



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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NOTICE OF A MEETING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, June 3, 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.

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Phone Conference ID: 865 573 677#

AGENDA

1. **Welcome** – Erik Janas, Chair
2. **Audited Financial Statements** – Shawn Hufstedler; Kristin Hunt, Joshua Louge & Danny Sklenicka, Plante Moran
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - Approval of **May 6, 2021 minutes**
4. **Executive Director’s Report** – William Murdock
 - **Residential Services Update** – Robert Williams
5. **Committee Updates**
 - **Reserve & Investment Advisory Committee** – William Murdock
 - **Regional Policy Roundtable** – Joe Garrity
 - **Sustainability Advisory Committee** – Kerstin Carr
 - **Transportation Policy Committee** – Thea Ewing
6. **Benefits & Compensation Committee** – William Murdock and Shawn Hufstedler

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Karen J. Angelou
Chair

Erik J. Janas
Vice Chair

Chris Amorose Grooms
Secretary

- **Proposed Resolution EC-02-21:** “Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreement with the Central Ohio Health Care Consortium to provide health care coverage for MORPC employees”
7. **Proposed Resolution EC-03-21:** “Authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with the State of Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) for the 2021 Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) and to enter into related subcontracts” – Robert Williams
 8. **Proposed Resolution 09-21:** “Establishing maximum per-capita membership fees for 2022-2026” – Shawn Hufstedler
 9. **Proposed Resolution 07-21:** “Adopting a fee schedule for use in assessing members in 2022” – Shawn Hufstedler
 10. **Proposed Resolution 08-21:** “Acceptance of the mid-year revision of the fiscal budget and fund account appropriations for the operation of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for 2021” – Shawn Hufstedler
 11. Draft Commission Agenda
 12. 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, August 5, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215**



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 6, 2021
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Location: Video/Audio Conference

Members Present

Chris Amorose Groomes
Karen Angelou
Jeff Benton
Franklin Christman

Jennifer Gallagher
Erik Janas
Greg Lestini
Kim Maggard

Rory McGuinness
David Scheffler
Joe Stefanov
Nancy White

MORPC Staff Present

Kerstin Carr
Thea Ewing
Ted Geer
Shawn Hufstедler
Niel Jurist

Eileen Leuby
Amanda McEldowney
William Murdock
Shari Saunders
Aaron Schill

Bevan Schneck
Susan Tsen
Hosana Tekie
Brandi Whetstone
Robert Williams

Welcome – Erik Janas

Executive Committee Chair Erik Janas called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Kim Maggard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Karen Angelou; motion passed.

Executive Director's Report – William Murdock

William Murdock reported MORPC's PPP loan for over \$400,000 was completely forgiven. The loan enabled us to keep all employees working and our services going. Mr. Murdock commended the Finance Team for a job well done.

Mr. Murdock reported our Local Government Summer Internship Program hit a record this year for the number of interns fully or partially subsidized for our local governments and for the number of local governments participating. Mr. Murdock thanked Eileen Leuby for leading the effort. Ms. Leuby will look into how many of the summer interns have been placed into permanent positions in any local government.

MORPC is preparing for reopening our offices. About a quarter of the staff have been working in the field throughout the pandemic. Office staff are organizing their offices, filing, purging, cleaning, etc. in preparation for June 1. On June 1 the renovation will be substantially complete and we will be reopening our offices to fully-vaccinated staff. Staff will be phased in a couple days a week. We will still be deploying remote work and hope within a month or so to be moving in more office employees. At this time there will be no in-person meetings. We are being overly cautious about meetings. We are looking at perhaps a return to in-person committee meetings in August.

Earlier this week, MORPC and several partner organizations published a series of COVID-19 Policy Briefs. This is local regional data about three to five key issues where we are seeing both social and economic impacts of COVID-19. More details will be shared at next week's Commission meeting.

As previously announced, MORPC's renovation will be substantially complete by June 1. Let Mr. Murdock know if you would like an opportunity to see the new space.

The Regional Sustainability Agenda, the last major pillar in MORPC's Strategic Framework, is being presented for adoption today. The other pillars, the Regional Data Agenda, the Public Policy Agenda, and the Metropolitan Transportation Plans are up to date. The other part of the framework is the broadband, housing and member resources focus areas. We recently held the third of three focus sessions on members resources and received a lot of feedback. We are reviewing ideas, seeking follow-up and continuing to hone ideas and develop programs to bring to you for reaction.

