

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

**Dayton Foundation
1401 S. Main St. #100**

**March 6, 2020
12:00 pm**

Attendees:

Board members present: Woodrow Stroud, Ellen Ireland, Julie Liss-Katz, Julie Sullivan, Brian Heitkamp, Commissioner Debbie Lieberman, Joel Smith, Joe Parlette (on behalf of Todd Kinskey, City of Dayton), Tony Ortiz, Roland Winburn, and Tom Gunlock. Representing elected official offices were Sam Bain (Senator Portman), Dan Douglas (Congressman Turner), and Lisa Martin (on behalf of Sandra Brasington, Governor DeWine.)

Staff present: Mike Parks, Brian Martin, Laura Mercer, Stacy Schweikhart, Jeanne Holihan and Eleanor Comyns.

1. WELCOME

Woodrow Stroud called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm. The purpose of the Board is to provide strategic leadership, oversight and transparency for the community on long term recovery efforts. The board shall also assist with fundraising, communications, and potential policy and protocol creation to aid the community in rebuilding and recovering post-disaster, as well as strengthening the community's future disaster recovery capacity. This leadership board will also look after the recovery plan. Asking people for a three year commitment, but this group will likely last longer than three years.

2. HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Mike Parks (The Dayton Foundation) and Brian Martin (Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission) spoke about how we got to where we are with disaster recovery efforts and some of the steps that have been taken so far. There are two buckets working on recovery; the individual side and the community side. The individual side is led by a consortium of non-profit organizations and community stakeholder groups (Miami Valley Long Term Recovery Operations Group) working together to aid individuals and households in their recovery after the May 2019 tornadoes. The group is led by an Executive Committee and has a loaned Executive Director from Sinclair Community College. The recovery timeline for this group is 1-3 years. The community side recovery efforts are led by the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) and the Long Term Community Disaster Recovery Network. Under the leadership of MVRPC, the Network consists of representatives from local jurisdictions, government agencies and community stakeholders. These partners are working together on long term recovery efforts focused on community rebuilding, economic recovery, infrastructure, urban planning and local policy. The Network will be hiring a Disaster Recovery Manager. The Disaster Recovery Manager will assist with recovery and resiliency planning. The recovery timeline for this group is 5-10 years. The community group is providing coordination and collaboration meetings with jurisdictions and assisting jurisdictions with funding applications.

Media -- Stacy Schweikhart (MVRPC) will serve as the PIO for the group. If you are approached with a media request related to the Board, please contact Stacy.

3. RECOVERY OVERVIEW

Laura Mercer (MVLTRG) and Stacy Schweikhart presented an overview on individual and community recovery. (Slideshow included in binders handed out at meeting.) 19 tornadoes hit the region, nearly 6,000 homes were damaged, and nearly 1,200 homes sustained major damage or were destroyed.

Individual Recovery - We are ahead of where we need to be according to National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD.) United Way's 211 Helpline is the intake portal that feeds clients to our case management system and case workers. We have 11 case managers, most of which are housed at Catholic Social Services. 95% of calls are from Montgomery County and half of the cases are homeowners. Main assistance request is rental/mortgage assistance due to lack of affordable housing. There were very few injuries, but mental health issues do exist. Red Cross has provided support with additional case managers and a data specialist to assist us with reporting. They are going back through FEMA and Red Cross lists to contact clients who may not have been connected with the case management system yet or have not responded to prior contact attempts.

Construction -- Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) is a bank led disaster reconstruction program. Income qualified individuals can get up to \$20,000 for repair and rebuild of their home. This is being used as a tool to assist individuals and households in their recovery. Will not be repairing rental properties, but will assist in finding renters new housing. We will be leveraging all the resources we can – volunteer teams, donated materials and money as a last resort. Construction Coordinator and Construction Manager (plus volunteers) are doing estimates for us.

