SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 13, 2019
2:30-4:00 p.m.

Attendees: Jim Schimmer, Mike Compton, Eric Walli, Dan Sowry, Alana Shockey, Tom Pendrey, Dale Arnold, Jennifer Fish, Letty Schamp, Greg Butcher, Michelle Crandall, Justin Milam, Aslyne Rodriguez, Glenn Taylor, Mike Shelton.

MORPC Staff: Kerstin Carr, Brandi Whetstone, Stephen Patchan, Rachael Beeman, Brooke White, Jon-Paul d’Aversa, Jennifer Noll, Bevan Schneck, Robert Williams

Welcome & Introductions, Jim Schimmer, Chair – The Chair kicked off a round of introductions and welcomed the new SAC members. Robert Williams was also introduced as the new Director of Residential Services at MORPC. Tom Pendrey announced his resignation on the SAC and will be moving to Chicago for an exciting job opportunity.

New Member Spotlight, Glenn Taylor, Chief Sustainability Officer, COTA - Mr. Taylor is in a new role at COTA, but sustainability is not new to COTA. He presented several examples of COTA’s sustainability-focused accomplishments. Since 2018 they have recycled 211 tons of scrap metal, and an average 15 tons of paper and cardboard recycled per year, which netted $1.7M in revenue. Ridership tops their sustainability efforts and they have launched several campaigns since 2017. COTA implemented the free downtown CBUS circulator and redesigned the bus network. The CPass program is first in the nation for downtown employees to ride for free. They are working on a five year strategic plan, a first ever for COTA. They are also working to solve first and last mile challenges and diversify services.

Sustainable2050 Tier Status Certification, Jennifer Noll, Planning & Environment, MORPC – Sustainable2050 helps our members benchmark their efforts against the RSA. MORPC hosts quarterly peer exchange meetings to highlight the work across central Ohio. The certification process also recognizes and honors their work. Today the SAC is considering tier status certification for Blendon Township. Examples of their work are included in the slideshow. Their zoning code and comprehensive plan are focused on expanding mobility options resulting in reduced vehicle miles traveled. Their plan is also focused on infill development to avoid development pressure on greenfields. Blendon Township’s combined score qualifies them for the silver rating. The Chair made a motion to approve Blendon Township as a silver rated community which was seconded and passed unanimously. The member certifications approved at the December and February SAC meetings will be recognized at the Commission meeting on February 14.

SAC meeting format and member engagement discussion, Jim Schimmer, Chair, and Mike Compton, Vice-Chair – The Chair opened up discussion of the meeting format in order to help create the expectations for the year, and to get input and agreement on how we run the meetings in the
future. The hope is that the meetings are valuable for everyone attending. The group was asked for thoughts and suggestions on the meeting format as well as the expectations of working groups. Below are some of the suggestions shared in the meeting discussion -

- Break out groups for specific issues, such as discussion of RSA topics.
- Empower working group chairs to request feedback and guidance on their working group issues.
- Make 2019 about a specific theme/focus that would result in a commitment for collective action.
- Begin update of the RSA.
- Have pre-reads available when seeking approval or advice (e.g. COG strategic plan).
- Change room setting to be more intimate.
- Add staff next to each WG chair.
- Continue to have good healthy debate.
- Continue member spotlights.
- Bring in guest speakers.
- Start each meeting with a sustainability message,
- Sustainable2050 activity updates and feedback (success stories & challenges).

The discussion was valuable, and will be taken into consideration when planning for future meetings.

**Working Group Reports (also attached)**

- *Water Resources Working Group, Jennifer Fish* – At the last meeting, Alana Shockey from City of Columbus presented about Sustainable Columbus. They also received updates from the subcommittees and got into small groups to look at what they want to do for Riverfest and topics/speakers for meetings this year.

- *Energy & Air Quality Working Group, Dale Arnold* – The previous working group meeting presentation and discussion related to EVs, emissions, infrastructure and fuel tax. They have started implementing the action plan by re-engaging the list of members for the group. Each member is given a list of people to contact personally, and will get points toward winning a prize (a remote control car).

- *Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board, Letty Schamp* - The COG is looking at how they deal with equity and making sure that the trail systems serve all communities. They are also exploring the economic development piece of trails, Indianapolis being one example. They are also conducting a planning study, to find out what the appetite is for donations for trails, and how COG would use the funds.

**Policy Update, Brandi Whetstone, MORPC** – MORPC’s Public Policy Agenda was adopted and is available online and in the back of the SAC binders. There are additional policy goals around sustainability as a priority. It will be helpful for members to get familiar with the policy goals as we move forward, especially if there are opportunities for this group or the working groups to make recommendations.

