

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Hybrid Meeting

Sustainability Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes

April 20, 2022, 2:30 pm

Members Present

Mike Andrako, Franklin County Engineer's Office

Andrew Biesterveld, COTA

Bryn Bird, Granville Township

Vice-Chair, Mayor Laurie Jadwin, City of Gahanna

Chair, Mayor Ben Kessler, City of Bexley

Natalie Kruse-Daniels, Ohio University

Glenn Marzluf, Del-Co Water Company

Jennie McAdams, Franklin County Public Health

Linda Rosine, Grove City

Joshua Simon, Metro Parks

Dan Sowry, Ohio EPA

Matt Stephens-Rich, The Electrification Coalition

Carolyn Thurman, City of Westerville

Eric Walli, Honda

Mayor Christie Ward, Village of Lockbourne

MORPC Staff Present

Abby Barnes

Joe Garrity

Jonathan Miller

Edwina Teye

Kerstin Carr

Lynn Kaufman

William Murdock

Brandi Whetstone

Brian Filiatraut

Amanda McEldowney

Jennifer Noll

Called to Order at 2:30 pm.

Welcome and Introductions – *Ben Kessler, Chair and Laurie Jadwin, Vice Chair*

Chair Kessler welcomed Member Laurie Jadwin, Mayor of the City of Gahanna, as the new Vice Chair

MORPC Update – *William Murdock*

2022 Summit on Sustainability – *Amanda McEldowney*

After an overview of the upcoming Summit on Sustainability, Amanda encouraged Committee Members to provide their input on speakers early in the process and to support the event by attending and helping to connect with potential sponsors.

Policy & Grant Opportunity Update – *Joe Garrity & Abby Barnes*

Working Group/Board Updates

Sustainable2050 – *Chair Kessler*

The March 18 meeting focused on waste reduction, composting, and recycling with a presentation from Kyle O'Keefe from SWACO. Metro Parks has volunteered to coordinate with MORPC to plan the June member meeting featuring the topic of green space protection with updates on Rapid 5

Sustaining Scioto Board – *Member Marzluf*

The Board met on February 23 and heard a presentation by Bartlett Durand, Jr. of Sand County Foundation, "Municipal-Agriculture Watershed Partnerships in Iowa – A Successful Approach to Water Quality Improvement". Dr. Matthew Hamilton, from the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Services at OSU presented on behalf of his capstone class on "Farmer and Non-Farmer Stakeholder Engagement in the Scioto Watershed: Findings from OSU Capstone Projects."

Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team

The Team met on March 17, and heard a presentation from Mark Wilson, American Farmland Trust, "Farming for Cleaner Water in the Upper Scioto Watershed: A Story Map." The Team discussed coordination of a field day/farm demonstration tour and a webinar focused on highlighting the Sustaining Scioto Board and its goals.

Energy & Air Quality Working Group – Member Stephens-Rich

The Working Group met on March 22 to discuss engagement strategy surrounding SB 52 and the new powers it gives County Commissioners and Township Trustees to restrict utility-scale solar and wind. Members recommended drafting the "Energy Generation Policy Brief", a policy guide targeted for local government officials and community leaders. Once completed and reviewed by the Working Group, Chair Stephens-Rich will present the policy guide to the Sustainability Advisory Committee for review and approval.

Solar

The cities of Delaware and Upper Arlington recently earned bronze and gold SolSmart designations, respectively. The City of Upper Arlington is the first community to earn gold in the State of Ohio.

Air Quality

The Neighborhood Level Air Monitoring Program is continuing. Staff recently applied for a federal air monitoring grant with a focus on environmental justice and health disparities.

Central Ohio Greenways Board – Member Andrako

The Central Ohio Greenways (COG) Board met on March 9 with the Board discussing the formation of a Nomination Committee to assist with filling open Board and Working Group seats. The Board also chose to temporarily merge the Trail Development & Partnership Working Groups and the Marketing/ Communications & Operations/Access Working Groups.

Celebrate Trails Day

Working Group Members have been working toward Celebrate Trails Day, Saturday, April 23. Events will take place in communities across Central Ohio, including Dublin, London, and Knox County. MORPC staff, COG partners, trail user groups, and community organizations will be participating in a Celebrate Trails event at Genoa Park, as part of the Earth Day Columbus celebration.

Outdoor Trails Passport

The Outdoor Trails Passport program has been relaunched. The online application rewards trail users with an opportunity to win prizes by checking in at over two dozen locations across the COG network.

Trail Town Framework

Working Group Members continue to advise MORPC's Trail Town Framework which will provide recommendations to rural towns and communities regarding use of trail connectivity for economic development, tourism, and quality of life. The project remains on schedule to be completed in July.

Regional Trail Wayfinding Strategy

A MORPC/COG proposal to complete a regional trail wayfinding strategy was selected to be included in the ODOT SFY23 Statewide Planning & Research (SPR) Part A Work Program.

Pending FHWA approval, this project will assist communities to plan for and implement a cohesive wayfinding strategy that unifies the COG trail network and celebrates the uniqueness of Central Ohio's communities. The project will result in a guide that recommends a cohesive regional approach to wayfinding.

[Intel MORPC Member Forum and Next Steps](#) – *Kerstin Carr*

Adjourned at 3:59 pm.