Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Energy and Air Quality Working Group
Meeting Notes

March 23, 2021, 2:00 pm

Members Present
Vice-Chair David Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau
    Federation
David Celebrezze, City of Columbus
Jeremy Druhot, Columbus-Franklin County
    Finance Authority
Ryan Foshee
Craig Foster, Energility
Andrew Hall, Ohio EPA
Don Hall, Commercial Control Services
Paul Kennedy, John Glenn Columbus
    International Airport

Andrew May, OSU
Nick Plouck, City of Dublin
J.M. Rayburn, City of Dublin
Samantha Schneider, City of Columbus
Brittany Sinzinger, American Lung Association
    of Ohio
Chair Matt Stephens-Rich, Electrification
    Coalition
Ira Weiss, Fairfield Heritage Trail Association

Public Present
Johnna Keller, M+A Architects
Cynthia Maves, Lordstown Motors

Maylene Renninger, OSU Fisher College

MORPC Staff Present
Jon-Paul d'Aversa
Mary Ann Frantz
Joe Garrity

Ted Geer
Ralonda Hampton
Lynn Kaufman

Brandi Whetstone

Meeting Called to Order at 2:04 pm

Featured Presentation – *Cynthia Maves, Lordstown Motors Corporation*
Click here for the presentation.

Policy Update – *Joe Garrity*
Click here for the presentation.

Ohio EPA Update – *Jon-Paul d'Aversa*
Ozone season began on March 1, no exceedences of the 70 ppb so far. The Columbus area is in attainment for ozone.

MORPC Staff Updates
Regional Sustainability Agenda – *Brandi Whetstone*
The process used by the Regional Sustainability Agenda (RSA) Subcommittee to gather input for the RSA:
- Members and Staff conducted the Sustainable2050 member survey & interviews,
- MORPC Staff held a workshop focused on equity considerations,
- Members and Staff proposed and vetted goals, objectives, and strategies,
- Staff conducted a regional stakeholder survey,
- Members and Staff will hold a regional stakeholder presentation on March 26.

Proposed Agenda

Goal 1 -- Improve air quality and reduce climate change impacts to protect public health and the environment.

Objectives:

a. Reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.
b. Increase alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure.
c. Reduce per capita energy consumption across all sectors.
d. Increase local renewable energy generating capacity.
e. Reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.
f. Increase the number of days with good air quality.

Goal 2 – Protect & preserve natural resources to support healthy & resilient communities and ecosystems.

Objectives:

a. Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste per capita disposed in the landfill.
b. Reduce per capita water consumption.
c. Improve water quality in central Ohio watersheds.
d. Increase the amount of land devoted to natural areas and ecosystem services.
e. Prioritize a balanced growth approach to community development. (under review)

Goal 3 – Improve quality of life for all residents by creating sustainable and equitable communities.

Objectives:

a. Improve transportation safety for all residents.
b. Prioritize infrastructure development which supports multi-modal transportation options for all users.
c. Increase access to parks and regional trails.
d. Reduce household energy cost burden.
e. Reduce environmental hazards that pose risks to public health and safety. (under review)

Goal 4 – Promote robust, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth and development.

Objectives:

a. Increase the number of businesses with established sustainability policies and practices.
b. Maximize infill and redevelopment along existing infrastructure.
c. Increase availability of affordable housing options near transit or job centers.
d. Increase employment levels in green jobs.

The metrics of the RSA are being revised to ensure that they will be relevant, meaningful, and intelligible. This requires that the sources of the data be consistent, comparable, timely, statistically sound, and sensitive.

Dr. Jason Reece, OSU, is preparing The Equity Resource Document which will include:

• Examples of peer (best practice) data tools to analyze equity elements,
• Strategies and best practices to foster robust engagement with equity communities,
• Examples of best practices (in planning and policy to support equity in sustainability),
• Inventory of additional resource tools (data, best practices).

Staff plans to bring the RSA to the Sustainability Advisory Committee on April 21 for approval, and then to Commission in May or June for adoption.

Energy Program – *Jon-Paul d'Aversa*
- The City of Columbus Greenhouse Gas Update Project is in process.
- The Rickenbacker Area Study Advisory Board has convened an Energy Subgroup to explore energy zones and advanced logistics opportunities for the Rickenbacker area. The Energy Subgroup will have its kickoff meeting April 9.

Air Quality Program – *Jon-Paul d'Aversa*
The program will be recognizing Air Quality Awareness Week, May 3 thru May 7.

Subcommittees
Solar Subcommittee – *Member Craig Foster, Energility*
There will be a Solar Inspection & Permitting webinar on March 25. Holding this webinar will complete MORPC's requirements to achieve the SolSmart Silver designation.

Diversity and Environmental Justice Subcommittee – *Jon-Paul d'Aversa*
Staff is looking for suggestions from the Working Group to build the roster of this Subcommittee. The next Working Group meeting may be geared more toward diversity and environmental justice to have a goal to start working on this.

Air Quality Monitoring Subcommittee – *Jon-Paul d'Aversa*
Outreach presentations with Community Health Action Teams (through Franklin County Public Health) and Neighborhood Area Commissions are proceeding well. These are helping to increase awareness around the project and also to find individuals and organizations willing to host monitors throughout the prioritized zip codes. Staff is investigating partnerships with City of Columbus Schools and COTA for siting monitors.

Collocating the Purple Air particulate matter monitors with the Ohio EPA's regulatory particulate matter monitors is in process. This will allow Staff to calibrate data coming from the low cost monitors.

Adjourned at 3:05 pm.