Numerous volunteer rebuild groups will be arriving in the area in April. There is a hospitality component to housing volunteers. There is a church on Smithville road that will be housing volunteers and MVLTRG is looking at another potential site too. Volunteer Coordinator has been hired and will be starting on Monday, March 9th. There will be opportunities to plug businesses and local organizations into volunteer day opportunities. The Volunteer Coordinator will work on getting those set up and the signup genius website organized. St. Vincent de Paul is assisting with warehouse space for us. Good360 and Manna International are assisting with securing donated materials and resources. Emotional and Spiritual Care Sub-committee is assisting with mental health and spiritual care through workshops and communicating resources.

Community Recovery – The community side is assisting public agencies with their post-disaster recovery. Economic Development Administration grant money was applied for and granted earlier this year. The full amount of the request (\$720,000) was received. MVRPC also received the required 20% local match (\$180,000) from the Dayton Foundation. MVRPC is primarily funded by Federal and State dollars, plus membership dues and cannot use those

funding sources for a Disaster Recovery Manager. Therefore, grant funding was applied for. The Disaster Recovery Manager position has been [posted](#) and closes on March 20, 2020. We are looking for someone with disaster recovery experience that can work in-house over the next five years. Will reapply for EDA grant if needed.

Stacy is working with jurisdictions on jurisdictional overlap coordination of resources and including utility companies in those discussions. Some jurisdictions have limited staff and resources to do the recovery work, planning and inspections. Looking at mutual aid agreements to assist neighboring jurisdictions and a resiliency and recovery plan that increases scope for communities.

Important note: We need to avoid getting hung up on inspections and permitting so that volunteers stay and we don't frustrate them. We need to keep the volunteers here.

Important note: After an initial disaster there is often a couple of secondary disasters: 1) massive influx of donated goods and a need to store those. 2) Bureaucratic and paperwork overload.

There is potential grant money from EDA for commercial areas. MVRPC will seek this additional \$320,000 for the increased scope of work over the next 5 years. They also plan to leverage all funding that is available and provide administrative support to local jurisdictions. MVRPC has invested considerable leadership in Disaster Recovery efforts throughout the region in the months since the tornadoes. Since July 2019, MVRPC has accrued well over 200 staff hours toward this project. We anticipate that this level of administrative commitment will continue for the remainder of our fiscal year (through June 2020). On February 25, 2020, Montgomery County Commissioners approved a contract which will provide reimbursement to MVRPC for these hours dedicated to leading the region through Disaster Recovery.

CEDS - MVRPC will seek funds from the EDA to facilitate a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Region. The existing CEDS is outdated and a current CEDS for the Region will unlock additional funding opportunities, related to and beyond the disaster. Dayton Development Coalition has agreed to partner with MVRPC on this process, ensuring that the new CEDS will cover the entire region. The estimated cost of the new CEDS will be \$200,000. MVRPC will apply for \$160,000.00 from the EDA. The application will require 20% local match of \$40,000 which will be comprised of in-kind expenses related to staff leadership and facilitation of the process. This is a 14 county project.

4. NEXT STEPS

Fundraising – Jeanne Holihan (The Dayton Foundation) gave an update on fundraising efforts and the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund. The fund is currently at 3,600 donations with a total \$2.2 million raised for recovery. The Dayton Foundation also directed \$400,000 of its discretionary funding be used for disaster recovery. Jeanne has worked on a Financial Asset Map of MOU signing members of the MVLTRG. That asset map lists an initial response total spent of \$4.9 million, \$5.2 million of in-kind donations and over 95,000 volunteer hours. So far The Dayton Foundation has provided \$1.2 million to direct service providers and match money

to the community side. We have identified \$2 million that MVLTRG member organizations have to use on recovery efforts. FHLB is another potential \$6 million resource for households to recover. The Dayton Foundation also gave Good360 \$100,000 to leverage \$1 million in furniture and construction material for recovery. Overall, an estimated \$10 million is needed for recovery of individuals and households. Total effort not necessarily in cash. Will be doing fundraising for spring rebuild. This will include a sponsorship model and a small funds campaign. For example, what is the cost of paint and brushes? Etc. The campaign will also try to visualize what the cost of this recovery may be. MVLTRG is also working on updating MVStrong.org website and marketing efforts with the help of The Ohlmann Group.

