

**Ohio Soil Water Conservation Commission**  
**November 8, 2012 – ODNR Assembly Center**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Welcome/Call to Order (9:32am)**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call-Commission Members Present**

Chairman Tom Price

Bill Knapke

Kevin Elder

Fred Cash

Ron Henrick

Etta Reed

Kent Stuckey

Additional Attendees: Karl Gebhardt, Fred Hammon, Mike Bailey, Ted Lozier, Rob Hamilton, Jeff Ankney, Tina Ray, Jill Evans, ODNR-DSWR; Terry Crosby, NRCS; Mindy Bankey, Kris Swartz, OFSWCD; Ryan Smith, OASWCDE; and Dan Donaldson, Lake SWCD.

**Welcome/Call to Order**

Chairman Price called the meeting to order and asked Vice Chairman Cash to lead today's meeting.

Vice-Chairman Cash asked if there were any additions or changes to agenda, hearing none Ron Henrick moved to approve the agenda, Tom Price seconded. Motion passed.

Chairman Cash asked if there were any additions or changes to July minutes, hearing none Kevin Elder moved to approve the minutes, Tom Price seconded. Motion passed.

Commission Member Comments

Ken Stuckey reported that he met with Karl Gebhardt and Mike Bailey from ODNR to discuss budget issues. He deferred OFSWCD report to Mindy and stated that the Directors Board meeting has been rescheduled.

Etta Reed reported that she met with representatives from OEPA about urban construction permits issues and to change the language in the permit.

Ron Henrick reported that the new Dean of the College of Agri and Natural Resources is Dr. Bruce McFerrin who is a twenty year veteran from Penn State University.

Tom Price no report.

Cash reported that he met on October 25 with representatives from NRCS, the Federation and Karl Gebhardt and had good discussions about the task force report. They prioritized suggestions. Cash shared his newest venture as a property owner in Youngstown and will do organic farming. He personally thanked Terry Crosby and the local NRCS office for being helpful with his new Hoop House on his farm.

Kevin Elder deferred.

Bill Knapke reported that he attended the Mercer SWCD banquet and participated in the partnership driving tour which was held on October 9. The emphasis of the banquet and tours were on GLSM. He reported that they had kids activities on dairy farm and lake specific activities. Mercer is considering this as an annual event (see handouts).

Executive Secretary Report

The Commission acted on a board appointment:

Adam SWCD: Mark Ross farms to replace Kyler Rouch. Moved: Stuckey; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Henrick.

Recognition of Guests

Secretary Gebhardt introduced Mike Bailey, Deputy Chief of Soil and Water Resource, to his first Commission meeting. Mr. Bailey comes to ODNR-DSWC from ODA, serves as a

captain in the Army reserves and brings to the ODNR, DSWR a working knowledge of Agriculture which will be helpful in Nutrient Management and working with the SWCDs. Hammon introduced Jeff Ankney, a newly hired Program Specialist for Area 1. Ankney was the District Administrator for 15 years in the Defiance SWCD and has much experience working with districts, and petition ditch projects.

Mindy Bankey mentioned that Kris Swartz, Wood County board member and OFSWCD secretary/treasurer, will be the new Vice President of OFSWCD and will replace Kent Stuckey on the Commission.

### Old Business

Hammon updated the Commission on the Lake Erie Central Basin Joint Board request. He informed the Commission that the group had withdrawn their request to form a joint board but would like to still apply for a tool box grant.

Chairman Cash asked if there were any additions or changes needed to approve the Tool Box Grant from Cuyahoga SWCD/Central Basin SWCDs, Elder moved to approve, Reed seconded, and motion passed. Cash abstained.

### New Business

#### Task Force Committee Report

Hammon explained the work group wants to prioritize the different activities of the Task Force Committee and focus on the following areas:

- Develop language in 1515 that allows districts to redraw their boundaries
- Draft language that clarifies joint boards, authority
- Make language changes to the SB160 section stating it would take a no vote by the joint board county commissioners involved to stop a project.
- Change election language authorizing residents only can vote in supervisor elections. This was not a task force recommendation, but a past policy decision of the Commission.

#### SFY 2014/2015 Budget Update

Jill reported that September receipts were up by \$600,000 in the scrap tire fund. August's drop was small. Gebhardt said that revenues are looking good and to play the defensive. Hammon stated that revenue distribution is more frequent than in years past and that Evans was able to distribute the GRF funds in the first half of the SFY and districts received ½ of the GRF in their August and ½ in November.

#### Logan SWCD Letter

The Commission received a letter from the Logan SWCD board asking questions about board member liabilities for unemployment benefits. Hammon presented a draft response for the Commission to review. Elder wanted to know if there was a separate account where districts set aside funds for unemployment. Hammon said districts have the ability to set aside funds in the special or district fund. Price wondered if districts could put these funds into escrow account so funds do not show in cash funds accounts. Hammon said that they have the ability to do that with capital expenses, but is not done very often. Hammon stated that the division and auditor's office updated the cash basis report a couple of years ago, to require districts to list their liabilities. The response letter to Logan explains all the safeguards the division and Commission has put in place over the past few years to protect board members from possible personal liabilities. (See Attachment)

Motion to accept changes to Logan Letter by Ron Henrick; seconded by Etta Reed. Motion amended by Price to CC copies to all Districts. Reed said that Butler SWCD tracks liabilities every month. Hammon said that the division could provide a report for 2012 liabilities at the April meeting. Elder wanted to know what prompted Logan to raise issue? Hammon did not know.

