MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT 19
PUBLIC WORKS INTEGRATING COMMITTEE
June 16, 2026

VOTING MEMBERS:
Keith Bennett, Stark County Commissioners
John Highman, City of Canton
Chris Barnes, City of Canton
Brant Luther, Stark County Commissioners
Alex Pitts, City of Massillon
Mike Miller, Village of Brewster
Tim Regula, Sugarcreek Twp
Bob Sanderson, Private Sector

RPC STAFF
Dan Slicker
Bob Nau
Susan Nason
David Spielman
Spencer Gibbs

OTHERS
Brian Cole, SCEO
Patti Willoughby, Village of Minerva
Brent Burrier, Canton Water
Dylan Peoples, Canton Water
Rob Graham, City of North Canton
Vince Mueser, City of Alliance
Tyler Converse, Canton Water
Darrell Stineman, City of Louisville

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

    a. Bennett called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
    b. There was a quorum.

2. Consideration of Minutes of November 13, 2025

Miller moved, Pitts seconded, and the motion carried to approve the minutes of November 13, 2025.

3. Discussion and Vote on FY 2028 (Round 41) Schedule

Slicker stated the basic layout is the same as it was last year. July 1, 2026 is when the application will be made available to all political subdivisions in Stark County. Applications will be due October 9, 2026. Approval of FY 2027 projects to be submitted to OPWC will be November 12, 2026. April 1, 2027 will be a meeting if there needs to be a change of scope on any project. The kick-off for FY 2029 will be June 17, 2027.

Miller moved, Luther seconded, and the motion carried to approve the schedule.

4. Discussion and vote on FY 2028 (Round 41) Work Plan

Slicker stated this is the same work plan that was submitted last year. It describes duties of our staff and no changes have been made other than the dates at the top.

Highman moved, Sanderson seconded, and the motion carried to approve the work plan.

5. Discussion and vote on FY 2028 (Round 41) Administrative Budget

Slicker stated the bottom line is we can spend up to $65,000 on our labor and copies, postage, parking, travel, etc. Typically we don't come near to spending all that money but it's in the budget just in case we need it.

Miller moved, Barnes seconded, and the motion carried to approve the Administrative Budget.

6. Discussion and vote on FY 2028 (Round 41) Project Ranking Methodology

Slicker stated there were no requests for any changes but if anyone wants to make a change to the scoring system now is the time to do it. Bennett stated it's been there to change since last year and includes the scoring criteria for both the LTIP as well as the SCIP. Slicker stated the small government is a statewide scoring system so we do not have the ability to change that.

Luther moved, Highman seconded, and the motion carried to approve the Project Ranking Methodology.

7. Reappointment of District 19 NRAC Committee Members

Slicker stated there are three members with terms expiring. Tony Peldunas is to be reappointed for the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. Brenda Griffith represents Osnaburg Township and Jessica Evans will be replacing Dan Kuntz who retired. She is the new program administrator for the Stark Soil and Water Conservation District. All three terms will expire in October of 2029.

Sanderson moved, Pitts seconded, and the motion carried to approve the reappointment of District 19 committee members, Tony Peldunas, Brenda Griffith and Jessica Evans.

8. Other Business

Slicker stated there are some changes to the alternates for the OPWC roster. Brian Cole is the new alternate for Keith Bennett. Darrell Stineman is the new alternate for Alex Pitts and Greg Mytinger is the new alternate for Mike Miller. Those were all voted on by the county cities and villages.

A handout was distributed showing fund allocation across municipal corporations, counties, and townships. Township spending is lagging, with approximately $203,000 remaining to allocate over the next two years. Members are asked to encourage township representatives, particularly from smaller townships, to submit project applications.

Discussion followed on whether townships statewide met the $10 million annual set-aside from the previous funding round. One member believed all submitted projects were funded, but that the total may have come in under $10 million

Bennett stated there is some virtual training coming up and those dates will be sent out to the townships, municipalities, counties, and cities. A loan recipient virtual training is scheduled for July 11th, with additional sessions conducted via Microsoft Teams as follows: "How to Apply for OPWC Infrastructure Funding" on Thursday, July 30th; "Best Practices for Submitting OPWC Disbursement Requests" on Wednesday, August 12th; and "Small Government Application Process" on Thursday, January 14, 2027.

A change for small governments this year allows districts to submit up to nine projects. Members were encouraged to maximize small government applications to improve funding chances. Township associations should be informed that smaller townships in particular are encouraged to submit projects. Chip seal projects remain ineligible for funding, though other paving/infrastructure work qualifies

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Bayer
Executive Assistant