

Public Works Integrating Committee

District 3 (Franklin County)

Phone: (614) 228-2663
Fax: (614) 228-1904

Criteria Working Session 1 – FY23

Friday, March 12, 2021

1:30 p.m.

[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

614-362-3056, United States, Columbus

(888) 595-9475, United States (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 142 473 283#

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. MORPC Staff Updates – Thea Ewing, MORPC
4. Approval of Minutes of December 18, 2020 – enclosed
5. OPWC Updates – Jennifer Kline, OPWC
6. Modifications under Consideration for FY23 – Thomas Graham, MORPC
 - a. Review Draft Scores with Applicants
 - b. Change Format of Scoring Session
 - c. Revise Crash Scoring Methodology
 - d. Revise Safety Scoring Methodology
 - e. Revise Pedestrian/Bicycle/Transit Methodology
 - f. Review Policy on Awarding from SCIP vs. LTIP
7. PWIC Member Nominations Update – Thomas Graham, MORPC
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

Chair
Cornell R. Robertson
(614) 525-3043

Vice-Chair
Jennifer Gallagher
(614) 645-8290

Kevin L. Boyce
John Bryner
Karl Craven
Tracie Davies
Darryl Hughes
Joe Martin
Nancy White

Staff:

Nathaniel Vogt
Thomas Graham
c/o MORPC
111 Liberty Street
Suite 100
Columbus, OH
43215

If you require special assistance, please notify
Melissa Sharp at 614-233-4180 or msharp@morpc.org

The next PWIC meeting is:

Friday, April 16, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., on Microsoft Teams

Meeting Format: Because of the pandemic, MORPC is conducting all meetings via Microsoft Teams. With Microsoft Teams you can participate via a webinar or conference call.

We strongly encourage you to join the meeting by video to be able see any screen sharing. You do not need to have Microsoft Teams on your computer or device for the link to work.

How to Join a Teams Meeting: Use the link below to join the meeting. Here's a short video on how to [Join a Teams Meeting](#).

District 3 Public Works Integrating Committee
FY22 (Round 35) – Final Action Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 18, 2020
1:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

614-362-3056 – United States, Columbus
(888) 595-9475 – United States (Toll-free)
Phone Conference ID: 532 177 334#

Members Present

Cornell Robertson
Jennifer Gallagher
Ryan Andrews (a)
Ann Aubry (a)
Barbara Cox (a)
Ron Grossman (a)
Darryl Hughes
Erik Janas (a)
Steve Kennedy (a)
Joe Martin
Jackie Thiel (a)

(a) = alternate member

Guests

Ben Amick, Amick Municipal Consulting
Fritz Crosier, Franklin Co. Engineer's Office
Travis Eifert, EMH&T
Erik Meininger, EMH&T
Tim Nittle, City of Columbus

OPWC Staff

Jennifer Kline

MORPC Staff

Thea Ewing
Joe Garrity
Ted Geer
Thomas Graham
Nathaniel Vogt

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Cornell Robertson called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. and led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Robertson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Nathaniel Vogt took attendance.

3. Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2020

Chair Robertson entertained a motion for the committee to approve the December 4, 2020 meeting minutes. Joe Martin moved to approve the minutes, Erik Janas seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

4. Request for Modifications to an Active Project

Vogt said he received a request from Grandview Heights to modify an award from Round 34 for a project called Yard St, Bobcat Ave, and Swan St Road/Utility Extensions. It received an award of \$6,179,230 from the SCIP program; the total project cost estimate was \$11,464,249. The applicant was requesting an additional \$1,196,000, which it would match with \$520,000. He briefly reviewed the supporting material submitted with the request.

Chair Robertson invited the applicant to address the committee. Darryl Hughes asked if Travis Eifert of EMH&T, the engineer of record for the project, could make some comments. Eifert presented a graphic illustrating the locations of the existing storm sewer line and the proposed new storm sewer line for which additional funds were requested. Eifert said alternatives to improve the existing storm sewer to provide the needed capacity were evaluated but were cost prohibitive. A hydraulic analysis recommended a larger size pipe. To avoid downstream impacts, a backflow preventer and reduced pipe size were proposed to restrict the outlet flow. Hughes added that it was a surprise to find the pipe in such poor condition and beneath a building. It was located which is outside the easement, which should not happen.

The chair asked Vogt what the committee has done with similar requests in the past. He said there was a request for additional funds one year ago, which the committee denied. Before that request, it had been nearly 10 years since the committee considered a request for additional funds; it was also denied. The chair asked Vogt for the staff's recommendation. He said the staff recommended disapproval of the request because increasing funds for a project after the committee awarded a specific amount could set a negative precedent.

Chair Robertson asked for a motion. Janas made a motion to deny the request. Jennifer Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion carried, denying the request. The chair thanked Hughes and Eifert for their input.

5. Review of Recommended Scores & Rankings

Thea Ewing said that the staff reviewed all of scores on the applications at the Chair's request after the last meeting, where an error was noticed. The staff found other errors and checked the scoring for consistency. Staff offered all applicants the opportunity to meet with the staff over the past two weeks to discuss the scores.

Ewing explained that staff discussed the Broad and Hamilton intersection project with the applicant and found that the applicant had planned to start activities that OPWC considers part of construction before the start deadline of June 1, 2022. However, ODOT does not consider those activities to be part of construction, and the applicant entered the ODOT start date on its application. The applicant submitted a corrected application form with the OPWC start construction date. Staff applied the normal penalty for errors or omissions on the application.

