



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION *VIDEO/AUDIO CONFERENCE*

Thursday, March 4, 2021
1:30 p.m.

To join by video and see any screen sharing, click on “Join Microsoft Teams Meeting” below. You do not need to have Microsoft Teams for the link to work.

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

To participate by phone, use the conference call information below.

[+1 614-362-3056](#) United States, Columbus
[\(888\) 596-2819](#) United States (Toll-free)
Phone Conference ID: 797 989 532#

AGENDA

1. **Welcome** – Erik Janas, Chair
2. **Consent Agenda**
 - Approval of [February 4, 2021 minutes](#)
3. **Executive Director’s Report** – William Murdock
4. **Committee Updates**
 - **Nominating Committee** – Chris Amorose Grooms
 - **Regional Data Advisory Committee** – Aaron Schill
 - **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Kerstin Carr
 - **Transportation Policy Committee** – Thea Ewing
 - **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Joe Garrity
5. **Proposed Resolution 01-21: “Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreement with Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter Co., L.P.A. to provide professional services for state government relations services for the Central Ohio region”** – Joe Garrity
6. **Draft Commission Agenda**

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Grooms
Secretary

7. Other Business

**PLEASE NOTIFY SHARI SAUNDERS AT 614-233-4169 OR ssaunders@morpc.org
IF YOU REQUIRE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.**

**The next Executive Committee Meeting is
Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.
Audio/Video Conference**



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 4, 2021
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Video/Audio Conference

Members Present

Chris Amorose Groomes
Karen Angelou
Jeff Benton
Franklin Christman

Michelle Crandall
Jennifer Gallagher
Erik Janas
Greg Lestini

Kim Maggard
Rory McGuinness
Joe Stefanov
Nancy White

MORPC Staff Present

Kerstin Carr
Thea Ewing
Joe Garrity
Shawn Hufstедler
Niel Jurist

Lynn Kaufman
Eileen Leuby
William Murdock
Shari Saunders
Aaron Schill

Hosana Tekie
Susan Tsen
Robert Williams

Welcome – Erik Janas

Executive Committee Chair Erik Janas called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Chair Janas announced he will need to leave the meeting around 2 p.m. Executive Committee Vice-Chair Chris Amorose Groomes will then lead the meeting.

MORPC Chair Karen Angelou announced the appointment of Kim Maggard as Chair of the Reserve & Investment Advisory Committee and Joe Stefanov as Chair of the Building Committee.

Consent Agenda

Joe Stefanov made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Franklin Christman; motion passed.

Executive Director's Report – William Murdock

William Murdock reported MORPC will share information at next week's Commission meeting regarding our board diversity and representation. We have done significant work on representation on our top-level committees to make them more representative of the region. The presentation will highlight our progress but also identify gaps where we still need to improve. There are two desired outcomes. One is asking communities for their help in continuing to work at broader representation through the region. The second is offering our help by announcing our partnership with the YWCA Columbus, an organization focused on ending racism and working in the community. The partnership will provide MORPC members basic level webinars and discount access to consulting and other services as they try to navigate these important issues.

MORPC is still navigating the pandemic. We shared the reopening strategy with our employees and are looking at how this might be rolled out when we get into our new office space. We are looking at March 31 as a guidance for employees who typically work in the office. Over the next two months we will be allowing employees to set-up their workspaces. We are working with health authorities, looking at vaccination, and trying to figure out the legal aspects of getting our team in the building. MORPC continues to help local governments with monthly meetings.

We are in the final phase of the office renovation. A lot of physical activities will be done in the next two weeks. Lighting work, audiovisual work, and the PACE and energy improvements will be done in March/April. A virtual tour is planned in March. A socially distanced in-person tour with our officers is being planned for late February/early March.

The Strategic Framework is moving forward. Upcoming sessions include a housing session on February 26 and a broadband session on March 5. The framework builds on the strategic pillars we have already done and allows us to hone-in on emerging issues. The sessions provide an opportunity to get your thoughts on where MORPC should go, what additional things MORPC should do, what things MORPC should not do, etc. Thea Ewing is the lead. Ms. Ewing announced Mary Held is the consultant who will facilitate the sessions. There will be two more sessions after the State of the Region.

