The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Disaster Recovery Impacted Jurisdictions met on October 8, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. Via Zoom Video Conference (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83039882386).
I. Welcome and Introductions

At 9:32 a.m., Mr. Brian O. Martin, MVRPC called the meeting to order. Mr. Martin welcomed everyone to the Disaster Recovery Impacted Jurisdictions meeting. Mr. Martin informed the group of the awesome agenda for today and thanked everyone for the participation and involvement. Also, Mr. Martin welcomed the following individuals Mr. Grady McGahan, CEO RETREET, who will be discussing the restoration of trees and Ms. Rochele’ Burnette, Montgomery County ADAMHS, who will discuss the available resources to assist the survivors and other residents with stress and trauma.

II. RETREET – Tree Restoration Effort

Mr. Grady McGahan, CEO RETREET informed the group of the RETREET – Tree Restoration Effort. His non-profit organization provides an avenue for those who want to make a physical impact in disaster areas or make a small donation that supports a long term investment in a community. RETREET effort creates an impactful and memorable experience that is not only going to leave trees that will grow in decade or generations to come, but also affects the volunteers and the local families that participate in the program. If he is willing to drive all this way in the midst of a pandemic, Mr. McGahan informed the group that RETREET is serious about coming to the disaster impacted communities in the Miami Valley to plant the trees.

During RETREET events, volunteers will plant 15 gallon trees that are 7 to 10 feet tall native trees, which are going to be selected or taken off of an approved species list that they will be sourced from local growers. RETREET will continue to engage with local partners, be it the departments of the parks to help deliver the trees or the city to help get the word out about the program to the residents, so the residents can apply for the trees through the RETREET website. RETREET will pick a weekend to gather volunteers who will be trained and sent out to the home sites to help plant the trees. In the weeks leading up to the event, RETREET will reach out to have the utilities marked at the home sites. They will have someone with an arborist background meet with each resident to determine the proper planting location and will have those locations marked too. When the volunteers arrive at the home sites, they will interact with the families and plant the trees in the designated areas. Usually after planting day, RETREET hosts a community celebration for all the volunteers, partners, sponsors and families to come out and celebrate all the work everyone has done to rebuild and replant the community.

Mrs. Stacy Schweikhart thanked Mr. Grady McGahan for his time and she shared with the group the finalized schedule for the site visits on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

10:00 a.m.   Mr. McGahan will meet with Mr. Mike Thonnerieux, City of Beavercreek to view neighborhoods in the Beavercreek area.

11:30 a.m.   Mr. McGahan will meet with the Dayton Planning and Public Works.
1:00 p.m.  Mr. McGahan will meet with Mr. Merle Cyphers, Harrison Township to view areas of Sinclair Park and the adjacent neighborhoods.

Normally, RETREET does not do restoration of parks, but when speaking with Mrs. Schweikhart and others and the extent of devastation at Sinclair Park, Mr. McGahan agreed to tour this park.

2:30 p.m.  Mr. McGahan will meet with Ms. Stephanie Kellum, City of Trotwood and Mr. Chad Downing, Trotwood Community Improvement Corporation.

Mrs. Stacy Schweikhart informed the group about the Initiative Operation 2000 Cherry Tree Program, who is looking for places to plant some cherry trees. She indicated that Sinclair Park may be interested in having some of the trees planted there.

The following questions were discussed:

- When working in disaster areas and trying to do restoration, what is the intersection between working with the jurisdictions and working with the homeowners? Are you relying on the jurisdictions to promote the information to help identify the individual homeowners or do you normally have a long term recovery group that has been case managing homeowners and renters?
  - Mr. Grady McGahan informed the group that it depends on the sites as there is typically a long term recovery group for a lot of the communities. When they arrive, there are usually agencies providing a list of the affected homeowners. They do not rely on these groups, but do welcome their participation as this is a great way to help get the word out.

Ms. Laura Mercer, LTROG has 60 to 80 individuals that need help with cleaning up the debris….mainly the large trees as those individuals do not have the resources to cut the trees down or have them removed. She hopes that we as a community can try to figure out how to work that in parallel prior to Mr. Grady McGahan’s arrival. Mrs. Stacy Schweikhart made the group aware of the jurisdictions not being able to assist with this as it puts the jurisdictions with a risk and liability to go onto the private properties to remove the trees. Mr. Grady McGahan offered some suggestions for national organizations that may be willing to assist with tree removal.

