Ohio Public Works Commission
District 2 Natural Resources Assistance Council
Clean Ohio Conservation Program
Scoring Methodology for Grant Applications
Revised 7/16/18

Project Name: ________________________________________________________________
Applicant Name: ______________________________________________________________
Applicant Contact: _____________________________________________________________
State Code: ______________
Rating Team: __________________________________________________________________

Part One - Preliminary Screening

Yes No

() () Applicant is eligible entity.

() () Complete application received by deadline.

() () Includes a soils map and topographical map.
Soil maps are available through Hamilton Co. Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) 1325 E. Kemper
Road #115, Cincinnati, OH 45246 or call for a free Soil Survey book at 513-772-7645, or can be accessed at:
Topographic maps are available at the Hamilton Co. Engineer's Office, 128 E. Court St., Rom 700,
Cincinnati, OH 45202, and at the Hamilton Co. SWCD, or at www.trails.com/maps.aspx
To obtain a flood map visit the Hamilton Co. Public Works Dept., 128 E Court St., Room 800,
Cincinnati, OH 45202, 513-946-4750 or Hamilton Co. SWCD

() () Includes a signed letter of intent from the seller, indicating their willingness to sell the subject property
(or conservation easement on it) for preservation purposes, and that this land or easement acquisition
will be completed within twelve (12) months of receiving project agreement.

() () Includes a certified appraisal performed by an ODOT prequalified appraiser. This must either be
submitted with the original application submission, or it may be submitted to the NRAC District 2
Liaison Officer within 21 days following the application deadline. The certified appraisal must be a recent
appraisal dated no older than 12 months. NOTE: This appraisal shall be conducted at the request of the
applicant (and not the seller of the subject property). A list of ODOT prequalified appraisers is found
in the Appendices section of the Applicant Guidelines, can be found at www.OPWC.state.oh.us/GSCdefault.html. Click on Green Space Conservation bar at top of screen. Then under the links on the left side of page, click on Application for Assistance. Then, under appraisal
information, click on ODOT Prequalified Appraisers link.
() () Project will be completed within 24 months of grant acceptance (or funding may be revoked).

() () NRAC funds are not to be used to cover administrative costs.

() () Applicant is ready and able to complete project (if the project is not initiated within 6 months the grant may be revoked).

() () Includes a copy of the draft deed restrictions covering the property (provided in Exhibit 1) as they will be submitted to the State if said project is approved.

() () Includes documentation to support scoring for Part 2, 3 & 4, including referencing each answer by page number next to the line item, noting where the documentation is to be found.

If any statement is answered NO, the project must be considered ineligible for review and funding!

Project purpose must involve at least one of the following from Section A or Section B below:

A. **Open Space (per ORC Section 164.22 A)**
   - □ Acquires land for parks
   - □ Acquires land for public forests
   - □ Acquires land for wetland preservation or restoration
   - □ Acquires land for natural areas protecting endangered species
   - □ Acquires land for other natural areas including hillsides and valleys
   - □ Acquires land for connecting corridors for natural areas
   - □ Open space acquisition
   - □ Permanent conservation easement
   - □ Constructs or enhances facilities required to make open space accessible & useable by the public

B. **Riparian Corridors or Wetlands (per ORC Section 164.22 B)**
   - □ Protects or enhances riparian corridors and watersheds including the protection and enhancement of streams, rivers and other waters of the state. *(Affected wetlands or watersheds/sub-watersheds must be identified).*

C. **Would the project:**

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- Initiate or perpetuate hydromodification projects such as dams, ditch development or channelization?
- Fund current legal obligations, such as fines, penalties, litigation, expenses, mitigation or reclamation under state or federal laws or local ordinances?
- Fund facilities other than those required providing public access to, or using of, open space?
()  ()  Fund facilities for active recreation such as, but not limited to tennis courts, ball fields, fountains or recreation centers?

()  ()  Is any part of the project outside the boundaries of Hamilton County, while seeking funding solely through the District 2 NRAC?

()  ()  Funding request for demolition that is greater than ten percent (10%) of the total project cost?

If any statement in Section C is answered YES, this project is ineligible for funding.

Does the project meet Part One (Preliminary Screening) eligibility requirements?

☐  Yes  Continue to Parts Two, Three & Four

☐  No  Project ineligible for review and consideration at NRAC Scoring Meeting

Any applicant submitting false or misleading documentation in any application shall be excluded from funding consideration in the particular program year being applied for. Furthermore the applicant shall be penalized in future funding years up to 5 points a year for a maximum of 2 years.
Part Two - Project Emphasis

The District 2 NRAC shall consider whether the project emphasizes the following factors (documented in application) pursuant to Section 164.22 ORC?

Up to two (2) points each (22 points maximum) - Please refer to Glossary of Terms

A. Open Space

☐ Reduces or eliminates non-native, invasive species of plants and regenerates with native species. (Documentation must include a planting & maintenance plan)

☐ Preserves or increases high quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species where the forest canopy or native vegetation covers greater than 50% of the area. (2 points)

    OR

☐ Preserves or increases high quality, viable habitat for plant and animal species where the forest canopy or native vegetation covers less than 50% but greater than 25% of the area. (1 point)

☐ Provides linkage to other parks, open space/green space preserves.

