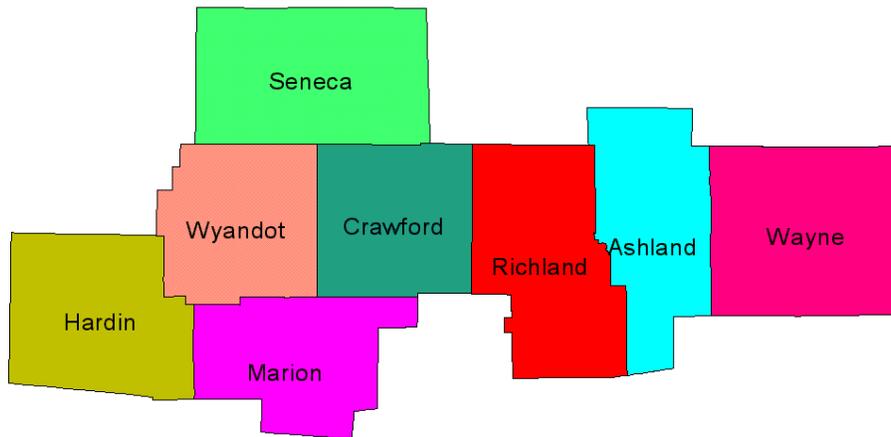


Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC)

District 16



Project Scoping Methodology & Supplemental Instructions

Approved

June 9, 2005

Supplemental Instructions:

District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council Scoring Methodology

All applications will be submitted to the District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) using the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) application forms.

Projects shall incorporate aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design including sensitivity to the terrain, natural resources and heritage of the property. Any proposed improvements must be on the parcel being acquired. The cost of improvements must not exceed the value of the property being acquired.

District 16 will evaluate project proposals with the guidance of the “Glossary of Terms” provided by the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for use with this program. Three (3) specific definitions in this Glossary are of particular note, and will guide decision-making in District 16. They are:

Open space

Any area of land the preservation of which would 1) maintain and enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources; 2) protect natural streams or water supply; 3) promote conservation of wetlands, marshes, bogs, fens, forests, prairies, lakes, streams or other naturally occurring communities; 4) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, stream corridors, forests, wildlife areas, natural areas or other natural open spaces; 5) enhance passive public recreation opportunities.

Natural areas

"Natural area" means an area of land or water which either retains to some degree or has re-established its natural character, although it need not be completely undisturbed, or has unusual flora, fauna, geological, archeological, scenic, or similar features of scientific or educational interest.

Natural features

A physical or biological feature of the landscape which has resulted from and is maintained by natural processes. Examples: waterfall, river oxbow, gorge, natural bridge, cave, etc.

Applications involving land that will be extensively maintained and managed by other than natural means, forces or processes are not ideal projects for this program. The presumption is that when more than 20 percent of the land area associated with a project is maintained or managed by other than natural means, forces or processes, it is not a suitable project for District 16.

A District 16 NRAC Scoring Methodology has been included; which must be completed for, and attached to, **each** application along with all supporting documentation. Part II, III & IV of the form must be annotated by the applicant, placing a page number in the space provided for each scoring factor for which the applicant believes points should be awarded. The page number entered will indicate the place or places in the application materials that document the applicant's entitlement to points for that factor. The page number reference will assist the District 16 NRAC rating team score the project.

Please assemble the application material, in sequence, as follows:

District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council Scoring Methodology

- The application form with pages in numerical order with appropriate information included as outlined in O.R.C. Section 164.23 (enclosed in application packet). If multiple applications are submitted by an agency, they should be prioritized with a priority number placed in the upper left hand corner of page one of the application. Number all subsequent pages (Scoring methodology, agreements, certifications, estimates, etc.) beginning with page number seven.
- The Scoring Methodology Form (with all relevant supporting documentation).
- Copies of participating agreements.
- A certification of availability of funds for the local fund match.
- A detailed certified estimate for improvements (if applicable) and/or an estimate of fair market value or an appraisal (for property acquisition) must be attached. Estimates for improvements must separately show non-eligible cost items.
- Include supplemental information, photos, a project area map, etc. that will aid in the evaluation of the application.
- Include a statement of project management experience of similar or related projects. List projects and date completed.
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Applicants must submit an original and twelve (12) copies of each application to District 16. The original application, containing the required original signatures, should be noted as such in the upper right-hand corner of the first page.

Please do not present applications in notebooks or oversized bindings that may increase the difficulty and expense of distributing applications to committee members.

The Code number on the application is a number assigned to the applicant by OPWC. A list for District 16 jurisdictions & organizations currently assigned numbers is available from OPWC. A qualifying organization not yet assigned a number may call OPWC (614-466-0880) for a number.