The Regional Housing Strategy Speaker Series kicks-off this month. National top-level speakers will be introducing new concepts from around the country. Session 1, "There's Nothing Cookie-Cutter About These Homes", is February 19, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Urban Land Institute (ULI) of Columbus, Metro Parks, and MORPC are working together on the Rapid 5 effort for the top-level watershed and trail areas in Franklin County. The goal is to build a vision for connecting the trails to communities and the economic impact. ULI approached five different firms to compete for doing the vision and work. We approached several communities for partnership and some level of sponsorship. Deliverables will result in visuals on trails, ideas for different things we can do, and new ideas on how to connect into the system. While it is just Franklin County, it is a starting point.

The Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition started as an informal small group of different institutional partners trying to connect on broadband digital literacy. It has now emerged into a more formal effort. This is not an official MORPC working group. MORPC is co-chairing the group with the Columbus Metropolitan Library. The group is currently focusing on device access affordability. Mr. Murdock is grateful for the work Aaron Schill has been able to do on this effort.

Mr. Murdock announced that for the 32nd consecutive year MORPC received the GFOA Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. Mr. Murdock expressed his pride in Shawn Hufstedler, Susan Tsen, and the Finance Team.

Mr. Murdock congratulated Commissioner Jeff Benton on chairing the Central Ohio Regional Advisory Board.

Mr. Murdock congratulated Mayor Chris Amorose Groomes on her appointment to the 2021 Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee for the National League of Cities.

This year's State of the Region is March 31 and will be held virtually. The keynote speaker is Jonathan Rose, a developer and author from New York. Niel Jurist encouraged members to register and help spread the word.

Nominating Committee – Chris Amorose Groomes

Chris Amorose Groomes reported the Nominating Committee met January 28. Nominating Committee members are Chris Amorose Groomes, Mike Schadek, Nancy White, Franklin

Christman and Jeff Benton. Commissioner Benton was unable to attend the January 28 meeting. Staff members are William Murdock and Shawn Hufstedler. The committee reviewed the terms of Executive Committee members. There are no present vacancies. The committee recommends the existing sequence stay in place. Recommendations will be presented to the Commission March 11. There will be an opportunity to nominate from the floor.

Regional Data Advisory Committee – Aaron Schill

Aaron Schill presented the [Regional Data Agenda Update Process](#). The next Regional Data Advisory Committee (RDAC) meeting is March 2. Over 60 percent of the action items from the 2019-2020 Regional Data Agenda have been started or are completed. Mr. Schill reviewed the timeline. Once the RDAC approves the agenda, they will identify a few priority projects and formulate working groups around the projects. Two new members will be joining RDAC: Drew Williams from the City of Columbus and Christina Drummond who is in the private sector and previously worked for the OSU Moritz College of Law.

Chair Janas turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Amorose Groomes.

Regional Policy Roundtable – Joe Garrity

Joe Garrity provided the legislative update:

- Federal COVID relief – high priority for the President; no bill currently
- Surface transportation reauthorization
- Infrastructure
- Columbus Region Coalition – planning a virtual event reaching out to congressional delegation and members of the Biden administration
- State executive budget

The next Regional Policy Roundtable meeting is February 23.

Sustainability Advisory Committee – Kerstin Carr

Kerstin Carr reported that MORPC recently issued an RFP to study the economic impact of trails. The goal is to create a more comprehensive picture on the impact of trails vision to help better tell the story around this for future grants, opportunities, etc.

Ms. Carr also shared that MORPC just finished the trail prioritization project and thanked the City of Columbus and Franklin County for funding the effort which culminated in a story map. Ms. Carr thanked MORPC's Data & Mapping Team for their work in creating the mapping tool which shows how just a few trail connections can make a big difference in the percentage of people having access to the trail network. We will share that soon and how we can change the equity component in terms of who has access to trails in Central Ohio.

Finally, Ms. Carr recognized Jon-Paul D'Aversa for hosting Solar Week. Every session had around 100 participants showing a strong interest in solar in our region.