Mr. McGahan is looking to host the first of the RETREET events in our community in fall of 2021 as this gives them time to get everything lined up with their partners and to get the sponsors on board. Also, this gives them time to get everything coordinated with the selection of trees and identifying the home sites, along with notifying the residents and get the information out, back and processed.

Ms. Katie Lunne, Citywide Development, who sat in for Ms. Karen Demasi, informed the group of a small project they are doing in the Old North Dayton neighborhood that is similar to what RETREET will be doing for us. In November 2020, along with
their partners the City of Dayton and Neighborhood Leader Matt Tepper, they will be utilizing some of the Dayton Tree Farm trees to replace about 20 trees that were lost in the Old North Dayton area.

III. Resources for Assisting Survivors and Other Residents in Times of Stress

Ms. Rochele’ Burnette, Montgomery County ADAMHS informed the group of the resources for assisting survivors and other residents in times of stress. It is very important to talk about the resources, because a lot of times the individuals do not know where to get them or know if they are even appropriate. With seeing a lot of angry and aggressive individuals, ADAMHS knows stress amplifies an individual in different ways and a lot of times anger, aggression or harsh language are signs that stress has set in, along with being in the world where stress can be so compounding on top of everything else that is going on in the world.

One of the biggest resources ADAMHS has is the “Get Help Now” app. This app provides resources for substance use as well as mental health challenges or actual diagnosable mental health issues. The Montgomery County “Get Help Now” app is downloadable via iOS or Android. The app provides us with local and some national resources from housing to homelessness to Food Banks, which are available as individuals come to us and need the information. The app is available in a printable web version (MontgomeryCountyADAMHS.org) and you can access the same information that is on the app. If we have individuals that require immediate attention, Montgomery County ADAMHS has a mobile Crisis Care Unit that will come out to assist with those individuals. Their Crisis Care phone number is 937-224-4646.

Ms. Burnette informed the group that as we are dealing with individuals that are under stress, we have to remind ourselves that we have to practice some type of self-care for ourselves as well as the other issues involved with individuals as the stress can wear on us. Also, Ms. Burnette advised the group to encourage our staff to lead with empathy as we work with these individuals who are dealing with different types of tragedies and understand that sometimes it is all about the language and tone that we are using. If we are unable to assist an individual, we should find another staff member who can assist that individual as we are all dealing with the same adversity in the world that everyone is dealing with too.

If there is anything that Montgomery County ADAMHS could provide, we can call their main number (937-443-0416) and they would be happy to provide any assistance to us individually or collectively as a group as they are here for the community and for us all. If it is an emergency, you should call 911.

The following questions were discussed:

- Are the services at ADAMHS intertwined with the 211 that people are calling?
  - Yes. They have those resources as well as the 211 number.

- Are there services in Greene and Miami County that are similar?
  - Absolutely! But they may not have the mobile Crisis Unit like Montgomery County does, but all the counties have the resources
available, which can be accessed through their ADAMHS Board online.

- Are ADAMHS able to come out and talk to some of our staff?
  - Absolutely! Anyone requesting assistance from Montgomery County ADAMHS can contact Ms. Rochele' Burnette at (937-443-0416) for this type of request. Also, Ms. Burnette informed the group that it is a good practice to make sure we dig deep into our humility bag and really show it right now to the individuals as people really want to be seen and heard. It is about being able to use the right language and be intentional with our language for de-escalation purposes as well.

Mr. Paul Gruner, Montgomery County Engineering informed Ms. Rochele' Burnette that Montgomery County ADAMHS is doing good work as everyone is experiencing some type of degree of difficulty due to the virus and on top of the tornadoes.

IV. Disaster Recovery Dashboard

Mr. Martin Kim, MVRPC discussed the Disaster Recovery Dashboard property recovery information with the group. MVRPC is providing the Dashboard to the local jurisdictions to assist with recording their recovery efforts. This application is a second dashboard, which is a companion piece to the Individual Recovery Dashboard that Mr. Kim highlighted last month. After the jurisdictions gather their data, they should provide the information to Mrs. Stacy Schweikhart, MVRPC and Mr. Martin Kim and his team will incorporate the information into the dashboard.