Applications are to be submitted to	Questions may be addressed to:
Richland County Regional Planning 35 North Park Street, Suite 230 Mansfield, Ohio 44902	Richard Adair, District 16 Liaison Telephone: (419) 774-6205 Fax: (419) 774-5685 e-mail: radair@rcrpc.org

**District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council
Scoring Methodology**

Applicant Name:	
Rating By:	
Project:	

PART I: PRELIMINARY SCREENING – Required

YES	NO	
		Applicant is eligible entity
		Complete application received by deadline

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

Check if it applies	A. Open Space (Sec. 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
	acquires land for connecting corridors for natural areas
	open space acquisition
	permanent conservation easement
	constructs or enhances facilities necessary to make open space area accessible & useable by the general public
Check if it applies	B. Riparian Corridors or Watersheds (Sec. 164.22 B)
	Protects or enhances riparian corridors or watersheds including the protection and enhancement of streams rivers and other waters of the state.

C. Would the project:

YES	NO	Factor
		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 to provide public access to or use of open space?
		Fund facilities for active recreation such as tennis courts ball fields or recreation centers?
		Funds storm water facilities as the primary purpose?
		Will the land area associated with the project be extensively maintained and managed

District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council
Scoring Methodology

YES	NO	Factor
		by other than natural means, forces or processes?
		Is the project determined to be an unacceptable use of Clean Ohio Conservation Funds by the District 16 NRAC? <i>Eight (8) NRAC members must affirm that the application is an unacceptable use of Clean Ohio Funds. (Factors to be considered may include, but are not limited to any of the following: an unjustified cost per acre, poor location, or non-existent claimed benefits such as the presence of wetlands that is not supported by documentation).</i>
		If Yes to any of the above in C , the project is ineligible (Section 164.22, ORC).

If the project meets Preliminary Scoring Requirements move on to Part II.

Part II --Required: 58 points The District 16 NRAC shall consider all the following in approving or disapproving a grant: Does the project emphasize the following pursuant to Section 164.22, ORC? Possible points for each noted. Please refer to Glossary of Terms. To receive points, information must be documented in application.

Item	Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
1		protects habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species as defined by the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves or the Ohio Division of Wildlife.	(2 points)	
2		increases habitat protection for a variety of native species	(2 points)	
3		reduces or eliminates nonnative, invasive species of plants or animals	(2 points)	
4		preserves high quality, viable habitat for plant or animal species	(2 points)	
5		restores and preserves aquatic biological communities	(2 points)	
6		preserves headwater streams	(2 points)	
7		preserves or restores functioning floodplains	(2 points)	
8		preserves or restores water quality	(2 points)	
9		preserves or restores natural stream channels	(2 points)	
10		preserves or restores streamside forests	(2 points)	
11		preserves existing high quality wetlands or restores wetlands	(2 points)	
12		preserves or restores other natural features that contribute to quality of life and state's natural heritage	(3 points)	
13		fee simple acquisition of lands to provide access to riparian corridors	(3 points)	
14		acquisition of easements protecting and enhancing riparian corridors or watersheds	(2 points)	
15		reforests land to improve water quality	(2 points)	
16		plants native vegetation for filtration to improve water quality	(2 points)	
17		incorporates aesthetically pleasing and ecologically informed design including sensitivity to the terrain, natural resources and heritage of the property	(3 points)	
18		enhances environmental & conservation educational	(3 points)	

**District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council
Scoring Methodology**

Item	Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
		opportunities or provides physical links to schools and after school centers <i>(3 points)</i>		
19		includes pedestrian/bicycle linkages to other open space preserves and population centers	<i>(3 points)</i>	
20		supports comprehensive open space planning	<i>(2 points)</i>	
21		provides multiple recreational, economic and aesthetic preservation benefits	<i>(3 points)</i>	
22		allows proper management of areas where safe fishing, hunting and trapping may take place in a manner that will preserve balanced natural ecosystems	<i>(3 points)</i>	
23		enhances economic development that relies on recreation and ecotourism in areas of relatively high unemployment	<i>(3 points)</i>	
24		protects rare Ohio biological communities, such as prairies, bogs, fens or savannahs.	<i>(2 points)</i>	
25		one of the above checked items was previously adopted as a priority for NRAC District 16 (District 16 has adopted as its initial priority projects that protect habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species)	<i>(2 points)</i>	

Part II SCORE:	
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Part III-- Required: 32 points maximum

The District 16 NRAC shall consider the following in approving or disapproving a grant:

