



MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING AGRICULTURAL & RURAL COMMUNITIES OUTREACH TEAM MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REMOTE MEETING

March 28, 2024, 10:00 am

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Chair Brian Brandt

2. 2024 Programming

- **Lobby Day and Soil Health Task Force Bill**
Member Hirtle provided updates on the upcoming Lobby Day scheduled for April 10, which includes advocacy training and meetings with legislators. She also discussed the reintroduction of the Soil Health Task Force bill by Representative Juanita Brent.
- **Climate Change and Film Screening Series**
Member Hirtle mentioned the final film screening of the OFA policy film series on April 21, featuring a film about climate change. Member Aaron Wilson will join as a panelist.
- **Farm Bill and Federal Work**
Member Hirtle updated the Team on ongoing efforts related to the Farm Bill, including signing marker bills and planning in-district meetings with legislators.
- **Ohio Soil Health Week**
Member Hirtle discussed plans for Ohio Soil Health Week, scheduled for November 10-16, celebrating David Brandt's contributions to soil health.
- **Communications Plan**
Edwina Teye provided an update on the draft communications plan developed by New Reach Community Consultant, aimed at improving farmer adoption of practices addressing climate change and water quality. The final version is expected to be shared with the Team next week.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Chris Amorose Groomes
Interim Chair

Michelle Crandall
Interim Vice Chair

Ben Kessler
Interim Secretary

- **Regional Water Study**
Edwina discussed the upcoming regional water study funded by Ohio EPA, ODNR, and OWDA, starting on April 1. The study aims to identify water supply and demand and develop recommendations for water conservation and reuse.

3. Other Business – Chair Brandt

- **Field Day Planning**
Chair Brandt proposed planning a Field Day in August, with Member Stephen's assistance in identifying a cooperator and location. The event aims to engage farmers and landowners, focusing on topics like nutrient management and watershed plans.
- **Nutrient Reduction Strategy**
Edwina mentioned Ohio University's collaboration with Ohio EPA to update the nutrient reduction strategy, with a final session scheduled for April 16 in Reynoldsburg.
- **River Fest and Girl Scouts Collaboration**
Edwina announced the collaboration with Girl Scouts for River Fest in June, involving activities to promote water conservation awareness.

a. Member updates

- Member Aaron Wilson mentioned upcoming webinars and the National Climate Assessment overview.
- Member Stephens discussed the statewide expansion of the H2Ohio program for nutrient management planning.
- Member Nicol announced two upcoming Field Days focused on cover cropping, scheduled for April 3 and April 16.

4. Adjourn

Please notify Edwina Teye at 614-233-4233 or eteye@morpc.org to confirm your attendance for this meeting or if you require special assistance.

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Remote Meeting

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team Meeting

March 28, 2024

Members Present

- Chair Brian Brandt, American Farmland Trust
- Lauren Hirtle, Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association
- Brent Nicol, The Nature Conservancy
- Scott Stephens, Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District
- Aaron Wilson, OSU, Byrd Polar & Climate Research Center

Staff Present

- Edwina Teye