

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 11:01 a.m. by Michael H. van Haaren, President, with Beth G. Whelley, Vice President, and Mark G. Rentschler, member, present. The meeting was held at MCD headquarters located at 38 East Monument Avenue in Dayton.

Members of the staff in attendance at the regular meeting: MaryLynn Lodor, General Manager/Board Secretary; James B. Casper, Manager of Operations and Maintenance; Ginger Clark, Manager of the Great Miami Riverway; Michael P. Ekberg, Manager of Monitoring and Analysis; Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Manager of Communications, Outreach, and Stewardship; Donald P. O'Connor, Chief Engineer; Kenneth P. Moyer, Treasurer; Christina M. Pfeiffer, Executive Assistant; Shannon E. Phelps, Manager of Administration; and Barry M. Puskas, Chief of Technical and Engineering Services.

Legal counsel in attendance at the regular meeting: Lee A. Slone, McMahon DeGulis LLP.

Guests in attendance at the regular meeting: Lori Kershner, LMK Advocacy. Scott Milburn of Scott Millburn, LLC arrived at 12:20 p.m.

**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 meetings by electronic mail dated March 18, 2026.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board of Directors regular meeting of December 17, 2025, were provided to members of the Board for review and comment.

M 2026-242

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. Rentschler, unanimously approved the meeting minutes for December 17, 2025.

Next, Mr. O'Connor updated the Board regarding the South River Walk Improvements project.

**MOT – SOUTH RIVER WALK IMPROVEMENTS
FINAL RESOLUTION**

In March 2019, MCD received notification that a grant had been approved for the MOT – South River Walk Improvements project. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has agreed to manage the bidding and construction of the project scheduled for construction in 2026.

ODOT requires that the Board of Directors pass a resolution committing to the following:

- MCD will serve as the Local Public Agency (LPA) partner for the project.
- MCD agrees to provide the local cost share of the project.
- MCD requests the Director of Transportation to proceed with the project.
- MCD authorizes the General Manager to execute a contract with ODOT.
- MCD executes a Fiscal Officer's Certificate that must be recorded with the record of proceedings of the Board of Directors.

ODOT has approved the final plans and specifications. ODOT has sent the final legislation language, the Fiscal Officer's Certificate, the Contract, and an invoice for MCD's portion of the cost share. ODOT staff has completed a final estimate considering the most recent bid results around the state. MCD must pay the local cost share up front based on that most recent estimate.

M 2026-243

The Board of Directors, on motion by Mr. Rentschler and seconded by Ms. Whelley, unanimously approved the following Final Resolution with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the MOT - South River Walk Improvements project.

R 2026-84

**FINAL RESOLUTION
MOT-South River Walk Improvements
PID NO. 110272**

The following Final Resolution enacted by the Board of Directors, The Miami Conservancy District, River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict, Ohio, hereinafter referred to as the Local Public Agency or "LPA", in the matter of the stated described project.

WHEREAS, the LPA shall cooperate with the Director of Transportation in the below-described project:

The project consists of improvements to Monument Avenue (South River Walk) that includes the removal and replacement of new pedestrian light poles, electrical wiring, new control panels, a new gravel walking surface, minor drainage improvements, new signage, and pedestrian amenities which includes new benches, installing new swings, picnic tables, dog waste stations, and trash receptacles, lying within the Miami Conservancy District; and

WHEREAS, the LPA shall cooperate with the Director of Transportation in the above-described project as follows:

The LPA agrees to assume and bear one hundred percent (100%) of the entire cost of the improvement, less the amount of Federal-Aid funds set aside by the Director of Transportation for the financing of this improvement from funds allocated by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

The share of the cost of the LPA is now estimated in the amount of One Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Six Hundred Seven and - - - - 00/100 Dollars, (\$151,607.00), but said estimated

amount is to be adjusted in order that the LPA's ultimate share of said improvement shall correspond with said percentages of actual costs when said actual costs are determined; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Transportation has approved said legislation proposing cooperation and has caused to be made plans and specifications and an estimate of cost and expense for improving the above-described project and has transmitted copies of the same to the LPA; and

WHEREAS, the LPA desires the Director of Transportation to proceed with the aforesaid improvement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- I. That the estimated sum of One Hundred Fifty-One Thousand Six Hundred Seven and - - - 00/100 Dollars, (\$151,607.00) is hereby appropriated for the improvement described above and the Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed for said sum upon the requisition of the Director of Transportation to pay the cost and expense of said improvement. The Miami Conservancy District hereby agrees to assume in the first instance, the share of the cost and expense over and above the amount to be paid from Federal funds.
- II. That the LPA hereby requests the Director of Transportation to proceed with the aforesaid improvement.
- III. That the LPA enter into a contract with the State, and that the General Manager be, and is hereby authorized to execute said contract, providing for the payment of the LPA the sum of money set forth herein above for improving the described project.
- IV. That the LPA transmit to the Director of Transportation a fully executed copy of this resolution.

