



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty St., #100
Columbus, OH 43215
September 20, 2023, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

- 2:30 – 2:40 pm** Welcome and Introductions – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 2:40 – 2:55 pm** MORPC Updates
- **Executive Director’s Report** – *William Murdock, MORPC*
 - **Summit on Sustainability** – *Kerstin Carr, MORPC*
 - **Leaders Listen Sustainability Survey** – *Dave Dixon, MORPC*
 - **Policy Updates** – *Joe Garrity, MORPC*
- 2:55 – 3:15 pm** **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant** – *Brian Filiatraut, MORPC and Alana Shockey, City of Columbus*
- 3:15 – 3:35 pm** **Sustainable2050 Tier Status Certification for City of Columbus** – *Kerstin Carr, MORPC*
- 3:35 – 3:50 pm** **Working Group & Board Updates** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- Energy & Air Quality Working Group: *Matt Stephens-Rich*
 - Central Ohio Greenways Board: *Mike Andrako*
 - Sustaining Scioto Board: *Glenn Marzluf*
 - Sustainable2050: *Laurie Jadwin*
- 3:50 – 4:00 pm** **New Business and Member Updates** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*
- 4:00 pm** **Adjourn** – *Ben Kessler, Chair*

Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or LKaufman@morpc.org to confirm your attendance at this meeting or if you require special assistance.

The next Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
will be on December 13, 2023, at 2:30 pm

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Grooms
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary



Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Mike Andrako, P.E.)

Next meeting: Sept 20, 2023

The Central Ohio Greenways Board met on July 19th to approve updated Strategic Plan Action Items. The Board will meet again on September 20th to review and approve a new working group structure that will support the advancement of the updated Action Items. The proposed new structure will include two ongoing program-based working groups, time constrained project based working groups, and annual collaboration meetings.

The Outdoor Trails Pass partnership with Experience Columbus was relaunched in April. Since the relaunch we have seen a significant increase in the number of people interacting with and using the pass. Over 1000 people have checked into destinations along the COG trails since April.

A Trail Alerts page has been added to the COG website to communicate trail closures and detours. Partners are encouraged to share their trail closures with MORPC staff.

The Designing Local consultant team is under contract to complete the COG Wayfinding Strategy. The team has met with stakeholders and has drafted a recommended signage strategy. Over the next month they will integrate Trail Towns concepts into the wayfinding strategy.

Cycle Forward is under contract to complete the COG Trail Town Framework- Urban Expansion project. The team has met with select communities in Franklin County along the Ohio to Erie Trail to learn more about their interests, needs, and concerns with a Trail Town Program. The project is expected to be completed in October.

COG is hosting a Trail Forum in Westerville on October 12. The results of the Trail Towns Project, updates to the Wayfinding work, community trail spotlights, and other tourism related topics will be shared.

The Trail Development Working Group will be supporting Regional Partnership Meetings during the second half of 2023. The partnership meetings are scheduled for November 2023

COG received partial funding for a Natural Asset Mapping effort from the Columbus Foundation. When fully funded, the project will provide data to support holistic decision making around how development impacts the sustainability of our region's watersheds.



Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Matt Stephens-Rich)

Next meeting: September 27, 2023

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met on July 25, which included updates on how the Canadian wildfires are affecting the region's air quality and the two energy-climate-related grants—the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

(CPRG)—MORPC submitted earlier this summer. Additionally, Rachael Beeman of the Human Service Chamber spoke about their efforts to reduce energy use through solar and energy efficiency projects for Central Ohio nonprofits through their proposed USDOE Renew America's Nonprofits grant application. Lastly, the Working Group was reminded of the pending change in leadership with both Chair Matt Stephens-Rich and Vice-Chair Dale Arnold stepping down from their roles at the end of the year when their terms expire. If you recommend anyone as a leadership candidate, please contact Brian Filiatraut, MORPC's Energy & Sustainability Program Manager (bfiliatraut@morpc.org). The Energy and Air Quality Working Group will hold its next meeting, virtually, on Wednesday, September 27 from 1 – 2:30 PM.

The City of Columbus, in partnership with MORPC, The Ohio State University, Power a Clean Future Ohio, and IMPACT Community Action secured funding through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. This formula-based grant will focus on developing benchmarks and metrics, a benefits analysis for low-income and disadvantaged communities, mitigation strategies, and an engagement and community outreach strategy in the ten-county Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) encompassing Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Madison, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, and Union Counties. This grant will better position the region for the \$4.6 billion CPRG Phase II: Implementation opportunities that should begin in early 2024. The project team distributed a survey asking residents and stakeholders in the 10-county planning area to provide their input on how to best conduct meaningful and representative engagement. This is the first of many opportunities the core project team plans to engage with the Columbus MSA region.

Air Quality: It has been an unprecedented year for wildfires in Canada, which brought hazy skies and unhealthy pollution levels across central Ohio in June and July. The team continues to respond to questions and data requests from members of the media and the public. During June and July, there were eight days with Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher AQI (Air Quality Index) levels. The team is also ramping up the EPA air monitoring project working in partnership with Franklin County Public Health. The team has been developing plans, giving presentations, creating a project advisory committee, developing the Quality Assurance Project Plan, and reviewing quotes for sensor equipment.



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: September 28, 2023

The next meeting will take place on September 28 at 9:30am, which will include an informational presentation on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and how members can be involved in the process. From there, the team will be requesting confirmation from members to participate on a Regional CPRG Sub-committee.

The MORPC team also collected photos and brief descriptions of Sustainable2050 member accomplishments to feature on social media during "Sustainable September". The city of Columbus completed their workbook for Sustainable2050 recertification, which will be considered at the Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting on September 20.

Membership and tier status certification is open to MORPC members. Please contact MORPC's Sustainability Officer, Brandi Whetstone, for more information at bwhetstone@morpc.org.



Sustaining Scioto Board (Chair: Glenn Marzluf)

Next Meeting: October 25, 2023

The Sustaining Scioto Board met on August 23, where board members heard a preliminary project overview of the Farming for Cleaner Water project in the Upper Scioto watershed. MORPC has received funding from American Farmland Trust to provide communication planning services and is working with New Reach Consulting. MORPC is asking members to complete a [survey](#) focused on gaining insights and information about their experiences as stakeholders involved in water quality activities in the Upper Scioto watershed. Input will help the team develop comprehensive messaging based on the needs and experiences of organizations and regions. Melinda Vonstein presented a new project which will inventory and map the natural assets within Franklin County's watersheds, which was partially funded by the Columbus Foundation. Finally, Brandi Whetstone presented an overview of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and encouraged members to take a survey that will inform the engagement strategy. The Sustaining Scioto Board's next meeting is on October 25.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team:

The working team met on July 20 and heard a presentation from Broc Sehen, District Technician – Wildlife Specialist with Madison Soil and Water Conservation District about the District's program. The working team is committed to strengthening partnerships and building relationships among the region's northern partners. The group continues to discuss ways to increase visibility of the working group and Board and support partner agencies around water quality and improvement. The working team will meet again on October 21.