The middle section of the Dashboard displays the map of the jurisdictions. If you click in this section, you will have the ability to zoom in and out. In this section, depending on where you are navigating on the map, it will change the data on both the left and right side. Also, in the middle section, this is a dynamic dashboard meaning you get the updated information depending on what you see on the map itself, which you are able to copy and share the information. This is a personal ID that identifies your recovery status of the level of damage reported right after the tornadoes, along with the dwelling time and the jurisdictions.

If you want to know what properties have been recovered from the tornado, by selecting the Recovery Status option, you will only see the “green” dots, which will represent the recovered properties for those jurisdictions. All the other colors represent the level of other progress being made. Also, with this information, you can combine the filter with the level of recovery status with each jurisdiction. If you want to search for properties that have not made much progress, you can filter this as well.

The following question was discussed:

- Until a jurisdiction is able to provide the data, is it possible to remove them from the Recovery Status section as this is skewing the data?
  - We know there are still jurisdictions trying to obtain their data and no one is pointing fingers at them for not having the information reported
to MVRPC, nor is anyone interpreting this as a judgement on how an individual jurisdiction is doing on their recovery. We know this Dashboard gives everyone an idea of the properties that were impacted in each jurisdiction and what their path looks like, but it was determined by Mr. Brian O. Martin to turn off only the Recovery Rate section percentage at the top right hand portion of the dashboard, until the jurisdictions are able to provide the data.

V. Community Recovery Updates

Mrs. Stacy Schweikhart, MVRPC gave the group an update on the Community Recovery. The major update Mrs. Schweikhart had was Mr. Grady McGahan coming on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. He will be here to walk the grounds in those designated areas, because they are committed to helping us restore the tree canopy for our Region.

Mrs. Schweikhart informed the group that we are still waiting on our federal funding request and other jurisdictions are awaiting their awards like the Miami Conservancy District and our partnership with the Dayton Coalition for the revision of the comprehensive economic development strategy. Mrs. Schweikhart asked Ms. Hilary Browning, City of Dayton to provide an update for the City of Dayton.

Ms. Browning informed the group that the City of Dayton is being awarded a $3.6 million grant from the U.S. EDA to install generators at two of their Water Treatment Plants. They will be installing five enormous house size generators at their Miami and Ottawa Treatment Plants that will help build the resiliency and avoid large outages in the future for all their 400+ customers. They have taken in $2.9 million in FEMA proceeds. There are two pending reimbursements left and they are getting ready to settle up with the Federal Government regarding FEMA.

Mrs. Stacy Schweikhart thanked Ms. Hilary Browning for the update. Mrs. Schweikhart invited questions and there were none.

VI. Survivor Pathway to Homeownership

Ms. Laura Mercer, LTROG gave the group an update on the Survivor Pathway to Homeownership. This was a program that was mentioned at our last meeting for impacted tornado survivors, who were renting at the time of tornado, but has an interest and ability in becoming a homeowner with the correct support. They are looking at properties within the Land Bank or in the jurisdiction’s control that are either vacant lots or rehabable properties. Seventeen applications were sent to individuals that are currently working with the case managers and seven applications received back. All of those applications are now in the hands of the Homeownership Center, who will conduct the screening and help individuals get to the point where they would qualify for a mortgage.

Ms. Mercer and her team are super excited about the demographics of the individuals that are coming forward with interest in this program. They are seeing young individuals, with some being in their early twenties, who are African Americans. Four of the families are from Trotwood; two are from Harrison Township
and one from the Dayton. The Homeownership Center is working on establishing a tracking matrix, so Ms. Mercer and her team can better understand how those individuals would move through the process as there could be individuals in the group that have good credit and others that may need their credit repaired. This is information that Ms. Mercer and her team need to know, so they can estimate when to have the homes ready for those individuals. They will follow the guidelines of Habitat for establishing how they would actually handle the size of the houses for the individuals, along with where those individuals would want to live. Ms. Mercer and her team looked at 80 different properties. Within those, they have found some great potential rehab properties and vacant lots that are located in neighborhoods like the Old North Dayton, Harrison Township and Trotwood areas. Ms. Mercer is working with Mr. Chad Downing, Trotwood Community Improvement Corporation regarding the properties that are a little more constructional. Also, they are making sure the lots are not in a flood plain, along with looking at the measurements and dimensions of the lots to make sure the homes being built fit the lots. In addition to this, Ms. Mercer informed the group that they will be working with legal assistance that would come in and help them establish all of the agreements that need to be in place.