Next, Mr. O'Connor updated the Board regarding the Old North Dayton Trail, Segment 2 project.

**MOT – OLD N. DAYTON TRAIL, SEGMENT 2
FINAL RESOLUTION**

In March 2021, MCD received notification that a grant had been approved for the MOT – Old N. Dayton Trail, Segment 2 Project. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has agreed to manage the bidding and construction of the project scheduled for construction in 2026.

ODOT requires that the Board of Directors pass a resolution committing to the following:

- MCD will serve as the Local Public Agency (LPA) partner for the project.
- MCD agrees to provide the local cost share of the project.
- MCD requests the Director of Transportation to proceed with the project.
- MCD authorizes the General Manager to execute a contract with ODOT.

- MCD executes a Fiscal Officer's Certificate that must be recorded with the record of proceedings of the Board of Directors.

ODOT has approved the final plans and specifications. ODOT has sent the final legislation language, the Fiscal Officer's Certificate, the Contract, and an invoice for MCD's portion of the cost share. ODOT staff has completed a final estimate considering the most recent bid results around the state. MCD must pay the local cost share up front based on that most recent estimate.

M 2026-244

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. Rentschler, unanimously approved the following Final Resolution with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for the MOT – Old N. Dayton Trail, Segment 2 project.

R 2026-85

**FINAL RESOLUTION
MOT – Old N. Dayton Trail, Segment 2
PID NO. 115170**

The following Final Resolution enacted by the Board of Directors, The Miami Conservancy District, River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict, Ohio, hereinafter referred to as the Local Public Agency or "LPA", in the matter of the stated described project.

WHEREAS, the LPA shall cooperate with the Director of Transportation in the below-described project:

The project consists of constructing a new 1.17-mile-long bike path extension at the left bank of the Great Miami River from Keowee Street to Heid Avenue, including a new 14-foot-wide asphalt path, a trailhead plaza, drainage upgrades, fence improvements, signage and pavement markings, lying within the Miami Conservancy District; and

WHEREAS, the LPA shall cooperate with the Director of Transportation in the above-described project as follows:

The LPA agrees to assume and bear one hundred percent (100%) of the entire cost of the improvement, less the amount of Federal-Aid funds set aside by the Director of Transportation for the financing of this improvement from funds allocated by the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

The share of the cost of the LPA is now estimated in the amount of Three Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand One Hundred Thirty-One and - - - - 00/100 Dollars, (\$352,131.00), but said estimated amount is to be adjusted in order that the LPA's ultimate share of said improvement shall correspond with said percentages of actual costs when said actual costs are determined; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Transportation has approved said legislation proposing cooperation and has caused to be made plans and specifications and an estimate of cost and expense for improving the above-described project and has transmitted copies of the same to the LPA; and

WHEREAS, the LPA desires the Director of Transportation to proceed with the aforesaid improvement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- I. That the estimated sum of Three Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand One Hundred Thirty-One and - - - 00/100 Dollars, (\$352,131.00), is hereby appropriated for the improvement described above and the Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed for said sum upon the requisition of the Director of Transportation to pay the cost and expense of said improvement. The Miami Conservancy District hereby agrees to assume in the first instance, the share of the cost and expense over and above the amount to be paid from Federal funds.
- II. That the LPA hereby requests the Director of Transportation to proceed with the aforesaid improvement.
- III. That the LPA enter into a contract with the State, and that the General Manager be, and is hereby authorized to execute said contract, providing for the payment of the LPA the sum of money set forth herein above for improving the described project.
- IV. That the LPA transmit to the Director of Transportation a fully executed copy of this resolution.

Next, Mr. O'Connor updated the Board regarding the ADA & Safety Improvements project along the Great Miami River Recreational Trail (GMRRT).

**RIVER CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT SUBDISTRICT
MOT – GMR Trail IMP CR22A
PID 119384**

In March 2023, MCD received notification that a grant had been approved for the MOT - GMR Trail IMP CR22A project, also known as the ADA & Safety Improvements project. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has agreed to manage the bidding and construction of the project.

