

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

**Fitz Center for Leadership**

**September 15, 2023**

1401 S. Main Street, Dayton, OH 45479

**9:00 AM**

**Attendees Present**

Sarah Hackenbracht, Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association  
Rap Hankins, Community Member at Large  
Jeanne Holihan, The Dayton Foundation  
Jerí Irby, RETREET/Keep America Beautiful  
Todd Kinskey, City of Dayton  
Joel Smith, Miami County  
Woody Stroud, Chairperson, MVRPC Board/Greene CATS  
Julie Sullivan, Dayton Development Coalition

**Staff Present**

Elizabeth Baxter  
Brain Martin  
Leslie King

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Disaster Recovery Leadership Board met on September 15, 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 they are working with Harrison Township to disburse some funds related to the Neff Road Demo project which will be the last project funding paid by the Community Recovery Proposal program. Once those funds are paid \$50,000 will remain in the fund which will be directed to the Pathways to Homeownership program as directed by the Transition Plan approved by the Board on December 2, 2022.

In addition, all funds in the account associated with RETREET have been disbursed as Keep America Beautiful requested the funds to support the final planting on September 23, 2023 along with the Community Celebration to thank all involved in the campaign over the last three years.

Mr. Parks expressed appreciation to all that have been involved in recovery efforts thus far.

- **MVRPC**

Mr. Martin thanked all of those that have partnered to make recovery successful over the last few years. He noted all updates necessary would be provided later in the meeting agenda and would hold comments until that time.

### **III. Regional Resiliency Plan Update**

Ms. Baxter offered details of the resiliency planning work to date. She provided insight on current resources available to evaluate a community's risk level and understand resiliency. She offered details on the conversations she and Leslie King were having surrounding the development of an interactive toolkit to complement data currently collected and the format of resiliency based on the National Disaster Recovery Framework. Ms. Baxter stated they would hire a consultant to help develop the toolkit and would start with a focus on resiliency to natural disasters. Further development of the toolkit will occur to explore a few domains supported by the Institute of Livable and Equitable Communities housed at MVRPC that help communities determine how resilient they are in areas of transportation and the environment.

She then moved to discuss MVRPC will also work to create a case study capturing the region's recovery that can be shared with partners and other communities as a best practice. Mr. Martin concurred it is necessary to document the region's recovery not only to share best practices, but to also understand how we can move forward for the future. He advised MVRPC hopes to establish a panel made up of those involved in recovery to help guide and inform the process. There was further discussion among the group in how this is a need as many have been reaching out to The Dayton Foundation and MVRPC to help understand the process used in the Miami Valley for recovery.

Mr. Hankins offered that the recovery efforts brought to light many other topics that provided the region with learning lessons other than how to recovery from a natural disaster. He mentioned equity was at the forefront of these learning lessons which has allowed the region the opportunity to expand on other important initiatives and work.

Discussion moved to the topic of preparedness within the group. Mr. Parks was concerned with how this topic remains relevant after the current recovery efforts have closed. He inquired how those who experience the next disaster will know where the framework which has been created from the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes can be accessed. Mr. Hankins asked if there was an annual process where this information could be shared. Mr. Smith indicated each county Emergency Management Agency has annual training requirements in which this could be incorporated into and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency has an annual conference in which this could provide the opportunity to share with those around the state that may find value from the Miami Valley's recovery. Ms. Hackenbracht also noted the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association works with area hospitals to run simulated scenarios aimed to test each emergency management plan on a regular basis. It was agreed among the group, agencies with a focus on disaster preparedness should incorporate this framework as part of their training and discussion on an annual basis.

### **IV. RETREET Spring Planting**

Ms. Irby shared the final large-scale planting for the Miami Valley will be September 23, 2023 and will plant trees at 54 homes focusing on the Brookville, Harrison Township and surrounding areas of Montgomery County. Volunteers will convene at Sinclair Park at 9:00am and will be taught proper planting techniques and then sent to homes to plant trees. In the evening following the planting a Community Celebration will be held to thank all those that have participated in the plantings over the last few years. Ms. Irby provided additional details regarding the celebration and looks forward to seeing all there. She indicated the event is free to attend, but reservations are required and asked Ms. Baxter to share the link with the Board.

Ms. Irby also provided details about the Russ Nature Reserve that will plant an additional 50 trees to help with the restoration of the park. This planting will occur in the afternoon on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and has been made possible through a private donor.

Mr. Martin and Mr. Parks thanked Jerí and RETREET for all of the wonderful work and dedication they provided to restoring the region over the last three years.

## **V. Evaluation of Recovery**

Mr. Stroud moved the discussion to evaluate the region's progress of recovery. He asked Ms. Baxter to provide the Board with an update showcasing where the region lies on progress. She presented a series of graphics that showed where the region began with the level of property damage from the tornado path to where the region is now with property recovery at over 93%.

Mr. Stroud indicated the Board should take this opportunity to determine how they would like to move forward with oversight as it is related to recovery. Ms. Baxter presented various options of how the Board can proceed with one option being to dissolve the Board as it is currently structured to provide oversight to recovery from the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes. Mr. Hankins made a motion to dissolve the Disaster Recovery Leadership Board as it is currently structured to provide oversight for recovery related to the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes with Mr. Kinskey seconding the motion. There was no further discussion from Board members with the motion approved to dissolve the Disaster Recovery Leadership Board.

Ms. Baxter shared the Disaster Recovery Dashboard was awarded the designation of Distinguished Systems for a Single Process System by the URISA Exemplary Systems in Government Awards. MVRPC staff which created the system will be honored at the URISA national conference in October in Columbus. Mr. Kinskey and Ms. Holihan noted how helpful the dashboards were in not only identifying areas where additional resources were needed with recovery, but in determining property owners which qualified for assistance or waivers in the recovery process.

Mr. Stroud asked if there were any more comments or discussion topics to be addressed by the Board. With none being brought forth he thanked all members for their dedication over the years to recovery. Mr. Martin thanked Mr. Stroud for his leadership in chairing the Board with Mr. Parks echoing his comments.

## **VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.