

Resolution supporting a grant application for a watershed planning partnership by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) (Economic Development & Planning)

WHEREAS, this resolution supports a grant application by Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) to participate in a multi-jurisdictional watershed planning partnership to develop a balanced growth plan for the Olentangy River watershed

WHEREAS, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is applying for a grant from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission to facilitate the development of a balanced growth plan for the watershed of the Olentangy River; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the Olentangy River Watershed is located within the boundaries of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, should MORPC receive said grant, it will form a Watershed Planning Partnership (WPP) of jurisdictions with planning authority within the Olentangy River Watershed, and the WPP will then work collaboratively to seek broad public input and develop a balanced growth plan for the Olentangy River Watershed based on that input; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan developed with said grant would identify Priority Conservation Areas within the Olentangy River Watershed to protect critically important ecological, recreational, agricultural, heritage, public access, and other areas, the preservation of which would enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan would also identify Priority Development Areas within the Olentangy River Watershed, which will be areas in which growth or redevelopment should especially be promoted, supporting job growth and economic development in Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan would also identify a variety of recommended tools and programs through which Priority Conservation Areas can be protected and enhanced while sustainable development can be driven to Priority Development Areas; and

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WHEREAS, while the final balanced growth plan would contain recommendations only, and would not impose any mandatory requirements or limitations on Franklin County, its effectiveness in influencing future growth, development and redevelopment in the Olentangy River Watershed will depend on the active participation of the jurisdictions with planning authority within the Olentangy River Watershed in the process of developing the balanced growth plan, and in attempting to implement those recommendations; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County will participate actively in the development of a balanced growth plan for the Olentangy River Watershed, should MORPC be awarded a grant to facilitate that plan; and

WHEREAS, There is no financial cost to Franklin County associated with this resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO:

Section 1. That Franklin County supports MORPC's application for funding to facilitate the development of a balanced growth plan for the Olentangy River Watershed.

Section 2. That if MORPC receives the requested grant, Franklin County will participate in the Watershed Planning Partnership that will develop a balanced growth plan for the Olentangy River Watershed, and shall make best faith efforts to implement applicable recommendations of the balanced growth plan in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and the wishes of its own citizens.

James Schimmer

Cc: Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department