



MID-OHIO REGIONAL  
**MORPC**  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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January 13, 2021

Tracie Davies  
City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities  
910 Dublin Road  
Columbus, Ohio 430215-9009

Re: 2021 Funding Request to City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities to Support Sustaining Scioto Program

Dear Director Davies:

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is respectfully requesting \$60,000 for City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities' support of the Water Resources Program in 2021.

As you know, over the last year MORPC has been working with partners in the Scioto Watershed to achieve priority initiatives in 2020, starting with the formation of the Sustaining Scioto Board and the Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team. Two of the Board appointments were filled by representatives from DPU, and we welcome DPU's participation in the associated working teams.

The Board utilizes a collaborative approach to bring key community leaders, partners, advocates, and agricultural professionals together to better prepare the region for the expected changes attributed to a changing climate. In 2020, the Sustaining Scioto Board met on a bi-monthly basis, with guest speakers from Ohio EPA, University of Heidelberg, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center, and the U.S. EPA.

The MORPC Team coordinated with the Board to create a scope of work as the basis for the Ohio Water Development Authority proposal for development of a comprehensive water quality monitoring plan. While we didn't receive the grant award, we did create a strong foundation for a National Science Foundation proposal submitted this month.

We have enhanced engagement and relationships in the rural and agricultural communities, with Board members representing American Farmland Trust, Ohio Farm Bureau, Delaware and Marion Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Union County. The newly formed Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team identified short term planning activities focused on understanding the state of the watershed, connecting rural to urban communities, and developing outreach and communications strategies.

William Murdock, AICP  
*Executive Director*

Karen J. Angelou  
*Chair*

Erik J. Janas  
*Vice Chair*

Chris Amorose Grooms  
*Secretary*

Tracie Davies, City of Columbus  
January 13, 2021  
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Key priorities for 2021 include establishing the Education and Outreach Team to develop an outreach framework, continuing work to move forward water quality monitoring priorities, and hosting a regional forum to address shared challenges among water infrastructure providers regarding precipitation trends and future infrastructure planning. The forum is intended to initiate conversations across communities and identify the data and tools to enhance utility operations and planning and result in a climate-ready region.

Additional information is included in the 2021 MORPC Water Resources Program Work Scope and Deliverables, which is enclosed in this document.

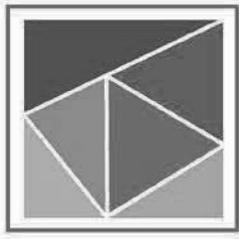
We are grateful for your generous support and partnership through the development of the Sustaining Scioto Board and for your leadership moving forward.

Kind regards,



William Murdock  
Executive Director

Enclosure  
2021 MORPC Water Resources Program Work Scope and Deliverables



**2021 MORPC Water Resources Program  
Work Scope and Deliverables**

**Sustaining Scioto Board & Program Implementation: \$55,000**

**Task 1: Sustaining Scioto Board and Working Groups**

*Subtask 1.0:* Coordinate and hold quarterly meetings with Chairs and funders to iterate on Sustaining Scioto vision and review project progress. Q1-Q4

*Subtask 1.1:* Coordinate and hold five Sustaining Scioto Board meetings per year including creation of Board roadmap and KPI's for programming. Q1-Q4

*Subtask 1.2:* Convene Agricultural Stakeholder Working Team to collect information on existing efforts and best practices, identify other key stakeholders, develop plan for outreach and cooperative programming and begin outreach activities for the agricultural and rural communities. Q1-Q4

*Subtask 1.3:* Convene Education and Outreach Working Team to develop outreach framework. Q3-Q4

*Subtask 1.4:* *Build upon and* establish multiple working partnerships including key stakeholders representing the agricultural community, northern reaches of the Scioto watershed, and water quality monitoring practitioners and partners to leverage support for future opportunities. Q1-Q4

**Deliverable(s): Sustaining Scioto Board and Agricultural and Outreach Working Teams meetings and materials; Board roadmap and KPI documentation; Key working partnerships established.**

**Task 2: Support water resources protection and infrastructure planning needs through development and identification of relevant climate data, tools, and resources.**

