

Final

**Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission
July 9, 2014 – Western Reserve Room
The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-lake ~ 4888 North Broadway
Geneva-on-the-Lake, OH 44041**

Meeting Summary

9:04 am - Meeting was called to order by Chairman Price.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE was recited by all in attendance.

ROLL CALL

Commission members present by call of the roll by OSWCC Executive Secretary, Michael Bailey, Chief, ODNR/DSWR:

Chairman Tom Price - yes

Etta Reed - yes

Scott Shearer, OSU - yes

Larry Vance, OFSWCD - yes

Kevin Elder, ODA - yes

Bill Knapke -yes

Fred Cash – yes

WELCOMING COMMENTS FROM ASHTABULA COUNTY

Chairman Price introduced Ashtabula County Commissioner Joe Moroski. Commissioner Moroski welcomed the OSWCC to the county for the meeting and tour. In his comments he provided an overview of Ashtabula county natural history and geology and brought to the attention of the group that the Lodge was now 10 years old and the result of a beneficial partnership between ODNR the Ashtabula County Commission.

FSA AGENCY REPORT

Next, Chairman Price introduced Steve Maurer, State Executive Director for the Ohio Farm Service Agency who provided the agency update. Among the topics discussed by Mr. Maurer was the thriving Viticulture industry in Ashtabula county and innovative Miscanthus biomass initiative in partnership with USDA/NRCS and Aloterra Energy based in Conneaut. Mr. Maurer also noted the mid contract management of CREP allowing for switching out switch grass for Miscanthus.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Price called for a motion to approve the meeting's agenda. Motion made by Mr. Knapke, 2nd by Ms. Reed. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 19, 2014 MINUTES

Chairman Price called for a motion to approve the April 19, 2014 OSWCC meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Mr. Elder; 2nd by Mr. Cash. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.

OSWCC MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Shearer noted he would make his remarks under agency reports

Mr. Cash offered thanks to ODNR Program Specialist Dorothy Farris for her planning and implementation of the July meeting events including the Tuesday tour, reception and Wednesday meeting. He also expressed his appreciation of the great talk by Commissioner Moroski.

Chairman Price had nothing to report.

Mr. Vance had nothing to report

Ms. Reed noted her comments would be made under the OSWCC Match Task Force Report.

Mr. Elder noted his comments would be made both under the OSWCC Match Task Force Report and agency reports.

Mr. Knapke acknowledged his continued work on the Ohio EPA Technical Advisory Group for Nutrient Water Quality Standards. He also mentioned a recent Paulding County Community Meeting regarding livestock environmental impacts and the well-received presentation by ODNR Resource Management Specialist Jocelyn Henderson explaining the ODNR/DSWR Pollution Abatement Rules. Mr. Knapke also participated in a Grand Lake St. Mary (GLSM) restoration meeting and indicated that more treatment via wetlands was likely. He also explained that there continues to be a lot of activity at GLSM; high levels of HAB in water samples continue, but general contact is not a concern.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS AND GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.

There were no general comments. Guests included:

Michelle Lohstroh, NRCS

Shelly Covert, Mahoning SWCD

Kathi Vrable-Bryan, Mahoning SWCD

Carmella Shale, Geauga SWCD

Brian Prunty, Summit SWCD

James Welker, Ashtabula SWCD

Dan Donaldson, Lake SWCD

Jennifer Fish, Franklin SWCD

Nathan Paskey, Ashtabula SWCD

Joe Moroski, Ashtabula County Commissioner

Rick Wilson, Ohio EPA

Steve Maurer, USDA-Farm Service Agency

Joe Logan, Ohio Farmer's Union

Mindy Bankey, CEO, OFSWCD

Lisa Syx, Fiscal Specialist, ODNR/DSWR

Dorothy Farris, Program Specialist, ODNR/DSWR

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Chief Bailey addressed the following:

1. Legislative Report:

SB 150 has been signed by Governor Kasich and noted the changes in OSWCC membership effective by November's OSWCC meeting. There will be two additional members to be appointed by the governor; Membership of representatives from Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio State University will become ex-officio (non-voting) and Ohio EPA would be added as an ex-officio member as well. The additional appointments will go through the Office of the Governor.

