



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***

**May 19, 2022, 10:00 am**

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

**Guest Presentation – Kori Gasaway, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District “Overview of “Be the Change for Clean Water”**

Kori Gasaway provided an overview of the “Be the Change for Clean Water” initiative, a regional communication effort focused on addressing non-point source pollution across 11 counties in Central Ohio. The initiative, led by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and supported by partners such as MORPC, Delco Water, ODNR, and The Nature Conservancy, aims to educate the public on best management practices for water quality. The group meets bi-monthly and uses a shared website as a hub for resources, including messaging toolkits, pollution reporting contacts, and educational materials. Corey highlighted successful campaigns like “Farm for Our Future” and “Only Rain Down the Drains and Ditches,” which reached tens of thousands of residents. The initiative emphasizes consistent, region-wide messaging and encourages participation from both rural and urban audiences. Kori invited attendees to join the partner list or attend future meetings.

**Farmer and Non-Farmer Outreach Update & Discussion**

Field Day Planning

Brent Nicol provided an update on the planning of a summer agricultural meeting, now scheduled for August 16 in Waldo, Ohio, at All Occasions Catering. The event will be held indoors with a potential optional field visit afterward. Confirmed speakers include Cody Beckham (cover crops), an NRCS representative (incentives), a farmer advocate (practical implementation), and himself (ROI on farming practices). Chair Brandt suggested including a brief overview of the Sustaining Scioto initiative during the event.

Members and staff discussed potential field visit sites, including nearby farms and a wetland project funded by H2Ohio. The group agreed to explore these options further. There was also discussion about potential funding support from AFT and the need to coordinate logistics, including registration and outreach.

### Webinar Planning

Chair Brandt introduced plans for a July webinar, proposing dates of July 12–14. Potential topics included:

- Sustaining Scioto board overview
- Nutrient pollutant reduction planning
- Water supply planning (e.g., Columbus, Delco)
- Regional flooding vulnerability
- Economic utility for farmers
- H2Ohio program updates

Members and staff discussed the relevance of Intel's regional growth and its implications for water supply planning, though concerns were raised about it overshadowing other topics. Chair Brandt and Edwina Teye agreed to gather more input before finalizing the agenda.

### Outreach and Logistics

The Team discussed outreach strategies for both the August meeting and the webinar. Suggested channels included MORPC's social media, newsletters, Farm Bureau, FSA, and the CORE newsletter. Member Wilson confirmed the ability to include announcements in the CORE newsletter. Brent Nicol confirmed that registration for the August event would be required, with a deadline of August 9. Members and staff discussed managing walk-ins and agreed on a target attendance of 30 - 35 people, primarily farmers. A save-the-date would be sent by the end of May, with registration opening in June.

### **Other Business – Chair Brandt**

Chair Brandt proposed planning a second field day for spring 2023 at Coyote Run, a site south of Columbus with forestry and farming activities. The Team supported the idea, suggesting early to mid-April as an ideal timeframe. The site includes a covered structure suitable for inclement weather.

Chair Brandt also raised the possibility of holding the next scheduled meeting (July 21) in person at MORPC. No objections were raised, and the Chair and Edwina agreed to follow up with the Team to confirm interest and make arrangements.

### **Member or Partner Updates**

### **Adjourn**

Please notify Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or [LKaufman@morpc.org](mailto: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 July 21, 2022, 10:00 am.  
Location to be Determined**

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission  
*Remote Meeting*

Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team Meeting

May 19, 2022

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Members Present

Chair Brian Brandt, American Farmland Trust  
Jessica D'Ambrosio, The Nature Conservancy  
Laura Fay, Friends of the Lower Olentangy  
Watershed  
Scott Stephens, Delaware Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
Aaron Wilson, OSU  
Kyle Wilson, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation  
District

Staff Present

Lynn Kaufman  
Edwina Teye

Public Present

Kori Gasaway, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation  
District  
Brent Nicol, The Nature Conservancy  
Trustee Connie Skinner, Brown Twp (Delaware)