At the state level, Larry Householder was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. The House formed a new energy generation subcommittee with Democratic and Republican co-chairs. No activity was reported yet and MORPC will be monitoring this subcommittee. Congressman Troy Balderson reached out to MORPC seeking to learn about our work and how he can be helpful. He
was recently appointed to the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee. This is huge for him and the region as he is only one of two Ohioans on the committee.

Other Business
- **Partnership with OSU on sustainability dashboard** - MORPC has been in conversations with the OSU Center for Urban and Regional Analysis (CURA) in developing an interactive dashboard to visualize the Regional Sustainability Agenda metrics. CURA is offering up their technical resources in collaboration with MORPC to create this customized dashboard, where they can lend additional capacity coupled with MORPC’s Data & Mapping expertise. We will continue to work with their staff in this effort to shape the way that the dashboard is presented and utilized. This is an exciting opportunity to leverage CURA’s resources to create a customized dashboard with near real time information, where we can see changes to the sustainability metrics over time.
- **April 17, 2019 SAC meeting to be held at the Ohio EPA Sustainability Conference**, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 N. High St., Columbus, OH. Thank you to Dan Sowry for securing a room at the Ohio EPA Sustainability Conference for the SAC meeting on April 17. We encourage the members of this group to attend the conference, and if you can only make the SAC meeting from 2:30-4pm then registration won’t be required. More information will be provided on registration.

Adjourn

Please note change of location for next SAC Meeting: Wednesday, April 17, 2:30-4:00 pm at Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 N. High St., Columbus, OH
sustainable
2050
Central Ohio Communities
Working Toward a Better Future
Purpose of Presentation:

To certify Sustainable2050 member Blendon Township
## TIER STATUS DESIGNATIONS

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BLENDON TOWNSHIP

WESTERVILLE ROAD COMPLETE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

The Westerville Road Streetscape Improvement Plan makes recommendations supporting a complete transportation system where people can easily travel by foot, bicycle, transit and car. Walking and bicycling along Westerville Road is dangerous due to a lack of sidewalks and bicycle facilities. The plan recommends a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge across Alum Creek to improve connectivity and safety.

A new bridge will also open up views to Alum Creek. Several bus routes serve Westerville Road, however, none have shelters. The plan recommends installing new bus shelters that have a unique design. It also recommends installing sidewalks, bicycle facilities and improved landscaping to make walking, bicycling and transit more attractive transportation options.

• Objective: Reduce vehicle miles traveled.

• Eligible Activity: Zoning Code/Comprehensive Plan focused on Transportation Demand Management
• Objective: Minimize greenfield development and promote infill and redevelopment.

• Eligible Activity: Zoning Code/Comprehensive Plan Focusing on Infill Development

“By increasing density in already-developed areas with infill development, we can reduce the demand for land in outlying areas, known as greenfields.”
**Objective:** Reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries from crashes.

**Eligible Activity:** Reduction in Number of Fatalities and Serious Injuries from Crashes in your Community
BLENDON TOWNSHIP

sustainable 2050

A Silver-Rated Community Working Toward a Better Future
## NEXT STEPS

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<th>TODAY</th>
<th>Request Committee approval of Blendon Township Tier Status certification</th>
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<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY 14</td>
<td>(pending approval) Blendon recognized at Commission meeting, along with members approved at December SAC meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>APRIL 17</td>
<td>Next cohort of Tier Status certifications presented to SAC</td>
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Jennifer Noll
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www.morpc.org/Sustainable2050
Central Ohio Greenways Board (Chair: Letty Schamp)
Next meeting: March 27, 2019

Central Ohio Greenways Board: The Central Ohio Greenways Board met on January 23rd. Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard, led the meeting as the new Chair Board Chair. The COG Trail Development working group is primarily focused on implementation of the regional trail vision plan and prioritizing trail segments for funding. Eric Oberg, Rails to Trails Conservancy, provided an overview of a prioritization tool for COG to consider to aid in the trail prioritization process.

The COG Partnership working group is focused on developing and sustaining extensive multidisciplinary partnerships with businesses, political leaders, and potential funder. They are working closely with a consulting team on a fundraising planning study. The fundraising study will provide a “case for support” for COG, and internal operational structure evaluation, and an actionable blueprint for engaging future funding and partners. The results of the study will help guide the working groups’ goals for this year.

The COG Marketing & Communications working group is focused on increasing COG awareness through website updates and continued active Facebook presence. The group is working on a new Board member interview series that will be distributed on social media over the next year. A new working group, Operations & Access, evolved out of the COG Programming working group. This working group is responsible for considering the day to day necessities of a trail system to meet the needs of today’s trail users and users of the future. The team is focused on making COG trails accessible to all people through the development of operational best practices.

