

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) sitting as the Board of Directors of The River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict (RCIS) was called to order at 12:31 p.m. by Beth G. Whelley, President, with Mark G. Rentschler, Vice President present by teleconference. William E. Lukens, member, was unable to attend. The meeting was held by teleconference due to the state of emergency related to COVID-19.

Members of the staff in attendance by teleconference: Janet M. Bly, General Manager; Rhonda K. Snyder, Secretary; Daniel K. Foley, Great Miami Riverway Director; Brenda Z. Gibson, Manager, Public Relations and Education; Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Manager, Watershed Partnerships; Kenneth P. Moyer, Treasurer; Donald P. O'Connor, Chief of Construction and Planning; Shannon E. Phelps, Manager of Administration; Barry M. Puskas, Chief of Technical and Engineering Services; and Kurt A. Rinehart, Chief of Operations/Chief Engineer.

Legal counsel in attendance by teleconference: W. Chip Herin III, Coolidge Wall Co., LPA.

Guests in attendance: None

**COMPLIANCE WITH
SUNSHINE LAW AND BYLAWS**

The meeting was held in compliance with the Sunshine Law and MCD and Subdistrict Bylaws. The meeting information was posted on MCD's website. Miami Valley news media and individuals requesting such notification were notified of the meeting by electronic mail dated December 8, 2020.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board of Directors October 1, 2020, meeting were provided to members of the Board for review and comment.

M 2020-191

The Board of Directors, on motion by Mr. Rentschler and seconded by Ms. Whelley, unanimously approved the Minutes for October 1, 2020.

Next, Ms. Bly reported on Butler County Trail planning activities.

Butler County Trail Planning

MCD contributed \$25,000 in RCIS funds (collected from farm permit fees) toward a feasibility study that will help develop plans for two gaps in the Great Miami River Recreation Trail in Lemon and Liberty townships, totaling approximately 4.7 miles.

Tri-State Trails is leading the effort and will contract with a consultant for the feasibility study. In addition to MCD's contribution, multiple jurisdictions have committed funding toward the study. The study will accomplish two major goals: 1) Prepare a detailed engineering cost estimate for the 1.6 mile Lemon Township gap and position the project to apply for grant funding in June 2021; and 2) Prepare a preliminary engineering cost estimate for the 3.1-mile Lemon-Liberty-Fairfield Township gap and identify next steps to make the project shovel-ready.

The following summaries regarding Deeds Point pedestrian bridge in Dayton, recreation trail bridges, maintenance activities, Riverside Ponds in Hamilton, and Great Miami Riverway were provided to the Board of Directors.

Deeds Point Pedestrian Bridge—Dayton

Five Rivers MetroParks (FRMP) awarded a contract for replacement of the pedestrian bridge across the Mad River connecting Deeds Point MetroPark with RiverScape. FRMP closed the bridge in 2018 due to structural damage to the bridge trusses.

MCD committed \$304,000 in RCIS funds as part of the local match funding for the project. In January 2019, MCD and FRMP executed a 10-year funding agreement for FRMP annual contributions to RCIS to support the development and maintenance of recreational improvements in the river corridor in Montgomery and Warren counties. As part of that agreement, MCD agreed to deduct funds from the 2019–2021 FRMP contributions to support the Deeds Point pedestrian bridge replacement project.

Recreation Trail Bridges

MCD contracted with the Montgomery County Engineer to inspect nine bridges along the Great Miami River and Mad River recreation trails. In September, county staff inspected bridges over Lilly Creek in Dayton, Frigidaire Ditch and Holes Creek in Moraine, a Miami & Erie Canal ditch and Owl Creek in West Carrollton, Sycamore Creek and a Miami & Erie Canal ditch in Miamisburg, and Shepherd's Run and Crains Run in Miami Township. The county provided inspection reports for each structure. Generally, the bridges are in good condition except for the Sycamore Creek bridge in Miamisburg, which has deteriorated even more since the last inspection.

The inspection reports recommended maintenance items such as replacing broken wooden rails and adding riprap at several structures. The report for the Owl Creek Bridge recommended sealing the joints in the asphalt at both ends of the bridge. MCD's contractor that was repairing asphalt in multiple locations along the trail in Moraine sealed the joints at the Owl Creek Bridge.

Maintenance

Staff removed graffiti on the River's Edge amphitheater in Dayton. Staff experimented with a product that you paint onto the graffiti, causing the paint to melt. The paint then can be removed using a pressure washer.

Staff cut up several trees that fell across the trail during high winds on November 15. Trees fell on the trail in Moraine, Miami Township, and Franklin.

MCD hired a tree service to remove several dead or distressed trees in Moraine along the Great Miami River Recreation Trail and at the East River Landing.

Staff completed seasonal removal of the boat docks at East River Landing in Moraine and Miami Bend Park in West Carrollton.