☐ Provides access to natural areas that result in recreational or aesthetic preservation benefits. (Documentation must include a map and/or a narrative description)

☐ Provides for the enhancement of economic development that relies on recreation and ecotourism in areas with relatively high unemployment and lower incomes. (Documentation required)

☐ Provides or enhances areas where safe fishing, hunting and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve balanced natural ecosystems.

B. Riparian Corridor

☐ Preserves or restores functioning floodplains, including groundwater recharge areas. (A floodplain map must be provided as documentation)

☐ Preserves or restores natural stream channels.

☐ Preserves or restores streamside forests, native vegetation or adjacent habitat.

☐ Preserves existing high quality wetlands or restores wetlands. (Documentation must be provided including a wetlands map and/or written documentation by a certified professional)

☐ Permanent acquisition of riparian corridors, watersheds, forested hillside s, or green space linkage.

☐ Plants vegetation/reforestation land for filtration, improving the quality of, or controlling storm water runoff.

Part Two Score _________
Part Three - NRAC Scoring Methodology

1. Percentage of Clean Ohio matching funds necessary to complete the project. Local match can include bargain sales, where the seller provides at least a 25% reduction below fair market value as a matching contribution, and up to 90% of demolition costs borne by applicant (if applicable).

   ( ) 75% (required)      ( ) 74-70%      ( ) 69-65%      ( ) 64-60%      ( ) less than 60%
   0 points         2 points        6 points         8 points             10 points

2. Level of collaborative participation. Participation means active involvement through funding or in-kind services as defined by the District 2 NRAC (A letter documenting how support will be provided is required). 1 point will be awarded for each of the following that are participating, up to a total of six (6) points.

   ( ) Local political subdivision
   ( ) Federal agency(s)
   ( ) State agency(s)
   ( ) Community organization(s)
   ( ) Conservation organization(s)
   ( ) Local business group(s)
   ( ) Is a joint project with more than one (1) OPWC District?

3. Extent of public access once project is completed. Check one of the following. (Maximum of 2 points)

   ( ) The project includes the construction or enhancement of facilities that are necessary to make an open space area accessible and usable by the general public.

   ( ) Is a fee simple acquisition of land for the purpose of making riparian corridors accessible and usable by the general public?

4. Operation and maintenance once project has been completed. (Documentation required)

   ( ) 3 points Operational infrastructure (equipment and personnel/contractors) in place.

   ( ) 1 point Limited operational infrastructure (volunteers available). (Documentation required)

   ( ) 0 points No operational infrastructure in place

5. Project management experience of similar and related projects including, but not limited to projects funded through Clean Ohio Conservation Fund. (Documentation required)

   ( ) 3 points Successfully completed 3-5 similar projects in last 10 years
   ( ) 2 points Successfully completed 1-2 similar projects in the last 5 years
   ( ) 1 point Has partnered on at least one similar project in the last 5 years

Part Three Score ________
Part Four - Compliance with District 2 Priorities

1. ( ) 3 points  Community planning - Project is in concert with publicly adopted regional, local neighborhood or community advisory association plan, watershed plan, or greenspace plan (may include adoption by governing bodies, planning commissions, park districts or similar boards or commissions appointed by the governing body of a political jurisdiction).

2. Natural resource viability - How important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project. (Verifiable documentation required) Please see appendix for species included in the State of Ohio Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI).
   Check each that applies, up to a total of 7 points.
   () 3 points  Protects a federally listed endangered species or biological community
   () 2 points  Protects six (6) or more NHI identified species
   () 1 point  Protects one to five (1-5) NHI identified species
   () 1 point  Protects a high quality regional endangered biological community
   () 1 point  Protects a threatened biological community as defined by ODNR

3. ( ) 3 points  Preserves steep hillsides - Project preserves or naturally restores steep hillsides with slopes of 20% or greater and/or preserves or naturally restores steep hillsides with slopes of 20% or greater in combination with stream bank erosion control measures.

4. ( ) 3 points  Preserves/enhances undeveloped land - Project preserves or enhances undeveloped land along viewsheds of major highway or transportation corridors where subject property can be seen from the right-of-way.

5. ( ) 3 points  Preserves headwater streams.

6. ( ) 3 points  Preserves erodible land or hydric soils, as defined by soil survey.

7. Opportunity - Project addresses a situation where action must be taken now or opportunity will be lost forever. (Documentation required).
   () 3 points  Standing offer or letter of intent from seller or developer indicating that the parcel(s) will be developed if not preserved through NRAC.
   () 2 points  Site development or subdivision plan that has been approved by local jurisdiction that is awaiting a developer.
   () 1 point  Site development or subdivision plan that has not been approved by local jurisdiction.

8. Size of acquisition, conservation/restoration area to be impacted for non-acquisition projects.
   () 3 points  3-5 acres
   () 5 points  Less than 3 acres

Part Four Score _________

Subtotal Scores

Part 2 ________________ Part 3 ________________ Part 4 ________________

Total Score _________