



- 11 members
- 1 member appointed to represent the district PWIC
- 1 member appointed by Franklin Soil & Water District
- 9 members selected from **five** groups:

- Group 1 Political Jurisdictions**
- Group 2 Environmental groups**
- Group 3 Park System**
- Group 4 Agriculture & Forestry**
- Group 5 Business, Realtors & Planning**

- Terms are 3 years

* Natural Resources Assistance Council



Natural Resources Assistance Council

District 3 – Members

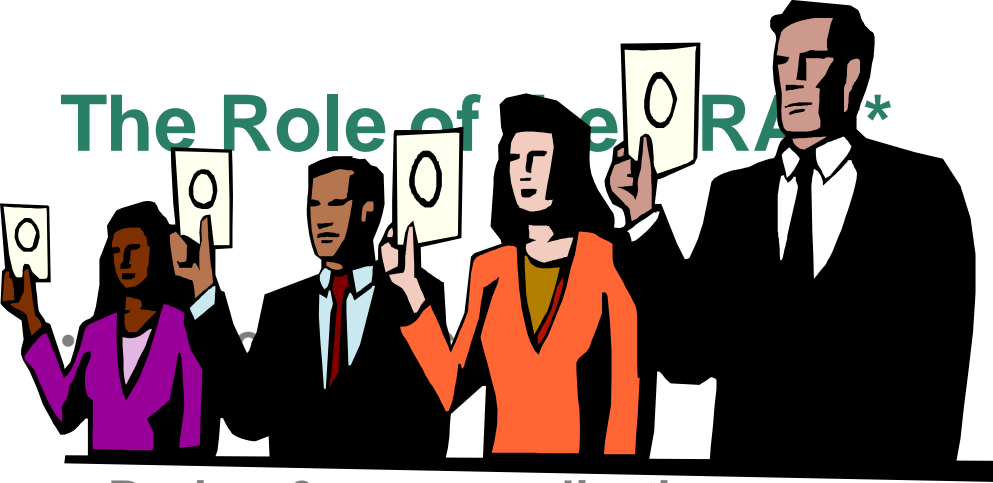


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<u>Group</u>	<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Community Organization</u>
PWIC	Karl Craven	Public Works Integrated Community
Soil & Water	Kyle Wilson	Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District
1	Laura Ball	City of Westerville
1	Stephen Farst	City of Groveport
2	Nathan Johnson	Ohio Environmental Council
2	Vacant	
2	Jim Palus	Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed
3	Shannon Sorrell	Whitehall Parks & Recreation
3	Steve Studenmund	Metro Parks
4	Tyler Stevenson	ODNR Division of Forestry
5	Matthew Brown	Franklin County Economic Dev. & Planning

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

The Role of the RA*



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- Review & score applications
- Recommend project approval
- Forward applications to OPWC for implementation & award of funds

*Natural Resources Assistance Council

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

District 3 – Franklin County



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District 3 - COCF Awards

Round 15



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Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	COCF Amount Requested	Total COCF
Columbus	Refugee Rd. Mason Run Parklands	\$1,440,000	\$1,008,000	\$1,008,000
Columbus	Cherrybottom Expansion Park - Venice Club	\$644,000	\$463,680	\$463,680
Columbus	Cherrybottom Expansion Park - Capitol City Baptist	\$272,000	\$195,840	\$195,840
Metro Parks	Little Walnut Creek Acquisition	\$2,910,000	\$2,182,500	\$2,182,500
Metro Parks	Big Walnut Creek Acquisition	\$1,710,000	\$1,282,500	\$1,282,500
Reynoldsburg	Blacklick Creek Stream Restoration & Riparian Corridor Enhancement	\$688,100	\$516,075	\$258,049

Total

\$6,207,482

\$5,390,569

District 3 - COCF Funds 2021



Round 16

SCHEDULE – ROUND 16



- **Step 1:** Preliminary Screener – December 10
- **Step 2:** Applicant Presentations – January 10
- **Step 3:** Applications Due – March 11
- **Step 4:** Site Visits – March 25 (rain date March 28)
- **Step 5:** Application Scoring Session – April 7
- **Step 6:** Awards Final Action – April 25
- **Funds available:** By July 1

Step 1: Preliminary Screener



2021 Deadline – December 10

Round 16 – Preliminary Screener

- Complete pages 1-3
 - Electronic Copy
 - Submit to: Edwina Teye | 614-233-4233 | eteye@morpc.org
- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission | 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 | Columbus, OH 43215

Preliminary Screener



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Page 1: Information Sheet

- 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:



Eliminary 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)



Preliminary Screener



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PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS

A. Open Space Acquisition (Sec. 164.22 A)

B. Riparian Corridors or Watershed Protection & Enhancement (Sec. 164.22B)

C. Other Characteristics: (if applicable)

- 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.

