

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

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

**December 2, 2022  
9:00 AM**

**Attendees Present**

Sam Bain, Senator Portman's Office  
Tom Gunlock, Community Member at Large  
Rap Hankins, Community Member at Large  
Jeanne Holihan, The Dayton Foundation  
Jerí Irby, RETREET  
Julie Liss-Katz, Dayton Business Committee  
Grady McGahan, RETREET  
Tony Ortiz, Community Member at Large  
Gene Saunders, Congressman Turner's Office  
Joel Smith, Miami County  
Woody Stroud, Chairperson, MVRPC Board/Greene CATS  
Julie Sullivan, Dayton Development Coalition

**Staff Present**

Elizabeth Baxter

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Disaster Recovery Board met on December 2, 2022 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 will stop accepting donations or applications for individual recovery as of 12/31/22. Mr. Hankins made the point that while the majority of recovery work has been completed there are still some cases that have not yet been addressed. Ms. Holihan reminded the Leadership Board this was a decision that was made at the beginning of the recovery work that a cutoff date of three years was defined for issuing funds for individual recovery.

• **MVRPC**

Ms. Baxter provide an update on behalf of MVRPC. In mid-November MVRPC hosted a discussion with the Friendship Force International group with delegates from Moldova. Agency and disaster recovery partners presented information on the region's recovery network and structure. The delegates indicated that this work was interesting and they could see aspects that would be beneficial if incorporated into their recovery work.

Mr. Stroud echoed the delegates noted it was important for them to find alternative ways to collaborate with government leadership, non-profits, and private for-profit

entities. The delegates are interested to keep in communication with our region to discuss future recovery efforts.

Ms. Liss-Katz reiterated that the Dayton region has a history of being a community which is willing to gather diverse groups at a table to solve complex issues and the recovery from the 2019 tornadoes was a perfect example of that collaboration.

### **III. RETREET Update**

Mr. McGahan provided a brief update on the October RETREET planting. It was held on Make a Difference Day and focused on the communities of Trotwood, Harrison Township and the Old North Dayton neighborhood within the Dayton city limits. Volunteer participation was not as high as it could have been, but there were many factors which could have contributed to this. There were approximately 70 homes that receive trees for that planting date, but unfortunately not all were able to be planted at that time due to the low number of volunteers. Jeri Irby, the Program Manager for RETREET, was however, able to work with a few volunteers in the immediate days following the planting to get all trees planted at each requested homesite.

RETREET is developing impact maps with the GPS locations of all trees planted in the region to show the many benefits and impacts to communities from these trees not only in the immediate timeframe, but also providing long term benefits.

The next large scale planting will be April 29, 2023 and will focus on the eastern portion of the tornado path in Greene County. There is a total of 150 requests left for trees in the region with many of those being in areas that have already hosted large planting days. Mr. McGahan and Ms. Irby are working to decide how to best fill those other requests so volunteers are not being sent all over the region on the large-scale planting date. It is anticipated that the request portal will be closed at the end of December as requests have significantly slowed.

Mr. McGahan mentioned a project is also being coordinated with Russ Nature Preserve that will help replace trees in the park which were destroyed by the tornadoes. This will be similar to the work that was done at Sinclair Park and will be in conjunction with the April 29<sup>th</sup> planting.

### **IV. Long-Term Community Recovery Proposals**

Mr. Stroud moved the meeting forward to discuss the Long-Term Community Recovery Project Proposals. He reminded the Leadership Board that a process and guiding principles were established to help guide the recommendation for project awards through the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund. The Ad Hoc Review Committee met a final time to review project recommendations in November.

Ms. Baxter provided an explanation of the proposals received. Two project proposals were received, a continuation of work on a project in the City of Beavercreek which was awarded funding in the Spring and the Pathways to Homeownership Program.

The City of Beavercreek requested additional dollars to support park restoration work in Wartinger Park which would consist of roof replacements on two historical cabins. The bid for the original work to replace four roofs came in significantly higher than when the initial estimate was drafted in the spring. Ms. Baxter reminded the board that at the October meeting, it was agreed to amend the city's original project request to allow Beavercreek to complete two cabin roofs instead of four to accommodate the original award amount. They also recommended the community apply during the next funding cycle to supplement the

additional funds necessary to complete the other two roofs. The City of Beavercreek requested \$68,000 from the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund to complete work on the two additional historical cabins in Wartinger Park. A cost savings was identified in the original application on another activity and it was recommended this cost savings be applied to the new request.

The Pathways to Homeownership Program applied for funding for \$713,691 to support the affordable housing work that provides tornado survivors the opportunity to become first time homebuyers. Ms. Baxter noted the balance of the fund cannot support the full request, however the Ad Hoc Review Committee is recommending the remaining final balance of the fund be awarded to the project.

Ms. Holihan commented that the award recommendation to the Pathways project not be a specific amount, but rather the amount be determined after all of the individual recovery cases and other community recovery project costs have been expended from the fund.

Mr. Stroud opened the floor up for comments from members of the Ad Hoc review committee. Mr. Gunlock and Ms. Liss-Katz noted the review process and applications received over the duration of the program were interesting and achieved the intent of the donors through the projects which were recommended for funding.

A recommendation was made to award funding to the proposals submitted. Mr. Hankins made a motion to adopt the Ad Hoc Review Committee's recommendation and Ms. Liss-Katz seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the full board.

Mr. Stroud turned the conversation to the guiding principles for the Community Recovery Project Proposal Process. Ms. Baxter reminded the board this was the final round of community recovery proposals that would be accepted. She informed the group there were some points within the original guiding principles that needed to be addressed as we transition into the completion of the project work. Language recommendations are being made to guiding principle 13 to close the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund for donations on 12/31/22. Language changes to guiding principle 15 are also being proposed to any donations made after the closure of the GDDRF would be deposited into the Pathways to Homeownership fund. It is also recommended to add two additional guiding principles which discusses how projects already awarded funds will be addressed should they have a cost savings or should a community fail to fulfill the full application process for funding with The Dayton Foundation.

Mr. Stroud asked for a motion to approve the adjustments to the guiding principles. Ms. Liss-Katz made a motion to approve the adjustments with Mr. Gunlock seconding the motion. The motion was approved by the full board.

## **V. Disaster Recovery Leadership Board Transition Timeline**

Mr. Stroud discussed the need for the transition of recovery to the preparedness and mitigation phase of work. This requires reviewing the role of the Leadership Board and the remaining phases of work to complete. Mr. Stroud invited Ms. Baxter to discuss the changes and transition of board work moving forward.

Ms. Baxter reminded the board the draft transition plan was presented to them at the October meeting. This included condensing the remaining phases of board oversight from three to two. Each phase was originally projected to last for three years extending board leadership and oversight into 2026. Due to the quick nature of recovery in our region as well as an influx of unexpected funding, it is also being proposed that the remaining phases of work be evaluated on an annual basis. It is also recommended to reduce the meeting schedule of the board from quarterly to semi-annually.

A brief discussion was had regarding the progress and status of the preparedness and resiliency planning effort.

A resolution was presented to adopt the transition as outlined of the Disaster Recovery Leadership Board oversight pertaining to the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Liss-Katz and seconded by Mr. Gunlock. The full board moved to adopt the updated transition for phases of work and timeline for the Disaster Recovery Leadership Board.

**VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

<b>Future Meeting Dates:</b>	<b>Tentative Friday, April 7, 2023</b>	<b>9:00-10:30 AM</b>
	<b>Tentative Friday, September 8, 2023</b>	<b>9:00-10:30AM</b>