Following ODOT requirements, the Board of Directors passed a resolution at the December 17, 2025, Board meeting committing to multiple things, one of which was to pay for the entire construction local cost share. The commitment included that MCD would still pay the local cost share even if it went above the final estimate of \$112,609.

Bids were received by ODOT in mid-February with the low bid being higher than the final construction estimate. This resulted in MCD having to commit an additional \$13,780 to the project. There are funds available in the 2026 budget to cover this increase. There is no action required by the Board.

Next, Ms. Lodor and Ms. Clark presented information regarding bank stabilization along Dicks Creek in Monroe.

**DICKS CREEK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR FUTURE GMRRT SECTION
City Of Monroe, Monroe Area CIC, Metroparks of Butler County, and MCD**

A gap of approximately three miles exists in the Great Miami Recreational Trail (GMRRT) in northern Butler County, and both MetroParks of Butler County and the City of Monroe have successfully secured grants for closing the trail gaps. MCD has been actively working with Monroe and MetroParks on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among MetroParks of Butler County, Miami Conservancy District (MCD), the City of Monroe, and the Monroe Area Community Improvement Corporation (MACIC). The purpose of the MOU is to facilitate the Dicks Creek Stabilization Project to be completed prior to construction of Monroe's grant from Ohio Kentucky Indiana (OKI) Regional Council funded segment of the Great Miami River Trail in 2029.

The Dicks Creek Stabilization Project involves stabilizing roughly 800 linear feet of eroded streambank along Dicks Creek in Monroe, currently owned by MCD. The property was acquired as floodplain land in the 1970s and is not part of the Official Plan. In late 2025, MCD tasked Stantec with developing a streambank stabilization concept plan and cost estimate. The stabilization is required to prepare the corridor for the future trail extension. The project is anticipated to be contracted by MACIC using a Design-Build approach.

Funding Overview: Total Estimated Project Cost: \$700,000 (includes preconstruction stage design services + OPCC + 15% Contingency + PM/inspection)

Partner	Contribution
Butler County Metro Parks	\$375,000 – \$525,000 (ARPA funds)
Miami Conservancy District	up to \$275,000 and land donation or easement
City of Monroe	\$72,500
MACIC	No direct funding contribution

The MOU will stipulate that funds be deposited into a segregated Project Account held by MACIC. Final amounts will be determined upon further negotiation. Below is a summary of roles and responsibilities to be included in the MOU:

MACIC (Fund Custodian & Contracting Entity)

- Holds and manages all project funds
- Executes and manages the Design-Build Contract
- Processes pay applications and change orders
- Provides quarterly financial statements
- Assigns contractor warranties to City/Metro Parks after project closeout

City of Monroe (Project Administrator)

- Manages overall project oversight
- Provides field inspections
- Reviews/approves pay applications & change orders
- Continues trail construction after stabilization
- Assumes long-term maintenance responsibility for the restored creek banks and trail corridor

Metro Parks (Funding Partner)

- Participates in project oversight

MCD (Funding Partner & Land Donor)

- Transfers land Parcel No. 1657 to the City by quitclaim deed or provides a permit to use MCD land for the trail; if transferred, MCD Land Use Permit (2021–2041) will be terminated once the land transfer is complete
- Provides environmental and title documentation

Project Delivery & Permitting

MACIC will work to secure an approved contractor, to be engaged via a Design-Build Contract. MACIC and the contractor will secure all federal, state, and local environmental permits, including:

- Section 404 (U.S. Army Corps)
- Section 401 WQC (Ohio EPA)
- ODNR coordination
- Local grading, floodplain, stormwater permits

Change orders exceeding **10%** of contract value require approval from all Parties.

Term & Termination

- MOU remains in effect until project completion, mutual termination, or five years after execution.
- Any Party may terminate for cause with 60 days' written notice.
- Upon termination, unexpended funds are returned, pro rata.

M 2026-245

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. van Haaren, unanimously authorized the General Manager to negotiate and execute an MOU agreement with City of Monroe, MACIC, MetroParks of Butler County for the stabilization of Dicks Creek and prepare it for the Great Miami Recreational Trail.

Next, Mr. O'Connor informed the Board of a potential transfer of ownership of MCD property.

PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION Monroe – City of Monroe

The City of Monroe contacted MCD to acquire a permit to construct an approximately 2.3-mile trail on MCD property in Butler County, Ohio. The permit was issued effective October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2041. Prior to construction of the trail an erosion issue along Dicks Creek was discovered. The City of Monroe, MetroParks of Butler County, MCD and others are working to address the erosion prior to trail construction.