Preliminary Screener



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• PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS - A

Acquire land for: (passive not active recreation)

- passive parks
- public forests
- wetland preservation or restoration
- natural areas protecting endangered species
- other natural areas
- connecting greenway corridors
- to enhance educational opportunities/physical links to schools
- constructs or enhances facilities to make open space accessible
- permanent publicly accessible conservation easement

• PART 3: PROJECT EMPHASIS - B

Riparian Corridors/Watershed Protection & Enhancement

- 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

Screeners Approval



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

January 10, 2022

Step 2: Application



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Deadline: March 11, 2022

District 3: Round 16 Application



Parts 1-7 required

Applications are to be submitted through OPWC Public WorksWise web portal. Please go to the [Public WorksWise training page](#) to request a login and view training videos.

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 CHECK LIST



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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



Projects ▾

Grants

Loans

Invoices ▾

Approved Vendors

Help ▾



Search...

Login

Ohio Public Works Commission Public WorksWise



Welcome to the new home of the Ohio Public Works Commission WorksWise

Part 2: OPWC Application



Complete Page 1-6

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

- 2.1 Planning & Implementation (page 3)
- 2.2 Land Acquisition & Easements (page 3)
- 2.3 Site Improvements (page 3)

3.0 Project Description (page 4)

4.0 Project Officials (page 5)

5.0 Attachments/Completeness Check (page 6)

6.0 Applicant Certification (page 6)

Attachment A

Part 3: Applicant Evaluation Criteria



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Part 3: Applicant Evaluation Criteria

Part 1- Project Emphasis

(Questions 1-13)

Part 2 - Local Coordination & Support

(Questions 14 - 20)

Part 3 - Additional Criteria

(Questions 21 - 26)

Part 4 – Contact with property owner

(Questions 27)

Part 1: PROJECT EMPHASIS



- Check all criteria that apply
- Provide brief description & documentation
- If no written description or documentation
(no points)

PART 1: NRAC Scoring



Local Priorities for Project Emphasis

Each of the 13 questions can receive a raw score of between 0-5 points.

- * **High Interest - weight of 10**
- * **Medium Interest - weight of 6**
- * **Low Interest - weight of 2**

Total weighted points possible = 370 (then /5)

Maximum score Part 1 = 78 points (32% of total)

HIGH INTEREST (weight of 10)



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- **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)
- **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 2)



- **Support comprehensive open space planning** (question 1)
- **Enhance economic development in lower income areas that rely on recreation & eco-tourism** (question 2)
- **Reduce or eliminate non-native, invasive species of plants or animals** (question 7)
- **Proper management of areas where fishing can preserve a balanced natural ecosystem** (question 8)
- **Provide multiple recreational, economic & aesthetic preservation benefits** (question 10)

Part 2: Local Coordination & Support



- Provide written response to each question
- Provide documentation where needed:
 - Copy of appraisal
 - Agencies involved
 - Long term operation maintenance plan

Part 2: NRAC Scoring: Local Coordination & Support



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- 14. Matching funds - includes land donation (max. pts = 30)**
- 15. Level of coordination (max. pts =6)
- 16. Level of conservation coordination (max. pts =3)
- 17. Community benefits (max. pts = 9)**
- 18. Extent of public access (max. pts =5)
- 19. Operation/Maintenance (max. pts = 10)
- 20. Cost per acre/linear ft of Clean Ohio funds (max. pts=6)

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

Part 3: NRAC Scoring (Additional Criteria)



- 21. Riparian Buffer (max. points = 12)
- 22. Regional Significance (max. points = 12)
- 23. Natural Resource Viability (max. points = 15)**
- 24. Urban Environment (max. points = 5)
- 25. Other Relevant Factors (max. points = 20)**
- 26. Economic condition of applicant (max. points = 10)

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

Part 3 (Additional Criteria)



Provide documentation where needed:

* **23. List of threatened or endangered species**

Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI)

(* provided by ODNR or other qualified entity)

Part 4: Communications with Landowner



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27.

