



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

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

### ODA/Area:

- **Welcome Brenda Meyer-** DSWC is pleased to announce the hiring of Brenda Meyer, the new Area 4 engineer for ODA-DSWC. Brenda joined the Division at the end of May. She graduated from the Ohio State University and currently lives in Mercer County with her husband, Dan. They have 3 children, Trent, Jake, and Seth. Brenda has previously worked as a civil/structural engineer in private practice in western Ohio/eastern Indiana.
- **Technician Development Program** - You can register for any currently available classes through this link: <https://www.apps.agri.ohio.gov/SWCD/>. Payment options for classes include debit or credit card, electronic fund transfer or select "Pay Later" to mail in a check. At this time, we are in the planning stages for TDP classes for this fall.
- **Administrative Development Program (ADP)** – Based upon input from the HR Committee and the Annual Partnership Meeting Roundtables an additional ADP webinar has been added on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm. The focus of the webinar will be position announcements and job postings and will be lead, by Adam Cahill a Career Development Manager with Ohio State University. Also please remember all recorded ADP webinars are available on the ODA-DSWC website under the ADP tab or by clicking [here](#) and then on the ADP tab.
- **Regional Watershed Program** -The watershed team has continued to develop regional characterization, and watershed managers now have final draft basin characterization summaries for presentation during the first scheduled watershed region Technical Advisory Team (TAT) meetings to be hosted through early June. In addition to watershed program development, watershed managers have been assisting in various Division activities, including assisting with H2Ohio verification, participating in Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District planning discussions, assisting OEPA by collecting information on local watersheds, engaging with the Shallow Run Pilot Watershed Project planning, and surveying SWCDs regarding NPSIS plan development.
- **MWCD Approves Grant Funds-** The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District approved \$500,000 for 2022 to promote conservation practices in the region. Conservation funds are available to establish cover crops, livestock exclusion fencing installation, SWCD education and outreach, and nutrient management plan development.
- **H2Ohio Cover Crop Initiatives-** Two new cover crop initiatives will be available this year to help H2Ohio participants establish cover crops earlier in the growing season. An additional \$10 per acre incentive payment to interseed cover crops into corn or soybeans will be made available to current H2Ohio participants that are approved for cover crop practices and interseed cover crops into corn or soybeans by September 30<sup>th</sup>. The second initiative is a pilot demonstration project that will use drones to interseed cover crops. The pilot drone project is focused in 7 counties in the H2Ohio project area. The goal of the pilot project is to demonstrate new technology and to seed up to 6,300 acres of cover crops with drones. ODA is currently in the process of planning a media event in NW Ohio to promote the two new cover crop initiatives.
- **Seed Testing Reminders-** Small grain harvest is nearing so now is a good time to remind producers about the requirements for testing and using "bin run" seed. If a producer is participating in a USDA or ODA cover crop cost-share program and use bin run seed, the seed must be tested for purity, germination, weed seed, and Ohio noxious weeds prior to seeding the cover crop. Bin run samples with test results showing noxious weed seed present, must be cleaned and resampled prior to seeding. **Attached** is information on the ODA Seed Testing Program that explains the details and requirements. Feel free to share this information in your newsletter or through other forms of outreach used to reach producers.
- **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: ***QSupervisors 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.

### **ODA/Area 5 Upcoming Dates:**

- Area 5 Administrator's Teleconference – June 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am
- Pollution Abatement Training – June 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Hocking College
- ADP Webinar – Administrative Basics – July 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- QuickBooks Training – July 13<sup>th</sup> at Bromfield Building in Reynoldsburg – registration required

### **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 will be held at Lake Erie College June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. The top 20 teams from each of the five areas will compete for a chance to compete 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 second quarterly OSWCC meeting was held at ODA Reynoldsburg and in a hybrid format, on May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Agenda items approved:
  - Workplan for Beehive in 2023
  - Funding for the H2Ohio SWCDsItems discussed by the OSWCC
  - Water Quality program updates including: H2Ohio, Regional Watershed program, and Pilot Watershed program with OSU
  - Funding for SWCD Training

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

- We are currently 239 members strong.
- 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 deadline for The Sherry West Scholarship and SWCD Staff Continuing Education Scholarship is July 8<sup>th</sup>. Scholarship applications can be found on the website, <https://www.oaswcde.org/scholarships.html>.
- Farm Science Review Clean-Up Days
  - June 3<sup>rd</sup> – All Staff
  - June 21<sup>st</sup> – All Staff