



On behalf of all DSWC staff we would like to thank you for a successful year and for all that you do in the name of conservation! We wish for each of you a joy filled holiday season and many blessings in 2024!

2024 Resources and Reminders- Resources and Reminders for SWCDs is included as an attachment. The 24 R&R lists important dates, deadlines, required trainings, and reporting requirements for SWCDs. Keep this as a resource and checklist to make certain your district is up to date on completing these annual activities. An ADP webinar is scheduled for **January 4th** to review these items in further detail. To join the webinar, click the following link. [ADP - 2024 Resources & Reminders](#) If you have questions, please send an email to cody.hacker@agri.ohio.gov

APAP Rules to be updated- Under the direction of Lt. Governor Husted, state agencies are implementing a plan to eliminate nearly one-third of the Ohio Administrative Code by targeting duplicative provisions, outdated sections, and unnecessary requirements. As part of this plan, ODA was instructed to update the Agriculture Pollution Abatement Program (APAP) rules. Proposed rule changes can be found under the "Stakeholder Review" tab of the Department's Administrative Rule Review page by visiting [here](#). Comments on the proposed rules are due back to the department by **December 20, 2023**.

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water, will be hosting the following public events to discuss the amended rules and receive stakeholder comment:

-December 8th, 2023, 11:00am-12pm. In person discussion held at the campus of Ohio Department of Agriculture, Bromfield Administration Building, room 129.

-Microsoft Teams Live Event- December 14th, 2023, starting at 2pm. Please use this link to join: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MGU2Yzk5ZjQtY2ExOS00ZWY0LWJiN2QtMDRmZjJlZDc1MzQw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%2250f8fcc4-94d8-4f07-84eb-36ed57c7c8a2%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22317305cd-c1e8-431e-a67e-3a4b6997cf87%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btype=a&role=a

Contact Emily Heppner for more information at Emily.Heppner@agri.ohio.gov

OSWCC State Match Policy update- OSWCC State Match Policy was recently updated. Only minor edits were made to the policy which included updating ORC references, removing dates that were no longer relevant, and revisions to reflect changes in year end cash basis reporting. The OSWCC did approve a change which allows SWCDs to now transfer funds to the special fund within 90 days rather than 30 days. The revised OSWCC State Match Policy is attached for reference.

H2Ohio Conservation Ditch Program-The deadline for applying for the 2023 CDP program was October 31st. 9 applications were received, 7 were self-forming design and 2 were the two-stage ditch design. The total amount requested for all 9 applications is \$2.6 million covering nearly 5 miles of ditch construction. ODA is currently in the process of approving the projects. Approval letters and agreement contracts are expected to be awarded by the end of December. Construction season for these projects is planned for 2024 through 2025.

It is expected a third sign up will occur in 2024. If your county has a potential project and is interested in bringing funds to your county to implement conservation AND improve drainage, please consider applying. Contact justin.mcbride@agri.ohio.gov if you have any potential projects or if you have any questions.

Administrative Development Program – The next ADP session will be held virtually January 4th at 1:00 pm with a focus on the [2024 Resources and Reminders](#). The following dates and topics are the in-person ADP sessions planned for 2024. These sessions will be held at ODA Bromfield Auditorium: **May 7th** – SWCD Planning, **June 5th** – SWCD Administration 101, **August 28th** – Management, Leadership & Communication,

October 3rd – Auditor of State Updates, and **November 7th** – Policies & Risk Assessment – Bromfield Auditorium.

Technician Development Program – All in-person classes for 2023 are now complete. If you are working towards completing the Beginner Level Certification, please remember to complete the online courses no later than December 31, 2023. You can still register for these three classes below by using this link: [TDP Registration](#) . The new class schedule for 2024 will be announced in January. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Fulks at 614-581-3521 or timothy.fulks@agri.ohio.gov

-**Conservation Engineering** – Online through December 31st

-**Engineering Resources & Math Refresher** – Online through December 31st

-**Ag Pollution Abatement Program** – Online through December 31st

Reminder: The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission has set aside funds to cover the cost of TDP and ADP courses for SWCD staff beginning in the calendar year 2024. SWCD staff will be able to sign up for ADP and TDP courses at no cost. This only applies to SWCD staff.

New Supervisor Training- New Supervisor Online Training can be accessed at <https://softchalkcloud.com/lesson/serve/MoAEIaCUVbKQHL/html>. All newly elected and first term board members are requested to complete the online training. The training is broken into four modules and can be completed at your convenience. Program Specialists will send out reminders and log-in information to all newly elected board members quarterly. If you have any questions please reach out to your program specialist.

Beehive 2023 “Completed Events” Queries-A quick reminder to please run your Beehive 2023 “Completed” Events queries to confirm that you have entered all completed events for the year. Every SWCD and all staff members have access to the “2023 Completed BMPs” and “2023 Completed Education Events” queries. These are saved query “Layouts” which can be found in Beehive Query, in the “All BMP Events” and “All Education Events” datasets respectively. These queries pull/show the data that will be in your End of the Year Technical and Education Summary Reports and in your Beehive “Annual Report”. If you have questions regarding the queries, contact Martin Joyce, DSWC, martin.joyce@agri.ohio.gov .

OFSWCD: We look forward to seeing you at the area winter meetings. Kick off is December 5th in Area 4!
Annual Meeting 2024– Annual meeting 2024 will be held at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. The event is at a **new location**, the Hilton in downtown Columbus. The dates for the Partnership Meeting are January 22-24, 2024. Registration is open. Please use this link to register:
<https://ofswcd.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2024/01/23/annual-partnership-meeting/461393>

Service Awards-We will once again recognize Supervisors and Staff for years of service in 10-year increments during the annual meeting. If you have supervisors or staff with 10, 20, 30 or more years of service, please let me know by December 22 at jtmead@ofswcd.org

OSWCC: The next OSWCC meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2023. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the OFSWCD Annual Partnership Meeting. For more information about the meeting contact Emily Heppner emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov

OASWCDE: On behalf of the OASWCDE board, we wish everyone a happy holiday! A few updates below:

- OASWCDE 2024 membership form is on the website, https://www.oaswcde.org/uploads/4/7/2/1/47217769/2024_oaswcde_memb_form_fillable.pdf. Dues must be submitted by April 1st.
- The OASWCDE Training Scholarship is a \$50 scholarship that is available year-round. The Scholarship is for OASWCDE members whose districts may not have the funds to send staff to professional development opportunities.
- The application for 2024 Outstanding District Employee and Outstanding District Board Members is available on the website, <https://www.oaswcde.org/awards.html>. Applications are due December 8th.

- Elections for Board of Directors will be held at the OFSWCD Annual Conservation Partnership Meeting from January 22-24, 2024. We are currently looking for SWCD employees interested in running for Board of Directors in **Areas 2 and 4**, as well as one individual for appointment to fill a vacancy in **Area 5**. Please contact Board President, Chad Stang (chad.stang@oh.nacdnet.net) if you are interested in running.

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