Transportation Policy Committee – Thea Ewing

Thea Ewing reported MORPC is working with nine Central Ohio counties to develop the Regional Mobility Plan, a transit coordinated plan for the ODOT Human Service Transportation Coordination Region 6. To fully evaluate the needs and limitations of the region, MORPC is kicking off an extensive public engagement campaign for the Plan. Four virtual public meetings announcing the work on the Regional Mobility Plan are offered. Anyone within MORPC's 15-

county area of interest is encouraged to attend an online presentation and question/comment opportunity. Meeting links can be found on the MORPC website. The first two meetings were February 2. The next meeting times are:

- Thursday, February 4, 6-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 10, 12-1 p.m.

The MORPC Team is working with local governments to identify regional projects to be funded via MORPC's Attributable Funding Program. There is approximately \$70 million available for road, bike/ped and transit projects through construction year 2027. Within the next month a list of projects for funding consideration will be advanced to public involvement. Public comments will be considered prior to final approval of the projects at the May MORPC Transportation Policy Committee meeting.

U.S. DOT released Notice of Funding Opportunities for two discretionary programs BUILD and INFRA. Then withdrew them within a day or two. The new administration is revising them. We anticipate they will re-release the notice of funding opportunities before the end of April with possible new criteria for the awards.

- BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) - \$1 billion in funding is available for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs. It can provide \$5-\$25 million awards for urban areas. Project awards in rural areas can be as low as \$1 million.
- INFRA (Infrastructure For Rebuilding America) - \$1 billion in funding is available for major freight mobility projects on highways, bridges, rail, maritime and ports. It can provide at least \$5 million for small projects and \$25 million for short projects.

Recent articles on social media and around Ohio have been reporting that Amtrak is planning to improve and expand on five routes that impact service in the State of Ohio. One route is part of a Midwest plan the FTA worked on, it is essentially the 3C Corridor. In preparation for Amtrak's request for federal reauthorization they are meeting with states to discuss passenger rail service improvements and expansions needed. There is no guarantee that even if Amtrak receives all the funds they are seeking in the reauthorization bid, they will be spent in Ohio. We are coordinating with ORDC and Amtrak on this matter.

Quarterly Financial Statements – Shawn Hufstedler

Shawn Hufstedler gave a refresher on Financial Reporting to the Executive Committee.

- Financial Statement Review – quarterly
- CAFR Presentation – annually in June
- MORPC Annual Fiscal Budget – presented to Executive Committee and Commission in December
- Residential Services Portfolio Reporting – quarterly
- Reserve Activities – quarterly
- Investment Activities – as needed
- Resolutions for Contracts Greater than \$75,000 – as needed
- Other – as needed

Mr. Hufstedler reviewed the [December 2020 Financial Report](#) highlighting:

- Other year-end entries are still to come such as OPERS adjustments and revenue recognition.

- Cash balance is over \$1.5 million which is greater than the 30-day target.
- Fringe and indirect rates are both positive. The over collection from 2020 will be moved into 2022 to help lower those rates.
- Revenue from the PPP is a one-time program. We are waiting for the loan forgiveness process to open. It will be the end of March when we can apply for forgiveness. We anticipate being forgiven as we meet all the criteria.
- Operating loss of \$588,000. More than half was revenue recognized in prior years. \$217,000 was from the weatherization programs due to Residential Services unable to produce any units for four months during the pandemic. The January numbers are above internal projections.
- Members dues are under budget for 2020.
- A large portion of the building renovation costs are being pushed into 2021.
- Accounts payable and accounts receivable are in good condition.
- Expenditures are within appropriations.
- Operating Reserve has 53 days of cash flow, just under the 60-day target. No reserve activity this quarter.

A question was asked why deferred revenue went up \$1.2 million from 2019 to 2020. MORPC received an extra \$900,000+ from COTA (CARES money). We will be using that money over a 3-year period and so we record it as unearned revenue at the moment. It will probably be moved to revenue for reporting purposes.