They have many build teams like Mennonite Disaster Services and the Brethren Disaster Ministries, along with Sinclair Community College and County Corp in place that are ready to get started. This work is getting good foundation up under it and they are putting some funding pieces both with some volunteer organizations funding and from the Dayton Foundation. In addition to those, Ms. Mercer is looking to obtain additional funding from the federal, state and local counties.

Ms. Mercer informed the group that this is a good way for survivors to join in your communities in a different way as homeowners and to decrease their cost of living. Some of these houses they have seen in terms of rehab will probably cost around $40,000.00 to $50,000.00 to rehab and this supports an affordable house for families to move into. Ms. Mercer and her team are excited as this should take some of the properties off the books of the jurisdictions in terms of having them as a liability and flipping them as assets for the communities and those individuals.

VII. Individual Recovery Update

Ms. Laura Mercer, LTROG gave an update to the group regarding the Individual Recovery Update. They have 2067 cases, with 1654 now being closed. They have the 413 open cases that they are working with the survivors on. There are 266 homeowners and 159 of them have requested assistance for repair and rebuild services. They have done about 120 disaster case assessments by going out and looking at the properties then determining if there are actual damages caused by the disaster. They have sourced out 43 jobs in terms of giving those individuals all the resources they need to move forward with the three Ms (money, muscles or material). After this, they get an estimate to see what it would cost for the repairs. They currently have 12 active jobs and 32 queued up with some of those being contractor jobs. They are hoping to wrap all of these shortly. They leveraged about $250,000.00 that was allocated at the resource table. About $113,000.00 of this will be reimbursed through the Federal Homeland Bank Disaster Reconstruction Program. Habitat will reimburse them as they get the job done and file for the paperwork for the reimbursement.
In January 2021, the national Brethren Disaster Ministry team will leave Ohio but their local team will remain here. Their national team will return in full force in April 2021 to do more work here in the Region. Ms. Mercer informed the group that she is glad that we are where we are regarding the disaster recovery as this may be wrapping up sometime next year and other disaster elsewhere can be attended to.

Last Friday, they had an event in conjunction with Habitat to welcome a family back into their house on Macready Avenue in the Old North Dayton area. This family had been out of the home since the tornado hit in May 2019. Because they were rebuilding this couple’s house, Ms. Mercer and her team were able to make some accommodations for this family, because they were rebuilding this couple’s house. This couple is in their 70s and the gentleman is a Vietnam vet, and they were happy to be moving back in their home.

Ms. Mercer informed the group that finance is holding steady, with $2.8 million dollars being donations. Out of this amount $1.5 million dollars still remains.

Ms. Mercer invited questions and there were none.

VIII. Community Updates

Mr. Brian O. Martin, MVPRC thanked Ms. Hilary Browning, City of Dayton for her update and called upon representatives from each jurisdiction to give an update.

Mr. Mike Thonnerieux, City of Beavercreek gave an update for the City of Beavercreek. He informed the group that the City of Beavercreek received another FEMA distribution. Because of an insurance claim on a historical barn, they have one distribution outstanding as this should get rebuilt and settled through the insurance company. Once the insurance piece is addressed, they will close out the rest of their FEMA projects. Mr. Thonnerieux indicated that the City of Beavercreek is very thankful for all the help they received from the state, local and all of their partners who helped them to be able to reach this point as they are starting to see a tipping point from receiving all of the funds. Also, Mr. Thonnerieux thanked everyone who has been a part of their journey.

Ms. Karen Hesser, Five Rivers Metro Parks gave an update to the group regarding the Healing Nature Tree Seedling Giveaway to the community. They were able to give away approximately 4,000 tree seedlings, which were a variety of 20 trees. They have received a lot of positive feedback from those individuals that drove through to pick up their trees, along with tearful appreciative homeowners as one individual alone lost about 60 trees on his property and he was appreciative of this effort as every little bit helps. Ms. Hesser informed the group that part of Five Rivers Metro Parks’ mission is to connect people back nature.