Communications by phone, person or email with landowner(s) (5 points)

Letter of intent to purchase from the landowner(s) (10 points)

Signed purchase agreement with the landowner(s) or ownership of the land (20 points)

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

NRAC SCORING METHODOLOGY (Final Score)



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Part 1:

Project Emphasis 78

Part 2:

Local Coordination & Support 69

Part 3:

Additional Criteria 74

Part 4:

Communication 20

TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS 241



Part 4: COST ESTIMATE



Construction

or

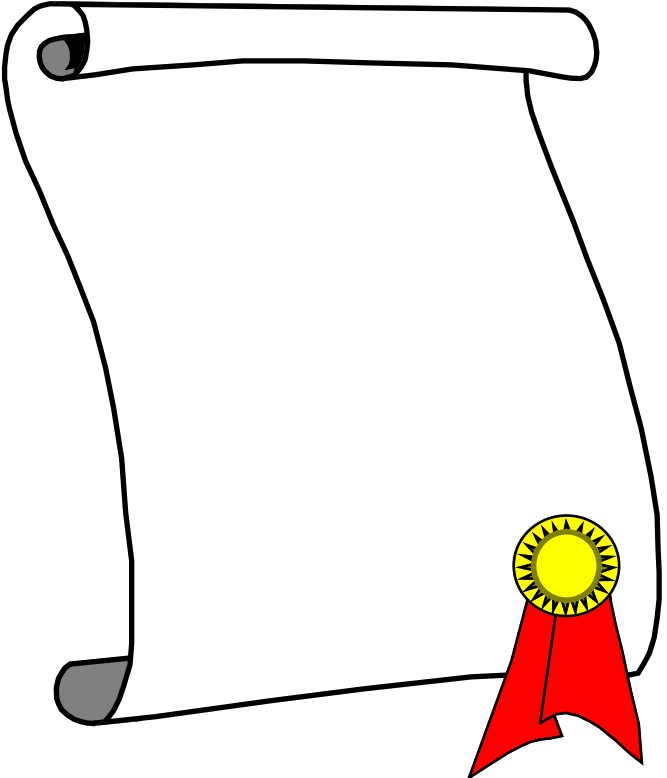
Restoration

(Formal detailed cost estimate)

Land Acquisition

(Summary of Appraisal)

Part 5: Required Certifications/Agreements





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- **Authorizing legislation**
- **Cooperation agreement**
- **Resolution of support**
- **Certification of local match**

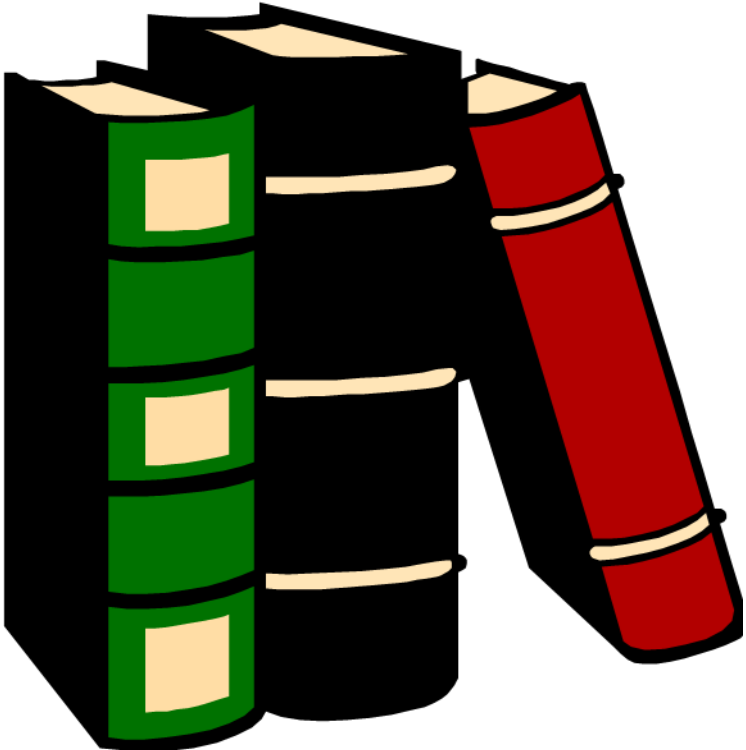
Part 6: Maps and Photos



Part 7: Supportive Documentation



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Appendices



- 1. Schedule**
- 2. NRAC Program Policies**
- 3. ORC 164.22 & 164.23**
- 4. OPWC Instructions for completing Part 2**
- 5. Methodology for NRAC Scoring Part 3**
- 6. Advisories**
- 7. Glossary of Terms**

Round 16 – Program Policies



1. In-Kind Contributions

In-kind contributions required by local ordinances, resolutions or rules 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 as a private contribution.

The value of the easement is 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. No time Extension

No time extensions will be granted. Due no later than 5.00p.m. on the date of the application deadline

5. Last Project Offered Partial Funding

Applicants have thirty days from the time of the award to decide to accept the partial funds or turn down the funds and reapply the next round

Round 16 – 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 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

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.

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 be up to 105% of the appraised value. 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.

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



www.morpc.org - Programs & Services – Clean Ohio Conservation Fund

www.pwc.state.oh.us

Advisories

Ohio Rare Plants

Subdivision Application Codes

District Map

Funded Projects

Questions



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