Current Infrastructure Roles for Individual Recovery:

- Construction Manager
(hired, funded by and housed at Lutheran Social Services)
- Construction Coordinator
(hired, funded by and housed at Lutheran Social Services)
- Volunteer Coordinator
(hired, funded by Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund, housed at Sinclair Community College)
- Administrative Assistant to Executive Director, Individual and Household
(open, funded by and housed at Sinclair Community College)

Legislation – An area where the recovery groups need assistance from the Leadership Board is legislation and advocacy. An affordable housing bill has been drafted that would enact section 113.42 of the Ohio Revised Code to establish the Permanent Replacement Housing Program and to make an appropriation. The permanent replacement housing program would be created to encourage the construction or rehabilitation of qualified housing after natural disasters and to assist displaced residents until they can obtain permanent replacement housing. It would also set aside \$20 million in the state treasury for a permanent replacement housing fund consisting of moneys appropriated to it by the general assembly and funds received by the treasurer of state as a result of the treasurer's authority. Investment earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

To activate the program and funding from the State Treasurer, two conditions must be met:

- (1) The governor declares, due to a natural disaster, that a state of emergency exists with respect to a county, region, or political subdivision of this state.
- (2) The treasurer of state determines that the disaster underlying the emergency has substantially damaged or destroyed housing in the area of the emergency.

The bill also establishes rules for qualified housing:

- (1) Standards to prioritize construction or rehabilitation of housing in communities directly affected by natural disasters as well as standards for selecting locations in the event housing cannot be constructed or rehabilitated in the affected communities;
- (2) Standards for establishing the market rent of qualified housing, which may be updated once every three years upon the qualified provider's request;
- (3) A requirement that housing proposed for rehabilitation must be uninhabitable at the time the potential provider applies to be a qualified provider;

The bill also establishes eligibility for applicants. A requirement that each applicant affirm all of the following:

- (1) That the applicant resides in impacted area and did so at the time of the natural disaster;
- (2) Disaster caused the applicant's residence to be uninhabitable;
- (3) That the applicant was not compensated for the loss or damage to real property
- (4) The amount of the applicant's prior rent.

This type of legislation is crucial to recovery and affordable housing in our area. 11 apartment complexes were condemned, including more than 1500 units. Prime sponsors were originally Reps. Perales and T. Smith with support from Rep. Jim Butler. However, term limits impact the legislators that originally agreed to be prime sponsors. We will need support from a State Senator too.

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COOHIO) has been pushing against this legislation. They want to expand the bill beyond its intended disaster recovery focus and that has impacted the bill's trajectory. We want to keep the focus on disaster recovery as it gives it urgency and a target. Michael Vanderburgh (St. Vincent de Paul) worked with Rep. Jim Butler on the legislation. Laura Mercer and team will be meeting with them and would like a Leadership Board member to attend. Several board members suggested interest in forming a Legislative/Advocacy Work Group, including Debbie Lieberman, Julie Liss-Katz (on personal, non-DBC time), Julie Sullivan and more.

Recovery Resiliency Planning – Stacy Schweikhart gave a brief update. Will head into that process in the fall. Montgomery County Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) is spearheading an effort to get healing resources out to the community. DaytonStronger.org is also available for healing resources.

5. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm. Brian Martin will be providing this group monthly updates via email from his Assistant, Teresa Lombardelli.

The next meetings for this group are: June 4th, September 4th and December 4th at 9:00 – 10:30 am at MVRPC (10 North Ludlow St., Suite 700, Dayton, OH 45402.)