Ewing said this meeting was postponed by one week for staff to review all of the scoring and to give applicants time to meet with staff to discuss their scores. Several scores changed as a result of the review.

Thomas Graham reviewed all of the scoring changes made since the draft scores were presented on December 4. He explained the specific scoring changes to each application and the rationale for each change.

For the Broad and Hamilton intersection project, Ewing said clearing trees on a schedule required by ODOT was the activity beginning in spring of 2022, but the heavier construction would occur later. Jennifer Gallagher asked if OPWC funds requested could be used for activity that occurs outside of the fiscal year of the award. Ewing said that it could. Jennifer Kline said OPWC's policies require construction to begin within one year and the project to be completed within two years. She said the purchase of materials for this project would also begin before the

deadline to start construction, and OPWC's policies consider the purchase of materials to be part of the construction.

Ann Aubry asked if District 3 scoring policies still penalize applicants for projects that are not completed on time. Vogt said that it does and explained the policy.

Graham reviewed the final rankings of the applications resulting from the revised scores for each program (SCIP and LTIP). He noted that Rings Road and Alley Improvements was the only application that was eligible for the Small Government Program, so it was recommended to be submitted to OPWC for that program.

Gallagher said she had concerns about the number of scoring changes and that some of the changes were significant, affecting which projects would receive funding. She asked that the committee continue to have conversations about how to remedy the situation for future rounds so the committee can have confidence that the scoring process results in selecting the best projects.

Janas thanked the chair for asking staff to review all projects to ensure the public and the applicants have confidence that they are being scored correctly and consistent with the rules the committee approves each year. He was satisfied with the explanations of the individual scoring changes and will be supporting the recommendations. He said it is important for the committee to have future conversations with the staff as the new round starts next year to make sure we understand where the disconnect was and that the process is cleaner next year. He thanked the chair for his leadership.

Chair Robertson expressed his support of Gallagher and Janas's comments. He felt it was important to take the time after the December 4 meeting to check all of the applications and make sure the scores were consistent. He said it is incumbent upon the committee to find the best projects in the region. He said he thought we were able to do that by extending the process. He agreed that we might need to adjust the process for 2021 to allow for some interaction with the applicants ahead of the release of the recommended list of projects. The chair thanked everyone for their patience and the staff for double checking scores, meeting with interested applicants, and presenting the scoring changes today.

6. Comments from Applicants

Chair Robertson asked for comments from applicants. There was none.

7. Approval of Funding Recommendations

Chair Robertson asked for a motion to approve the slate of recommendations for SCIP, LTIP and the Small Government Program. Janas made a motion to approve the recommendations, and Hughes seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

8. Approval of Administrative Work Plan & Budget for 2021

Vogt said the work plan and budget was included in the meeting packet. The total budget of \$180,000 is the same as last year. He reviewed the contents of the work plan. Chair Robertson asked for a motion of approval. Gallagher moved for approval. Jackie Thiel seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

9. Appointments to the Natural Resources Assistance Council for 2021-2023

Vogt said there were two vacancies on the NRAC, as one member has retired, and another chose not to seek reappointment to another term. MORPC put out a call for nominations and received two of them. They were Nathan Johnson by the Ohio Environmental Council and Jim Palus, a restoration ecologist with MAD Scientists, nominated by Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed. Johnson expressed a preference for the full three-year term opening, so staff recommended he be appointed to that seat and Palus be appointed to the seat with one year remaining for the term. Vogt said two other members of the NRAC are requesting reappointment: Tyler Stevenson with the ODNR Division of Forestry and Steve Studenmund with Metro Parks. These four are the slate of recommended appointments.

Chair Robertson asked for a motion to approve the slate of appointments. Joe Martin so moved, and Hughes seconded. The motion was approved.

10. Approval of Schedule for FY23

Vogt said that the schedule had been modified from the first draft. It now has two weeks between the working session and the final action meeting. A meeting with applicants to review scores was added in November at a date to be determined prior to the scoring session with the committee. This meeting was added to ensure that the scores have been validated before they are presented to the committee.

Chair Robertson noted that the additional meeting in November was in response to our experience in this round and to try to increase confidence and consistency and make sure we find the best projects in the region. He also noted that the application due date is closer to the historic due date. The due date was moved to the end of September this round because of the impacts of COVID-19.

The chair said he would entertain a motion for approval of the schedule for Fiscal Year 23. Thiel made the motion. Hughes seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

11. Other Business

Jennifer Kline updated the committee on OPWC's new portal. The loan invoice and online payment system has been launched. OPWC has been internally testing the application portal and has a goal for all applications for the next round submitted through the online portal. Kline said agreements for the projects just approved would be delivered electronically July 1 as they were last round, not through the new portal system. She also noted that the funding appropriations are still working through the state legislature. Although the funding hasn't technically been approved yet, it is expected to be happen much earlier than it did this past year.

Ewing introduced Joe Garrity, MORPC Director of Government Affairs, who gave the committee an update on the lame duck session at the Ohio General Assembly. He said the state capital budget passed the House last night and was likely to be passed later today by the Ohio Senate. It includes \$280 million for OPWC's SCIP, Revolving Loan Fund, and Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. It also includes \$171.4 million of community projects. Garrity also updated the committee on recent Congressional action.

12. Adjournment

Chair Robertson entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hughes moved to adjourn, and Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathaniel J. Vogt
District 3 Liaison