



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING
SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD WORKING GROUP
MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
111 LIBERTY STREET, SUITE 100, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
BUCKEYE CONFERENCE ROOM

December 3, 2019, 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome & Introductions**
Justin Milam, Co-Chair, Rick Stein, Co-Chair
- 2. Regional Sustainability Dashboard Updates**
Adam Porr, CURA
 - a) State Preservation**
 - b) Social Media Sharing**
 - c) Progress Indicators**
 - d) Beta Testing Time Frame**
- 3. Review of Problematic Metrics and Data Collection**
Natalie Hurst, MORPC
Progress Updates:
 - 2.3 Reduce the Amount of Municipal Solid Waste Per Capita Disposed in the Landfill
 - 2.5 Reduce Per Capita Water Consumption
 - 2.4 Minimize Greenfield Development and Promote Infill and Redevelopment
 - 2.6 Improve Water Quality in the Upper Scioto Watershed
 - 3.2 Increase the number of adopted institutional purchasing policies that support the purchase of local food.
- 4. Other Business**
- 5. Next Steps**
Justin Milam, Co-Chair, Rick Stein, Co-Chair
- 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.

The next Sustainability Dashboard Working Group Meeting will be
January 9, 2020, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Rory McGuinness
Chair

Karen J. Angelou
Vice Chair

Erik J. Janas
Secretary

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Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Sustainability Dashboard Working Group
Meeting Notes

November 5, 2019, 2:30 pm

Members Present

Shoreh Elhami, City of Columbus

Jung Kim, One Columbus

Co-Chair Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington

Adam Porr, OSU CURA

Co-Chair Rick Stein, Urban Decision Group

MORPC Staff Present

Natalie Hurst

Lynn Kaufman

Brandi Whetstone

Meeting Called to Order at 2:36 pm.

Welcome & Introductions

Working Group Members and staff introduced themselves.

Regional Sustainability Dashboard Updates

Prototype Landing Page for Input

Adam Porr presented the dashboard's prototype landing page to the Working Group members. The goal is to provide a point of entry for people who are unfamiliar with the dashboard. There is currently an outside link to the definition of sustainability, which could alternatively link to the sustainability video from the 2018 Summit on Sustainability, to the current Regional Sustainability Agenda, to another MORPC website page with a definition of sustainability, or it can be defined on the landing page.

Other areas of the landing page are necessary to provide tailored use to different audiences. Normal view is interactive with legends on each card and features an interactive tutorial. Another view, for people who just want to see the data, does not show the legends, and is more compact. The simplified view will be a report style format with static graphs and maps showing the latest snapshot of data. This view is not interactive, but it is printable and easier to access on mobile devices. It is also more accessible to people using assistive technologies.

The members agreed that the three proposed views would be useful.

Discussion of Progress Indicators

The progress indicators will present the goals and objectives at the highest level of summary. There are several styles of progress indicators that can be used: the leaf indicator used on the Sustainability Report Card, a linear indicator, or a speedometer indicator. The leaf indicator will require periodic interpretation and update, including an elaborate method of computing the number of leaves to report based on an indicator.

Members discussed the types of progress indicators to use, and decided that the linear indicator would convey the message of which metric should be focused on, and where more resources are needed. This discussion will continue at a later meeting.

Members will also discuss what year the baseline should be at a later meeting, as the different metrics have not yet been decided.

State Preservation

Adam reported that users will be able to save all personal settings on the dashboard.

Review of Problematic Metrics

Progress Updates

2.3 Reduce the Amount of Solid Waste Per Capita Disposed in Landfill

At the October 8 meeting, members agreed that the best way to get solid waste data is to ask the Ohio EPA (OEPA). The OEPA submitted a public records request, as the necessary data is not regularly reported.

Outstanding Questions from October 8 Meeting:

- Why is waste exported outside of Ohio not included? The solid waste exported is industrial waste and is sent out-of-state for treatment. Members agreed that the exported waste does not need to be measured, as this metric focuses on household waste.
- Can we get the data more frequently than annually? The Solid Waste Management Districts report annually, therefore the data is not available more frequently.
- Can we streamline data collection? Currently data cannot be collected through a server or with an API, as the OEPA's online platform does not allow for that process.

