

# **Project 46 Interim Governance Memo**

*FINAL*

## **Background**

On October 4, 2022 the Mayor of Bloomington (John Hamilton) and the Mayor of Columbus (Jim Lienhoop) hosted a Regional Climate Convening (“Convening”) between the two cities, and representatives from Bartholomew, Brown and Monroe Counties, including those from the private, nonprofit, education and government sectors. To continue the work started at the Convening, the Mayors of Bloomington and Columbus, with Nashville Town Manager Sandie Jones, launched the Project 46 Southern Indiana Regional Climate Alliance (“Alliance”) on March 24, 2023.

## **Mission of the Project 46 Alliance**

The Alliance is a regional climate alliance among the communities of Bloomington, Nashville, and Columbus that aims to identify and pursue solutions that effectively address shared challenges and opportunities related to climate change.

Project 46 has four goals:

- Track and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as communities and as a region;
- Coordinate local investments and leverage available state and federal funding opportunities, including, but not limited to, funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Acts;
- Set goals, advance initiatives, highlight successes and challenges, and promote best practices by engaging government, nonprofit, and private sector leadership; and
- Produce an annual community report to demonstrate the activities and impact of these efforts and progress towards shared goals.

Project 46 seeks to take advantage of historic levels of funding made available by the federal government to address climate change through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other federal funding opportunities. This funding will provide the means necessary to build regional resilience to climate impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by investing in large-scale regional projects such as solar energy, fleet electrification, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, regional food systems, expanded public transportation service, building weatherization, electrification and energy efficiency.

## **Membership**

Members of the Alliance benefit from coordinating around local investments and leveraging state and federal funding opportunities to build climate resilience. Membership in the Alliance has three categories: Steering Committee, Advisory Committee and General Members. Membership in the Alliance is open to public and private entities within the three County region of Brown, Monroe, and Bartholomew counties.

The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the municipal members of the Alliance. The recommended members of the Steering Committee include the following members:

- Current Members
  - City of Bloomington (municipal organization)
  - Town of Nashville (municipal organization)
  - City of Columbus (municipal organization)
- Anticipated members:
  - County of Monroe (municipal organization)
  - County of Brown (municipal organization)
  - County of Bartholomew (municipal organization)
- Ex-officio member
  - The Heritage Fund (fiscal sponsor)

Members of the Steering Committee pay dues, and participate in consent-based decision making to advance Alliance items. The fiscal sponsor is an ex-officio member and can attend Steering Committee meetings, but does not pay dues or participate in the consent-based decision making process. The Steering Committee meets on a regular basis as determined by the Steering Committee. If a member of the Steering Committee fails to attend at least 50% of the Steering Committee meetings in a one-year period, the Alliance will seek a different representative from that organization to attend meetings.

### **Advisory Committee**

Membership on the Advisory Committee is broad and can include private sector representatives, community organizations, and nonprofits. The Advisory Committee supports the Steering Committee by participating in Steering Committee meetings, and providing input on Steering Committee decisions. Advisory Committee members can participate in the consent-based decision making process by bringing proposals to the Steering Committee, asking clarifying questions, and restating the proposal. Advisory Committee members do not provide a reaction, do not respond to objections and do not ratify decisions. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to donate.

- Current Members
  - Tasus (private sector representative)
  - Cummins (private sector representative)
  - Indiana University (non-profit institution)
- Anticipated Members
  - Non-profit/community-based organization/private sector member - TBD

As the Alliance grows and matures, **General Members** will be welcomed to the Alliance. General Members benefit from access to partnership opportunities, awareness about ongoing climate initiatives, supported peer learning and networking opportunities, and recognition as regional leaders in addressing climate change through both mitigation and adaptation actions.