Regarding the section of the legislation which required the Director of Natural Resources to identify unexpended Lake Erie CREP funds, ODNR is in the process of asking those applicable SWCDs to return the unexpended funds. Notices are to be sent out in July and the DSWR will refocus funds on nutrient reduction strategies in those 27 counties. Additionally, \$300,000 will continue to be made available in FY 15 for new signups, with a targeted September launch date for the new program. Program participation among SWCDs will not be mandatory, but it is hoped that all eligible SWCDs will participate. Chairman Price's inquiry for questions on this matter to Mr. Bailey yielded none.

2. OSWCC Appointments:

Chief Bailey reviewed the requests for Soil and Water Conservation District Board Member appointments from Washington SWCD, Hardin SWCD, and Butler SWCD.

a. Chairman Price asked for a motion to approve Bill Greenwood for the Washington SWCD seat expiring 2016. Ms. Reed made the motion; 2nd by Mr. Elder. No discussion. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.

b. Chairman Price asked for a motion to approve Gary Flynn for the Hardin SWCD seat expiring 2015. Mr. Vance made the motion; 2nd by Mr. Shearer. No discussion. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.

c. Chairman Price asked for a motion to approve Jim Garner for the Butler SWCD seat expiring 2014. Mr. Cash made the motion; 2nd by Mr. Knapke. During discussion Ms. Reed clarified that Mr. Garner was approved for appointment due to resignation not death of a board member. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.

3. Consider Approval of Joint Boards:

Chief Bailey reviewed the applications for joint board creation between the Preble SWCD and Montgomery SWCD.

Chairman Price asked for a motion to approve the creation of the Preble and Montgomery SWCD joint board. Mr. Elder made the motion; 2nd by Mr. Vance. During discussion Mr. Vance asked for the status of the request of the OSWCC to form a task force to address joint board concerns. Chief Bailey indicated that as soon as the OSWCC Match Task Force had completed their work, the Joint Board Task Force would be the next task force to be convened. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.

4. Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Chief Bailey introduced Michelle Lohstroh, Assistant State Conservationist, Special Projects, USDA/NRCS Ohio who provided a presentation on the newly introduced Regional Conservation Partnership Program and the opportunities for participation by Ohio. A copy of the presentation was provided to members of the OSWCC.

5. Conservation Assistance Grant Program

Chief Bailey reviewed the applications submitted for Conservation Assistance Grants by the Morgan, Noble, and Lucas SWCDs.

- a.** Morgan received a \$25,000 CAG last year and continues to receive no funding from the Morgan County Commissioners. The CAG will support 2 full time employees. Chairman Price asked for a motion to the \$25,000 Conservation Assistance Grant to the Morgan SWCD. Mr. Knapke made the motion; 2nd by Mr. Vance. No discussion. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.
- b.** Noble SWCD recently had a levy on the ballot that failed. They receive only \$20,000 for the county. Chairman Price asked for a motion to the \$25,000 Conservation Assistance Grant to the Noble SWCD. Mr. Cash made the motion; 2nd by Mr. Vance. During discussion, Mr. Cash requested that the OSWCC members be sent the plan of action for all new grantees. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.
- c.** Lucas SWCD, due to an administrative oversight, did not properly request funding and therefore was not granted funding from the city of Toledo. Chairman Price asked for a motion to the \$25,000 Conservation Assistance Grant to the Lucas SWCD. Mr. Vance made the motion; 2nd by Mr. Elder. In discussion, Mr. Vance expressed concern over the management issue with Lucas SWCD. Ms. Farris indicated the SWCD had recent turnover in administrative staff that probably contributed to the oversight. Mr. Elder indicated that the assigned Program Specialist should monitor the situation more closely. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.
- d.** Chief Bailey indicated that the Lorain application included in the meeting packet would not be considered because the request had been withdrawn. Several members questioned Ms. Farris as to the reasoning and she indicated that despite no funding from the county, the board could not commit to all the requirements of the CAG especially with regard to planning and reporting requirements. Ms. Farris indicated there was only 1 full-time staff person and the other part-time staff hours did not equal a FTE. Several members indicated there should be more discussion on the Lorain situation at the November OSWCC meeting.