Mr. Martin thanked Ms. Hesser, Five Rivers Metro Parks for their service and informed the group that we do this with one home at a time and one house at a time, because those trees will make a house a home and to those homeowners it really means so much.
Ms. Hesser asked that the participating jurisdictions share pictures from the area of their communities and from their residents where the trees are being planted. Also, Five Rivers Metro Parks has loaded the information about the impacted area hit by the tornadoes and where the trees were distributed into their archive GIS Map. When Ms. Hesser receives the photos from the participating jurisdictions, she will share the information with MVRPC so it can be loaded into our GIS Map.

Ms. Georgeann Godsey, Harrison Township gave an update for Harrison Township. Ms. Godsey informed the group that Harrison Township has received permission to do some tree removal new a major storm runoff. Also, Harrison Township is grateful to get the funding and approval to get their storm drainage areas cleaned out.

Ms. Stephanie Kellum, City of Trotwood gave an update for the City of Trotwood. Ms. Kellum informed the group that the City of Trotwood is working on two things. They are working on a joint project with the City of Clayton by having debris removed from their creeks with the funding that was awarded, which will prevent some flooding and the City of Trotwood is using some of their FEMA funding to help remove huge logs that are on private properties that they know the homeowners cannot remove.

The following question was discussed:

- Can the committee talk to DPL regarding the damaged trees being on the powerlines?
  - Ms. Holly Wiggins, DPL asked for the addresses to be sent to her, so DPL can evaluate to see if lines actually belong to DPL and not ATT or Cable lines. When the information is received, she will get the information to the right person. Also, she asked that a point of contact be provided with the list of addresses coming from Mr. Rap Hankins, City of Trotwood and Ms. Laura Mercer, LTROG

Mr. Martin thanked Ms. Holly Wiggins for her help.

Montgomery County Engineering did not have any new updates, but Mr. Tom Kelley, Montgomery County informed the group that the work on the data dashboard seems to be going well, so he wanted to add a compliment on the work as well.

**IX. Other Updates**

Mr. Brian O. Martin, MVRPC asked for other updates.

Ms. Barbara Richards, Ohio DSA gave an update on the CDBG-DR Plan. They submitted the plan to HUD and they have received a response back from HUD needing more information. Ms. Richards will be working with Mrs. Stacy Schweikhart, MVRPC, Ms. Laura Mercer, LTROG and Ms. Tawana Jones, Montgomery County Community & Economic Development to help get the information that HUD is requesting. Hopefully, by December 2020, they will have the grant agreement approved by HUD and they will begin to disburse the funds by funneling it into the communities. Also, Ms. Richards informed the group of $12.3
million dollars that the CDBG-DR has to address the tornado damage. A largest portion of this is going to the Ohio Health and Finance Agency for rental rehab and new construction. Ms. Richards believes that $1.6 million of the funding will be going to Montgomery County for rehab and new construction for those qualified owners.

Mrs. Stacy Schweikhart, MVRPC shared with the group that she is keeping a tally regarding everyone getting their federal awards. Just for the public agencies that applied for any types of disaster recovery funding, including FEMA reimbursements the current tally is just under $30 million dollars for our Region that we have been able to harness for recovery. Ms. Schweikhart is working on putting something together that shows our recovery effort and will share it with the group.

- The following question was discussed:
  - Is this all Federal?
    - It is. It includes the EDA Awards. Those that came in and those that we know have pending awards. Along, with the CDBG-DR funding that the state is helping us to secure from HUD and the FEMA reimbursement.
    - Mr. Martin informed the group that this is an awesome number that the quarterly meeting with the Board would love to hear.

Mr. Martin informed the group that we are still in search of a staff person for the Disaster Recovery Planner position, which was previously posted as the Disaster Recovery Manager position. Because the more expertise our current staff has gained through working with these federal agencies in terms of the administration and bureaucracy and the knowledge of getting the resources, we need someone to help with the community redevelopment planning and outreach that would better help all of our jurisdictions to not only repair current homes, but also to look at the redevelopment opportunities. If you know of anyone that interested, the Disaster Recovery Planner position is posted on the MVRPC’s website (www.mvrpc.org) and please share as we want to add value to the Regional Planning Commission.

The next Disaster Recovery Impacted Jurisdictions meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

X. ADJOURN

Mr. Brian O. Martin thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.