**RESOLUTION 19-12**

Introduced by Steve Keys

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE BIG WALNUT WATERSHED BALANCED GROWTH PLAN**

WHEREAS, a portion of the Big Walnut Watershed is located within the boundaries of [name of jurisdiction]; and

WHEREAS, MORPC formed a Watershed Planning Partnership (WPP) of jurisdictions with planning authority within the Big Walnut Watershed, including [Name of Jurisdiction], and the WPP then worked collaboratively to seek broad public input and develop a balanced growth plan for the Big Walnut Watershed based on that input; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan identifies Priority Conservation Areas within the Big Walnut Watershed to protect critically important ecological, recreational, agricultural, heritage, public access, and other areas, the preservation of which would enhance the quality of life of the citizens of [name of jurisdiction]; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan also identifies Priority Development Areas within the Big Walnut Watershed, which are areas in which growth or redevelopment should especially be promoted and through which the economy of the region encompassed by the Big Walnut Watershed will be enhanced; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan also identifies Priority Agricultural Areas within the Big Walnut Watershed, which areas are critical to the regional food system and therefore should be protected to conserve valuable farm land, while also protecting  surface and ground waters; and

WHEREAS, the balanced growth plan also identifies a variety of recommended tools and programs through which Priority Conservation Areas can be protected and enhanced and Priority Agricultural Areas can be preserved for agricultural use while sustainable development can be driven to Priority Development Areas; and

WHEREAS, while the final balanced growth plan contains recommendations only, and does not impose any mandatory requirements or limitations on [name of jurisdiction], its effectiveness in influencing future growth and development in the Walnut Creek Watershed will depend on attempting to implement those recommendations;

WHEREAS, while the balanced growth plan does not impose any mandatory requirements or limitations on [name of jurisdiction], its effectiveness in influencing future growth and development in the Big Walnut Watershed will benefit from the continuing participation of the jurisdictions with planning authority within the Big Walnut Watershed in the Watershed Planning Partnership.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE [NAME OF LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE JURISDICTION]:

SECTION 1: [Name of Jurisdiction] supports the balanced growth plan and designated priority areas for the Big Walnut Watershed and shall make best faith efforts to implement applicable recommendations of the balanced growth plan in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and the wishes of its own citizens.

SECTION 2: [name of jurisdiction] shall continue to participate in the work of Big Walnut Watershed Planning Partnership.

Passed: , 2012

 Rick Weber, President of Council

Attest:

 Clerk of Council

 Approved: , 2012

 Ben Kessler, Mayor

First Reading 10-23-12

Second Reading 11-13-12