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
Brian Heath
Shannon Brady
Vacant
Steve Studenmund
Terry Seidel

Staff:
Edwina Teye
614-233-4233

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

FY 2027 – Final Action Meeting

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

HYBRID MEETING

Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 10:00 am

AGENDA

1. Meeting Call to Order
2. Approval of October 6 Meeting Minutes
3. FY 27 Available Balance: $ 10,200,641.74
4. Review and Approval of FY 27 Awards
5. Preparation for FY 2028
    a. Approval of Schedule for FY 2028
    b. Approval of Budget for FY 2028
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

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

Remote Option

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.

Join: Join Microsoft Teams Meeting
Meeting ID: 232 174 870 548 911 5
Passcode: MW36sA7e

We have an established agenda for this meeting and do not accept comments from visitors. Guests with questions are encouraged to contact staff during normal business hours.

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

Natural Resources Assistance Council District 3
Meeting Notes – Fiscal Year 2027 – Application Scoring Session

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October 6, 2026, 11:00 am

Members Present
- Ryan Andrews, EMH&T Inc.
- Vice-Chair Laura Ball, City of Westerville
- Shannon Brady, City of Whitehall
- Matthew Brown, Franklin County Engineer's Office
- Stephen Farst, City of Groveport
- Brian Heath, Davey Tree
- Nathan Johnson, Ohio Environmental Council
- Terry Seidel, The Nature Conservancy
- Chair Kyle Wilson, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District

Public Present
- Ashley Ellrod, Ohio Public Works Commission
- Jennifer Hufford, Ohio Public Works Commission
- James Jewell, Prairie Township
- Jacob Pries, Western Reserve Land Conservancy
- Kathryn Yazel

MORPC Staff Present
- Lynn Kaufman
- Edwina Teye

Meeting Called to Order at 11:04 am
Chair Wilson called the meeting to order and noted that the Assistance Council follows an established agenda and does not accept public comments during meetings. Guests with questions were directed to contact staff during normal business hours.

Introductions
Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. Additional introductions were provided by guests and staff in attendance.

Approval of June 16, 2026, Minutes
Member Brady moved to approve the June 16, 2026, meetings minutes. Member Farst seconded the motion; motion carried.

Current Balance Available
Edwina Teye reported that the current balance available for funding was $10,200,641.74. Ashley Ellord, OPWC District 3 representative confirmed the balance. Members received the update without discussion.

Review and Scoring of Applications
Chair Wilson reminded Members that application scoring is to be completed independently and that the purpose of the meeting was to establish consistent interpretation of scoring criteria and standard information used by all reviewers. Members reviewed methodology, scoring categories, and application-specific questions to ensure uniform scoring practices.

Members reviewed the scoring framework for Sections 1 through 4 of the application evaluation process. Edwina explained that Questions 1 through 13 are individually scored on a scale of 0 to 5 and are weighted according to established criteria. Additional sections address local coordination and support, cost effectiveness, economic conditions, and communications with landowners. Applicant match calculations and points were also reviewed. Staff confirmed that

the applicant match scores are calculated using the established methodology, with points earned for contributions exceeding the 25 percent baseline.

Cost Effectiveness

Edwina presented the cost-per-acre figures for the six applications under consideration:

App ID	Applicant	Project Name	Project Type	Total Project Cost	Local Match Dollars	Match %	Clean Ohio Amount Requested	Total Acres	Clean Ohio Cost Per Acre	Total Linear Feet	Clean Ohio Cost Per LF	#20
27-01	Columbus	Vandervort Woods Protection Project	Land Acquisition	$592,150	$ 159,880.00	27%	$432,270	5	$86,454.00			
27-02	Columbus	Southern Meadows Preservation Project	Land Acquisition	$6,110,700	1,710,996	28%	$4,399,704	35	$125,705.83			
27-03	City of Obetz	Big Walnut Floodplain Wetland Restoration Plan	Restoration	$1,969,559	$492,390	25%	1,477,169	33	$44,762.70			
27-04	Metro Parks	Big Run Acquisition	Land Acquisition	$914,000	$228,500	25%	$685,500	45	$15,233.33			
27-05	Metro Parks	Jackson Pike Acquisition	Land Acquisition	$649,000	$162,250	25%	$486,750	60	$8,112.50			
27-06	Prairie Twp	Prairie Gateway Preserve	Land Acquisition	$1,047,400	$ 261,850.00	25%	$785,550	13	$60,426.92			
			Totals:	$11,282,809	2,754,016		$7,481,393	191				

Members reviewed the projects and discussed appropriate low, medium, and high-cost groupings for Question 20. Consensus emerged that the two City of Columbus projects should be classified as high cost, the Prairie Township and City of Obetz projects as medium cost, and the two Metro Parks projects as low cost.

