Natural Resources Assistance Council

District 3 – Franklin County – 614-228-2663

Kyle Wilson,
Chair

Laura Ball,
Vice-Chair

Matthew Brown
Ryan Andrews
Stephen Farst
Nathan Johnson
Vacant
Shannon Sorrell
Vacant
Steve Studenmund
Terry Seidel

Staff:
Edwina Teye
614-233-4233

c/o MORPC
111 Liberty Street
Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215

FY 2025 – Final Action Meeting

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Monday, Nov. 4, 2024
10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Meeting Call to Order
2. Approval of October 10 Meeting Minutes
3. FY 25 Available Balance: $6,446,629
4. OPWC Update
5. Review and Approval of FY 25 Awards
6. Preparation for FY 2026
    a. Approval of Schedule for FY 2026
    b. Approval of Budget for FY 2026
7. Other Business
8. Adjournment

If you require special assistance, please notify
Lynn Kaufman at 614-233-4189 or lkaufman@morpc.org

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
111 Liberty Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Natural Resources Assistance Council
Meeting Notes – FY 2025 –Scoring Session

October 7, 2024, 10:00 am

Members Present
Ryan Andrews, PWIC
Stephen Farst, City of Grove City
Nathan Johnson, OEC
Matt Brown, Franklin County Engineers Office
Shannon Sorrell, DNR
Chair, Kyle Wilson, FSWCD
Terry Seidel, TNC
Steve Studenmund, Metro Parks

OPWC Staff Present
Jennifer Hufford, OPWC

MORPC Staff Present
Edwina Teye

1. **Meeting Called to Order at 10:00 am.**

2. **Approval of June 24, 2024, Minutes**

Member Ryan Andrews made the motion to approve the meeting minutes. Member Terry Seidel seconded. Motion carried..

3. **Available Funds**

The current balance available for FY 2025 is $6,446,629. This amount includes administrative costs.

4. **Other Business**

NRAC Vacant Seats

MORPC Staff provided an update to the Committee on vacant seats with Members Shannon Sorrell and Jim Palus stepping down. The Committee has 3 vacant seats needed to be filled with 1 from any of the eligible categories, 1 from category 4 (Ag & Forestry), and 1 from category 5 (Business/Planning/Realtor).
Chair, Kyle Wilson thanked Member Sorrell for her work on the Committee.

WorksWise non-submittal

As part of the district 3 application policies, applicants are required to submit final applications through the WorksWise portal on the date of the application deadline.
However, the Columbus & Franklin County Metro Parks submitted final applications for two projects – Georges Creek Acquisition and Little Darby Acquisition directly to the district's liaison without submitting it through the application portal.

Chair Wilson led the NRAC to deliberate on whether to accept the submissions. Member Matt Brown made the motion for the NRAC to accept both applications submitted by Metro Parks on the deadline but not in the acceptable format as defined by the D3 NRAC Policies. Member Nathan Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried, 1 abstain.

OPWC Guidance
Chair Wilson reiterated the OPWC guidance on ethics sent by the Director and disseminated to the NRAC. The guidance states that while NRAC members are not subject to the conflict-of-interest law but are subject to the restriction on ability to profit, NRAC members who have applications in front of the NRAC must take cautionary measures. These members should not score or vote on their organization's application and should also have another member of the organization present to address any questions.
Additionally, members are required to maintain consistency while scoring applications to ensure fairness.

Member Nathan Johnson asked if there was a policy around Letters of Support Request. OPWC Rep. Jennifer Hufford stated that if there was no financial gains and interest in projects, organizations may submit Letters of Support.
Member Shannon clarified that ODNR is no longer able to submit letters of support on behalf of other state agencies.

5. Review and Scoring of Applications

MORPC staff and D3 Liaison, Edwina Teye reviewed the application scoring process, including sections scored by staff and sections agreed on by consensus reached by the Committee. The D3 application is divided into 4 sections:

Section 1: Project Emphasis. This section has thirteen questions scored between 0 and 5 and is based on each member's judgement. The raw scores are weighted.

Section 2: Local Coordination and Support. This section covers both matching funds, which is scored by staff, and cost effectiveness, which is determined through an NRAC consensus.

Matching Funds

App ID	Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	Local Match Dollars	Match %	Clean Ohio Amount Requested	#14 Match
25-01	Columbus	Cooke Woods Preservation Project	$1,202,380	360,715	30%	$841,665	5
25-02	Columbus	Whitethorne Woods Protection	$991,250	$297,375	30%	$693,875	5
25-03	City of Dublin	Waterways Maintenance Program, Year 2 – Site 28	$268,310	$68,310	25%	$200,000	0
25-04	Metro Parks	Georges Creek Acquisition	$530,000	$212,000	40%	$318,000	15
25-05	Metro Parks	Little Darby Watershed Acquisition	$2,390,000	$597,500	25%	$1,792,500	0
25-06	Prairie Twp.	Hellbranch Run Preserve	$1,784,000	$446,000	25%	$1,338,000	0
25-07	Westerville	Walnut Ridge Run Restoration Project	$1,250,000	$375,000	30%	$875,000	5
			$8,415,940	2,356,900		$6,059,040	

Cost Effectiveness

The Chair also led a discussion on the cost effectiveness of the projects and asked for a recommendation based on the cost per acre and current market rates within the framework of a project being an acquisition or a restoration project.

