

**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
DISASTER RECOVERY LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

Fitz Center for Leadership
1401 S. Main Street, Dayton, OH 45479

May 12, 2023
9:00 AM

Attendees Present

Georgeann Godsey, Harrison Township
Robin Gregory, Greene County Parks & Trails
Tom Gunlock, Community Member at Large
Sarah Hackenbracht, Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association
Rap Hankins, Community Member at Large
Jeanne Holihan, The Dayton Foundation
Todd Kinskey, City of Dayton
Julie Liss-Katz, Dayton Business Committee
Amy Piner, Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners
Joel Smith, Miami County
Eric Sauer, Fiver Rivers MetroParks
Ashlee Schmitt, Greene County Parks & Trails
Woody Stroud, Chairperson, MVRPC Board/Greene CATS
Julie Sullivan, Dayton Development Coalition
Zach Wike, City of Beavercreek

Staff Present

Elizabeth Baxter
Brain Martin

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Disaster Recovery Leadership Board met on May 12, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at The Fitz Center for Leadership located at 1401 S. Main Street, Dayton OH 45479.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Stroud called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and self-introductions were made.

II. Lead Agency Updates

• **The Dayton Foundation**

Ms. Holihan provided an update on the status of the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund. She advised the fund is no longer accepting applications for community recovery projects and all projects are expected to be paid out by end of 2024. Any project funding not expended at that time will move to the Pathways to Homeownership program.

• **MVRPC**

Mr. Martin provide an update on behalf of MVRPC. He advised Stacy Schweikhart's position has been filled. The candidate, Leslie King, is starting May 15, 2023. He explained she has a strong history in equity, environmental planning and community development, she will be a positive addition to the team. Mr. Martin thanked Ms. Baxter for her leadership to keep the recovery work in motion in the absence of a director for her department.

III. Regional Resiliency Plan Update

Ms. Baxter offered details of the resiliency planning work to date. Small planning groups surrounding the Recovery Support Functions identified in the National Disaster Recovery Framework were established to help guide and understand critical elements related to recovery and disaster preparedness planning.

Ms. Baxter discussed details of a workshop that incorporated state agency partners to help jurisdictions understand how those agencies could support preparedness without accessing new resources. Additionally, a planning workshop was held in early May that helped to map out recovery partners, establish potential roles and responsibilities and identify metrics to measure recovery progress. She advised the next steps would be to work with the planning group to develop a toolkit related to resiliency.

IV. RETREET Spring Planting

A large scale planting was held April 29, 2023 and focused on the eastern portion of the tornado path in Greene County. A total of 144 trees were planted at 67 homes in Beavercreek, Beavercreek Township, Riverside and Old North Dayton. Additionally, 50 trees were planting at the Russ Nature Reserve in coordination with the spring planting to help restore the park's landscape which was destroyed by the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes.

There will be a final large scale planting in September to wrap up the campaign. This will focus on the remaining requests which are mostly in Trotwood and Harrison Township as well as finish planting another 50 trees at the Russ Nature Reserve. A large community celebration will be held for all that were involved with this campaign over the last few years.

Robin Gregory and Ashlee Schmitt, with Greene County Parks & Trails presented information on the Russ Nature Reserve and the impact from the tornadoes. They showcased before and after photos of the park and noted the positive impact RETREET had on the park restoration. Ms. Gregory and Ms. Schmitt expressed their gratitude for being included in the program and look forward to the fall planting.

V. Long-Term Community Recovery Projects

Mr. Stroud moved the meeting forward to discuss the Long-Term Community Recovery Projects. He stated multiple guest which received funding through the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund (GDDRF) were joining the meeting today to provide the Board with an update on project work.

Eric Sauer with Five Rivers MetroParks discussed how funds from the GDDRF were used to support clean up efforts for the Foxton Court Apartment Acquisition. Mr. Sauer noted this was part of a larger effort with the Ohio Public Works Commission Clean Ohio grant program and was used as match dollars. Project dollars helped demolish the damaged apartments and prepare the area for extension of natural landscape at Wygerzen Gardens.

Zach Wike with the City of Beavercreek reviewed the damage which occurred in three community parks of the tornado pathway. He presented before and after photos of damage from the event. Mr. Wike shared comments from the Spicer Heights Neighborhood Association and Beavercreek Historical Society on the impact the funds made to the

community. He reiterated these community parks are crucial gathering spaces and the restoration efforts from these funds made a significant impact.

Mr. Stroud invited members from the Board to provide comments or ask questions regarding the project work. Ms. Liss-Katz said she was happy to see such positive effects on the community from the project awards. Ms. Hackenbracht echoed the comments and further discussed the successes of recovery within the region.

Ms. Liss-Katz asked if there was a way the recovery efforts could be cataloged and shared with others as a best practice. Ms. Baxter indicated MVRPC was in regular contact with partners in Kentucky sharing our experience as a best practice. She noted there could be further opportunities to compile the recovery efforts and share with FEMA and others to use as a best practice.

Mr. Stroud invited all members and guest to share thoughts regarding recovery. Conversation was initiated by all about the speed of recovery as well as the strong collaboration and relationships established. It is hopeful this collaboration will continue in the future without a disaster being present.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

Future Meeting Dates: Tentative Friday, September 8, 2023 9:00-10:30AM