

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 10:50 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; 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: John M. Hoopingarner, McMahon DeGulis LLP.

Guests in attendance at the work session: Lori Kershner, LMK Advocacy; Scott Milburn, Scott Milburn, LLC; and Constance Leach, a resident of West Milton, Ohio.

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 June 17, 2026.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board of Directors regular meeting of March 25, 2026, were provided to members of the Board for review and comment.

M 2026-248

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. Rentschler, unanimously approved the meeting minutes for March 25, 2026.

Next, Ms. Lodor requested that the Board affirm MCD's intent to proceed with a third hosting term for the Great Miami Riverway initiative covering the period of 2027 – 2032.

GREAT MIAMI RIVERWAY INITIATIVE 2027- 2032 STRATEGIC PLAN & THIRD HOSTING TERM OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The Great Miami Riverway is a 99+ mile destination in southwest Ohio that connects riverfront communities, bike trails, paddling routes, parks, and downtown districts along the Great Miami River.

Mission: To build a strong, vibrant network of communities, connected by 99 miles of river, by increasing economic and community investment to attract more visitors, customers, jobs, and talented workers to southwest Ohio.

MCD has served as the host organization for the Great Miami Riverway, providing administrative infrastructure, staff capacity, and organizational credibility that have enabled the coalition to grow to more than 20 member organizations. Now in its second five-year term, the Board authorized the general manager in March 2022 to enter into additional five-year agreements, totaling more than \$700,000, for MCD to facilitate the Great Miami Riverway Coalition and coordinate marketing, planning, and programming for the Great Miami Riverway.

An updated economic impact of tourism study (2025) is currently underway and is expected to reinforce the continued and growing value of the Riverway to the region. The most recent study (2023) documented an estimated \$1.2 billion in regional economic impact.

COALITION SUPPORT FOR A THIRD TERM

Under the current leadership of Coalition Chairman Chris Fine, the coalition solicited Letters of Intent from member organizations in advance of this meeting. The following communities and organizations have submitted Letters of Intent affirming their support for MCD's continued hosting of the Riverway initiative through 2032:

- Five Rivers MetroParks
- City of Franklin
- MetroParks of Butler County
- Miami County Park District
- Miami County Commissioners
- City of Miamisburg
- City of Monroe
- Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission
- City of Piqua
- City of Sidney

2027–2032 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

At the culmination of a multi-stage strategic planning process, the coalition adopted a strategic plan for 2027–2032 organized around three priorities:

1. Sustainable Funding

Establish long-term funding to support Riverway Coalition operations and projects. Key actions include:

- Establish a Funding Committee
- Obtain written commitments from coalition members to renew five-year agreements by December 2026
- Recruit missing communities including Dayton, Moraine, etc.
- Define sponsor levels, terms, and agreements
- Establish a Component Fund at The Dayton Foundation

2. Physical Infrastructure Gaps

Create an improved, connected, and consistent Riverway experience. Key actions include:

- Establish a Physical Improvements Committee
- Launch a new corridor study and gap analysis
- Pursue USACE PASS funding through MCD and Montgomery County
- Complete trail gaps and improve access points, safety, and river hazard portages
- Expand signage and wayfinding through a dedicated committee

3. Brand and Identity

Establish the Great Miami Riverway as the defining regional identity and be recognized as the premier outdoor recreation destination in the Midwest. Key actions include:

- Continue and expand the work of the Marketing Committee under Chair Ben Trick
- Expand destination marketing through storytelling and influencer partnerships
- Deepen engagement with CVBs, tourism professionals, and economic development agencies
- Increase messaging on environmental stewardship and river health
- Contract with Tourism Economics for the bi-annual tourism impact report in 2026

FUTURE FUNDING PATHWAY

Future funding options are under development. The Coalition supports exploring the inclusion of a placemaking initiative within the River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict (RCIS) Readjustment as a mechanism to sustain long-term Riverway operations and capital investment.

MCD's current planning trajectory is as follows:

- Flood Protection System (main district) Readjustment- Planned to proceed through 2027/2028
- River Corridor Improvement Subdistrict (RCIS) Readjustment- Potential to proceed in 2028/2029, prior to the expiration of the third hosting term in 2032

This phased approach would position the Riverway with a durable, long-term funding structure before the conclusion of the 2027–2032 term.

M 2026-249

The Board of Directors, on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. Rentschler, unanimously affirm MCD's intent to proceed with a third hosting term for the Great Miami Riverway initiative covering the period 2027 - 2032, consistent with the coalition's adopted strategic plan and the Letters of Intent received from member communities. . The proposed five-year budget is approximately \$1,300,000. To continue the program, MCD is seeking commitments totaling at least \$1,000,000.

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:

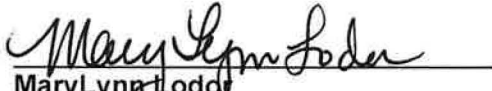
Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Thursday, December 17, 2026

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Ms. Whelley and seconded by Mr. Rentschler at 12:57 p.m.

ATTEST:


Mary Lynn Lodd
General Manager/Board Secretary

APPROVED:


Michael H. van Haaren
President