Quarterly Membership Update – Eileen Leuby

Eileen Leuby presented the [Membership Services Quarterly Update](#) highlighting:

- Two new board members are attending the Commission meeting next week: Monica Irelan from Westerville and Hunter Rayfield from Liberty Township.
- Monthly COVID-19 Community Impact Conference Calls – Ms. Leuby asked for feedback on the calls.
- Targeted outreach to current members.
- 2021 Summer Local Government Intern Program – can place more students.
- Grantfinder Service
- Rural Service Strategy Three-Part Series
- Mid-Ohio Finance Administrators meeting on February 25 features Bill LaFayette.

Draft Commission Agenda

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft February 11, 2021 Commission Meeting Agenda.

Other Business

The 2021 State of the Region will recognize the 2020 State of Region award winners. The two individuals who should have received their awards last year will receive them this year.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Chris Amorose Groomes, Secretary
Executive Committee



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Memorandum

TO: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Executive Committee
Officers and Board Members

FROM: Chris Amorose Grooms, Nominating Committee Chair

DATE: March 11, 2021

SUBJECT: **Nomination of Executive Committee Members**

Background:

In accordance with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Articles of Agreement, the Commission will be notified at least five (5) days prior to the Annual Meeting as to the nominees for MORPC's Officers and Executive Committee members.

The Nominating Committee excerpt from the Articles is as follows:

"At least twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting, the chair shall appoint the Nominating Committee. Said Nominating Committee having been duly appointed and confirmed shall, at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting of the COMMISSION, report the names of the candidates so nominated to the secretary. The secretary shall advise each member of the COMMISSION, in writing, at least five (5) days prior to the annual meeting as to the nominees so selected. At the annual meeting, the chair of the Nominating Committee shall report the names so nominated. After this report is presented, nominations from the floor shall be invited. Such nominations must be seconded. The secretary then shall prepare ballots properly identifying the nominees, said ballots shall be distributed and tallied during the annual meeting by a temporary committee appointed for that purpose."

The Nominating Committee Members:

As noted at the December 10, 2020 Commission meeting, Commission Chair Karen Angelou has appointed five members of the Nominating Committee.

- Chris Amorose Grooms, Committee Chair, City of Dublin
- Jeff Benton, Delaware County
- Mike Schadek, City of Columbus
- Franklin Christman, Village of Ashville
- Nancy White, Mifflin Township

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Rory McGuinness
Chair

Karen J. Angelou
Vice Chair

Erik J. Janas
Secretary

Review of Current Members of Executive Committee:

Several Executive Committee positions do not have expiring terms this year and therefore require no action by the Nominating Committee. For information, these are listed below:

- 1) **Immediate Past Chair:** Rory McGuiness, (2012) City of Columbus
- 2) **In second year of current two-year Executive Committee Term (expires 2022)**
 - a) Michelle Crandall (2020), City Manager, City of Hilliard
 - b) David Scheffler (2020), Mayor, City of Lancaster
 - c) Greg Lestini (2018), Bricker & Eckler LLP, Attorney, Franklin County representative
 - d) Franklin Christman (2018), Administrator, Village of Ashville
 - e) Chris Amorose Groomes (2018), Mayor, City of Dublin

Nominating Committee Recommendations:

The Nominating Committee convened on January 28, and made the following recommendations for Officer positions and Executive Committee positions, which will be reported at the March 11, 2021 Commission meeting and considered at the April 8, 2021 Commission meeting:

The nominees for Officers for renewed one-year Officer Terms (expires 2022)

- **Chair:** Karen Angelou, Council Member, City of Gahanna
- **Vice-Chair:** Erik Janas, Deputy County Administrator, Franklin County
- **Secretary:** Chris Amorose Groomes, Mayor, City of Dublin

The nominees for Executive Committee are:

- 1) **For renewal of one-year Executive Committee Terms (expires 2022)**
 - a) Joe Stefanov (2008), Chair of Building Committee, City Manager, City of New Albany
 - b) Karen Angelou (2014), Chair of MORPC, Council Member, City of Gahanna
 - c) Kim Maggard (2015), Chair of Reserve & Investment Advisory Committee, Mayor, City of Whitehall
- 2) **For a new two-year Executive Committee Term (expires 2023)**
 - a) None
- 3) **For renewal of two-year Executive Committee Terms (expires 2023):**
 - a) Jennifer Gallagher (2017), Director, Department of Public Service, City of Columbus
 - b) Erik Janas (2017), Deputy County Administrator, Franklin County
 - c) Jeff Benton (2019), Commissioner, Delaware County
 - d) Nancy White (2017), Administrator, Mifflin Township