6. Approve FY 2015 State Match Appropriations

Chief Bailey introduced Lisa Syx, the newly hired Fiscal Officer who replaced the retired Jill Evan. Ms. Syx provided members with a copy of the match distribution spreadsheet and reviewed the following distributions:

- Funding would continue as last year for Environmental Education grants with a focus on Soil Health this year;
- Funding for 2 GLSM technicians at Mercer SWCD is the balance of the \$140,000 request from last year;
- Funding for the Watershed Coordinator Program and Pollution Abatement Cost share would remain as last year;
- Funding for SWIMs is down from last year in which \$50,000 was dedicated for a requirements analysis for a re-design of SWIMs of introduction of another accountability program and based on that study a proposal will be brought to the OSWCC for consideration.
- Chairman Price asked for a motion to approve the recommended FY 2015 State Match Funding to SWCDs and the above programs as presented by Ms. Syx. Mr. Cash made the motion; 2nd by Ms. Reed. No discussion. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.

7. Farmland Preservation Assistance Grants.

Chief Bailey addressed the DSWR request to use state match funds to provide reimbursement to SWCDs which voluntarily perform annual agricultural easement monitoring for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Office of Farmland Preservation. The proposed allocation would be \$100 per SWCD annually, per easement monitored. There are 132 easements for a total of \$13,200. Mr. Vance questioned Mr. Bailey on the effectiveness of the program. Chairman Price asked for a motion to approve \$13,200 for Farmland Preservation Assistance Grants in the FY 2015 State Match Budget. Mr. Knapke made the motion; 2nd by Mr. Cash. No discussion. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.

Before moving on, Mr. Vance raised the question as to whether the Watershed Coordinator program would be included in any RCPP statewide application. Chief Bailey indicated that it would.

8. Review of Revenue.

Chief Baily reviewed the sources of state match revenue as indicated on the spreadsheet provided by Ms. Syx. This included General Revenue funds as well as the revenue generated from tire recycling and waste tipping fees.

OSWCC MATCH TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Reed provided the group with an overview of the process which led to the creation of the SWCD State Match Task Force Report and recommendations which members had received for review prior the July meeting. She highlighted the fact that there was participation from all areas of the state as well as other agency representatives including the County Commissioners Association of the Ohio and the Ohio Auditor of State Office. After Ms. Reed's remarks, Chairman Price opened up the floor for comments from SWCDs in attendance, relative to this specific topic.

- Ms. Jennifer Fish with Franklin SWCD read from a prepared statement, which was provided to members of the OSWCC.
- Mr. Paskey, with Ashtabula SWCD commented that there seemed to be an imbalance of funds vs. priorities. The \$2.9 million of general revenue funds from the state pales in comparison to the 12 million dollars of local funds dedicated to conservation and conservation districts. Mr. Paskey further commented on the "dealing with other agency's priorities" comments observed in the survey results of the of the SWCD Match Task Force recommendations He suggested giving another \$8 million to SWCDs is cheap to protect resources. Proven in GLSM that it is more expensive to react than to prevent problems.

Upon no other guest comments, Mr. Elder commented that a dedicated source of long term SWCD funding is critical and the OSWCC should be working with the OFSWCD to address the matter soon.

Chairman Price asked for a motion to approve the recommendations of the SWCD Match Task Force for implementation by the OSWCC. Mr. Knapke made the motion; 2nd by Mr. Shearer. During discussion Mr. Vance offered a motion to amend Mr. Knapke's motion to add that the OSWCC would first seek concurrence from the delegates of the OFSWCD and the summer Delegate Session and to allow more time for comment by SWCDs before final approval by the OSWCC in November. Mr. Cash seconded the amendment motion. During discussion of the amendment, Ms. Farris commented that waiting until November may not give SWCDs sufficient time to prepare for some of the changes. The result of the vote on the amendment was unanimously in favor. The result of the vote on the motion to approve the SWCD Match Task Force recommendations, as amended, was unanimously in favor.