Member Steve Farst made the motion for the following scores.
Application 25-01 Cooke Woods Preservation Project classified as high earning 0 points.
Application 25-02 Whitethorne Woods Protection classified as low earning 6 points

Application 25-03 Waterways Maintenance Program, Year 2 – Site 28 classified as low earning 6 points
Application 25-04 Georges Creek Acquisition classified as medium earning 3 points
Application 25-05 Little Darby Watershed Acquisition classified as low earning 6 points
Application 25-06 Hellbranch Run Preserve classified as medium earning 3 points
Application 25-07 Walnut Ridge Run Restoration Project as low earning 6 points

App ID	Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	Local Match Dollars	Clean Ohio Amount Requested	Total Acres	Clean Ohio Cost Per Acre	Total Linear Feet	Clean Ohio Cost Per LF	#20
25-01	Columbus	Cooke Woods Preservation Project	$1,202,380	360,715	$841,665	6.14	$137,078.99			0
25-02	Columbus	Whitethorne Woods Protection	$991,250	$297,375	$693,875	49.3	$14,074.54			6
25-03	City of Dublin	Waterways Maintenance Program, Year 2 – Site 28	$268,310	$68,310	$200,000			558	$358.42	6
25-04	Metro Parks	Georges Creek Acquisition	$530,000	$212,000	$318,000	11	$28,909.09			3
25-05	Metro Parks	Little Darby Watershed Acquisition	$2,390,000	$597,500	$1,792,500	118	$15,190.68			6
25-06	Prairie Twp.	Hellbranch Run Preserve	$1,784,000	$446,000	$1,338,000	57.26	$23,367.10			3
25-07	Westerville	Walnut Ridge Run Restoration Project	$1,250,000	$375,000	$875,000			1300	$673	6
			$8,415,940	2,356,900	$6,059,040	241.7		1858	1031.4229	

Member Matt Brown seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Section 3: Additional Criteria. This section is made of six questions and includes the economic condition of the community. Earned points are determined through the per capita income of the community based on the 2020 American Community Survey.

Economic Condition

App ID	Applicant	Project Name	Community	Per Capita Income	Score
25-01	Columbus	Cooke Woods Preservation Project	Columbus	$30,056	8
25-02	Columbus	Whitethorne Woods Protection	Columbus	$30,056	8
25-03	City of Dublin	Waterways Maintenance Program, Year 2 – Site 28	Dublin	$60,152	4
25-04	Metro Parks	Georges Creek Acquisition	Canal Winchester	$42,841	6
25-05	Metro Parks	Little Darby Watershed Acquisition	Grove City	$37,557	6
25-06	Prairie Twp.	Hellbranch Run Preserve	Prairie Twp.	$31,683	6
25-07	Westerville	Walnut Ridge Run Restoration Project	Blendon Twp.	$32,231	6

Section 4: Communications with Landowners. Staff scores the type of communication that has occurred between the applicant and landowner(s) with scores ranging between 5 and 20**.**

Application 25-02 (Whitethorne Woods Protection) earned 5 points for establishing contact with the landowner through email.

The following Applications earned 20 points for securing a signed contract/ owns the property.

25-01 Cooke Woods Preservation Project
25-03 Waterways Maintenance Program, Year 2 – Site 28
25-04 Georges Creek Acquisition

25-05 Little Darby Watershed Acquisition
25-06 Hellbranch Run Preserve
25-07 Walnut Ridge Run Restoration Project

Adjournment.



Natural Resource Assistance Council

Final Action Meeting – November 4, 2024

MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MORPC

AGENDA

1. Meeting Call to Order

2. Approval of October 10 Meeting Minutes

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Review and Approval of FY 25 Awards

MORPC

Rank by Score	COCF No.	Applicant	Project Name	Total Project Cost	Match %	COCF Amount Requested	Final Score	Total COCF Awarded
		D3 NRAC	*Administrative Costs*			*$15,000*		*$15,000*
1	25-06	Prairie Twp.	Hellbranch Preserve	$1,784,000	25%	$1,338,000	**159.3**	$1,338,000
2	25-05	Metro Parks	Little Darby Watershed Acquisition	$2,390,000	25%	$1,792,500	**152.5**	$1,792,500
3	25-01	Columbus	Cooke Woods Preservation Project	$1,202,380	30%	$841,665	**149.2**	$841,665
4	25-04	Metro Parks	Georges Creek Acquisition	$530,000	40%	$318,000.00	**143.5**	$318,000.00
5	25-02	Columbus	Whitethorne Woods Protection	$991,250	30%	$693,875.00	**135.1**	$693,875.00
6	25-07	Westerville	Walnut Ridge Run Restoration Project	$1,250,000	30%	$875,000.00	**119.1**	
7	25-03	Dublin	Waterways Maintenance Program, Year 2 – Site 28	$268,310	25%	$200,000	**97.1**	
Minimum score to fund = 120.5					**Total:**	**$6,059,040**		**$4,984,040**
							Funds Available:	**$6,446,629**
						Funds Remaining		**$1,462,589**

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Other Business

Laura Ball
Vice Chair
D3 Natural Resource Assistance Council
Laura Ball
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