



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

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

### ODA/Area:

**Area 5 Administrator's Conference Call** – 11:30 am on August 11<sup>th</sup>

**Agriculture Pollution Abatement**-ODA and SWCD staff in Areas 3 and 5 recently hosted in field Ag Pollution Abatement trainings which provided a hands-on approach to demonstrate investigative tools and ideas on how to respond to, identify and follow up on pollution complaints. Area 2 has a similar training scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup> at Clardale Farms in Stark County. Area 1 and 4 are in the planning stages to host in field trainings this fall. These trainings are designed to sharpen the skills of seasoned staff and provide an opportunity for newer staff to gain some confidence to respond to future complaints. If you missed your area's training, please reach out to ODA staff to attend one of the upcoming trainings.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of SFY 22 (April 1- June 30<sup>th</sup>) ODA and SWCDs responded to and investigated 72 agriculture pollution abatement complaints. For SFY 22 (July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022) a total of 238 complaints were investigated and reported in Beehive. 21 Directors Orders were issued and \$58,500 in civil penalties were assessed in SFY 22. Quarterly and SFY 22 reports are attached for reference.

**Regional Watershed Program** – The regional watershed managers wrapped up the last of the legislator update meetings at the end of July. These meetings provided a unique opportunity to connect with legislators in person, provide information on the Watershed Program, and hear the water quality concerns and priorities of their constituents. Watershed managers continue to develop regional watershed plans for each of the 7 regions. The watershed manager team is currently reviewing feedback from internal review of the watershed characterization and beginning to develop the next section of the watershed plan, which will focus on assessment of applicable BMPs.

**SWCD Local Appropriations & State Match**- The OSWCC will be meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the approval of state matching funds that SWCDs receive each year. State match payments are based on local SWCD appropriations that are received from the county general fund, township, or municipality. This year SWCDs collected **\$17,673,303** total local appropriations. Compared to last year, SWCDs collected \$16,719,899 for an increase of **\$953,404**. Once OSWCC approves state match distribution, a statewide summary for how funds are distributed will be provided in the September monthly update. State match payments will be paid to SWCDs each quarter. SWCDs should receive their 1<sup>st</sup> quarter state match payment at the end of August or first part of September.

**Open Records Public Officials Training** - All elected officials in the state of Ohio, or appropriate designees, are required to attend training approved by the Attorney General once during their term. The training is to ensure public officials are appropriately educated about their obligations under the Public Records Act. According to the act, if the public office includes more than one elected official (as do SWCD boards), one appropriate person (board or staff person) may serve as the "designee" on behalf of all the elected public officials. SWCDs need to ensure that a current copy of all records training certificates is maintained for those who have had the training. A list of Certified Public Records Trainings, including online training, can be found on the Ohio Attorney General website.

**NCF Envirothon**- The NCF Envirothon was held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio July 24-30<sup>th</sup>. **Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this possible!** This is the first time Ohio hosted the NCF Envirothon, 40 high school Envirothon teams from across the US and Canada participated. Centerville High School represented Ohio at the NCF Envirothon after winning the State Envirothon held at Lake Erie College in June. After a weeklong training and competition, Massachusetts came out on top winning the 2022 NCF Envirothon.

**Administrative Development Program**-ADP courses are planned for this summer and fall.

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 1pm** – An ADP webinar focused on job announcements and postings will be held. Adam Cahill a Career Development Manager with The Ohio State University will offer BMP's on advertising open positions as well share some tools districts can use to make postings and announcements more effective. **THIS SESSION HAS BEEN POSTPONED.** Once the webinar is rescheduled the date and details will be shared.

**October 25<sup>th</sup> an ADP in-person session** will be held in the ODA Bromfield Auditorium. The session will focus on SWCD Audits and Financial Reporting. Rich Cunningham from the Auditor of State's office will be providing information on cash basis reporting, grant reporting, summary of SWCD Audits in 2022 and other related topics.

**November 16<sup>th</sup> @ 1 pm** – An ADP webinar focused on the available tools and reports in Beehive. The focus will be on the Annual Plan of Work template in Beehive and how that can be used to help with budgeting both dollars and staff time as districts plan for 2023.

**Technician Development Program-ODA-DSWC** Beginner and Advanced level TDP courses planned for this fall are now open for registration. 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

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

#### **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 from OFSWCD coming soon.
- The National Association of Conservation Districts summer meeting was held in Puerto Rico, July 17-19.
- 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.
- The National Envirothon was held at Miami University, Butler County Ohio July 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.
- Farm Science Review planning is also underway. Save the dates of September 20-22.

#### **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 having a great summer! 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.
- There will be five Mental Health Webinars offered throughout October and November. Additional information coming soon.