

The Knox County Regional Planning Commission
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January 15, 2026

The regular meeting of the Knox County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) was held on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. in the basement dining room of the Memorial Theater at 112 E. High St., Mount Vernon, OH.

Chairman Roger Yarman called the meeting to order. Darrel Severns, Secretary for the Commission, called the roll.

The following voting representatives were present:

Steve Bratton	Brown Township	Alan Doup	Morgan Township
Joe Fritz	Brown Township	Brian Frazier	Morris Township
Crista Ciotola	Butler Township	Brayden Freeman	Pike Township
Roger Yarman	College Township	Jim Hughes	Pleasant Township
Bob Elliott	Harrison Township	Juston Streby	Wayne Township
Jason Rogers	Hilliar Township	Jeff Furay*	Danville
Greg Lawson*	Howard Township	Ray Brewer	Fredericktown
Monica Severns	Jefferson Township	Andy Fox	Fredericktown
Marta Hill	Liberty Township	Leeman Kessler	Gambier
Kris Caldwell	Milford Township	Drenda Keese	Commissioner
Dave Marietta	Monroe Township		

Others present:

Darrel Severns	Knox RPC	Landon Magers	KPH
Rob Clendening	KSWCD	Cheryl Splain	Knox Pages
Kyle Shackle	KPH	Chase Cochran*	Milford Township
Lee Meyers	Guest: Danville		

**Alternate*

A quorum was present with 21 voting representatives.

Approval of Minutes – Roger Yarman

Ms. Severns moved to approve the December 2025 minutes. Ms. Ciotola seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Financial Report – Marta Hill

Ms. Hill presented the Financial Report for December 2025. The expenses were \$6,713.78. Income for the month was \$9,408.50. The month began with \$101,115.38 and ended with \$103,810.10.

Mr. Bratton moved to approve the December 2025 financial report as presented. Mr. Brewer seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with a unanimous aye vote. Motion carried.

Old Business

Null

New Business

Executive Committee Report – Roger Yarman

Null

Secretary's Report —Darrel Severns

Mr. Severns stated that during the Orientation meeting he covered the Subdivision Regulations update. We are getting close to getting it out to you. There are going to be substantial changes in the looks of it, not necessarily in the function of it. There are some additions and quite a few subtractions as we weeded some things out that were not relevant, making it more user friendly. Hopefully, you will have feedback on what is going to be presented to you soon. The goal is to have it to you by early February, hoping for a completion by spring. The Land Use Committee will be the first to get it and do their review and then make a recommendation to RPC. There will be public hearings before a recommendation will be given to the County Commissioners. The overall goal for the update was to make it more user friendly and to take out the conflicting information between the chapters and make it more consistent throughout. The last time it had a major update was in 2006, with portions of the document having been revised over the last several years. This is more of a rework than a revision. The minor subdivision regulations you probably won't notice a lot of changes, but in the major subdivision regulations there were some revisions making it more consistent with the language and design standards. It was mostly technical. It will be structured more like the Comprehensive Plan Update making it more useable.

Nominating Committee – Steve Bratton

Greg Lawson, Steve Bratton and Monica Severns are on the Nominating Committee for 2026. We have a possible Chairman and Treasurer. We are looking for someone to be the Vice Chairman. If interested, let us know. We want to get to the point that these positions aren't lifelong. Even though it doesn't say it in the bylaws, we would like to see these positions rotate either every year or every couple of years.

Land Use – Steve Bratton

Null

Social Improvement and Economic Development Committee – Darrel Severns

Null

Education and Outreach Committee – Darrel Severns

Null

Transportation Committee – Jim Hughes

Null

Knox County Commissioner – Drenda Keesee

We are in the process of vacating Bat Nest Road in Butler Township. We have received about 300 folks opposing it being vacated. We just had a hearing, and we were going to vote yesterday but we did not. The discussion yesterday in the Commissioners' meeting was that if we vacated Bat Nest Road there would be a portion of the road that will not be vacated and there would not be a cut through. It has been this way since the 1800s. There is a new owner that wants it vacated, to his point of view, people leave trash and do things that are not good. Law enforcement could write things up and could hinder and stop this. They want to delay the vote and look at Butler and see if they want to vacate it or not. The Muskingum Watershed is there and Coshocton as well. There is one letter to vacate it and almost 300 opposing it. If you are local, your voice matters too. The question is where will Butler stand on this? The landowner wants it vacated.

Knox Public Health – Landon Magers

Null

Knox Area Development (ADF) – Sam Filkins

Null

Knox Soil and Water Report – Rob Clendening

In December, the Commissioners had the hearing for permanent assessments fees review for the North Branch Ford Ditch in Hilliar Township for maintenance. It did raise the permanent assessment fees based on that hearing. It does

allow us to have a higher maintenance fund. The KSWCD board member, Jeremiah Fowler, starts this month. We are getting ready to start a project for One Way Construction and Conservation Practice in Installation in 2026.

County, City and Village Reports

Brinkhaven/Gann – Christopher Wyant

Null

Centerburg – Daniel Hardwick

Null

Danville – Jeff Furay

Null

Fredericktown – Ray Brewer

All quiet in Fredericktown

Gambier – Elizabeth Bonaudi

Null

Martinsburg – Robert Collins

Null

Speaker –

Null

Others from the floor

Mr. Severns stated there were 13 townships and One (1) village that have sent in their resolutions and dues. Resolutions and dues are due by March 1st. Planning activities for 2026 promises to be a fairly busy year with reviewing the proposed revisions of the Subdivision Regulations, public hearings, and recommendations for adoption by the County Commissioners. There are also some major subdivision projects in the future.

Ms. Hill moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next meeting of the Knox County Regional Planning Commission will be February 19, 2026 in the Knox County Service Center 117 E. High St., Suite 161, Mount Vernon, OH at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Darrel Severns
Executive Secretary

Attachments: