



ODA Updates for SWCD Board Meetings May 2023

ODA/Area:

Form 11s – All local funds should now be deposited into the SWCD's special fund. If you haven't done so, please complete the Form 11(attached) which is used to report and validate local appropriations. Once completed, notify your program specialist to review and verify appropriations and supporting documentation. Form 11s are **due May 31st**.

SWCD Internal Program Reviews- If you haven't done so, please schedule time this month to complete the SWCD Internal Program Review for your district. If you need assistance contact your Program Specialist. Completed internal reviews should be emailed to your program specialist **by May 27th**.

Salary Information in Beehive- Please check staff salary information in Beehive to make sure it is current and up to date. Next month, DSWC will be starting to compile information for the annual SWCD salary survey and we want to make sure we are using the most current information.

Tree Sale Information Wanted! – So, how did your tree sales go this year? We have heard record sales from some districts. ODA is currently collecting information on your annual spring tree sale, such as income, profits, offerings, etc. Once the data is collected, we will share a statewide summary with all districts. If you haven't done so, please take a few minutes and complete the attached survey and send it to Rebecca O'Neill rebecca.oneill@agri.ohio.gov

HR Initiative- OASWCDE, OFSWCD, and ODA would like to welcome Amanda Tubaugh, Carroll SWCD District Administrator to the HR committee. Amanda, along with DSWC Program Specialist Liz Cline will co-chair the HR committee. Through OFSWCD assistance and funding a contract has been signed with the **Employer's Association** to provide expertise in HR areas as requested by SWCDs. Bob Bethel, Director, HR Services at The Employers' Association, will be presenting to SWCDs at the ADP training session on **June 6th**. Topics include: Performance Management (evaluation tools, setting goals with employees, how to manage poor performers, how to compensate high achievers) ABCs of Compliance for Managers (What an administrator can, can't and should do; Making sure policies are HR compliant). The HR committee will be meeting in-person at Summer Supervisor School. Also, HR training sessions with the Employer's Association for SWCD supervisors are currently being planned for SSS.

ODA welcomes Engineering and SWCD Interns- ODA has started a recruitment pilot project by hiring 3 summer college interns to work in SWCD offices. The interns are ODA employees but will work under the direction of SWCDs. Cuyahoga, Fairfield, and Mercer SWCD will host the interns this summer for approximately 12 weeks. The goal is to assist each SWCD while providing the interns an overview of all aspects of soil and water conservation. In addition to the 3 SWCD interns, ODA will have 2 engineering interns that will assist DSWC engineers in NW Ohio. The engineering interns will be housed in the Henry SWCD office and another in the ODA Findlay office. All 5 interns will start May 22nd.

Agriculture Pollution Abatement- DSWC staff are providing area level training to SWCDs on documenting agricultural pollution complaints and entering complaint information into Beehive. Regarding agricultural pollution complaints, from Jan. 1- March 31, 2023, SWCDs and DSWC investigated 48 agriculture pollution complaints of those complaints 6 were found in violation. When compared to January 1- March 31, 2022, data, complaints are down almost 25% so far this year. For the past quarter, DSWC issued 3 Director's Order and assessed \$7,000 in civil penalties to operations in violation of APAP rules and standards.

ADP -Administrative Development Program – The next ADP training session is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6th, to be held in Reynoldsburg in the Bromfield Auditorium. The session will feature Bob Bethel our HR expert with the Employers' Association. The meeting will start at 9:00 am. Bob will focus on Performance Management and ABCs of compliance for Administrators as well as allow time for you to ask questions. Also featured will be a SWCD panel to share how they recognize employees, promote positive office environment, etc. There is no charge for the session, but registration is required. To register please send an email to cody.hacker@agri.ohio.gov **before May 25th**.

Grants Outreach & Budget Process-May 4th 9-3 pm- ODA Campus – 8995 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH

Personnel Management & Leadership-June 6th-ODA Campus – 8995 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH

Communications & Media Outreach-August 23rd - ODA Campus – 8995 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH

Auditor of State Updates/Guidance-October 31st – ODA Campus – 8995 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH

Technician Development Program- ODA-DSWC Beginner and Advanced level TDP courses planned for 2023 are now open for registration. All classes begin at 9:00am and run to approximately 3:30pm. The Beginner Level is comprised of 8 courses:

Conservation Engineering – Online March 1st through December 31st

Engineering Resources & Math Refresher – Online March 1st through December 31st

Ag Pollution Abatement Program – Online March 1st through December 31st

Basic Hydrology – July 11th – Franklin OSU Extension – 2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH

Inventory & Evaluation – July 12th – Franklin OSU Extension – 2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH

Soils Engineering – July 13th – Franklin OSU Extension – 2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH

Surveying – July 26th & 27th – Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH

Advanced Level TDP classes open for registration:

Concrete – August 8th & 9th – Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH

Wetlands Design – September 13th & 14th - Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH

Watering Facilities – November 16th - Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH

Please register using this link: [TDP Registration](#) Once a class has reached capacity, it will no longer show up on the registration page. Payment options include paying by credit card, electronic check or pay later. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Fulks at 614-581-3521 or timothy.fulks@agri.ohio.gov

OSWCC: The OSWCC met on April 27th agenda topics included an update from the Urban Networking Committee, Agriculture Pollution Abatement quarterly reports, Solar development update, Water Quality Program Updates – H2Ohio and Regional Watershed Program. The next OSWCC meeting will be held on August 8, 2023. For more information about the meeting contact Emily Heppner emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov

OFSWCD: OFSWCD is planning improvements to the OFSWCD area for Farm Science Review 2023. The high tunnel has been removed and there are plans to expand cover crop demonstration areas and improve pollinator areas. OFSWCD will need your help in making these and other improvements to FSR! Look forward to future work dates and opportunities to assist and help out at Farm Science Review.

Contribution Agreements 101- Is your District helping to complete Farm Bill work with your NRCS partners? If the answer is yes, then you may be eligible for reimbursement through contribution agreement funds. Whether you do one practice a quarter or design, install and checkout hundreds of practices, you could submit a request for funds.

Join Nikki Hawk for a **Zoom meeting on May 10, 2023, at 9:30 am** to learn all about this opportunity. For those of you who consistently submit reimbursement requests, please join in the meeting so you can share your experience with colleagues from around the state and maybe learn a few tricks to get the maximum return possible! Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82752849964?pwd=V2ZGUE1FVW9lU2dnJyJjRDZEZlQ09>

Mark your calendar! Summer Supervisor School dates July 30th- August 1st hosted by Area 4.
Ohio Educator Workshop – November 1st – 2nd (Hueston Woods State Park)

OASWCDE: On behalf of the OASWCDE board, we hope everyone is having a great kickoff to spring! A few updates are listed below:

- 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.
- Items for the June edition of the Employees Association Newsletter can be sent to [Sara Fehring](#) by May 19th.