



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

REMOTE MEETING

December 16, 2020, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2:30 – 2:35 pm | Welcome – <i>Jim Schimmer, Chair</i> |
| 2:35 – 2:45 pm | Policy Update – <i>Joe Garrity, MORPC</i> |
| 2:45 – 2:55 pm | Solar Development – <i>Jon-Paul d'Aversa, MORPC, and Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation</i> |
| 2:55 – 3:05 pm | 2021 Member Updates – <i>Jim Schimmer, Chair and Brandi Whetstone, MORPC</i> |
| 3:05 – 3:20 pm | Regional Sustainability Agenda – <i>Brandi Whetstone, MORPC and Justin Milam, RSA Sub-committee Chair</i> |
| 3:20 – 3:35 pm | Trail & Active Transportation Prioritization Study – <i>Melinda Vonstein, MORPC</i> |
| 3:35 – 3:50 pm | Working Group Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central Ohio Greenways Board: <i>Letty Schamp</i>• Sustaining Scioto Board: <i>Kristin Atha</i>• Energy & Air Quality Working Group: <i>Dale Arnold</i>• Sustainable2050: <i>Brandi Whetstone</i> |
| 3:50 – 4:00 pm | New Business/Updates |
| 4:00 pm | 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 Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting
will be on February 17, 2021, 2:30 pm
This will be a remote meeting. Details will follow.**

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

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

December 16, 2020. 2:30 pm

Members Present

Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Kristen Atha, AECOM
Kate Bartter, OSU Sustainability Institute
Andy Biesterveld, COTA
Robin Duffee, Violet Township
Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington
Megan O'Callaghan, City of Dublin

Kyle O'Keefe, Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio
Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard
Chair Jim Schimmer, Franklin County, Economic Development & Planning
Alana Shockey, City of Columbus
Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
Eric Walli, Honda North America, Inc.

MORPC Staff Present

Jon-Paul d'Aversa
Joe Garrity
Ted Geer

Lynn Kaufman
Bevan Schneck
Hosana Tekie

Edwina Teye
Melinda Vonstein
Brandi Whetstone

Brooke White

Called to Order at 2:31 pm.

Policy Update – Joe Garrity, MORPC

Click [here](#) to see the presentation.

Navigating Solar Development

MORPC will host a Solar Week Event, February 1 thru February 5, with presentations from the Ohio Power Siting Board and the ODSA, and presentations from others on aggregation and workforce development. Bricker & Eckler plans to host a Community Solar Roundtable at the event. This event will help local communities navigate the processes and the future of solar power in Central Ohio.

More information will be forwarded to Members in the near future.

2021 Member Updates and Meetings

Members Leaving

Member Dale Arnold, Member Robin Duffee, and Vice-Chair Mike Compton will be leaving the Committee as of December 31.

Members with New Roles

Mayor Ben Kessler will begin serving as Vice-Chair on January 1, 2021.

New Members

Welcome new Members who will begin serving in January 2021:

- Leo Almeida, The Nature Conservancy
- Caroline Cicerchi, City of Delaware
- Sophia Fifner, City of Columbus
- Commissioner Christiane Schmenk, Union County
- Megha Sinha, NBBJ
- Matt Stephens-Rich, Electrification Coalition
- Carolyn Thurman, City of Westerville
- Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne

Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee

Regional Sustainability Agenda Workshop

The Regional Sustainability Agenda Subcommittee hosted a workshop with Dr. Jason Reece on November 18 to introduce equity considerations into the Regional Sustainability Agenda framework. Items discussed in the workshop were equity considerations with regard to access to parks and trails, equitable and sustainable mobility, and energy cost burden.

Regional Sustainability Agenda Goals Update

Brandi Whetstone presented proposed Goals to the Committee and asked for feedback from Members. Members were asked to contact her later with any other suggestions not discussed at this meeting.

PROPOSED GOAL 1:

Improve air quality to protect public health and reduce energy consumption and emissions to reduce the impacts of climate change. OR

Protect public health by reducing emissions and energy consumption.

1. Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled (modified)
2. Increase the percentage of commuters using sustainable modes of transportation (modified)
3. Increase the percentage of vehicles using alternative fuels (no change)
4. Increase the number of alternative fuel stations (no change)
5. Increase the miles of low stress streets to encourage biking and walking. (NEW)
6. Reduce per capita energy consumption across all sectors (no change)
7. Increase the number of local renewable energy projects (no change)
8. Reduce emissions to meet federal air quality standards for ozone and particle pollution (modified)
9. Track and reduce per capita and total greenhouse gas emissions (NEW)

PROPOSED GOAL 2:

Protect and preserve natural resources to support healthy and resilient communities and ecosystems.

1. Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill (no change)
2. Reduce per capita water consumption (no change)
3. Improve water quality in the Upper Scioto Watershed (no change)
4. Increase the amount of green space, OR, increase regional tree canopy cover (NEW)
5. Increase the use of green stormwater infrastructure utilizing natural systems to reduce polluted runoff, soil erosion, and flooding. (NEW)

Members and staff discussed adding “identify common policies or programs that may be in conflict with today's sustainability goals” as a strategy, and replacing the word “ecosystems” in the goal.

PROPOSED GOAL 3:

Create sustainable and equitable communities to improve quality of life for all residents.

1. Improve the safety of the central Ohio road network for all users (modified)
2. Prioritize infrastructure development which supports multi-modal transportation options for all users (NEW)
3. Reduce household energy consumption to increase energy affordability (NEW)
4. Increase access to the Central Ohio Greenways Network (or Regional Trails System) (NEW)
5. Increase access to green space/parks (NEW)
6. Increase supply and types of housing at all price points (NEW)
7. Maximize infill and redevelopment along existing infrastructure (modified)
8. Reduce environmental hazards and unsafe land uses that pose health risks to neighborhoods (NEW)

Trail & Active Transportation Prioritization Study

This item was tabled for the February 17, 2021 meeting.

Working Group Updates

Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board – Letty Schamp

A Regional COG Trail Forum was held on December 8 to share regional trail successes and best practices; there were approximately 120 attendees.

Sustaining Scioto Board – Kristin Atha

The Board met on December 9 and reviewed achievements in 2020, including creating a scope of work for creating a comprehensive monitoring program for the Upper Scioto and establishing the Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team. The Board will also look forward to priorities for 2021 work items.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Dale Arnold

The Energy & Air Quality Working Group met on November 24 and reviewed Working Group priorities for 2021, MORPC energy and air quality programming, and heard updates from the subcommittees.

Sustainable2050:

The next meeting will be on December 18; staff and leadership are looking for topics for 2021.

Adjourned at 3:54 pm.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 16, 2020



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
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AGENDA



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- 2:35 - **Policy Update** – Joe Garrity, MORPC
- 2:45 - **Solar Development** – Jon-Paul d'Aversa, MORPC and Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau
- 2:55 - **2021 Member Updates** – Jim Schimmer and Brandi Whetstone, MORPC
- 3:05 - **Regional Sustainability Agenda** – Brandi Whetstone and Justin Milam, Sub-Committee Chair
- 3:25 - **Trail & Active Transportation Prioritization Study** – Melinda Vonstein, MORPC
- 3:40 - **Working Group Updates**
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 - Sustainable2050 – Brandi Whetstone, MORPC
- 3:55 - **New Business/Updates**
- 4:00 - **Adjourn**

POLICY UPDATE



Joe Garrity, MORPC

SOLAR DEVELOPMENT



MORPC



Jon-Paul d'Aversa, MORPC
Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

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2021 MEMBER UPDATES



**Dale Arnold, Robin Duffee, and Mayor Mike Compton
Thank you for your service**



Leo Almeida
The Nature
Conservancy



Kristen Atha
AECOM



Kate Bartter
OSU



Andy Biesterveld,
COTA



Caroline Cicerchi
City of Delaware



Sophia Fifner
City of Columbus



Justin Milam
City of Upper
Arlington



Megan O'Callaghan
City of Dublin



Kyle O'Keefe
SWACO

Jim Schimmer
Franklin County
Chair



2021 Sustainability Advisory Committee



Hon. Ben Kessler
City of Bexley
Vice Chair



Letty Schamp
City of Hilliard



Christiane Schmenk
Union County



Alana Shockey
City of Columbus



Megha Sinha
NBBJ



Dan Sowry
Ohio EPA



Matt Stephens-Rich
Electrification
Coalition



Carolyn Thurman
City of
Westerville



Eric Walli
Honda



Hon. Christie Ward
Village of
Lockbourne

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REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA UPDATE



MORPC



PROPOSED GOAL 1:

(Option 1) Improve air quality to protect public health and reduce energy consumption and emissions to reduce the impacts of climate change.