2.1 Reduce Emissions to Meet Federal Air Quality Standards

Natalie Hurst reported that MORPC is currently using federal monitors operated by OEPA to measure progress for this metric, and that is specifically where the attainment and the non-attainment status is generated. If PurpleAir monitor data is collected, there may be confusion in looking at both data points to understand the official readings from the OEPA versus crowd sourced readings from PurpleAir. However, the OEPA has only six monitors in the 15-county region, where PurpleAir may have more monitors and more granularity to their data.

Members agreed that the dashboard could use both the OEPA and PurpleAir data, but that the PurpleAir data would be on a separate layer than the EPA data. The group also agreed that we should take a look at it when the data is available to make sure that we can easily distinguish the different data source, but OEPA data would be primary.

2.5 Reduce Per Capita Water Consumption

At the October 8 meeting, members suggested that staff use OEPA data or talk to suppliers. MORPC staff will meet with OEPA staff in the near future to discuss the collection of water production data, with the intent to use that as a proxy for consumption.

Discussion

2.4: Minimize Greenfield Development and Promote Infill and Redevelopment

Natalie reported that the target for this metric is for 50% of development to occur inside the urban area between 2010 and 2020. The Sustainability Report Card used land use change and an urban area identified only with I270. Unfortunately, land use change can be simply the data quality improving but not actual development, and when the land use type stays the same, it is difficult to identify infill development. Aaron Schill and MORPC's GIS Manager suggested that staff set jurisdictional boundaries, a baseline year, and use MORPC's building permits tracking system. MORPC does have the data for this analysis and it can be updated frequently.

Members discussed the concept that implementing policy that allows for denser development is a step towards minimizing greenfield development. This metric implies that redevelopment will happen where it can, but the future plans are still to primarily build into farmland. Redevelopment opportunities are slow to materialize, and something needs to fail before it can be redeveloped.

Brandi Whetstone suggested that members think about a recommendation to help inform the objectives for the updated Regional Sustainability Agenda and discuss at a later meeting. She noted that this metric is actually measuring two different things:

- 1) green space, which is of interest to sustainability, and that would be measuring acreage.
- 2) infill, which is a separate metric, but also necessary to prevent greenfield development. .

Members agreed to discuss how to separate these two subjects at a later meeting.

2.6 Improve Water Quality in the Upper Scioto Watershed

Staff does not currently have a recommendation for this metric. When the Sustainability Report Card was developed, the metric consisted of an objective, a target, but no data.

Members suggested contacting the following public entities for data: watershed councils, the United States Geological Survey, and the OEPA.

There are four water quality attainment uses: 1) Aquatic life, 2) Recreation, 3) Human Health, and 4) Drinking Water. Unfortunately, estimates are created at long intervals, as the reporting agencies must gather and test physical samples to meet quality standards. Due to budget constraints, the data is not often collected. Staff suggested reviewing the OEPA qualities for the four different types of attainment, and see if an unofficial designation could be based on those. If MORPC has a broad goal of improved water quality, and there is an available data source, then the goal should be according to this data source.

3.2 Increase Local Food Purchasing Policies

This metric was not featured in the 2018 Sustainability Report Card and there is no data reference for the past or the present. Staff recommendation is to delete this metric.

This metric will be revisited at a later meeting.

5.1 Establish the Annual Summit on Sustainability as Premiere Environmental Conference Through High Participation and Visibility

Members agreed to discuss this metric further at another meeting.

1.6 Reduce Per Capita Energy Consumption Across All Sectors

MORPC has an established method which was used in the recent Franklin County Energy Study. The method downscales statewide energy using census data, then the gap between the United States and Central Ohio per capita was measured. This may not be the best way to track progress, as the goal moves every year.

Members noted that energy consumption has a strong correlation to the economy, the age of the housing stock, and the transportation network. Members also asked if the energy consumption reported was all-encompassing or only residential. It may be more useful to split out the commercial/industrial/residential sectors, and to measure the region against the Midwest as a whole.

