Ohio Sunset Review Committee
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Waterways Safety Council -- ORC 1547.73

Point of Contact Erik Mikkelson, ODNR Legislative Liaison

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Waterways Safety Council was established by law in 1973 to advise and make recommendations to ODNR's Chief of the Division of Watercraft concerning: plans and programs from construction, maintenance, repair, and operation of refuge harbors and other projects for the harboring, mooring, docking, and storing of light draft vessels; methods of coordinating the shore erosion projects of ODNR with the refuge of light draft vessel harbor projects; plans and programs for the acquisition, protection, construction, maintenance, and administration of wild river areas, scenic river areas, and recreational river areas; and consider and make recommendations upon any other matter which is brought to its attention by any person or that the Chief may submit to it.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

Two staff members from ODNR's Division of Watercraft are utilized to facilitate the Council. However, other Division of Watercraft staff may attend Council meetings to provide program updates if the meeting is held locally. All of these staff members attend to Council responsibilities in addition to their regular duties.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

Per ORC, Council members are eligible for reimbursement of necessary expenses related to their work on the Council. Past year expenditures, which covered mileage reimbursements, totaled $2387.34. Reimbursements are allocated out of Fund 7086, which is the waterways safety fund line item.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

The Council consists of five members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Not more than three of such appointees shall belong to the same political party. To be eligible for appointment, a person needs to be a citizen of the United States and an elector of the state and possess a knowledge of and have an interest in small boat operations.

The Council must hold at least four meetings annually. The Council shall choose annually from among its members a chairperson to preside over its meetings. Additionally, the Chief of the Division of Watercraft acts as Secretary to the Council.

Members receive no compensation for their work on the Council; only reimbursements for actual and necessary expenses.

Additional notes

ODNR values the work of the Council, but feels that the same level of input can be offered to the Department through a less formalized and bureaucratic process. Therefore, ODNR recommends that the Council be sunset by the Sunset Review Committee. We are committed to maintaining the same level of communication and engagement between the Department and these valuable stakeholders, but in a more efficient manner.