



## ODA Updates for Area 5 SWCD Board Meetings July 2022

Submitted By: Rob Hamilton and Cody Hacker, Area 5 Program Specialist

### ODA/Area:

**Technician Development Program**-ODA-DSWC is excited to announce the Beginner and Advanced level TDP courses planned for this fall! Registration for the Technician Development Program (TDP) Beginner Level for this fall is now open.

The Beginner Level is comprised of 7 courses:

**Conservation Engineering** – Online July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Engineering Resources & Math Refresher** – Online July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Ag Pollution Abatement Program** – Online July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Inventory and Evaluation** – September 27<sup>th</sup> – Malabar Farm State Park – 3991 Bromfield Rd., Lucas OH 44843

**Surveying** – September 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> – Madison SWCD – 831 US-42, London, OH 43140

**Basic Hydrology** – October 4<sup>th</sup> – Madison SWCD – 831 US-42, London, OH 43140

**Soils Engineering** – October 25<sup>th</sup> – Madison SWCD – 831 US-42, London, OH 43140

The following Advanced Level TDP classes open for registration:

**Grassed Waterways** – November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – Shelby SWCD – 822 Fair Road, Sidney, OH 45365

**Grade Stabilization Structures** – November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> – Shelby SWCD – 822 Fair Road, Sidney, OH

**Grazing Engineering** – November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Madison SWCD – 831 US-42, London, OH 43140

(This class will cover heavy use pads, trails and walkways, and stream crossings.)

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 select the pay later option, you will receive a separate invoice with payment instructions. For NRCS employees, please verify with your supervisor that you're able to attend prior to registering and then select "Pay Later".

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tim Fulks at 614-581-3521 or [timothy.fulks@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:timothy.fulks@agri.ohio.gov)

**Regional Watershed Program** -The Watershed Team continues to move forward with regional watershed plan development and will be wrapping up watershed characterization soon. Meetings with SWCD and Technical Assistance groups have provided helpful feedback in this process. The next step will be to assess appropriate practices based on regional needs and priorities identified through characterization. Watershed Managers also continue to assist with H2Ohio verification, interagency coordination, and local watershed planning efforts.

**H2Ohio 2-Stage Ditch RFP** – The Ohio Department of Agriculture will be announcing a call for proposals for the construction of 2-stage ditches in the 24 county H2Ohio project area in late July or early August and notify successful applicants by the end of the calendar year. Design and construction of the two-stage ditches will be completed in the following 24 months. Two-stage ditches help reduce sediment and nutrient loads, significantly reduce bank erosion, and provide additional water storage during runoff events. ODA hopes to achieve additional reductions of phosphorus and sediment loading to Lake Erie with this effort.

**H2Ohio Signup in the 10-County WLEB Expansion Project Area** – The Division of Soil & Water is still uploading applications for H2Ohio Program enrollment in the WLEB Expansion Project Area into Beehive. Enrollment includes over 800 producers and 620,000 acres of cropland in total. Nearly \$70 million in H2Ohio funding has been requested for the 2023, 2024, and 2025 crop years. The Division will develop a more complete report of program enrollment and include them in the 2022 H2Ohio Annual Report to be released later in August.

**SWCD Supervisor Elections** – Election season is here! If you haven't done so already, please go to the website and download the latest forms and information pertaining to SWCD elections. Election information can be found here: **[ODA DSWC Website - Resources for SWCDs - SWCD Forms and Guidance Documents - Board of Supervisors Elections and Appointment](#)**. Please contact your program specialist 45-60 days in advance of your election to review the election process. Once you have determined when your election period will begin and end, please notify your program specialist of these dates, and any annual meeting and voting events, dates, and locations.

**ORC 940.39 videoconferencing and teleconferencing of meetings**-On July 1, 2022, HB 51, the temporary uncodified provision authorizing public bodies to hold public meetings by teleconference, video conference or other similar electronic technology expired. However, for SWCD board meetings Ohio Revised Code 940.39 was codified into law in March 2021 and includes provisions for SWCD boards to continue to hold meetings by video conference and teleconference into the future. Below is the language from ORC 940.39 for reference:

(A) For purposes of this section, references to a "board of supervisors of a soil and water conservation district" or a "board" includes a joint board of supervisors of a soil and water conservation district.

(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a board of supervisors of a soil and water conservation district, when practicable, may conduct meetings by video conference or, if video conference is not available, by teleconference. The board of supervisors shall make provisions for public attendance at any location involved in such a meeting. The board shall establish the board's main office or board room as the primary meeting location for the video conference or teleconference. The conference shall be held at that location in an open meeting at which the public is allowed to attend.

(C) Before convening a meeting of a board of supervisors by video conference or by teleconference, designated staff shall send, via electronic mail, facsimile, or United States postal service, a copy of meeting-related documents to each member of the board.

(D) The minutes of each drainage improvement meeting shall specify who was attending by teleconference, who was attending by video conference, and who was physically present. Any vote taken in a meeting held by teleconference that is not unanimous shall be recorded as a roll call vote.

(E) Nothing in section [121.22](#) of the Revised Code prohibits a board of supervisors from conducting a meeting in a manner authorized by this section.

#### **OFSWCD:**

- The annual Summer Supervisor School will be held in Area 5, from August 28-30 with lodging at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville-Polaris hotel. (This is not the same hotel as the annual partnership meeting.) Tours, breakout sessions, and comradery are currently being planned. Look for more information in upcoming monthly updates.
- The National Association of Conservation Districts summer meeting will be held in Puerto Rico, July 17-19. Details are available on the NACD website.
- The State Envirothon Competition was held at Lake Erie College June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. The top teams from each of the five areas competed for a chance to compete at the National Envirothon. Congratulations to Centerville High School who won the State Envirothon Competition and will be representing Ohio at the National Envirothon.
- The National Envirothon will be held at Miami University, Butler County Ohio July 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **OSWCC:**

- The next OSWCC meeting is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am at ODA Reynoldsburg. For more information about the meeting contact Emily Heppner [emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov) .

**OASWCDE:** On behalf of the OASWCDE board, we hope everyone is staying safe and had a great holiday weekend! A few updates below:

- 2022-member count is 256 members.
- 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.

August 24<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit material for the September OASWCDE Newsletter