

District 15 Natural Resource Assistance Council By - Laws

Article I - The Council

Section A - Name

This council shall be known as the District 15 Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC).

Section B - Purpose

The council is formed for the purpose of meeting and carrying out the responsibilities assigned to it under the Ohio Revised Code, Sections 164.20 to 164.27, as it currently exists or may from time to time be amended by the legislature of the State of Ohio. 3 consecutive unexcused absences shall constitute nonfeasance.

Section C - District Boundaries

The boundaries of the District 15 shall be coterminous with the boundaries of Adams, Brown, Fayette, Highland, Ross, Pike, Scioto, Vinton, Jackson, Gallia and Lawrence counties.

Article II - Membership

Section A - Terms of Office

There shall be eleven members of the Natural Resource Assistance Council (NRAC) appointed by the appropriate Integrating Committee. Of the initial members appointed to the NRAC, four members shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year, four shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, and three shall be appointed for a term of (3) three years. Thereafter, terms of office for members of the NRAC shall be for three (3) years, with each term ending on the same day of the same month as it did the term that it succeeds. Each member shall hold office from the date of the appointment until the end of the term for which the member is appointed, except that, with respect to any member who is an elected or appointed official of a township, municipal corporation, or county, the term of that person on the NRAC shall not exceed beyond the member's term as an elected or appointed official.

Section B - Vacancies

Members may be reappointed. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner provided for original appointments. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration date of the term for which the member was appointed shall hold office for the remainder of that term. A member shall continue in office subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term until the members successor takes office of until a period of sixty days has elapsed, whichever occurs first. The District 15 Public Works Integrating Committee for misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance in office may remove members.

Section C - All members shall be appointed in accordance with the requirements of Section 164.21 of the Ohio Revised Code. Specifically, of the eleven members, one shall represent a soil and water conservation district within the geographical jurisdiction of the appointing integrating committee. The nine other members of the council shall be appointed from the following categories of organizations, units of government, or agencies and shall include at least one member from each of those categories:

(1) A county, municipal corporation, township, conservancy district, regional or joint district or unit of government, or regional or joint political subdivision that is located within the geographic jurisdiction of the appointing integrating committee.

(2) A conservation organization, an environmental advocacy organization with a primary interest in watershed protection and restoration, the department of natural resources, the environmental protection agency, or the United States natural resources conservation service.

(3) A city park system or metropolitan park system or board of park commissioners from a county that is located within the geographical jurisdiction of the appointing integrating committee, a state wide parks and recreation organization, and organization with a primary interest in the development of recreational trails, or the United States national park service.

(4) A statewide organization representing agriculture, an organization representing forestry interests the department of agriculture, or the United States department of agriculture.

(5) An organization representing business, local Realtors, or a planning agency including a port authority, located within the geographical jurisdiction of the appointing integrating committee.

No organization, unit of government, or agency that is listed above shall be represented by more than one member on the council at any given time. The membership of the NRAC shall reflect the demographic and economic diversity of the population located within the geographical jurisdiction represented by the council.

Article III - Officers, Election, and Duties

Section A - Officers

The NRAC shall at its annual meeting elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from among its members who will serve for a period of one year, or until their successor is elected, and may be re-elected for subsequent terms. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings, and shall sign any an all written documents on behalf of the NRAC. The Vice-Chairperson shall perform all of the duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson.

(1) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the NRAC and shall be empowered to authenticate, by his or her signature, when necessary, all of the acts empowered to authenticate, by his or her signature, when necessary, all of the acts and proceedings of the NRAC.

(2) The Vice Chair shall perform all of the duties of the Chair in his or her absence. The Vice Chair shall be responsible for all secretarial duties.

Article IV - Meetings

Section A - Annual Meetings

The NRAC shall meet the 3rd Tuesday in the month of November of each year for the purpose of electing officers, appointing standing subcommittees, and conducting such other business as may come before it. The Annual Meeting shall be one of the regular quarterly meetings of the NRAC.

