

Ross Soil & Water Conservation District

December 13, 2022

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The December meeting will be in the back-office area at the district at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday December 13th

OVERVIEW

It was a busy month of November mainly due to the focus on the budget presentation. Thank you for attending. We really won't know our funding until the first commissioners meeting in January. November was also busy with evaluations, governance, inventory, trainings, and more. We accomplished a lot and files are up to date.

AGENDA PREVIEW

SPECIAL ELECTION

The election is underway with Mike Anderson the single candidate. I have cast my vote assuring the outcome.

ANNUAL MEETING

There was some earlier discussion to possibly change the date of the annual meeting to capitalize on recruiting opportunities before the July 15th FSA reporting deadline. A July 15th nominating deadline would mean the annual meeting would have to be held on September 27th or later. The board and staff should also begin considering a **program, theme, any cooperator of the year** favorites, and guidelines for an **education award**.

EQUIPMENT POLICY FINAL DRAFT

Supervisors should review and approve Equipment Policy # 12-2023 and the "equipment rental agreement" appendix. These incorporate last summer's policy discussion, October rate increase and recent staff discussion.

ANNUAL RENT

The commissioners will have an updated copy of the lease agreement which the board will need to review and approve. The Commissioners are generating an invoice to pay in advance the 2023 rent totaling \$21,519.

WILDLIFE AGREEMENT

The ODNR has requested the administrator be responsible for signing the Wildlife Specialist Agreement. This is intended to expedite the signature process. The board already passes a motion to accept the agreement itself.

ENVIROTHON RECRUITMENT

To continue the same support as last year for Envirothon recruitment, the board should authorize expenses for registration fees, T-shirt fees, and a stipend for transportation costs to the Hocking/Vinton event. The idea is to remove any obstacles to participation. Please note there are plans are to increase non-FFA school recruitment. We have already had one inquiry from Chillicothe High School.

PLUG SALE / FISH SALE

Both of these activities should be authorized by the board since we are entering agreements with vendors. There are about 25-30 Plug Sale cooperators. The same processes as last year can be implemented quickly with Patchwork Gardens. Growing ideally should already be underway so any timeline will be tight. Authoring the Fish Sale continues a long-time arrangement with Fender's Fish Hatchery. The district has no trouble following Fender's guidelines and we have secured the fairgrounds Show Arena to have a drive thru pick up "under cover."

EPA REQUEST

The Ohio EPA is planning regional public meetings in 2023 for landowners, township trustees, county officials, and anyone who works around waterways. The meeting is regarding unauthorized placement of fill material in streams and wetlands. The meeting will be held in Pike County for Ross, Pike, Scioto, and Adams counties. The EPA has requested the district partner with the agency to promote the Pike County meeting.

HEIDELBERG PAYMENTS

We are getting more from Heidelberg University for each Scioto River Water Test. The district now receives \$25 per week (up from \$20). Auditors recommend a motion to continue collecting samples and accept payments.

CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE AMOUNT

Policy requires annual research which has shown no reason to change the current \$35/month.

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

The board should set the 2023 meeting calendar. Now is the time to discuss and make any changes to the day or time for the regular monthly meetings.

ANNUAL RECORDS COMMISSION MEETING

After adjournment of the regular meeting the chairman should convene the annual record commission meeting.

OTHER DISTRICT NEWS

OSU WOMEN IN AG

Tabby Arnold Sharp presented to a small group enrolled in OSU Extension's Women in Ag program.

EDUCATION

I had a chance to meet with JT, Julie, Tabby, and Kelton - all expressed an interest in classroom presentations.

LAEPP

I had a regular conference call with Amanda at the ODA. Greg Rouse is spearheading "present condition reports" for both easements. Putnam submitted a new survey. The ODA requested documents for the Acton easement.

TRUCK REPAIRS

The front brakes on the white truck have been troublesome and went back in the shop for inspection. It turned out to be a loose clip scraping the rotor. The Rotor was not damaged and Tim's Tires repaired the clip at no cost.

FOR THE RECORD

- Administrator completed Sunshine Law Designee training on November 17, 2022 (effective through 2025)
- Public notice for the special election was posted on the district website November 20-24th
- Administrator completed Ag Census on November 22nd

DISTRICT MONTHLY STATS

Cooperator Projects	Hours
Beatty Farm Drainage	17
Arledge WW	15
EQIP Aimee Gaines	14
Triple Z Farm Drainage	13
Carter Farm Drainage	12
Kelvin Putnam Drainage	8
Barnhart Farm_Drainage2018	6
Don Shoemaker	6
Jan Fortney Drainage	6
Tom Ramsey Farm Drainage	6
Winegar Farm Drainage	5
Barton Farms Drainage	4
Radcliff Ventures Farm Drainage	4
TOTAL	116

District Projects	Hours
ROSS COUNTY_DRAINAGE I&E	44
EQIP_I&E_SURVEY_DESIGN_CHECK_ROSS	30
Equipment Rental	20.5
LAEPP	10.5
POND_I&E_ROSS COUNTY	9
Forestry THP and NOI	7
CRP Expiring Contract Assessment	3
Drainage and Erosion I&E _Ross County_2022	3
Logging Complaint	2
Urban Drainage and Erosion	2
Urban Plan Review	2
SCIOTORIVER_WATERTEST_WLS	1
TOTAL	134

Wildlife Projects	Hours
10413 - Wildlife - Habitat Management FY22	17
10420 Wildlife - OLHAP FY23	6
10425 - Wildlife - Wildlife ConflictFY22	4
TOTAL	27

GIS Projects	Hours
GIS	39.5
GIS UAV	11
TOTAL	50.5

	Requests for Assistance	BMP Name	Topic / Notes
1	Debbie Dreitzler	Technical Assistance - Streams	Inquiry: neighbor's fill material in creek
2	Forest Richendollar	Technical Assistance - Drainage	Inquiry: drainage at 19922 Old 104
3	Abe Bluck	Technical Assistance - Drainage	Inquiry: tile plans for Buchanan Farm
4	Charlie Ortman Engineer	Technical Assistance - Erosion	Inquired about Western Avenue ditch
5	Aubree Higginbotham	Technical Assistance - General	Furnished list of septic soil scientists
6	Judy Lucas	Technical Assistance - General	Tree Health (referred to Ann Bonner)
7	Visitor	Technical Assistance - General	Seeking Ross County Water (referral)
8	Nathan Francis	Technical Assistance - General	Inquiry: Watson Rd. neighbor's logging

November Sales	Amount
No-Till Drill Rental (6 invoices - accrual basis)	\$1,478.00
Water Test (5 weekly samples @ \$125/week)	\$125.00
TOTAL	\$1,603.00