



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*

**November 18, 2021, 10:00**

**AGENDA**

1. **Call to Order** – *Chair Jessica D'Ambrosio*
2. **Approval of September 16, 2021, Meeting Minutes** – *Chair Jessica D'Ambrosio*
3. **Recap of Social Science Key Informant Survey** –  
*OSU Student Team Presentation Farmer Survey*
4. **Year in Review, Chair, Forecasting for 2022** – *Chair Jessica D'Ambrosio*
5. **Other Business** – *Chair Jessica D'Ambrosio*
  - a. **Member or Partner Updates**
6. **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.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

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Phone Conference ID: 793 530 327#

**The next meeting of the  
Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team  
will be on January 20, 2022, 10:00 am.  
Location is to be determined.**

**William Murdock, AICP**  
*Executive Director*

**Karen J. Angelou**  
*Chair*

**Erik J. Janas**  
*Vice Chair*

**Chris Amorose Groomes**  
*Secretary*

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team  
Meeting Notes

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November 18, 2021, 10:00 am

Members Present

Larry Antosch, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation  
Chair Jessica D'Ambrosio, The Nature  
Conservancy  
Nina Duerk, Strand Associates  
Laura Fay, Friends of the Lower Olentangy  
Watershed

Scott Stephens, Delaware Soil & Water  
Conservation District

Brian Brandt, American  
Farmland Trust

MORPC Staff Present

Lynn Kaufman  
Edwina Teye

Brooke White

Public Present

David Boord, OSU SENR  
Allison Chapman, OSU SENR  
Lauren Zeller, OSU SENR

**Meeting Called to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

**Approval of September 16, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

The Chair requested a motion to approve minutes from the September 16, 2021, meeting. Member Larry Antosch moved to approve the minutes while Member Brian Brandt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Recap of Social Science Key Informant Survey – OSU Student Team Presentation on Farmer Survey**

Chair D'Ambrosio and Member Stephens provided updates on the key informant survey. The surveys have been sent to all counties in the Upper Scioto Watershed. A follow up with digital link to the survey were also sent out and that yielded four responses from Morrow, Pickaway, and Madison Counties. Three initial survey responses were also received from Delaware, Wyandot, and Madison Counties. Out of a total of 90 surveys sent out, we have received 10 responses.

Chair D'Ambrosio asked if the survey should be extended to accommodate the busy harvesting season.

The Chair also updated the group about presenting the rationale behind the survey to an OSU Capstone Class. Two student groups would like to take on the project for their Capstone Design Course. One group will be focused on finalizing the survey that has already being sent out by

the Outreach Team and this may include following up with the respondents. The other group will modify the current survey for distribution to elected officials.

Member Stephens proposed to keep the survey opened to allow for more responses. Additionally, Member Aaron Wilson agreed to have the digital version of the survey available to participants at the Farm Science Review.

Chair D'Ambrosio also discussed appropriate compensation for the Capstone students and proposed compensating travel time, and printing activities. Brooke White talked about the possibility of including that and other logistical requirements for this opportunity in the scope to be submitted to the City of Columbus.

## **Other Business**

### **a. Member Updates**

Chair D'Ambrosio shared details about the Ohio No-Till Council that came off in Plain City on August 19, 2021. Topics covered there included precision agriculture and new technology related to AI and automated equipment.

Chair D'Ambrosio also informed the group that additional counties – Morrow, Wyandot, Shelby, Marion, Crawford – within the Scioto Watershed are now eligible for H2Ohio funding and USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Fund. The USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Fund is a 5-year grant focused on supporting H2Ohio but covers the entire Western Lake Erie Basin rather than just the Maumee River.

ONDR has a call out for proposals for H2Ohio for Wetland projects.

Scott Stephens provided an update on Ohio Department of Agriculture's statewide hiring of Watershed Managers. One of the Managers will be hired for the Scioto Watershed and encouraged the Working Team to develop a relationship with that staff.

Member Fay provided an update from the Olentangy River Watershed. She informed the group about the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Watershed Forum scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Member Fay also informed the group about 319 has released an RFP for Stream Restoration.

MORPC Summit on Sustainability is also scheduled for October 15.

Member Aaron Wilson informed the group about the upcoming Symposium on Climate scheduled on October 8.

Mark Wilson from AFT discussed the organization's active project in the Upper Scioto one of which is collaborating with the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund which is a partnership between the Iowa Soybean Association and Venture Capital Group. The Group has made available 10,000 acres of carbon purchases.

Mark Wilson also shared with the group AFT's partnership with the Upper Scioto Drainage and Conservancy District and the USGS in installing a stream gauge in the Canton area, right on the main stem of the Scioto. The public can access real time data on the internet. A

similar gauge has also been installed with the City of Marysville. Additionally, AFT will also be doing 9-Element Planning for all the 23 remaining watersheds.

There will be an Applicant Workshop for District 3 Clean Ohio Fund on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Chair D'Ambrosio opened the floor for a discussion on topics of interest to members. Member Fay expressed interest in a presentation on best management practices for reducing nitrogen.

Member Antosch also expressed an opportunity for the group to learn more about carbon markets.

**Adjourned at 11:20 am.**