Section B - Regular Meetings

The NRAC shall meet on the 3rd Tuesday of November, February, May and August for the conduct of the business of the NRAC. The NRAC may meet at other times as set by the NRAC at a previous meeting for the conduct of the general business of the NRAC, including any business that may come before it. The Chair, or in his or her absence the Vice Chair, may call a regular meeting of the NRAC.

Section C - Special Meetings/Organizational Meetings

The NRAC may meet in special session upon call of any two members of the NRAC for the specific purpose designated in writing and presented with the call of the special meeting. Such call and purpose must be signed by the two calling members. No business other than that stated in the written purpose of the Special Meeting/Organizational Meeting shall be conducted at that meeting. The Vice Chairperson shall notify all members of NRAC Special Meetings/Organizational Meetings.

Section D - Emergency Meetings

The NRAC may meet in emergency session upon call of the Chairperson or in his or her absence, the Vice-Chairperson.

Section E - Quorum

At least six (6) members out of eleven (11) must be present in order for an NRAC meeting to proceed.

At least six (6) votes out of eleven (11) are required to take formal action at a meeting of the NRAC.

Article V - Other Committees

Section A - Other Committees

The District 15 NRAC may from time to time appoint subcommittees, including among the appointments its members or others with specific knowledge, to formulate advice and/or recommendations to the full Council.

Such subcommittees shall comply with these Bylaws and the Rule of Order of the NRAC.

Article VI - Application Procedures

Section A - Submission Requirements

An entity seeking a grant for a project that is eligible for funding under section 164.22 of the Ohio Revised Code shall submit an application to the NRAC with geographical jurisdiction over the proposed project area. Entities that eligible for funding are limited to local political subdivisions and nonprofit organizations. In addition to the application required an applicant for a grant for a project shall include with the application the following in order to be eligible:

- (1) A copy of a resolution supporting the project from the county, municipal corporation, or township in which the proposed project is to be conducted;
- (2) Documentation that demonstrates that the applicant has the capacity, financial or otherwise, to complete the project for which the grant is sought and to provide any necessary ongoing maintenance of the project;
- (3) Documentation that indicates compliance with division (A) of the section 164.26 of the Ohio Revised Code related to the long term ownership or control of the property that is subject of the grant application;
- (4) Upon receipt of the application and the required additional information, a council may request additional information concerning the proposed project to which the application and information apply. Upon receiving such a request, the entity proposing the project shall provide the additional information requested.

Section B - Project Review Procedures

Projects will be reviewed in accordance with the procedures established by the District 15 NRAC, which will be responsible for the final project funding recommendations.

Article VII - Amendments

Section A - Bylaws and Rules of Order

To amend the Bylaws or Rules of Order, an amendment must be presented in writing to the NRAC at a meeting and may be debated at that meeting. Adoption may occur only at a subsequent Meeting of the NRAC at which time the motion for adoption may be amended as with any motion or resolution pending before the NRAC. Two thirds (2/3) or six (6) NRAC

committee members are required in order to amend, add or suspend all or sections thereof the District 15 Bylaws or Rules of Order.

Section B - Standing Rules

The NRAC may adopt, amend, add to or suspend previously adopted Standing Rules at any meeting of the NRAC by the affirmative vote of six members or the appropriate number as provided in Article IV Section E - Quorum.

Article VIII - Rules of Order

All meetings of the NRAC, including all committees, shall be conducted in accordance with parliamentary procedures. Except as modified by these Bylaws, the NRAC will be governed by "Roberts Rules of Order, Revised".

Article IX - Adoption

The Bylaws and Rules of Order are one document and shall be adopted by an affirmative vote of at least six (6) members at a meeting of the NRAC. Motion for adoption subjects the document to opportunity for amendments prior to final action.

Article X - Severability

Each article, section or subsection of the Bylaws and Rules of Order shall be considered separable from all others. Should any article, section, subsection is determined to be contrary to law or found to be invalid by a court, the balance of this document shall remain in effect. Similarly, should any section of the Ohio Revised Code upon which this document is based, in part, be held invalid by a court or charged by the legislature so as to make an article, section, or subsection invalid, the balance of this document shall remain in effect.

Adopted by the District 15 Natural Resource Assistance Council at a meeting on _____, 20_____.

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Member

Member

Member