Members approved assigning zero points to the low-cost category, three points to the medium-cost category, and six points to the high-cost category.

Member Brown moved to adopt the proposed classifications and associated scores. Member Andrews seconded the motion; motion carried.

Economic Condition Criteria

Members reviewed the staff-calculated economic condition scores. Edwina explained that these scores had been entered into the scoring spreadsheet using the established methodology. Members found the proposed brackets and calculations appropriate and identified no concerns or requested changes.

Member Farst moved to accept the economic condition scoring recommendations. Vice-Chair Ball seconded the motion; motion carried.

Communications with Landowners

Members reviewed scoring criteria related to communications with landowners. The Council confirmed that applicants receive five points for documented communication with a landowner, ten points for a letter of intent from the landowner, and 20 points for a signed contract.

Discussion focused on documentation submitted for the City of Columbus Vandervort Woods Protection Project. Edwina explained that the project included a letter expressing the landowner's interest in selling the property for preservation purposes, but the document did not contain a signature. Members discussed whether the document should be treated as evidence of communication only or as a letter of intent.

Member Seidel noted that the document clearly expressed the landowner's intention regarding the property. Members discussed the distinction between a letter of intent and a signed contract,

observing that the methodology specifically references a letter of intent from the landowner and does not require a signature for that category.

Member Brown moved to award the City of Columbus Vandervort Woods Protection Project ten points for submission of a letter of intent. Member Farst seconded the motion; motion carried.

Resolution and Eligibility Documentation

Members discussed the eligibility of the City of Columbus Vandervort Woods Protection Project because the application did not include resolutions from the applicable township trustees and county commissioners per ORC 164.23(B)(1). Discussion focused on whether such resolutions were required because the property is currently located within township territory rather than within the City of Columbus.

Members reviewed statutory language and considered whether an exception may apply for municipal applicants if property ultimately becomes located within municipal boundaries through annexation. The application did not clearly state whether annexation would occur following acquisition.

Several options were discussed, including determining the project ineligible, seeking clarification from the Ohio Public Works Commission regarding the annexation exception, or contacting the City of Columbus to determine whether the required resolutions already exist but were inadvertently omitted from the application.

The Council agreed to table a final eligibility determination pending clarification. Members directed staff to seek guidance from OPWC regarding annexation-related eligibility and to contact the City of Columbus concerning the existence of the required resolutions. Members were encouraged to continue scoring the application so the project could be evaluated if the eligibility issue is resolved before final action.

Scoring Process and Schedule

Edwina informed Members that the completed scoring spreadsheet would be distributed during the week with all approved scoring decisions incorporated. Members were reminded that scores must be submitted by October 23, 2026.

Members also discussed access procedures for application materials and were reminded to use the approved authentication process. Staff cautioned Members that any request for payment associated with file access should be considered fraudulent.

The final action meeting was confirmed for November 10, 2026. Members were reminded that submitted scores will only be counted if the Member is present at the final meeting and a quorum is attained.

Other Business

The Council recognized Steve Farst for his approximately twelve years of service. Members expressed appreciation for his professionalism, expertise, institutional knowledge, and contributions to the Council's decision-making process. Member comments highlighted his willingness to answer questions and assist other Members throughout his tenure. Steve indicated he hoped to attend the November meeting.

Members also acknowledged personnel transitions associated with district reshuffling. Jennifer Hubbard was thanked for her service and support of the Council over recent years. Members

expressed appreciation for her responsiveness, technical knowledge, and guidance on policy and program requirements.

Ashley Ellrod, the new program representative, introduced herself and shared that she has five years of experience with OPWC and previously worked for the City of Upper Arlington for ten years. Members welcomed her to the Council.

Additional staff and organizational transitions were briefly discussed, including the departure of Member Toni Chinchar from her previous organization and other personnel changes affecting regional partners.

Adjourned at 11:41 am.

MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION



Natural Resource Assistance Council

FY 27 Final Action – Nov. 10, 2026

AGENDA

- Meeting Call to Order
- Approval of Oct. 6 Meeting Minutes
- FY 27 Available Balance: **$10,200,641.74**
- Review and Approval of FY 27 Awards
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- Other Business
- Adjournment

Review and Approval of FY 27 Awards

Ohio Public Works Commission

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
Final Action - FY 27

District 3 NRAC

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	27-05	Metro Parks	Jackson Pike Acquisition	$649,000	25%	$486,750	**169.43**	$486,750
2	27-04	Metro Parks	Big Run Acquisition	$914,000	25%	$685,500	**168.17**	$685,500
3	27-03	City of Obetz	Big Walnut Floodplain Wetland	$1,969,559	25%	$1,477,169	**150.53**	$1,477,169
4	27-06	Prairie Twp	Prairie Gateway Preserve	$1,047,400	25%	$785,550.00	**140.94**	$785,550.00
5	27-02	Columbus	Southern Meadows Preservation Project	$6,110,700	28%	$4,399,704.00	**138.89**	$4,399,704.00