1. Percentage of Clean Ohio matching funds necessary to complete project:

Score	Match	Points
	75%	<i>(required)</i>
	74-69%	<i>(2 points)</i>
	68-63%	<i>(4 points)</i>
	62-57%	<i>(6 points)</i>
	56-51%	<i>(8 points)</i>
	50% or less	<i>(10 points)</i>

2. Level of coordination: Coordination means project carries out goals of multiple agencies, organizations. A letter is required from each agency or organization explaining how project carries out their goal. (1 point potential for each category, 5 points maximum)

**District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council
Scoring Methodology**

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	local political subdivisions	(1 point)	
	state agencies	(1 point)	
	federal agencies	(1 point)	
	community organizations	(1 point)	
	conservation organizations	(1 point)	

3. **Level of conservation coordination** with other Open Space, Riparian Corridor, Trails, Farmland Protection or Urban Revitalization Projects under the Clean Ohio Fund in other Public Works Commission districts. *Documentation required supporting any award points.*

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	is a joint project	(1 point)	
	carries out an adopted community, watershed or other plan overlapping another district	(2 points)	

4. **Community benefits:** Relative economic, social/recreational and environmental benefits the proposed project will bring to the geographical area represented by the NRAC as compared to other projects.

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	economic	(1 point)	
	social/recreational	(1 point)	
	environmental	(1 point)	

5. **Extent of public access** once project is completed:

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	open days and weekends	(5 points)	
	open limited, but regular hours	(3 points)	
	open by appointment or with written permission	(1 point)	

6. **Operation and Maintenance** once project is completed

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
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**District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council
Scoring Methodology**

			Reference
	operation plan and infrastructure, if appropriate, in place	(5 points)	
	operation plan, no infrastructure	(3 points)	
	limited operation plan, volunteers available, no infrastructure	(1 point)	

7. Project Management Experience of similar or related projects.

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	Applicant has successfully completed 1-2 similar project in the last 5 years	(1 point)	

Part III Score	
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Part IV -- Other Factors 35 point maximum

The NRAC may adopt additional criteria which reflects local priorities as long as the criteria compliment and does not negate Parts I-III which carry out ORC Sec. 164.20-164.27.

1. Community Planning: Project is in concert with publicly adopted regional, community plan or watershed plan. *Documentation is required to support any award of points.*

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	project would be consistent with plan	(1 point)	

2. Regional Significance: What is the regional significance of the proposed project? *Documentation is required to support any award of points*

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	project will benefit a multi-county area Minimum documentation -letter from County Commissioners from two (2) counties	(2 points)	
	project will benefit primarily one county within the NRAC Minimum documentation -letter from County Commissioners	(1.5 points)	
	project benefits multiple local political subdivisions within one county Minimum documentation -letter from two (2) political subdivisions	(1 points)	

**District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council
Scoring Methodology**

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	project benefits single political subdivision within one county	<i>(.5 points)</i>	

3. **Natural Resource Viability:** How important is the project to the viability of the natural resources affected by the project?

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	protects a globally endangered species or biological community,	<i>(3 points)</i>	
	protects more than 5 state Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) endangered species,	<i>(2.5 points)</i>	

4. **Readiness to Proceed - Acquisition**

Contract with the owner and evidence from seller that closing will take place within

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	within 1 year,	<i>(1 points)</i>	

5. **Readiness to Proceed – Open space related facilities construction**

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	construction to begin in less than 1 year	<i>(1 points)</i>	

6. **Other Project Factors**

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	Land acquisition includes all mineral rights	<i>(1 point)</i>	

7. **Other Project Factors**

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference

District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council Scoring Methodology

	Project addresses a significant situation where action must be taken now or opportunity will be lost forever <i>Documentation required to support any award of points.</i>	<i>(1 point)</i>	
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8. Amount of NRAC Funding Requested:

Score	Amount	Points
	\$300,001 or more	0
	\$250,001 - \$300,000	2
	\$200,001 - \$250,000	4
	\$150,001 - \$200,000	6
	\$100,001 - \$150,000	8
	Less than \$100,000	10

9. Other Factors Relative to Project

Score	Factor	Possible Points	Applicant's Page Reference
	Applicant may attach a brief, concise narrative supporting the project for use by the District 16 NRAC members in assigning additional points for factors relevant to the project.	<i>(0 to 15 points)</i>	

Part IV Score	
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Minimum Total Project Scoring

Proposed projects that do not obtain an average minimal score from committee members of at least 28.8 points will only be funded in full or part upon, upon a majority vote of committee members, and will be contingent upon funding availability.

Scoring Summary	Maximum Possible Points
Part II Score	58
Part III Score	32
Part IV Score	35

**District 16 Natural Resources Assistance Council
Scoring Methodology**

Total Score		125
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Ranking among all projects_____

Reviewers Signature

Date