



MID-OHIO REGIONAL **MORPC** PLANNING COMMISSION

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CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS ADVISORY PANEL MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

IN-PERSON MEETING
March 10, 2023, 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

AGENDA

Welcome & Purpose

Jonathan Miller opened the meeting by welcoming Members and staff and outlining the purpose of the session. The meeting aimed to build on insights gathered from prior one-on-one meetings and to further explore key themes through breakout discussions. The overarching goal was to advance the Central Ohio Blueways initiative by identifying actionable items related to water trail designation.

One-on-One Meeting Highlights

Jonathan summarized findings from previous individual meetings, which were categorized into four main themes:

- Maintenance & Operations
- Usage & Experience
- Environment & Water Quality
- Procedural

Each category highlighted specific concerns and opportunities. For example, safety issues and litter were prominent under Maintenance & Operations, while equitable access and poor access points were key under Usage & Experience. Environmental concerns included the impact of increased interest and development, and procedural discussions emphasized the importance of education and a phased approach to river designation.

Water Trail Designation Breakout Groups

Members and staff were divided into three breakout groups, each focused on one of the following categories:

- Maintenance & Operations
- Usage & Experience
- Environment & Water Quality

Jonathan instructed each group to identify key issues, assess whether they could be addressed through the Blueways program or water trail designation, and consider potential advocacy or educational roles for the program. Members were encouraged to think critically about implementation strategies and partnerships.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

Breakout Group Report Outs

Each group shared highlights from their discussions:

- **Maintenance & Operations:** Emphasis was placed on safety, particularly the need for guidance on water levels and flow rates. A major concern was increased litter at access points, with suggestions for a reporting system and potential partnerships for cleanup efforts.
- **Usage & Experience:** The group stressed the importance of promoting safe and equitable access. Concerns were raised about poor access points and the need for better design that balances usability with environmental impact. Natural surface degradation over time was also noted.
- **Environment & Water Quality:** The group discussed how access to waterways can foster stewardship but also noted the risk of increased development and pollution. There was a consensus that education is critical to mitigating these risks.

Adjourn



CENTRAL OHIO BLUEWAYS

ADVISORY PANEL

MAY 10, 2023



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MARCH 8, 2023 AGENDA

- I. Welcome & Purpose
- II. One-on-One Meeting Highlights
- III. Water Trail Designation Breakout Groups
 - I. Maintenance & Operations
 - II. Usage & Experience
 - III. Environment & Water Quality
- IV. Breakout Group Report Outs
- V. Adjourn



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ONE-ON-ONE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

FOUR MAIN CATEGORIES

Maintenance & Operations

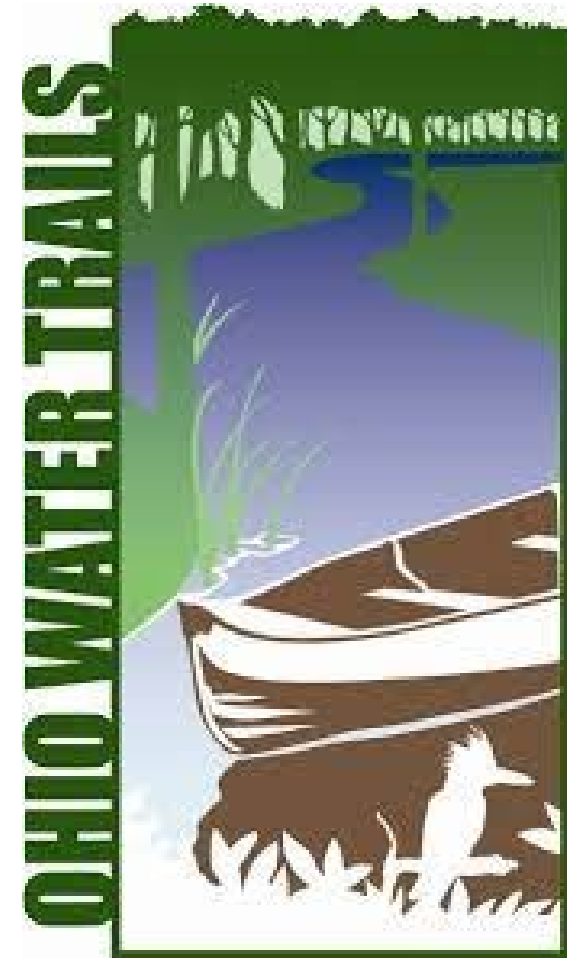
Usage & Experience

Environment & Water Quality

Procedural



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MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

EMPHASIZE SAFETY ISSUES



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MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