The City of Monroe is requesting that MCD transfer the MCD parcel 1657 where the trail will traverse along Dicks Creek which would allow the City to proceed with bank stabilization prior to trail construction. As part of the transfer, the existing permit would be terminated.

The transfer is part of a Memorandum of Understanding in development with the City of Monroe, Monroe Community Improvement Corporation, and MetroParks of Butler County.

M 2026-246

The Board of Directors, on motion by Mr. Rentschler and seconded by Ms. Whelley, unanimously authorized the General Manager to execute an agreement with the City of Monroe to transfer ownership, at no cost to the City of Monroe, of MCD parcel 1657 where the trail will traverse along Dicks Creek.

Next, Ms. Lodor updated the Board regarding grants submitted by the City of Hamilton to facilitate removal of the Hamilton Low Dam.

H2OHIO RIVERS AND USFWS FISH PASSAGE PARTNERSHIP FOR HAMILTON LOW DAM REMOVAL

Miami Conservancy District collaborated with project partners to submit an H2Ohio Rivers and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Fish Passage funding request for Phase 1 of the Lower Great Miami River Restoration Initiative (Phase 1). Phase 1 targets the removal of the Hamilton Low Dam and installation of five riffle structures designed for fish passage, safe recreation and water quality restoration. The City of Hamilton is the applicant for both grants with technical support from MCD.

In summary, the concept plan for Phase I focuses on the full removal of the Hamilton Low Dam, the lowest barrier on the Great Miami River before its confluence with the Ohio River. The project will:

- Permanently eliminate a documented public safety hazard.
- Restore free-flowing river conditions with the design objective to maintain the upstream pool, north of Columbia Bridge to be maintained during most flow conditions for rowing – not including extreme low flow conditions during dry months of the year.
- Reconnect more than 30 miles of mainstem river to the Ohio River.
- Improve water quality, sediment transport, and aquatic habitat.
- Establish the foundation for future river activation and corridor restoration in the Lower Great Miami River.

The project aligns directly with the State's H2Ohio priorities for water quality improvement, habitat restoration, and durable watershed-scale outcomes. USFWS Fish Passage is a federal program. Both funding sources explicitly support dam removal and preventative, system-level river restoration. These funding sources provide a critical opportunity to leverage state investment for a project with substantial regional benefit for the Great Miami Riverway.

The anticipated roles and responsibilities that will be further refined and formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are noted below:

- City of Hamilton: Lead H2Ohio applicant; oversees design and construction coordination; has formally requested dam removal in alignment with riverfront and public safety goals. Holds financial responsibility for any modification or removal costs per 1987 MCD Hamilton Agreement.

- Miami Conservancy District: Owner of the dam; provides technical assistance to the City of Hamilton for engineering, permitting, and construction oversight; long-term steward of the restored river reach; committing \$200,000 toward the project contingent on grant award.
- Project Partners:
 - *MetroParks of Butler County* – future river access, habitat, and stewardship coordination; interested in river activation upgrades at Hamilton Ponds, adjacent to Lodder Park and the existing low head dam.
 - *Great Miami Riverway* – regional recreation and fishing engagement, eco-tourism and economic benefit opportunity.
 - *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service* – aquatic habitat and fish passage expertise.
 - *Hamilton Community Foundation* – philanthropic partner helping close the funding gap for transformational river activation elements.

Current Status

- H2Ohio application for Phase I implementation was submitted on March 2, 2026, for \$4.9 million with an additional application to USFWS for \$250,000 on February 28, 2026.
- Engineering and cost estimates are defined; if not awarded by H2Ohio, additional sources can be sought. Future phases would focus on river activation, recreation, habitat enhancement, and evaluation of additional upstream opportunities.
- An MOU is anticipated that will define roles and responsibilities upon award.
- 20% contingency in estimate and \$150,000 levee analysis and stability costs.

M 2026-247

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. Rentschler, unanimously authorized the General Manager to negotiate and execute an MOU with the project partners should the H2Ohio and/or USFWS grants be awarded.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

At their December 17, 2025 meeting, the Board members set the following dates for future 2026 meetings of the Board of Directors of The Miami Conservancy District:

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Thursday, December 17, 2026

In addition, the Board of Directors will hold a joint meeting with the Board of Appraisers on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Mr. Rentschler and seconded by Ms. Whelley at 1:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:


MaryLynn Lodor
General Manager/Board Secretary


Michael H. van Haaren
President