*Subtask 2.0:* Plan and host a regional forum to address shared challenges among water infrastructure providers, primarily around precipitation and flooding issues, and share available data and tools for water infrastructure planning, along with best practices for tracking existing issues on the ground. Q1-Q2

*Subtask 2.1:* Create summary report of meeting outcomes and identify next steps to support further information sharing and collaboration. Q2-Q3

*Subtask 2.2:* Create a scope of work and identify relevant resources and funding opportunities to address common priorities resulting from the forum. Q4

**Deliverable(s): Plan and host regional forum; Summary report of forum outcomes; Document relevant resources and funding for participants; Scope of work**

### **Task 3. Water Quality Monitoring Planning**

*Subtask 3.0:* Seek and apply for funding opportunities based on scope of work. Q1

*Subtask 3.1:* Continue engaging Sustaining Scioto Board on water quality monitoring needs and best practices. Q1-Q4

*Subtask 3.2:* (Assumes receipt of funding) Implement scope of work with consultant or partners. Q2-Q4

**Deliverable(s): Completed funding applications; Summary of stakeholder input and needs.**

### **Task 4: Education and Outreach Framework**

*Subtask 4.0:* Working with the Education and Outreach Working Team and leveraging the experience of the Agricultural and Rural Communities Outreach Team, identify the key targeted communities for outreach and focused messaging appropriate for each. Q2-Q4

*Subtask 4.1:* Under guidance of Education and Outreach Working Team, develop an educational and engagement framework including branding guidelines, marketing materials, and strategic guidance. Q3-Q4

**Deliverable(s): Established Working Team; Identify key outreach targets and messaging; Education and engagement framework.**

### **Task 5: MORPC Communications and Engagement**

*Subtask 5.0:* Use eSource and MORPC social media accounts as platforms to communicate project progress to regional stakeholders. Q2-Q4

**Deliverable(s): eSource article and social media posts.**

### **Task 6: Reporting**

*Subtask 6.0:* Report quarterly to City of Columbus staff regarding progress toward and barriers to achieving all subtasks in this work plan. Q1-Q4

*Subtask 6.1:* Support City of Columbus staff in annual CDP reporting regarding Sustaining Scioto implementation. Q2

**Deliverable(s): Quarterly reporting to City of Columbus; CDP reporting support.**

## **Residential Water Efficiency: \$3,000**

### **Task 1: Disseminate low-flow showerheads and GreenSpot education/applications through MORPC's Residential Services Program.**

*Subtask 1.0: Distribute low-flow showerheads, showerhead installation flyer, and GreenSpot applications in client homes. Q1-Q4*

*Subtask 1.1: Conduct follow up phone calls (within one month) to clients receiving showerheads to find out status of their activities and provide further direction as needed. Q1-Q4*

*Subtask 1.2: Report quarterly to City of Columbus staff regarding progress toward and barriers to achieving all subtasks in this work plan. Q1-Q4*

**Deliverable(s): Distribute 100 low-flow showerheads; 100 GreenSpot applications.**

## **Virtual Riverfest: \$1,000**

### **Task 1: Develop a week-long educational social media campaign to promote water resources awareness and protection.**

*Subtask 1.0: Develop communications plan that includes social media strategy, newsletters, video, presentations. Q1*

*Subtask 1.3: Execute the communications plan. Q2*

*Subtask 1.4: Execute implementation plan during Virtual Riverfest, targeted for a week during June. Q2*

**Deliverable(s): Communications plan; Implementation of educational campaign; Provide engagement results in quarterly report to DPU immediately following the event.**

## **Summit on Sustainability: \$1,000**

### **Task 1: Develop and Host a Water Resources Focused Break-Out Session**

*Subtask 2.0: Identify list of potential speakers that support and compliment the Summit's theme. Q3*

*Subtask 2.1: Coordinate with confirmed speakers to develop presentations. Q3*

*Subtask 2.2: Facilitate meeting to review and confirm day of logistics and speaker expectations. Q4*

*Subtask 2.3: Facilitate day of Break-Out Session logistics as needed including but not limited to speaker needs, room set up, etc. Q4*

**Deliverables: Provide DPU with number of attendee, breakout agenda, and list of attendees.**

**Total 2021 Request: \$60,000**