Members and staff agreed that this metric should remain on the dashboard with a caveat explaining the methodology and projections.

Other Business

2020 Meeting Cadence / Schedule

Members decided that monthly meetings are productive, and that they look forward to user testing in December or January.

Adjourned at 2:37 pm.

SUSTAINABILITY DASHBOARD WORKING GROUP

Adam Porr, CURA

Natalie Hurst, MORPC

December 3rd, 2019



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MORPC

Agenda

- Regional Sustainability Dashboard Updates
- Problematic Metrics
- Other business
- Next Steps

METRIC UPDATES



- 2.1: Reduce emissions to meet federal air quality standards
 - Brooke White, MORPC Air Quality expert, discovered that City of Columbus is attempting to put air quality monitors in parking garages and street lamps
 - Potential integration into dashboard (likely in later versions)
- 2.3: Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill
 - Received lovely county-level dataset from EPA for 2006-2018
 - Contains solid waste AND recycling totals
 - Many thanks to Ernie Stall, Environmental Specialist 3, and Dan
- 2.5: Reduce per capita water consumption
 - Meeting scheduled tomorrow, December 4th

3.2: INCREASE LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICIES



- Not in 2018 report card



3.2 Increase the number of adopted institutional purchasing policies that support the purchase of local food.

XX% increase in adopted institutional food purchasing policies (data and methodology under development)

3.2: INCREASE LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICIES



- Result of Last Meeting:
 - Working Group would like to include local food metric in Dashboard
- Data possibilities
 - Actual measure or proxy

Local Food Directories	Published Policies	Food Policy Networks
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information about local food producers, businesses, and farmers markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Published policies to advance local food purchasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ohio Food Policy Network (OFPN) has regional food councils

3.2: INCREASE LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICIES



- Local Food Directories
 - [Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association](#)
- Published Policies
 - [Growing Food Connections Policy Database](#)
- Food Policy Networks
 - [Food Policy Networks Map](#)

3.2: INCREASE LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICIES



Local Food Directories	Published Policies	Food Policy Networks
<p><u>Pros</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive information about availability of local food 	<p><u>Pros</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligns with objective 	<p><u>Pros</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since map has year founded, able to see progress over time
<p><u>Cons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proxy for objective • Likely to be time-intensive since resources would need to be combined • Does not provide insights about progress over time 	<p><u>Cons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of policies in geographic area • Additional research required; May not be comprehensive 	<p><u>Cons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proxy for objective



3.2: INCREASE LOCAL FOOD PURCHASING POLICIES



- What data do we want to show?
 - Farmers markets
 - Farms
 - Businesses using local foods
 - Policies
 - Regional Networks
- What is our baseline?
- What is our target?

2.4: MINIMIZE GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTE INFILL



2.4

Objective: Minimize greenfield development and promote infill and redevelopment.

2020 Target: 50% of development occurred inside the urban area between 2010 and 2020.



Central Ohio Development Patterns



From 2010 – 2018, nearly 40% of development occurred inside the urban area. Improvement between the baseline measure and recent years is a promising indicator of change in the right direction. Consistent with **insight2050** efforts, more Central Ohio communities are adopting focused growth approaches to planning and development.

New in 2018, **insight2050 Corridor Concepts** is encouraging even greater strides, as it uses a variety of metrics to assess the impacts of more walkable, compact environments along five key corridors in the region.

