

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
 111 Liberty Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Natural Resources Assistance Council
 Meeting Notes – Round 17 – Application Scoring Session

April 5, 2023, 11:00 am

Members Present

Vice-Chair Laura Ball, City of Westerville
 Matt Brown, Franklin County
 Stephen Farst, City of Groveport
 Nathan Johnson, Ohio Environmental Council
 Jim Palus, The Nature Conservancy / FLOW

Terry Seidel, The Nature Conservancy
 Shannon Sorrell, City of Whitehall
 Steve Studenmund, Metro Parks
 Chair Kyle Wilson, Franklin Soil & Water
 Conservation District

Public Present

Jennifer Kline, Ohio Public Works Commission

MORPC Staff Present

Lynn Kaufman Edwina Teye

Meeting Called to Order at 1:10 pm.

Approval of January 9, 2023, Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made; the motion was seconded; motion carried.

Available Funds

The current balance available for FY 23/Round 17 is \$4,307,486, which includes \$15,000 administrative costs.

Review and Scoring of Applications

Matching Funds:

ID	Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	Local Match Dollars	Match %	Clean Ohio Amount Requested	#14 Match
17-01	Columbus	Linden Green Line Linear Park	\$4,948,000.00	\$2,474,000.00	50%	\$2,474,000.00	25
17-02	Metro Parks	Clover Groff Headwaters Acquisition	\$2,010,000.00	\$502,500.00	25%	\$1,507,500.00	1
17-03	Whitehall	Fairway Blvd. Big Walnut Trail Conservation Acquisition & Access	\$713,380	\$178,345	25%	\$535,035.00	1
						\$4,516,535.00	

Cost Effectiveness:

ID	Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	Local Match Dollars	Match %	Clean Ohio Cost Per Acre/LF	#20 Cost
17-01	Columbus	Linden Green Line Linear Park	\$4,948,000.00	\$2,474,000.00	50%	\$49,480.00	
17-02	Metro Parks	Clover Groff Headwaters Acquisition	\$2,010,000.00	\$502,500.00	25%	\$18,162.65	
17-03	Whitehall	Fairway Blvd. Big Walnut Trail Conservation Acquisition & Access	\$713,380	\$178,345	25%	\$69,485.06	

0 = High Cost
 3 = Medium Cost
 6 = Low Cost

Members discussed the acquisition of the acreage for the Linden Green Line Linear Park, deciding that the land would be considered a standard acquisition even though the property is linear.

Chair Wilson proposed that 17-01 Linden Green Line Linear Park and 17-03 Fairway Blvd. Big Walnut Trail Conservation Acquisition & Access will be considered the highest cost per acre award and 17-03 Clover Groff Headwaters Acquisition as the lowest cost per acre.

A motion was made to approve the cost effectiveness proposal; the motion was seconded; motion carried.

Per Capita Income

ID	Applicant	Project Name	Community	Per Capita Income	Score
17-01	Columbus	Linden Green Line Linear Park	Columbus	\$30,056.00	8
17-02	Metro Parks	Clover Groff Headwaters Acquisition	Hilliard	\$46,037.00	4
17-03	Whitehall	Fairway Blvd. Big Walnut Trail Conservation Acquisition & Access	Whitehall	\$21,938	8

Question 26 on the scoring sheet shows per capita income in the jurisdiction, as of the 2010 Census. The lower the per capita income, the more points are awarded to the project.

Communications with Landowner

None of the above projects are under contract.

Members reviewed [correspondence](#) from the attorney representing the owner of the Linden Green Line Linear Park property, and decided that the correspondence will be considered a letter of intent.

Other Business

Members asked that staff ensure the application coordinates with scoring sheet for future rounds. Staff will also remind applicants to only use the latest application.

Whitehall Appraisal

Members discussed the [appraisal](#) for the Fairway Blvd. Big Walnut Trail Conservation Acquisition & Access, noting that part of the appraisal for one parcel is missing.
LINK to Whitehall appraisal

Appalachia Ohio Alliance

The Appalachia Ohio Alliance has inquired about not paying the 1% admin fee (\$3,000) for the Utzinger Bog Project. This project was funded in Round 14. Discussion ensued, with members noting that the obligation to pay the fee is stated and agreed to by the applicant in the application documents that were filed.

Chair Wilson noted that the Council cannot make retroactive changes; the 1% was considered a part of the original award budget. He suggested that this be discussed at the May 1 meeting when the next round policies will be discussed. The Council can revise criteria for the future that require all previous administrative fees to have been paid by the applicant, or points can be subtracted for amounts still unpaid. Other suggestions were (1) applicants could be required to pay their 1% fee at time of award, and (2) extensions may be contingent upon admin fees being up to date.

Adjournment 12:19 pm