OR

(Option 2) Protect public health by reducing emissions and energy consumption.

THOUGHTS?

PROPOSED GOAL 1: Improve air quality to protect public health and reduce energy consumption and emissions to reduce the impacts of climate change.

OR - Protect public health by reducing emissions and energy consumption.

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2. Increase the percentage of commuters using sustainable modes of transportation (modified)
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4. Increase the number of alternative fuel stations
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PROPOSED GOAL 2: Protect and preserve natural resources to support healthy and resilient communities and ecosystems.



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1. Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill
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3. Improve water quality in the Upper Scioto Watershed
4. Increase the amount of green space, OR, increase regional tree canopy cover (NEW)
5. Increase the use of green stormwater infrastructure utilizing natural systems to reduce polluted runoff, soil erosion, and flooding. (NEW)

PROPOSED GOAL 3: Create sustainable and equitable communities to improve quality of life for all residents.



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1. Improve the safety of the central Ohio road network for all users (modified)
2. Prioritize infrastructure development which supports multi-modal transportation options for all users (NEW)
3. Reduce household energy consumption to increase energy affordability (NEW)
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8. Reduce environmental hazards and unsafe land uses that pose health risks to neighborhoods (NEW)

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS



- Is Economic opportunity/attractiveness an outcome that is already supported by the existing framework?
 - If not, do we need to include more references within existing language? Or new goal and objectives?
- Is it important to include a goal about education and outreach to advance sustainability solutions?
 - If so, how do we measure progress?

NEXT STEPS

December:

- Sub-committee, SAC input on draft

January:

- Add strategies.
- Evaluate and identify appropriate data and metrics
- Review and finalize equity resource document.
- Stakeholder outreach (mid-Jan. – mid Feb.)

February/March:

- Continue to identify appropriate data and metrics.
- Review strategies and include remaining changes by end of March

April:

- SAC votes April 21st meeting.



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TRAIL AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIZATION



MORPC



Melinda Vonstein, MORPC

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- 4:00 - **Adjourn**

Next meeting: February 17, 2021
2:30-4:00pm

Jim Schimmer

Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

jrschimmer@franklincountyohio.gov

Mike Compton

Vice-Chair

Sustainability Advisory Committee

mcompton@ci.Pataskala.oh.us

Brandi Whetstone

Sustainability Officer

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Letty Schamp)

Next meeting January 20, 2021

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board met on October 14th, 2020 and reviewed each of the working groups' projects.

Trail Development Working Group: The working group is finalizing the Trail Prioritization Report and public facing webmap.

Marketing & Communications Working Group: The working group's recommendation to share curated virtual race routes is beginning to be implemented on social media. These virtual routes will encourage use of trails for events and races that have gone virtual due to COVID-19. Routes have been added to a COG Map My Run account and are shared on social media.

Operations & Access Working Group: The Working Group has been supporting efforts to ensure COG projects and campaigns are inclusive and accessible to all. The Group has provided recommendations to ensure that the upcoming Impact of Trails Study carefully considers social equity as part of the analysis.

Partnership Working Group: The Working Group received funding from the Columbus Realtors and The Columbus Foundation to complete an Impacts of Trail Study. In addition to identifying the impacts of the fully built-out trail network as they relate to public health, environment, the economy, and social equity, the study is recommending strategies to optimize the trail count program to ensure that accurate and complete usage data is available for the trail network.

Additionally, COG hosted a Regional COG Trail Forum on December 8th to share regional trail successes and best practices.



Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Dale Arnold)

Next meeting: January 26, 2020, 2pm

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met on November 24th and reviewed Working Group priorities for 2021, MORPC energy and air quality programming, and heard updates from the subcommittees.

Air Quality Network Sensor Monitoring Subcommittee: The subcommittee continues to work with Ohio EPA to collocate low-cost PurpleAir monitors with the Smoky Row continuous particulate matter monitor. The current timeline for the air quality monitoring project runs from January 2021 to May 2022 and includes siting the monitors with hosts, communication through public presentations, a website, and data visualizations, establishing data handling protocols, and a final report.