CONCERN: INCREASED LITTER



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USAGE & EXPERIENCE

**PROMOTE SAFE &
EQUITABLE ACCESS**



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USAGE & EXPERIENCE

CONCERN: POOR ACCESS POINTS



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ENVIRONMENT & WATER QUALITY

**ACCESS CREATES
INTEREST AND LEADS TO
STEWARDSHIP**



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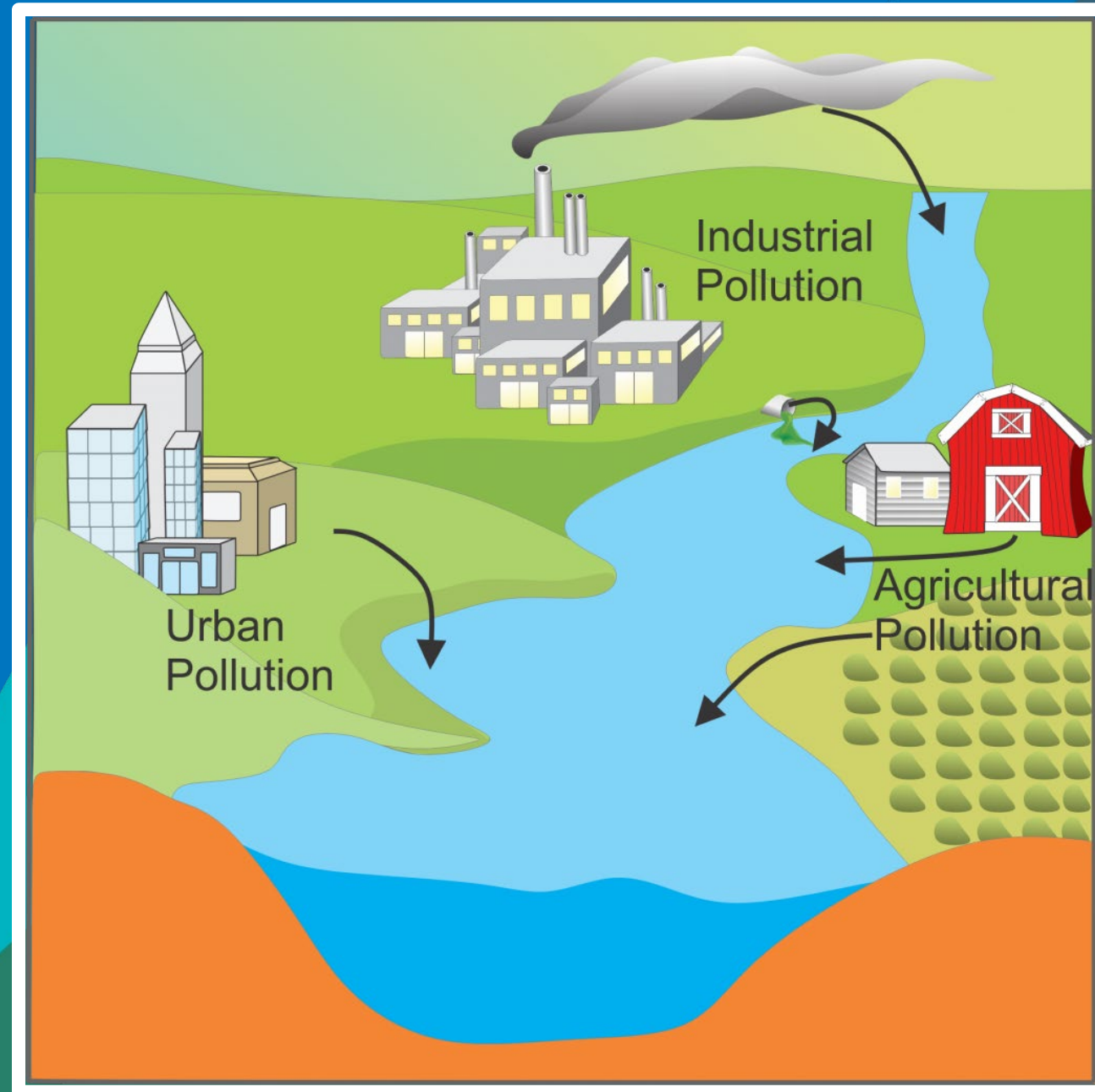


ENVIRONMENT & WATER QUALITY

**CONCERN:
DEVELOPMENT WITH
INCREASED INTEREST**



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PROCEDURAL

**EDUCATION IS A MAJOR
COMPONENT**



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PROCEDURAL

**DESIGNATE ONE RIVER
AT A TIME**



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WATER TRAIL DESIGNATION BREAKOUT GROUPS

CONSIDERATIONS

- What are the main issues surrounding the waterways?
- Is this something a Central Ohio Blueways Program or Water Trail Designation can directly impact?
- If so, how? Can it be addressed through Water Trail Designation?
- If not, is there a role for Central Ohio Blueways to educate and advocate?



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THREE CATEGORIES

Maintenance & Operations

Usage & Experience

**Environment & Water
Quality**

THANK YOU

JONATHAN MILLER, MPA, AICP, GISP

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