

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Remote Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

December 15, 2021, 2:30 pm

Members Present

Kristen Atha, AECOM	Joshua Simon, Metro Parks
Kate Bartter, OSU Sustainability Institute	Megha Sinha, NBBJ
Andrew Biesterveld, COTA	Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA
Vice-Chair Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley	Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification Coalition
Justin Milam, City of Upper Arlington	Eric Walli, Honda North America, Inc.
Megan O'Callaghan, City of Dublin	Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne
Kyle O'Keefe, SWACO	
Letty Schamp, City of Hilliard	
Chair Jim Schimmer, Franklin County Economic Development & Planning	

MORPC Staff Present

Kerstin Carr	Lynn Kaufman	Anna Oestreich	Liz Whelan-Jackson
Brian Filiatraut	William Murdock	Edwina Teye	Brandi Whetstone
Joe Garrity	Jennifer Noll	Melinda Vonstein	Brooke White
Ethan Hug			

Called to Order at 2:32 pm.

Member Recognition – *William Murdock, MORPC*

William Murdock recognized outgoing members Kristen Atha, Kate Bartter, Justin Milam, Megan O'Callaghan, Letty Schamp, Jim Schimmer, and Alana Shockey.

Mayor Ben Kessler will serve as the as new Chair.

Policy Update – *Joe Garrity, MORPC*

Regional Sustainability Agenda – Remaining Indicators and Targets – *Ethan Hug, MORPC*

Objective 1.5 Reduce Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This metric has been revised to measure the overall regional number of CO₂ gas metric tons emitted for the region. The most recent nine years of data are available from the EPA. The goal for 2025 is a 31% reduction in total CO₂ from 2010, putting the region on the path for a 50% reduction in 2030.

Objective 2.5 Reduce the Conversion Rate of Farmland

The original intent of this objective was to promote balanced approach to land use and to encourage infill development rather than green field / open space development that could result in loss of farmland. We explored this measure initially from the need to preserve prime farmland. Doing this, we found that the region is mostly made up of prime farmland based on soil type. The metric has been revised to be a three-year status indicator of average acres planted. With these considerations, it is suggested that we monitor this measure, and suggest that the 3-year averages not decrease greater than -0.85%, and that concern be raised when trends are consistently trending above the -1.1% loss of ag lands.

Please see [Regional Sustainability Agenda 2021 Finalized Baseline & Targets](#) for more clarification.

Member Sinha moved to adopt the Targets for the Regional Sustainability Agenda Objectives 1.6 and 2.5, seconded by Member Milam, motion carried.

2021 Highlights and Accomplishments – *Kerstin Carr and the MORPC Planning & Sustainability Team*

Kerstin Carr and staff gave a brief review of the Planning & Sustainability Team's 2021 work. Highlights include RAPID 5, Central Ohio Greenways work, LinkUS, SolSmart, Energy Aggregation, Neighborhood-level Air Quality Monitoring, the Logan, Morrow, & Champaign 208 Water Quality Management Plans, the 2021 Summit on Sustainability, and the Regional Sustainability Agenda.

Working Group/Board Updates

Central Ohio Greenways Board – *Letty Schamp*

The Board met on November 9 to review 2022 COG Board accomplishments, to discuss federal legislative updates, MORPC's technical assistance program, and 2022 goals, and to review Working Group activities. The Board will meet again on January 19, 2022.

Trail Development Working Group

Two trail counters were installed for evaluation thru Summer 2022. A formal equipment recommendation to partners is expected after the evaluation period. The Working Group reviewed Regional Trail Vision changes and will present them to the Board in January.

Marketing & Communications Working Group

The Working Group has partnered with Experience Columbus to develop a passport program to encourage use of trails. The Working Group will also advise MORPC's Trail Town Planning effort; the Trail Town Project is scheduled to begin on December 13.

Operations & Access Working Group

The Working Group reviewed wayfinding strategies for a new trail segment and plans to identify funding for a Wayfinding Planning Study.

Partnership Working Group

The Working Group recently finalized an Impact of Trails Report, which estimates a return on investment for the Regional Trail Vision. In 2022, the Working Group plans to focus on environmental partnerships.

Sustaining Scioto Board – *Kristen Atha*

The Board met October 27 with an update from the Agricultural & Rural Communities Outreach Team on administering a survey and interview with the Upper Scioto River Watershed Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors. The Board also discussed the need to renew member terms and identify a new Chair for 2022. The Board will meet again on February 23, 2022.

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team

The Team met on November 18, with a presentation from the OSU Capstone Design Class on the Social Science Farmer Survey. The Team will meet again on January 20, 2022.

Sustainable2050 – *Ben Kessler*

The Q4 Membership Meeting took place on December 10. The featured meeting topic was Energy, with staff presenting on SolSmart and Energy Aggregation. Tristan Rader of Solar United Neighbors also gave a presentation about solar co-ops.

A new element has been incorporated into the Sustainable2050 certification process, where members can also earn recognition as a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Champion by achieving at least ten of the strategies that have been labeled as DE&I (there are 37 total).

The next Membership Meeting will be March 18, 2022.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Matt Stephens-Rich

The Energy & Air Quality Working Group met on November 23 with a presentation on the LinkUs initiative from MORPC's John Gardocki. The Working Group was also introduced to MORPC's new Energy & Sustainability Program Coordinator, Brian Filiatraut. The Working Group will meet again on January 25, 2022.

Other Business

2022 Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, February 16
- Wednesday, April 20
- Wednesday, June 8
- Wednesday, September 28
- Wednesday, December 14

All meetings will begin at 2:30 pm.

Adjourned at 4:05 pm.