Learn more about Corridor Concepts:
<http://www.morpc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Corridor-Concepts-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

2.4: MINIMIZE GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTE INFILL






- Result of Previous Meeting:
 - MORPC recommends freezing jurisdictional boundaries at a baseline year and tracking building permits inside and outside these areas

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MORPC has both jurisdictional boundaries and building permits• Analysis would be simple• Can be updated frequently	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MORPC only collects residential building permits• Building permits don't have acreage – could misrepresent development patterns

2.6: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN UPPER SCIOTO WATERSHED



 **2.6** **Objective:** Improve water quality in the Upper Scioto Watershed.  

2020 Target: 85% of Upper Scioto Watershed sampling sites are in attainment.

No data in previous report card

2.6: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN UPPER SCIOTO WATERSHED



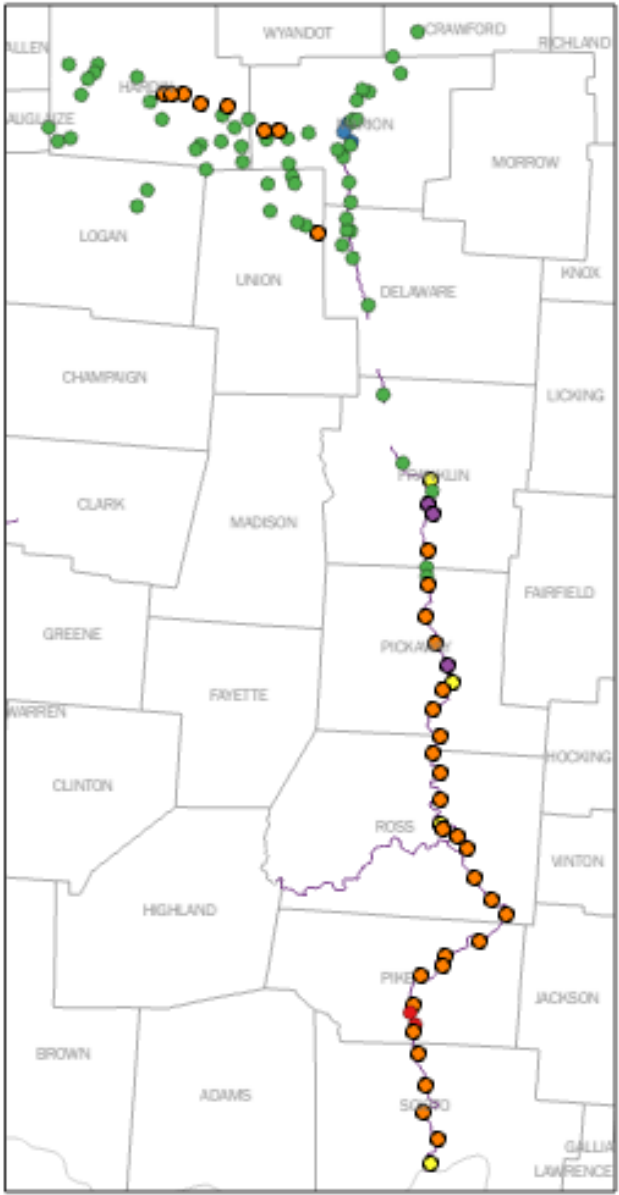
- Options
 - 1) EPA Attainment Data
 - 2) USGS Real Time Water Quality
 - 3) Use public drinking water information as proxy

2.6: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN UPPER SCIOTO WATERSHED



- EPA Attainment Data
 - Aquatic Life, Recreation Use, Public Drinking Water Supply, and Human Health Use Attainment
 - Best data exists for Aquatic Life Use

2.6: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN UPPER SCIOTO WATERSHED



ALU_Stations
Fish_Year_2

- 2005
- 2007
- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2016
- <all other values>
- LRAU
- Ohio County Boundary

- Data is older than we would like for dashboard
 - Next survey to cover entire watershed scheduled for 2024

2016	2011	2010	2009	2007	2005
4	34	3	57	3	2

2.6: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN UPPER SCIOTO WATERSHED



- USGS Real-Time Water Quality Data
 - Features water temperature, specific conductance, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, nitrate, discharge, chlorophyll
 - [WaterQualityWatch](#)
 - [Dashboard Prototype](#)

2.6: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN UPPER SCIOTO WATERSHED



- Public Drinking Water Data
 - Public water systems are regularly assessed by the EPA
 - [Drinking Water Watch](#)

2.6: IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN UPPER SCIOTO WATERSHED



- The target is attainment. Do we want to include EPA attainment or some other information?
 - If we do want to include other information, what is our target?