Solar Subcommittee: The beginning of 2021 is dedicated to fulfilling the requirements of MORPC's SolSmart designation and submitting the application to SolSmart. MORPC can expect to receive a Silver SolSmart Designation for a Regional Organization by March of 2021.

At the Solar Subcommittee's December meeting, the group identified potential foci for work following the submission of the SolSmart application:

- Explore the opportunity for MORPC and partners to increase the local solar workforce with a potential specific focus in front-line communities.
- Pursue how MORPC can advocate for the region and local governments with regards to state legislation.
- Assist municipal and rural co-op utilities with developing virtual net metering policies in order to employ community solar.

Diversity and Environmental Justice Subcommittee: The group has identified a need to build up the group's roster prior to developing a workplan for 2021 in order to ensure multiple perspectives are captured. Currently the group is utilizing the following process:

- Conduct outreach to increase the diversity and inclusiveness of perspectives on the EAQWG prior to convening the subcommittee (Q4 2020)
- Develop an initial roster of Equity Subcommittee members that can provide representation of traditionally underserved communities and perspectives typically excluded in planning processes and policy development (Q1 2021)
- Propose recommendations that internalize diversity and community inclusion in MORPC's energy and air quality activities (Q2 2021)



Sustainable2050

Next meeting: Friday, December 18, 2020, 9:30 am

The Sustainable2050 membership will hold its final meeting of the year on December 18th. The meeting will focus on member priorities and future meeting topics. MORPC team members will present an update on the Regional Sustainability Agenda, which will continue to be a priority in 2021, and other relevant MORPC programming.

MORPC aims to certify the Tier Status of all Sustainable2050 members – and grow the membership – in 2021. If your community or agency is interested in participating in Sustainable2050 or earning its Tier Status, please contact Jennifer Noll, Principal Planner, for assistance at jnoll@morpc.org.



Sustaining Scioto Board

Next Meeting: February 24, 2021, 2:00pm

The Board met on December 9th and reviewed achievements in 2020, including creating a scope of work for creating a comprehensive monitoring program for the Upper Scioto and establishing the Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team. The Board will also look forward to priorities for 2021 work items.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team: The Working Team had its first meeting on November 19, 2020 to develop a framework for operations, including how to support the Sustaining Scioto Board. In the next year, the Working Team will work towards understanding the state of the watershed and work to connect communities and the different sectors engaged in the watershed including the agricultural, rural communities, and utility partners. The Team identified the working objectives below to help achieve this:

- Monitoring and Modelling efforts geared towards gathering baseline information about water quality monitoring and modelling in the watershed.
- Outreach, which involves identifying different outreach activities being undertaken in the watershed, the partners involved, and the best way for disseminating activities to a wider audience. Additionally, through this exercise, the Team hopes to develop new outreach programming to meet any gaps identified.
- Potential for Social Science Survey or Studies to help facilitate an understanding of the watershed. This objective includes understanding farmer motivations in adopting conservation practices, and characteristics of the agricultural and rural communities in the watershed among others.

Regional Sustainability Agenda Sub-committee (Chair: Justin Milam)

Next meeting: December 17, 2020

Our staff and sub-committee began working with a consultant in October, Dr. Jason Reece. His expertise is also reflected in his work with OSU as Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Chair, City & Regional Planning, Knowlton School Faculty Affiliate, and The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity. The scope of work includes a review of the existing framework, recommendations for equity considerations, a facilitated workshop, and a resource document.

Dr. Reece and the team hosted a workshop on Nov. 18th to review and discuss equity considerations related to the proposed framework and to collect input on the top-level goals. Several workshop discussions were centered on how the pandemic has really elevated important quality of life issues and the role that sustainable solutions can play.

Early in the process, the team also conducted a survey of Sustainable2050 members to capture input and priorities for their sustainability work. Staff also conducted informational interviews with additional members from a variety of communities including suburban and rural.

Next, the proposed framework will be further refined with the sub-committee, and then vetted with the SAC, the associated working groups, and diverse regional stakeholders. With support from Data & Mapping, we will evaluate and finalize metrics informed by selection criteria agreed upon by the sub-committee.