#### Nutrient Outreach and Education Grant Reports

Hammon said that six NOE Grants were approved. Roll out for this program was completed done through the use of webinars. Hammon also presented the recommendation for the mini-education grants in the amount of \$27,000. The Division recommended using approximately \$8000 from the NOE funds to fund all the mini grants. The division will work with three of the applicant to improve their applications to better meet the grant guidelines and goals. Hammon also recommended that we put on one more push for NOE grants, with a deadline of January 15, 2013.

Stuckey made a motion to fund education grants, make cut-off date for NOE grants for January 15, 2012 and all funds not used are to be put into match.

Seconded by Fred Cash.

#### SWCD Election/Petition Candidate Situation

Hammon stated the division was working with a district where a person filed a petition to run for the board, and that this person has been banned from entering the USDA Service Center. Hammon said O.R.C. 1515 has little language if no language addressing this issue. Price asked if legal department was aware. Gebhardt said yes. Elder asked if county prosecutor was aware. Hammon said yes. Stuckey wanted to know if the District was trying to make contact. Gebhardt said that legal said we can't keep him off ballot. After the election there may be other ways to handle the situation. Cash suggested monitoring the situation closely. Hammon said that there would be a second person to help with election and the county sheriff at the voting site.

Cash entertained meeting dates and a change in meeting time from 9:00am to 10:00am due to the two hours commute from NE/NW Ohio to Columbus. The 2013 meeting dates are as follows: January 23, April 17, July 9-10 and November 13. All meeting will start at 10:00am at ODNR; Assembly Conference Room except for the July 9-10 meeting is TBD. Gebhardt suggested meeting in April for two-days instead of the two days in July. Ryan bided for SW Ohio to see floating wetlands, CRPs, cover crops, and BMPs in urban areas.

#### Agency Reports

SWCD: Dan Donaldson reported on the tool box grant and joint board activities in Lake SWCD.

OSU: None

NRCS: Terry Cosby reported that for the EQIP program and finding marijuana fields in southern region of state. New hire of Roderick (Rod) Kuykendall for the Area 4 area conservationist. Rod has 15 years' experience as a District Conservationist in Illinois. NRCS is conducting a work load analysis. Travel is on hold until the first of the year. Sharing computers will not happen without farm bill. USDA score card (performance based) 99% completion rate, accomplished through help from partners. A lawsuit was filed for Hispanic and women farmers.

Check local listing of the Dusk Bowl documentary on PBS this weekend, very good production. Cosby thanked Cash for and Cuyahoga SWCD on assisting with Hoop House practices through EQUIP, other cities including Cincinnati, Columbus and Toledo are now zoned for Ag and can participate. Cash wanted to personally thanked Al Norwood from NRCS for assisting him with his new Hoop House.

FSA: None

ODA: Kevin Elder stated that OEPA (Dan Dudley) had a conference call with ODA, DNR, & OEPA about the practices and goals of WLEB, livestock permitting, farm bill, and new permits.

Price asked if USDA was promoting composing. Cosby said he is looking into that and that will be a growing business.

ODNR:

Gebhardt said that five counties in northwest Ohio has signed up over 18,000 acres for cover crops and controlled structures covering 24,000 acres.

Hammon stated that Ed Crawford is doing a great job promoting nutrient management in the WLEB. Gebhardt reminded the Commission of the December 15 deadline in the GLSM watershed. To date 150 are already under the nutrient plan, 12 farmers are not in compliances. Terry Cosby stated great effort has occurred with staff and cash resources in the area. As far as complaints are concerned Gebhardt said we had a good year compared to last two years. 18 complaints, three are corrective action. Other things we are working on, Omnibuses bill, we are looking at that, Ag Pollution Abatement, oil and Gas, small livestock, grazing interest.

Price asked about lawsuit with DNR? Elder said this is a topic for Annual meeting. Hammon said yes.

Gebhardt said 34 audits in progress (Adam/Muskingum) financial and procedural.

OFSWCD: Mindy Bankey reported that OFSWCD is gearing up for the Area Winter meetings in December, Annual meeting in February, NACD Regional meeting in San Antonio in March and summer meeting in Area 1 in July. OFSWCD is wrapping up the 4R program with literature for breakfast meetings, Backyard Conservation. In February a new President Joe Glassmeyer and Kris Swartz, new VP will be sworn in at the Annual Meeting.

OASWCDE: Ryan Smith reported that changes in membership from two to one year will be offered in 2013.

Hammon reported on levies that failed in Williams and Noble.

Adjourn

Chairman Cash requested a motion to adjourn at 11:45am. Moved: Seconded by Hendrick.

Motion Passed.