Riverside Ponds in Hamilton

Staff completed site grading, building a hand-cut stone wall, pouring a concrete slab, and installing a bench, bike rack, trash can, and kiosk at the Riverside Ponds on the left bank in Hamilton. The bench and kiosk commemorate the Rentschler family service to the MCD Board.

Great Miami Riverway

The Great Miami Riverway launched a webinar series called Riverway Conversations, an effort to share information about economic and quality of life investments and happenings along the Riverway. Dayton Access Television is providing support for the webinars. On October 27, the speaker was Canadian Consul General Joe Cromartin who presented how Riverway communities can benefit from additional two-way economic commerce between the United States and Canada when the Gordie Howe International Bridge opens in 2022. All of our Riverway communities share river access on one side, and proximity to I75 on the other, so this is a relevant topic to our communities. On November 19, the speaker was Noah Zelkind from 80 Acres Farms, a Hamilton-based agricultural vertical farming start-up that is attracting venture capital support and attention as a company that represents the future of agriculture.

Two proposals were submitted to the Priority Development and Advocacy Committee through the Dayton Development Coalition. The first proposal is for funds to create a placemaking plan that will focus on improving three sites in the Riverway. The second proposal is for a regional safety and wayfinding signage system to be installed along the river to help orient users locate river access along the water, and help first responders locate emergency callers when necessary.

MCD staff members engaged with University of Dayton students regarding potential virtual reality applications for the Great Miami Riverway. MCD contributed Riverway funds for student-led research to help determine if the Great Miami Riverway could utilize virtual reality and/or augmented reality technology to share information about Riverway places and events.

The next item of business was presented by Mr. O'Connor and included a request for approval of a resolution of authorization to submit a joint application for grant funding through the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC).

RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION JOINT APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING

Five Rivers MetroParks asked the City of Dayton and MCD to partner with them on a grant application through MVRPC. The application is for the Great Miami Bikeway Connector to West Riverview Avenue. The project would build a multi-use trail along West Riverview Avenue in Dayton from the western terminus of MCD's North River Walk to the Monument Avenue Bridge. This would replace a narrow city sidewalk with a wider, asphalt trail.

This project would complete the River Walk loop in downtown Dayton on both banks of the Great Miami River from the Main Street Bridge to the Monument Avenue Bridge. It would provide a section of elevated trail to use as a detour during trail closures due to construction or high water events.

Total project costs are estimated to be \$153,110. Five Rivers MetroParks has asked MCD to provide up to \$21,335 during the construction phase of the project which is anticipated to be in 2026. MVRPC requires a resolution from the Board of Directors committing MCD to participate in the funding.

M 2020-192

The Board of Directors, on motion by Mr. Rentschler and seconded by Ms. Whelley, unanimously approved the following Resolution of Authorization to Submit a Joint Application for Grant Funding through the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission.

R 2020-69

RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A JOINT APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE MIAMI VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) has solicited local government entities to submit new transportation projects for funding consideration in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District and its subdistricts has committed to partner with Five Rivers Metroparks and the City of Dayton on a project known as Great Miami Bikeway Connector to West Riverview Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District and its subdistricts will commit the necessary resources to support a portion of the local cost not to exceed \$21,335.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District and its subdistricts that:

The General Manager is authorized to submit the joint application to MVRPC as mentioned above.

The General Manager is hereby directed and authorized to take or cause to be taken all action necessary and proper to support Five Rivers Metroparks as the lead applicant in securing the funding sought by the application referred to herein, and provide any information sought by reviewing agencies during the time the application is under review. The General Manager is further directed and authorized to cause compliance with relevant reporting requirements required by MVRPC as required as part of the funding process.

Upon application approval, The Miami Conservancy District hereby states its commitment to a local contribution not to exceed \$21,335 for the project as identified in the application.

It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting, and that any and all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including, but not limited to Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

Next, Dr. Hall presented a request for ratification of a Navigational Aids grant.

GRANT FUNDING RATIFICATION

In December 2019, the Board of Directors passed a resolution authorizing staff to submit grant funding applications for various purposes. Staff has submitted the following grant request:

Project Title: *Navigational Aids*

Description: To obtain replacement warning signs at low head dams in Hamilton and West Carrollton to alert river users to the safety issues of the dam.

Total Project Cost: \$6,680.00

Grant Amount Requested: \$6,680.00

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Watercraft

The Miami Conservancy District Match: \$0

Other Participants: N/A

Status: Application was submitted on October 29, 2020. ODNR has not announced grant awards.

M 2020-193

The Board of Directors, on motion by Mr. Rentschler and seconded by Ms. Whelley, unanimously ratified staff action regarding the Navigational Aids grant funding request.

FUTURE BOARD MEETING

The Board members set Wednesday, March 24, 2021, for the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District sitting as the Board of Directors of The River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Rhonda K. Snyder
Secretary



Beth G. Whelley
President