

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

*Remote Meeting*

Natural Resources Assistance Council  
Meeting Notes

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January 6, 2021, 1:00 pm

Members Present

Laura Ball, City of Westerville  
Matthew Brown, Franklin County  
Karl Craven, City of Westerville  
Stephen Farst, City of Groveport  
Nathan Johnson, Ohio Environmental Council  
Maureen Lorenz, Friends of the Ravines  
Jim Palus, The Nature Conservancy

Shannon Sorrell, City of Whitehall  
Tyler Stevenson, Ohio Department of Natural  
Resources  
Steven Studenmund, Metro Parks  
Acting Chair Kyle Wilson, Franklin County Soil  
& Water Conservation District

Public Present

Heather Dardinger, EMH&T  
Matt Earman, City of Dublin  
Haley Ingram  
Jennifer Kline, Ohio Public Works Commission  
Maureen Lorenz, Friends of the Ravines  
Tim Maloney, Metro Parks

Darrell Miller  
Carla Odebralski, City of Upper Arlington  
Anthony Sasson, Midwest Biodiversity Institute  
Mark Sherman, American Structurepoint, Inc.  
Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne  
Brad Westall, City of Columbus

MORPC Staff Present

Lynn Kaufman

Nathaniel Vogt

Brandi Whetstone

**Meeting Called to Order at 1:03 pm.**

**NRAC Membership & Staff Updates**

Nathaniel Vogt introduced new members Nathan Johnson, Ohio Environmental Council, who will finish out Steve Cothrel's term, and Jim Palus, The Nature Conservancy.

**Nomination & Election of Officers (Chair and Vice Chair)**

Member Studenmund nominated Acting Chair Kyle Wilson as Chair; Member Lorenz seconded. Member Craven moved that nominations be closed. Nomination and motion to close nominations were carried.

Member Studenmund nominated Member Laura Ball as Vice-Chair, Member Lorenz seconded. Member Ball accepted the nomination. Chair Wilson moved that Member Ball be elected vice chair. Nomination and motion were carried.

Chair Wilson suggested that the Council discuss term limits at the end of this round project meetings on April 21.

**Approval of August 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Member Craven moved to accept the minutes, Member Sorrell seconded the motion, motion carried.

### **Available Funds**

Nathaniel Vogt reported that \$5,387,607 is available.

Jennifer Kline, Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), reported capital budget funds have been appropriated and are available. OPWC is waiting for the state operating budget to be passed so that the Commission may continue regular operations. OPWC will be moving all applications to a web based platform; the goal is to have all applications submitted to the portal by Round 16. Staff is currently in the beta testing phase and is creating training documents and tutorials.

### **Project Updates**

- a. Utzinger Bog Preserve  
Expected completion by January 1, 2022
- b. Utzinger Bog Conservation Project  
Expected completion by January 1, 2022
- c. Dry Run Stream Restoration  
Expected completion by July 1, 2021
- d. Eastmoor Green Line Linear Park  
Vice-Chair Ball moved to extend this project to January 1, 2022, Member Sorrell seconded the motion, motion carried.
- e. Stockbridge Urban Forest  
Member Brown moved to extend this project to January 1, 2022, Member Craven seconded the motion, motion carried
- f. East Broad Street Preserve  
Member Brown moved to extend this project to January 1, 2022, Vice-Chair Ball seconded the motion, motion carried
- g. Whitehall Community Park Stream Restoration  
Expected completion by July 1, 2021
- h. Big Walnut Riparian Enhancement & Access  
Expected completion by July 1, 2021
- i. Taylor Farm Acquisition on Rocky Fork Creek  
Expected completion by July 1, 2021
- j. Scioto Greenway Acquisition, Phase I  
Expected completion by June 1, 2021
- k. Nature Reserves Acquisition  
Expected completion by November 1, 2021
- l. Marsh Run Stream Restoration in Gantz Park  
Expected completion by January 1, 2022

**Preliminary Screener Presentations**

Presenter	Project Name	Member Comments / Suggestions
Matt Earman, City of Dublin	Riverside Crossing Park Land Acquisition – N. Riverview St. Properties	N/A
Heather Dardinger, EMH&T, City of Reynoldsburg	Blacklick Creek Stream Restoration & Riparian Corridor Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Details of development plans and other plans upstream</li> <li>• Include a floodway map</li> <li>• Find out if the city has riparian overlay codes</li> <li>• Note that OPWC deed restrictions will require split from developed lots</li> </ul>
Carla Odebralski, City of Upper Arlington, and Darrell Miller	Stream Erosion Control Education & Demo at Turkey Run's Reed Road Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggested using more natural materials than what is shown in the illustration</li> </ul>
Mark Sherman, American Structurepoint, Village of Lockbourne	Spring Alley Channel Project	N/A
Tim Maloney, Metro Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Big Walnut Creek Acquisition</li> <li>• Little Walnut Creek Acquisition</li> <li>• Stradley Acquisition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information about the future phases planned after this first phase</li> <li>• Be clear about what is and is not included in this phase and with Clean Ohio funds.</li> <li>• Any work leading to constructing drive access should be excluded from the Clean Ohio app.</li> <li>• Be careful of what is included in the Clean Ohio project because deed restrictions apply.</li> </ul>
Brad Westall, City of Columbus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee Rd – Mason Run Parklands</li> <li>• Cherrybottom Expansion Park - Capitol City Baptist</li> <li>• Cherrybottom Expansion Park – Venice Club</li> </ul>	N/A

**Other Business**

MORPC staff noted that the March 26 site visits will be remote, and that more information will be provided before the visits.

**Adjourned at 3:13 pm.**