In addition, the COG Board is asked to consider and emphasize social equity within each of their working groups’ actions. The Board should focus their goals on ensuring that everyone, especially residents in traditionally underserved communities, is equitably connected to our region’s trails.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group (Chair: Dale Arnold)
Next meeting: March 26, 2019

The Energy and Air Quality Working Group met on January 22nd, 2019. End of year election results for Chair and Vice Chair of the Working Group were announced with Dale Arnold of the Ohio Farm Bureau returning as Chair and Matt Stephens-Rich of Smart Columbus and the Electrification Coalition stepping in as the new Vice Chair. During this meeting, initial implementation of the Energy and Air Quality Working Group Action Plan began with action to invite new members and reengage existing non-active members. The Working Group heard a presentation from Mr. Jimmy Smith of ChargePoint on ‘ChargePoint and EVs in Ohio’. Ohio EPA announced that based on current data, a Redesignation and Maintenance Plan for the 2015 Ozone Standard will be submitted to the US EPA for the Columbus area.
Water Resources Working Group (Chair: Jennifer Fish)
Next meeting: March 28, 2019

The Water Resources Working Group (WRWG) met on January 31st, where the group received a policy update at both the State and Federal levels, an update on the happenings in the Central Ohio Watershed Council, and a presentation from Alana Shockey regarding the newly formed Sustainable Columbus initiative. The second half of the meeting was a working session, where the group provided input on the activities and educational items for 2019 Riverfest. The group also identified areas of the 2016-2020 Action Plan that have not yet been achieved, and outlined strategies and activities to help achieve the objectives of the Action Plan.

At the March meeting, the group will hear an update on the Rickenbacker Area Study and an update on the Sustaining Scioto Short Term Implementation Plan.

Sustainable2050
Next meeting: March 27, 2019

Congratulations to the following Sustainable2050 members, whose Tier Status designations were approved by the SAC at its December meeting: Grove City (Gold), Whitehall (Silver), and the first Associate Member to complete the certification process: Metro Parks (Gold). These members will be formally recognized at the February 2019 Commission meeting.

At the Sustainable2050 meeting held on December 12, 2018, members heard from the first of their peers to complete Tier Status certification. These newly certified members shared highlights of their sustainability efforts, along with tips for completing the certification process. The presentations generated a thoughtful exchange of ideas among the group. Members also heard from MORPC Energy Planner Jon-Paul d’Aversa, who highlighted MORPC’s newest member services: The Local Government Energy Partnership and Energy Benchmarking program.

In 2019, Sustainable2050 will seek to grow its membership, outreach, and information-sharing platform while it continues to assist existing members to complete the Tier Status certification process. MORPC will be working with Associate Members to determine how the Tier Status workbook can best reflect their unique contributions to sustainable practices.
Dear Interested Party:

Registration is open for our second Sustainability Conference on April 17, 2019!

Ohio EPA recognizes that many businesses, communities, and other organizations are moving beyond compliance and incorporating sustainable environmental practices into their daily operations. This conference will show attendees how to leverage sustainable practices and resources to strengthen Ohio communities and businesses.

Our upcoming conference is targeted to businesses and communities that are moving beyond basic environmental requirements into cost-effective sustainable strategies to improve environmental performance and save valuable resources. This event will be particularly helpful to small and medium-sized communities and businesses.

This will be an opportunity to learn ways to become a part of the sustainability movement and how it can improve businesses and communities, how our water resources can benefit from sustainable approaches, and the resources and incentives that can help your sustainability efforts. During the event, you will hear from business and community leaders that are eager to share their insight as to how they've gone above and beyond to implement sustainable practices. In addition, attendees will learn about technical assistance available from Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance programs. You will be able to interact directly with these representatives and ask questions specific to your needs.

The general agenda for the one-day conference covers a variety of sustainable topics including:

- How to Start a Sustainable Business in Your Community
- Building Sustainable Communities - Addressing Recycling Contamination
- Regional Collaborative Partnerships
- Sustainable Community Partnerships
- Sustainable Food Management
- Save Money and Energy with Net-Zero Carbon Buildings and Institutions
- Ohio EPA Sustainability Resources - Environmental Assistance, Recycling & Litter Prevention Grants . . . and more!

We are very excited to host this year's conference. Click here to register for the event. You will have the option at the end to choose to pay by credit card or pay by check. If you choose to pay by check, your payment must be received no later than March 29, 2019. Visit our website for more detailed information on the event and agenda. We look forward to seeing you in April!

Regards,

Dan Sowry
Ohio EPA

Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance
Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention