



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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

REMOTE MEETING

January 19, 2023, 10:00 am

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Guest Presentation - Kristy Hawthorne, Licking Soil and Water Conservation District, "Ag & Water Quality Work in Licking County"

Kristy Hawthorne introduced herself and provided an overview of the Licking Soil and Water Conservation District's work. She highlighted the diverse agricultural community in Licking County, including row crops, forestry programs, and specialty products. Kristy discussed various conservation programs, including USDA cost share programs, EQIP funding, and CRP and CSP programs. She emphasized the importance of cover crops, exclusion fencing for livestock, and volunteer nutrient management plans. Kristy also mentioned the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District's cost share programs and the successes of the H2Ohio program in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Chair Brandt asked about cooperation with the Licking Land Trust and monitoring of easements, to which Kristy responded that the Land Trust monitors their own easements. Member Wilson inquired about water quality concerns and emerging issues due to urban development, which Kristy addressed by discussing phosphate and nitrate pollution, E. coli, and challenges with urban construction sites.

3. Other Business

- **Priority Areas of the Sustaining Scioto – Ag Focus**
Chair Brandt and staff discussed the priority areas guiding the work of the Ag and Rural Outreach Team, highlighting increased air and water temperatures, soil moisture changes, and the impact of these factors on agriculture and rural communities. Member Wilson provided insights into seasonal differences in vulnerabilities and the importance of educating stakeholders about these issues.
- **Field Day Planning**
Chair Brandt proposed planning a field day event for April 19, 2023, at Coyote Run. He and staff discussed potential themes, target audiences, and speakers, including inviting staff from OSU to discuss edge-of-field emissions and conservation practices. Member Wilson suggested involving Carrie Brown from Fairfield County Extension and

considering the Ohio Wetlands Association for presentations on habitat restoration.

- Discussion - Outreach and Engagement in Rural Communities

Members and staff discussed the need to increase engagement with rural communities and Chair Brandt proposed organizing focus groups or listening sessions with rural community leaders to better understand their needs and issues. Edwina Teye suggested rotating district staff presentations to gain insights into their work and support their efforts.

- Member or Partner Updates

4. Adjourn

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

**The next meeting of the
Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team will be
March 16, 2023, 10:00 am.
Remote Meeting**

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Remote Meeting

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team Meeting

January 19, 2023

Members Present

- Chair Brian Brandt, American Farmland Trust
- Aaron Wilson, OSU, Byrd Polar & Climate Research Center

Staff Present

- Lynn Kaufman
- Edwina Teye

Public Present

- Kristy Hawthorne, Licking Soil & Water Conservation District