## **Termination of Membership**

Membership of any category may be ended for any action by a member that is detrimental to the best interests of the Alliance, or for a continuing failure to support the Alliance's mission following notification of such failure and a reasonable opportunity to cure. If such termination is contemplated, not later than ten (10) days before any Steering Committee meeting at which termination will be considered, the Steering Committee notifies the member in writing of the reasons for the proposed action, and the time and place of the meeting. At the meeting, the member is entitled to be heard in their own defense. Termination requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the Steering Committee.

## **Dues Structure**

Project 46 has three membership types: Steering Committee members, Advisory Committee members, and General Members. General Membership in the Alliance has no cost, but contributions and sponsorship of Alliance activities are encouraged. Municipal Steering Committee Members contribute dues on a per capita basis at the rate of \$0.50/capita, annually. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to contribute donations via the structure outlined below. Academic or non-governmental organizations may donate via equivalent in-kind support. Advisory Committee members can participate in the consent-based decision making process by bringing proposals to the Steering Committee, asking clarifying questions, and restating the proposal.

### **Steering Committee**

- Municipal organization: \$0.50 per capita annually

### **Advisory Committee**

- For profit entities with revenues
  - Over \$1 million: \$10,000 annually
  - Totaling between \$250,000 to \$1 million: \$5,000 annually
  - Less than \$250,000: \$1,000 annually
- Academic or non-governmental organizations: \$1,000 or equivalent amount of in-kind support annually.
  - In-kind support includes, but is not limited to: full time equivalent staff time, technical assistance, research, data, use of facilities for meeting space and other events, and other resources

## **Decision Making**

Alliance members make decisions regarding what grant opportunities to pursue, what are the project priorities, the formation of subcommittees, as well as decisions related to the future membership/leadership of the Alliance as it evolves. The Steering Committee receives recommendations from both the Advisory Committee and subcommittees, and has final approval over Alliance decisions. The Steering Committee uses consent-based decision making, except when terminating membership. In consent-based decision making, decisions

move forward in the absence of objections. Each member evaluates a decision, asks clarifying questions, and if they do not have any objections (based on the risk of making a certain decision to the Alliance) the decision will move forward.

The Advisory Committee attends Steering Committee meetings to provide input on projects, funding opportunities, subcommittee recommendations, and other Alliance business.

## **Leadership**

The Alliance will have a Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be nominated by the Steering Committee and Advisory Committee members. The Steering Committee votes to approve the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair will serve a staggered term, with the Chair serving a one-year term and Vice-Chair serving a two year term. Until the Alliance establishes a long-term governance structure and is able to hire dedicated staff, the City of Bloomington staff and Farallon Strategies will support the scheduling of meetings, will set agendas, and facilitate Steering Committee meetings.

## **Subcommittees**

Subcommittees will make recommendations to the Steering Committee. Each subcommittee will have a liaison responsible for developing the agenda and meeting materials for the subcommittee meeting. Deliverables, such as project proposals, grant applications, and memos created in the subcommittee meeting will require final approval from the Steering Committee to be considered formally adopted by the Alliance. All members, and even non-members, can participate on the subcommittees, although non-members (individuals and organizations) require approval from the Steering Committee before they can participate on subcommittees. Members (Steering Committee, Advisory Committee and General Members) can participate without needing approval from the Steering Committee.

Subcommittees can be topic or project focused. Examples of initial subcommittees can include:

- Funding Prioritization Subcommittee
  - Supports the prioritization of projects for funding by the Alliance.
  - Works closely with the Farallon Strategies team to identify top priorities based on a review of existing municipal documents and the outcomes of the regional GHG emissions inventory and action plan.
- Community Engagement/Equity Advisory Subcommittee
  - Supports activities of the Alliance as they relate to non-profits and community-based organizations.
  - Orients the Alliance towards centering equity in climate resilience planning with input from the community.
- Interim Governance Document Subcommittee
  - Makes recommendations for the Steering Committee on interim governance for the Alliance
- Renewable Energy Subcommittee

- Supports activities of the Alliance related to greenhouse gas emissions reductions and renewable energy