The Ohio Conference on Freight is May 20-21. MORPC is hosting the virtual conference and has secured enough sponsorship to make it a net positive event.

Air Quality Awareness Week is May 3-7. Air quality is a critical issue particularly for childhood health.

Four Easton Future Vision Fellows have been placed (Franklin County, Cities of Gahanna and Whitehall, and MORPC). They will focus on trail and equity issues. Easton and the OSU Knowlton School provide funding for this program.

Mr. Murdock was honored to announce that WTS Columbus awarded MORPC's Strategic Project Manager Dina Lopez with the 2020 Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award. Additional WTS Awards went to COTA CEO & President Joanna Pinkerton as 2020 Woman of the Year and to City of Dublin Deputy City Manager Megan O'Callaghan for the 2020 Innovative Transportation Solutions Award.

Thea Ewing is presenting at the May 19 CMC Forum: Trains and Transit, Past and Future. Other panelists include Derrick James from AMTRAK and Jeffrey Darbee from Benjamin D. Rickey & Co. Michelle Crandall is on next week's CMC Forum with SWACO. CMC Forums can be seen free via YouTube.

Regional Policy Roundtable – William Murdock

William Murdock reported the Regional Policy Roundtable met recently and heard from Franklin Soil and Water Director Jennifer Fish. The roundtable spent considerable time talking about federal updates.

The American Jobs Plan is the federal infrastructure package that touches every facet of our work with local governments. This is separate from a Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill which funds a lot of MORPC's normal transportation programming. We have been reaching out to our congressional delegation and working with others to make sure we are staying on top of these.

MORPC held a special forum on the American Rescue Plan. Marcia Hale, former White House Intergovernmental Affairs Director, and others gave advice on how cities and counties can maximize use of funds. We still do not know whether townships will be provided relief dollars directly.

MORPC is assisting members with submitting earmark (now called member directed spending) projects and making sure they are meeting the requirement of the project being on MORPC's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). We are also working with the Columbus Region Coalition to make sure they are organized and advocating for member directed spending projects in the region.

RAISE, a new grant that replaces the BUILD grant, has been released. The grant has \$1 billion in discretionary grant funding for infrastructure projects. Additional components around climate and environment have been added. The application deadline is July 12.

MORPC provided testimony on the state operating budget. House Bill 2 passed. This bill creates the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant. A new distracted driving bill, HB 283, was introduced this week.

Sustainability Advisory Committee – Kerstin Carr

Kerstin Carr provided background on the proposed Regional Sustainability Agenda. The update to the agenda took almost a year to ensure the agenda is comprehensive and inclusive. Dr. Carr thanked the Executive Committee members and their staff for their participation and feedback. The agenda is strong and can be measured and tracked over time. The subcommittee was chaired by Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington and co-chaired by Alex Slaymaker, Smart Columbus. Dr. Jason Reece from OSU City and Regional Planning Program and Kirwan Institute for Race and Ethnicity was hired to ensure equity stayed in the forefront. Dr. Carr commended MORPC Sustainability Officer Brandi Whetstone for her work on the agenda. Dr. Carr recognized the Communications & Engagement and Data & Mapping Departments for their feedback and input.

- **Proposed Resolution 06-21: “Adoption of MORPC’s 2021-2025 Regional Sustainability Agenda” – Brandi Whetstone**

Brandi Whetstone gave a presentation on the [2021-2025 Regional Sustainability Agenda](#). The Sustainability Advisory Committee recently approved the Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) and recommended moving it forward for adoption by the Commission. Each goal has measurable objectives and includes a list of strategies that can be implemented by Sustainable2050 members. Goal 1 is centered on improving air quality and reducing climate change impacts to protect public health and the environment. Goal 2 focuses on protecting and preserving natural resources by addressing waste reduction, water quality and consumption, natural areas, and farmland. Goal 3 addresses quality of life through sustainable and equitable communities. Goal 4 focuses on economic considerations through sustainable growth and development. The RSA represents the three main pillars of sustainability which are social, environmental and economic considerations.

From an advocacy perspective, the agenda can be used proactively as well as in response to what comes out of the Statehouse. Ms. Whetstone was in communication with Joe Garrity throughout the process to see where we could align the Public Policy Agenda and Regional Sustainability Agenda goals.

Joe Stefanov made a motion to approve Resolution 06-21, second by David Scheffler; motion passed.