Notes:

- 1) The year after each name refers to the first year of the member's current service on the Executive Committee. For example, Joe Smith (2017) means that Joe Smith's first term began in 2017 and he has served continuously since then.
- 2) Per the bylaws, Executive Committee members may serve up to three consecutive two-year terms. One-year extensions are available if serving as an officer or committee chair.



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Memorandum

TO: Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Executive Committee
Officers and Board Members

FROM: Joe Garrity
Director of Government Affairs & Strategic Initiatives

DATE: February 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Proposed Resolution 01-21: **“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreement with Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter Co., L.P.A. to provide professional services for state government relations services for the Central Ohio region”**

This resolution authorizes the executive director to contract with Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter Co., L.P.A. beginning January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. MORPC conducted a fair and open selection process to solicit government relations services proposals to review. Seven proposals were received and evaluated.

Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter Co., L.P.A. will provide a variety of services including: maintaining and building MORPC’s reputation among the region’s leaders; establishing MORPC’s reputation as a visible advocate of racial and social justice issues; continuing to strengthen connections between MORPC members and staff to state and federal public policy leaders; ensuring public policy leaders are more likely to adopt MORPC’s public policy priorities through efficient and effective advocacy efforts; keeping MORPC’s members regularly informed about key legislative developments important to them; protecting and enhancing MORPC’s brand as one of Central Ohio’s top regional advocacy organizations; and strengthening the role in our region that the Central Ohio Defense Group plays.

Attachment: Resolution 01-21

RESOLUTION 01-21

“Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreement with Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter Co, L.P.A. to provide professional services for state government relations services for the Central Ohio region”

WHEREAS, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has an existing government affairs and public policy program for MORPC members; and

WHEREAS, MORPC’s public policy and advocacy efforts have developed a strong voice for the region and local governments’ needs at the Statehouse and in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, MORPC conducted a fair and open selection process upon the request for proposals for professional services for state government relations services; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing and evaluating the proposals received, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter Co., L.P.A. was selected; and

WHEREAS, Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter Co., L.P.A. will provide a variety of services including: maintaining and building MORPC’s reputation among the region’s leaders; establishing MORPC’s reputation as a visible advocate of racial and social justice issues; continuing to strengthen connections between MORPC members and staff to state and federal public policy leaders; ensuring public policy leaders are more likely to adopt MORPC’s public policy priorities through efficient and effective advocacy efforts; keeping MORPC’s members regularly informed about key legislative developments important to them; protecting and enhancing MORPC’s brand as one of Central Ohio’s top regional advocacy organizations; and strengthening the role in our region that the Central Ohio Defense Group plays; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

- Section 1. That the executive director is hereby authorized to enter into agreement from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023 with Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter Co., L.P.A. to provide professional services for government relations services for the Central Ohio region.
- Section 2. That the executive director is authorized to enter into a financial agreement with Kegler, Brown, Hill + Ritter that includes a monthly fee of \$10,500 plus MORPC approved travel costs not to exceed \$1,500 annually.
- Section 3. That the executive director is authorized to approve one or more extensions for performance of services under the foregoing agreements and change orders for amounts up to the financial authorization levels in the MORPC bylaws without further authorization from this Commission.
- Section 4. That the executive director is authorized to take such other action and execute and deliver such other documents as, acting with the advice of legal counsel, he shall deem necessary and appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.
- Section 5. That this Commission finds and determines that all formal deliberations and actions of this Commission concerning and relating to the adoption of this resolution were taken in open meetings of this Commission.

Karen Angelou, Chair

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Effective date: January 1, 2021
Submitted by: Joe Garrity, Director of Government Affairs & Strategic Initiatives
Prepared by: Joe Garrity, Director of Government Affairs & Strategic Initiatives
Authority: Ohio Revised Code Section 713.21
For action date: March 11, 2021