



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 20, 2022, 10:00 am

AGENDA

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order and began with introductory remarks. The outgoing Chair, Member Jessica D'Ambrosio, was recognized and thanked for leadership and service. The group acknowledged the foundational work accomplished under Chair D'Ambrosio's guidance, particularly in launching the working team and aligning it with the broader Sustaining Scioto initiative.

Introduction of Chair

Member Brian Brandt was introduced as the new Chair. Chair Brandt expressed appreciation for the opportunity and emphasized the importance of building on the Team's previous work. He outlined a vision for actionable outreach strategies based on survey findings, particularly focusing on agricultural and rural community engagement within the watershed.

Forecasting for 2022

Chair Brandt led a discussion on how to translate survey results into effective outreach. Key findings included:

- Producers expressed interest in nutrient management and on-farm research.
- Only 21% showed interest in structural practices like grass waterways and wetlands, possibly due to land use concerns.
- There is a need for centralized, accessible information on funding and technical assistance.

Member Miller, suggested that the low interest in structural practices might reflect a lack of clarity about available incentives rather than disinterest in the practices themselves. Member D'Ambrosio noted that the survey's limited sample size (around 30 respondents) may have constrained the depth of insights.

The group discussed outreach formats, including:

- On-farm demonstrations
- Farmer-led discussion groups
- Webinars (not preferred but potentially necessary due to COVID-19)

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Secretary

Members and staff discussed the need for a centralized calendar or platform to consolidate events and funding opportunities. The Team also discussed leveraging existing models, such as TNC's Western Lake Erie Basin project, and the possibility of adapting them locally.

Funding was addressed, with approximately \$10,000 in unspent outreach funds available. The Team discussed using these funds to support events or seed new initiatives, pending approval through MORPC and the City of Columbus.

Other Business

The group discussed expanding membership to include:

- Ag retailers and co-ops (e.g., Nutrien, Heritage Co-op, Buckeye Crop Care)
- Economic development representatives (e.g., Chambers of Commerce)
- Central State University Extension
- ODA Watershed Coordinator

There was consensus on the value of broader representation and no cap on Team membership. The current membership stood at 10 active participants.

The Team also discussed the potential for a follow-up survey to gather more detailed feedback from producers and the possibility of developing a shared outreach strategy or "straw man" proposal for the next meeting.

Member or Partner Updates

- Brent Nicol announced a Lunch & Learn session focused on return on investment and buffer analysis.
- Member D'Ambrosio shared upcoming events, including:
 - Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts meeting (late February)
 - Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference (early March)
 - Overholt Drainage School (mid-March)
- Continued interest in demonstration farms and farmer-led outreach.
- Discussion of barriers to adoption of conservation practices, including financial incentives and technical complexity.
- Member D'Ambrosio shared updates on a farmer advisor training program in the Maumee River watershed, with potential for scaling if additional funding becomes available.

Guest Presentation – Dr. Matt Hamilton, Assistant Professor, OSU CAFES

Recap of OSU SENR Capstone Project

Dr. Hamilton was scheduled to present a recap of the OSU SENR Capstone Project. However, due to scheduling conflicts, the presentation was postponed to a future meeting.

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 on March 17, 2022, 10:00 am.
Location to be Determined**

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team

January 20, 2022, 10:00 am

Members Present

Chair Brian Brandt, American Farmland Trust
Jessica D'Ambrosio, The Nature Conservancy
Nina Duerk, Strand Associates

Scott Stephens, Delaware Soil & Water
Conservation District
Kyle Wilson, Franklin Soil & Water
Conservation District

Public Present

Brent Nicol, The Nature Conservancy

MORPC Staff Present

Lynn Kaufman

Edwina Teye

Brooke White

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Working Team

January 20, 2022



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AGENDA



1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Chair
3. Forecasting for 2022
4. Other Business – Chair
 - a. **Member or Partner**
5. Guest Presentation – *Dr. Matt Hamilton, Asst. Prof. OSU-CAFES*
6. Adjourn

Forecasting for 2022

Brian Brandt

Chair

**Ag & Rural Communities
Outreach Working Team**

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