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Regional Equity Initiative Subcommittee Meeting

LOCATION: 1401 S. Main Street, Dayton, OH 45409 (Community Room 130 A)

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, November 26th, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

Agenda

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Pg.</u>	<u>Est. Time</u>	<u>Presenter</u>
I.	Welcome & Introductions		11:00	Rap Hankins
II.	Program Manager Domain Updates		11:10	Fabrice Juin
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tour de Gem (United Way of the Greater Dayton Area) ○ Kettering Foundation Dayton Democracy Summit ○ Dayton NAACP 73rd Hall of Freedom Awards ○ NCCJ 47th Annual Friendship Celebration ○ 3rd Annual REACH Fest (REACH Indigenous Advocacy) ● Health & Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement ○ Community Change Grants Program ● Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access to Counsel Pilot Project ● Technology & Connectivity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program ○ Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program 			
III.	FY25 Project Focus: Miami Valley Environmental Justice Partnership		11:40	Fabrice Juin
IV.	Agency Data and Mapping & Institute Metrics		11:55	Fabrice Juin
V.	Subcommittee Chair & Member Updates/Insights		12:15	All Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Native American Heritage Month 			
VI.	Other Informational Items		12:30	All Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upcoming Equity Engagements 			
VII.	Action Items, Follow-Up, & Next Meeting		12:45	Fabrice Juin
VIII.	Closing Remarks		1:00	Rap Hankins

****NEXT MEETING is February 25th, 2025****

All Information is available on the [MVRPC Committee Center](#)

Interpreters for hearing-impaired individuals are available upon request; requests should be made at least one week ahead.

**MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL EQUITY INITIATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY**

REI Subcommittee Members Present

Rap Hankins, Chairperson
Stephanie Van Hoose, Community Coalition for Indigenous Peoples
Honorable Judge Walter Rice, U.S. District Courts
Martha-Jeannette Rodriguez, City of Dayton

Other Guests Present

Jeffrey Adams, City of Huber Heights
Cait Botschner, EJ Alumni
Destiny Brown, ABLE
Niani Brown, Community Member
Bonnie Buthker, Ohio EPA
Ellen Claiborne, Office of Strategic Initiatives
Gayle Covington-Fowler, EJ Alumni
KeAnna Daniels, Co-Op Dayton
Dr. Deogratias Eustace, University of Dayton
Rosemary Eustace, Wright State University
Dennis Grant, URS
Jasmine Henderson, Black Environmental Leaders Action Fund
Supora Hunter, Ohio EPA
Amy Jomantas, UD Fitz Center
Alex Klug, Hall Hunger
Jessie Langdon, Ohio EPA
Sara Marks, Board of Montgomery County Commissioners
Adriane Miller, National Conference for Community & Justice of Greater Dayton
Zach Piso, UD Rivers Institute
Tim Pritchard, City of Dayton
Christa Wheeler, EJ Alumni
Jasmine Young, City Wide Development

**August 27, 2024
11:00 a.m.**

Staff

Savannah Diamond
Fabrice Juin
Leslie King
Brian O. Martin
Megan Young

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission hosted the Regional Equity Initiative Sub-Committee meeting on August 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the MVRPC Office and via Zoom Video Conference.

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson Rap Hankins called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Self-introductions were made.

II. PROGRAM MANAGER DOMAIN UPDATES

Regarding the Engagement Domain:

Fabrice Juin reported on recent MVRPC sponsorships and partnerships:

- The 2024 Annual Breakfast Meeting organized by the African American Community Fund (AACF) of The Dayton Foundation, which manages over 180 funds supporting education, culture, civic life, and human services.
- Sponsored the 17th Annual Signature Ride for Charity, hosted by the Major Taylor Cycling Club Dayton, honoring the legacy of Major Taylor, a pioneering African American cyclist.

- Presented to the Gen D Ignite Cohort about digital equity in the Miami Valley. This group of young professionals is creating a directory of digital services to improve access and equity in the region.
- Presented during the Dayton Regional Green Sustainability Luncheon on environmental justice, social equity, and sustainability.

Regarding the Health & Environment Domain:

The EJPCS Cooperative Agreement was discussed, which funds organizations addressing environmental and public health issues. Mr. Juin noted the goal of the agreement is to foster collaboration between local businesses, government, healthcare providers, and community stakeholders to find solutions. This initiative will establish the Miami Valley Environmental Justice Partnership, offering micro-grants and grant-writing support, with ABLE leading the effort. However, due to updates in EPA guidelines, the project launch has been delayed to January 2025.

Fabrice Juin discussed the resolutions for the Community Problem-Solving Grant (CPRG) and EJPCS. It was decided that it's too early for the Board to formally commit, especially as EJPCS hasn't launched yet. The Executive Director suggested sending a note of congratulations to the project sponsors. The Board looks forward to offering feedback as the projects progress.

An update on the Community Change Grants Program, which focuses on environmental and climate action in disadvantaged communities, was received. Track I will support climate and pollution reduction projects, while Track II will empower communities to engage in governmental processes for environmental justice.

Regarding the Housing Domain:

Mr. Juin explained in the U.S., the right to counsel is guaranteed in criminal cases but not in civil cases like eviction proceedings which leaves low-income tenants at a disadvantage. Without legal representation, tenants often face preventable evictions with serious consequences, such as loss of housing, health issues, and disruptions to family and employment stability. The Access to Counsel Pilot Project aims to fill this gap by providing legal representation to tenants facing eviction.

Led by Learn to Earn Dayton and ABLE, the project will launch in northwest Dayton's Omega CDC Hope Zone, an area with a high number of tenants at risk. The hope is this pilot project will demonstrate the positive impact of legal counsel for tenants and advocate for statewide Access to Counsel legislation.

Regarding the Technology & Connectivity Domain:

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) which provided internet service discounts to low-income households ended on June 1, 2024. The ACP served over 23 million households across the U.S. with 15% of enrollees in rural areas and about half of enrolled individuals over 50. Ohio ranked second in ACP enrollment, with 57.6% of eligible households participating.

The Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program aims to promote digital inclusion with grants of \$5 million to \$12 million for community projects. United Way of the Greater Dayton Area is considering applying for a grant.

III. FY25 PROJECT FOCUS: MIAMI VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP

Mr. Juin presented on FY25, the REI Subcommittee's priority will be formalizing the Miami Valley Environmental Justice Partnership. This initiative will form a structured, intentional approach to addressing environmental justice across the Miami Valley.

Moving toward formalizing the Miami Valley Environmental Justice Partnership, there are some important questions to consider:

- Who is missing at this stage? Are there communities or stakeholders that haven't been fully engaged?
- What would formalization look like? How should this effort be structured so that it has lasting impact and effectiveness?
- Should we align our efforts project by project, or should we be thinking about this in a broader, regional sense?
- What is the vision of the REI Subcommittee? What are the key do's and don'ts as this partnership is built?
- Finally, are there any examples that might guide efforts in formalizing this partnership?

IV. AGENCY DATA MAPPING & METRICS

Mr. Juin reminded the REI that MVRPC is a Census Affiliate Organization, which means MVRPC assists with various programs from the U.S. Census Bureau and keep Census data for the region. Data is available going back to 1950, with the most recent updates available. The Miami Valley Data Commons offers a wealth of data on a variety of topics for the counties of Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Warren. The topics covered align with the information found in the Regional Profile, so it's a great resource for local insights.

V. ACTION ITEMS, FOLLOW-UP, & NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

Chairperson Rap Hankins adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.