Transportation Policy Committee – Thea Ewing

Thea Ewing reported next month MORPC will present a TIP amendment to cover the member directed spending projects submitted for the region. Those projects were added as locally funded. That does not mean that must be done that way. It means there is no committed funding. Chair Janas thanked Ms. Ewing for her assistance for those who needed help.

MORPC, with partners Clean Fuels Ohio and Smart Columbus, is pursuing a U.S. Department of Energy grant focused on electric vehicle charging. A concept paper is due in May. The application is due in July. MORPC is the lead applicant. The concept paper will be broad enough so our members can take advantage of electric charging through this grant.

Team Members are helping members with RAISE applications. Projects are in the \$25 million range. The twenty percent match can be eliminated if in an area of continuous poverty based on census data. MORPC can provide information and data for the applications.

The TRAC prioritization recommendations will be presented at next week's Commission meeting.

MORPC received our agreement from the U.S. Department of Economic Development Administration for us to kick-off our Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). MORPC is working with regional economic development officials to put together a CEDs Committee. One Columbus is collaborating with MORPC.

The Ohio Conference on Freight is in two weeks. Speakers have been booked from several organizations such as ODOT, the Rail Commission, Ohio Turnpike, and Drive Ohio to discuss the impact of COVID on the freight industry. We are still waiting to hear from federal leaders who have been invited to speak.

Proposed Resolution 05-21: "Authorizing the executive director to file applications with, execute agreements with, and receive funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Ohio Department of Transportation" – Thea Ewing

This is the companion resolution to the annual Planning Work Program (PWP) approval.

Rory McGuinness made a motion to approve Resolution 05-21, second by Kim Maggard; motion passed.

Quarterly Membership Update – Eileen Leuby

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

- Summer Local Government Intern Program including the Easton Future Vision Fellows
- Regional Collaboration Northwest Meeting – Tuesday, May 18
- Targeted outreach to current members.
- Grant Camp Week – June 7-11
- Social Media Best Practices for Local Governments – August 4
- Rural Forums
 - Harvesting a Modern Rural Government – Tuesday, June 22
 - Cultivating Your Next Leader – Tuesday, July 13
 - How to Add Zoning Rules that Benefit Your Community – Tuesday, August 3
- Membership Visits

Quarterly Financial Statements – Shawn Hufstedler

Shawn Hufstedler reviewed the [March 2021 Financial Report](#) highlighting:

- Strong cash position – 54 days in the operating cash account.
- \$1.3 million loss - \$1.2 million of that is funds received in 2020 not spent in 2020. It shows up as income in 2020 and then reversed in 2021. The weatherization program had a loss of \$89,000. Projects for the first quarter are lower. We are doing fine on the intake and inspection side. We are having trouble getting enough contractors to do the work so we can finalize and close projects. We expect higher production in the second and third quarters.
- Members dues is under budget.
- The PPP loan was forgiven.
- Fringe and indirect rates were both unfavorable for the first quarter. That is typical for fringe. With overhead we had some front-loaded expenditures in the first quarter to make the indirect rate a little bit unfavorable. But there are no red flags at this point.
- Expenses are within appropriations.
- \$1.1 million is in the operating reserve.
- The annual dues resolution will be presented next month as well as a budget amendment. The budget amendment is primarily for new funding.

Mr. Murdock and Mr. Hufstedler shared a recommendation regarding the reserves. In late 2019 we transferred \$300,000 from the operating reserve to the operating cash account for cash flow purposes. The combination of the operating reserve and operating cash balances equates to about 75 days of expenditures which is greater than the 60-day target. About 21 days of that is sitting in the investment side. The Reserve & Investment Advisory Committee is meeting later this month to hear a recommendation to replenish the reserve and to stabilize the agency's reserve once again. We have an opportunity due to the number of transportation funds that have flowed in unexpectedly over the last few months. Knowing that these types of opportunities do not come around often, we would like to work with the Reserve & Investment Advisory Committee to allow those funds to partially offset member dues so that we can use member dues to replenish the reserve, paying back our own internal loan and strengthening the foundation. The overall amount we are suggesting is the \$300,000 that we borrowed from ourselves and \$150,000 from our last year. Since the Executive Committee is cornerstone to our financial governance, we wanted to make sure we were being transparent and getting it out in front of you as well.

Draft Commission Agenda

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft May 13, 2021 Commission Meeting Agenda.

Other Business

Chair Janas congratulated Mr. Murdock for being named one of Columbus's most influential leaders through the Columbus Business First Power 100.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.