

Resolution of support for the Olentangy Watershed Balanced Growth Plan (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING)

WHEREAS, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) received a grant from the Ohio Lake Erie Commission to develop a balanced growth plan for the Olentangy Watershed, a portion of the watershed is located within the boundaries of unincorporated Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, MORPC formed a Watershed Planning Partnership (WPP) of jurisdictions within the watershed, and worked collaboratively to seek public input in the development of a balanced growth plan for the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan recommends Priority Conservation Areas 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 unincorporated Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan also recommends Priority Development Areas, which are areas in which future growth, development or redevelopment should especially be promoted and through which the economy of the region encompassed by the watershed will be enhanced; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan also recommends Priority Agricultural Areas, which are areas that are critical to the regional food system and therefore should be protected whenever possible to conserve valuable farm land, while also protecting surface and groundwaters; and

WHEREAS, the plan also recommends a variety of tools and programs through which Priority Conservation Areas and Priority Agricultural Areas can be preserved and protected while sustainable development can be driven to Priority Development Areas; and

WHEREAS, while the balanced growth plan does not impose any mandatory requirements or limitations on the unincorporated areas of Franklin County, its effectiveness in influencing future growth, development and redevelopment in the watershed will benefit from the continuing participation of the jurisdictions with planning authority within the Olentangy Watershed in the Watershed Planning Partnership; and

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WHEREAS, no County funds are obligated or implied by this resolution and the project budget does not contemplate contributions from Franklin County or other partner jurisdictions.

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

1. Franklin County supports the balanced growth plan and the recommended designated priority areas for the watershed and will 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.
2. Franklin County shall continue to participate in the work of Olentangy Watershed Planning Partnership, subject to available resources.

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C: Economic Development & Planning Department