Minimum score to fund = 120.5

Total: **$7,834,673** **$7,834,673**

Funds Available: **$10,200,642**
Funds Remaining **$2,365,969**

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- Other Business
- Adjournment

Kyle Wilson

NRAC District 3 Chair

T: 614.486.9613

KWilson@franklinswcd.org

1404 Goodale Boulevard, Suite 100 Columbus, OH 43212

Edwina Teye, Ph.D

Senior Water & Natural Resources Program Manager (D3 Liaison)

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

T: 614.233.4233

eteye@morpc.org

111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 Columbus, OH 43215



Natural Resources Assistance Council

District 3 – Franklin County
614-228-2663

Clean Ohio Conservation Fund – Fiscal Year 2028
Schedule

2027

March 18 Thursday, 10 am – 3:00pm	**Working Session (Methodology, Policies & Criteria)**
May 28 Friday, 5:00 pm	Preliminary Screeners Due
June 15 Tuesday 1:00pm – 3:00 pm	**Applicant Presentations & Project Updates Meeting** MORPC, Buckeye Conference Room
August 27 Friday, 5:00 pm	Final Applications Due
September 9 Thursday, 9 am – 5:00 pm	**Site Visits** (Weather permitting, confirm by 9/7 at 3 p.m.)
September 16 (if necessary) Thursday, 9 am – 5:00 pm	**Site Visits**
October 5 Tuesday, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm	**Application Scoring Session** MORPC, Buckeye Conference Room
October 22 Friday, 5:00 p.m.	Application Scores Due
November 9 Tuesday, 10:00 – 1:00 p.m.	**Final Action** (Project Updates) MORPC, Buckeye Conference Room

Submit inquiries, and screenings to:
Edwina Teye | 614-233-4233 | eteye@morpc.org
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission | 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 | Columbus, OH 43215

The meetings will be held in-person. Please check MORPC's meetings and events webpage for details.

Work Plan & Budget

for

Clean Ohio Conservation Program

March 1, 2027, to February 29, 2028

Exhibit 1

BUDGET

CLEAN OHIO CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM

(Administered by the Ohio Public Works Commission)

Project Expenses
March 1, 2027 – February 29, 2028

Personnel (Wage and Fringe) **$14,999.91**

- Application review and data entry
- Management oversight & coordination
- Program coordination
- Secretarial support
- GIS technical assistance
- Link awards database to GIS & map new projects
- Press releases
- Technical support

- Update District 3 web site information and applicant manual

Other Direct Costs **$ 193**

- Postage, courier service, travel, meetings, paper, photocopying, printing, miscellaneous

TOTAL **$15,000**

EXHIBIT 2

DISTRICT 3 PUBLIC WORKS INTEGRATING COMMITTEE (D3 PWIC)

PLAN OF WORK

Clean Ohio Conservation Program

1. Complete administration of Fiscal Year 2028 and submission to OPWC

2. Administration of Fiscal Year 2028

- Review criteria and work with subcommittee to propose revisions, changes or new criteria or policies for final approval by the NRAC.
- Request reappointment or new appointments to the NRAC.
- Update program documentation and file with OPWC.
- Provide applications to prospective applicants.
- Provide access to District 3 forms and application materials via the Internet. Post changes and list meeting dates, etc.
- Receive, process and review scoring for Fiscal Year 2028 applications.

3. Provide information and assistance to applicants.

- Upon request of local officials and their representative and/or OPWC officials, track implementation of projects and assist expedition of district projects. Interpret and communicate OPWC policies and procedures to all potential applicants and their representatives.
- Respond to questions and provide technical assistance in preparing project applications as requested. Specifically, work with the appropriate parties to assist applicants in the preparation of competitive project applications for Fiscal Year 2028 funds.
- Meet with individuals, community officials, project engineers and countywide organizations to explain program.
- Distribute application packets for Fiscal Year 2028.
- Disseminate program policies and procedural changes to District 3 NRAC applicants.

4. Provide administrative and technical support to the District NRAC

- Recommend policies and work with the Council to ensure program compliance, efficiency, and fairness.
- Record and distribute minutes of the District 3 NRAC meetings to members and others upon request.
- Maintain complete, orderly files on all applications, communications and other pertinent documents received.
- Provide summaries, lists and other information to Council members upon request.
- Respond to reasonable media and applicant inquiries regarding project and funding levels.

5. Attend seminars and conferences as required to maintain staff proficiency.

- Represent the district at all state OPWC meetings.

6. Collect data and produce GIS Maps as requested.

Utilizing the MORPC's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities, produce maps showing approved projects funded through Fiscal Year 2028. Staff will produce community project maps upon request.