At 11:32 am, Chairman Price called for a recess.

At 11: 48 am, Chairman Price reconvened the meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS

OSU: Mr. Shearer reported:

- The Discovery theme hiring continues;
- OSU is a member of a global water institute which is a consortium of 6 universities. They will be going after large foundation grants to put systems together to solve water quantity and quality issue worldwide and in US;
- Dean McPheron is making water a priority;
- At the School of Environment and Natural Resources, Jeff Sharp is the Interim Director;
- Recently there have been five faculty appointments by the college to address water quality and nutrient management issues.

USDA/NRCS: Ms. Lohstroh reported:

- EQIP priorities include Lake Erie/WELB Pollinators and High Tunnels;
- Chief Weller will be at the OFSWCD Summer Supervisor School;
- Involved in addressing pasture invasive knapweed and Asian long horn beetle in Clermont county; the Division of Forestry believes that is an Appalachian region priority issue;
- NRCS changes in leasing in offices: there are now new opportunities for NRCS to assist with negotiation for SWCD space under a special opportunity provision.

Ohio EPA: Mr. Wilson:

- Nutrients : Tech advisory group on state water quality standard (TAG) has a trophic index criteria committee working on evaluations in the field into model to determine impairments;
- OEPA also working with others on beneficial use option for lake dredging to reduce or eliminate in lake disposal;
- August 4 is the TMDL comments deadline;
- OEPA continues to monitor GLSM and Buckeye Lake; Wills Creek; Rocky River; Lower Auglaize; Big Darby and SW Ohio river direct;
- 319 and SWIF Grants: 319 deadline is July 25; can submit proposal ideas to 319 program to determine if project is worth consideration. OEPA had 85 SWIF grant application totaling \$2 million dollars. There were 23 innovative storm water projects in the Lake Erie watershed; 18 in rest of Ohio. There is some money left to match GRLI grants;
- The Non-point Source Program plan update approved by USEPA Region 5 to be put on web soon; and
- OEPA had the first saturated buffer in Ohio installed with the help of Defiance SWCD. It is a controlled drainage with extra vault and extra leach line for under filter.

ODA: Mr. Elder reported

- All rule revisions done for JCARR;
- Additional permit apps for all kinds of species; all over Ohio; new and renew; Broilers facilities may see some changes with Park Farms buyout;
- Mr. Elder was called as expert witness for Allen County;
- Working with partners on the RCPP application;
- Dealer certification involvement as to 3rd party inspectors for 4 R program: 50 dealers in IN,MI, OH in GLSM;
- Dr. Ward/Dan Dudley working on a Hypoxia TF meeting next year to be held addressing Lake Erie and Gulf of Mexico;
- Rules for SB 150 in process, they go in to effect August 23; ODA is working with OSU Extension on training. Rules in draft to come out shortly.

ODNR: DSWR Chief Bailey reported:

- Congrats to Lake, Ashtabula, and Cuyahoga SWCDs for an informative tour on Tuesday;
- Today is the 35th Annual Governor's Fish Ohio day;
- The next OSWCC will be November 12 at Fountain Square at 10am. Potentially with the OSWCC member changes effective in August, there may be new OSWCC members at that time.

OFSWCD: Ms. Bankey reported:

- Summer Supervisor School to be held July 20-22 in Downtown Cleveland: expecting 300 plus registrants; USDA/NRCS Chief Weller and other special guests to attend; during the delegate session 3 resolutions will be considered. Also during the delegate session we will be reviewing the 3-way memo, OSWCC State Match Task Force Policy; and Consideration to the OFSWCD Officer slate including the Secretary/Treasurer and 2nd Vice-President positions:
- Four R efforts continue as well as backyard conservation; support for Pollinators; gearing up for Farm Science Review, and work on RCPP application.

Employee Association: none

Chairman Price reported:

Gearing up for the Ohio State Fair

Adjournment

At 12:10pm, Chairman Price called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Mr. Cash; 2nd by Mr. Knapke. No discussion. The result of the vote was unanimously in favor.