

**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGIONAL EQUITY INITIATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

via Zoom Conference/Video Call  
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83798452238>)

**March 28, 2023  
2:30 PM**

**REI Subcommittee Members Present**

Nina Carter, Learn to Earn Dayton  
Stephanie Van Hoose, Community Coalition for Indigenous People

**Staff**

Jakob Denney  
Fabrice Juin  
Brian Martin

**Other Guests Present**

Peter Benkendorf, The Dayton Collaboratory  
Vanessa Ward, Omega CDC

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission hosted the Regional Equity Initiative Sub-Committee call on March 28th, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom Video Conference (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83798452238>).

**I. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Regional Equity Initiative Project Manager Fabrice Juin called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. Self-introductions were made.

**II. FY24 STRATEGIC PLANNING ITEMS**

**Regional Equity Initiative Subcommittee**

Fabrice recounted the topic of restructuring the Regional Equity Initiative sub-committee For the purpose of operationalizing towards action that was discussed in the prior February meeting. The specifics of this topic were covered are as follows:

- A. 9 Institute Domain Experts for subject-matter expertise.
- B. 7 County Ambassadors for regional representation.
- C. 4 Racial Equity Leads for culturally competent lens.

Fabrice stated he would spend the next three months ahead of fiscal year 2024 filling gaps and furthering capacity for the sub-committee. Fabrice also stated he is open to insight, nominations, and meeting requests from current sub-committee members.

Nina Carter, Stephanie Van Hoose, and Fabrice discussed environmental justice and the future of the Environmental Justice academy, specifically the possibility of information sharing between the REI sub-committee and EPA.

**Increasing Regional Engagement /Visibility**

Fabrice stated current plans to increase regional engagement and visibility for the REI sub-committee. These plans composed of the following:

- A. Biweekly posts on agency media accounts; sharing internal activities, recognizing national commemorations, and initiating thought-provoking interaction.

- B. Continuing to fulfill member/community requests and prioritized regional needs.
- C. Working with the MVRPC administration team to explore newsletter options to engage both Board of Directors and regional community members.
- D. The creation of LEAD, (Livability & Equity Alliancing Dialogue) a quarterly forum and stated that more details would follow.
- E.

Fabrice also mentioned that the institute was recently highlighted via Dayton Business Journal's Table of Experts for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

### **Impact Metrics & Program Evaluation**

Fabrice stated he was working to implement a program to measure the impact of the REI sub-committee via tangible metrics, but in such a way that tracking metrics did not overtake the actionable efforts of the sub-committee. Fabrice gave a special thanks to Rich Schultze for his assistance regarding this subject.

Fabrice stated he wanted to continue the procedure of quarterly pursuits for resource acquisitions for the REI sub-committee, such as grant applications.

Nina and Vanessa Ward voiced their support towards the efforts of the REI sub-committee, Fabrice Juin, Brian Martin, and MVRPC and offered their support in return.

Stephanie and Fabrice discussed the possibility of the REI sub-committee attending events as a sub-committee.

## **III. TECHNOLOGY & CONNECTIVITY DOMAIN – AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY**

### **Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Grant**

Fabrice informed the sub-committee that the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Grant application through the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio (including Miami Valley Urban League) was selected for an award.

Fabrice stated he was connecting with the Miami Valley Urban League to assess resource allocation and project approach. Additionally Fabrice stated he was connecting with the Affordable Connectivity Workgroup to mobilize and leverage community opportunities.

### **Regional Digital Inclusion Alliance**

Fabrice shared that Broadband Ohio selected United Way of Greater Cincinnati to act as the backbone agency for the Southwest Ohio Regional Digital Inclusion Alliance. Fabrice shared that this will bring significant federal and state-wide implications corresponding with the Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (BEAD) Program and the Digital Equity Act. Fabrice shared the follow information on BEAD and the Digital Equity Act:

- A. Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (BEAD) Program: Provides \$42.45 billion to all 50 states and U.S. territories to fund planning, infrastructure, deployment, and adoption programs for expanding broadband connectivity throughout the next five years.

- B. Digital Equity Act: Provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs aimed at promoting digital opportunity – ensuring all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity to fully participate in the modern world.
  - 1. Equity Planning (\$60 million)
  - 2. Equity Capacity (1.44 billion)
  - 3. Competitive Projects (\$1.25 billion)

### **High-Speed Internet Access Listening Sessions**

Fabrice shared that on Thursday, March 30th at the Xenia Community Library BroadbandOhio would be hosting four listening sessions as an effort in collaboration with the Regional Digital Inclusion Alliances to collect input from Ohioans towards planning for the upcoming funding opportunities.

## **IV. HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT DOMAIN – ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

### **Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers**

Fabrice shared that an application was submitted by the University of Dayton to establish an Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center. These centers work to establish technical assistance across the nation providing technical assistance, training, and related support to communities with environmental justice concerns and their partners. Fabrice stated a decision would come at the end of the month of March.

### **Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program**

Fabrice shared he is pursuing an application for this program with Courtney Rutledge of Advocates for Basic Legal Equality for the purpose of working towards regional capacity building and making the Institute available for local efforts.

### **Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program**

Fabrice stated this program had a similar timeline and purpose as the above program, but with a focus on local government entities.

## **V. GUEST PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY OF WELL-BEING INITIATIVE (DAYTON COLLABORATORY)**

Peter Benkendorf of The Dayton Collaboratory gave a presentation on the Community of Well-Being Initiative. Peter explained this is a regional community and economic development initiative that aims to uplift residents of the Dayton region through community action using the Gallup Well-Being Index to benchmark existing systems and the Rickter Scale Method as a strategic planning tool for well-being and organization management.

Nina, Vanessa, Van Hoose, Brian Martin, and Fabrice stated their support for this initiative and the Collaboratory's work.

## **VI. CLOSING REMARKS**

Fabrice announced several upcoming events on MVRPC's Regional Equity Calendar.

Fabrice Juin adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.