

ODA Updates for Area 5 SWCD Board Meetings April 2022

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

ODA/Area:

- **Form 11** - This form is used to report and validate your SWCD's local appropriations. **Any local funds to be considered for State Match for Fiscal Year 2023 must be deposited into the special fund by April 30th and your district needs a resolution or other proof of approval for funding you receive from your County's General Fund.** Please use the attached updated form when you are ready to submit your information. The updated Form 11 can also be found on the ODA Website "Resources for SWCDs" under the Forms Financial Tab. Contact your Program Specialist once complete or if you have any questions. Also remember your **Annual Plan of Work for 2022** must be submitted at the time your Form 11 is reviewed.
- **SWCD Internal Program Reviews-** It is time again for SWCDs to complete Internal Program Reviews. The updated internal review form is attached. This review is designed to be done each year to help ensure that Districts are using best operating practices. SWCDs should individually complete the review and email the completed review form to your Program Specialist. The internal review is a great training tool for new employees and supervisors. SWCDs are encouraged to include new supervisors in completing the review. SWCD internal reviews should be completed and returned to your Program Specialist **by May 27th**.
- **Regional Watershed Program Update** - The DSWC Watershed Management Team has been working hard on program development, and recently finalized draft program materials, i.e., region watershed plan outline/framework, detailed work plan, stakeholder involvement process and contact lists. These have now been internally reviewed and approved, and the team is ready to formally kickoff the process with a statewide, in-person meeting of technical support professionals to share uniform guidance, answer questions, and network. During this planning process Watershed Managers have continued to gather information and data to characterize water quality in their regions. The Team held a well-attended breakout session at the annual Conservation Partnership meeting and has continued to network and build connections through the WMAO EPN breakfast, Conservation Tillage Conference, and Scenic River Symposium.
- **Supervisor Elections** – Recruiting community leaders that are willing to serve on the SWCD board is the key function of the SWCD nominating committee. A nominating committee should be formed six months prior to the election, and currently working to seek candidates for your supervisor election. Included, as an attachment, is a checklist for your nominating committee that should serve as a guide of the expectations for recruitment. The [election calculator](#), found on the ODA website, can help you determine election deadline dates. Board candidates should be confirmed 60 days prior to the start of the election, i.e. candidates would be determined by June 1, for an August 1 election period start date.
- **Welcome New ODA staff** – Please welcome Nathan Wilhelm who joined the Division, at the beginning of February, as an engineer for Area 1. Nathan is a licensed professional engineer and a graduate of the University of Cincinnati. He lives in Henry County with his wife Jenna and has a 3-year-old daughter, Vera. He previously worked for the Fulton County Engineer's Office as a drainage engineer. The Division is currently in the process of hiring an engineer to serve in southwest Ohio, Area 4. This engineer will assist with the development and implementation of conservation engineering projects, provide technical assistance and training, and assist in promoting sound nutrient management practices.
- **Use of Beehive Education Events:** The intended use and purpose of the Beehive Program's Education "Events" is to manage, track and ultimately "report out" on the multitude of excellent education and outreach activities that Ohio's 88 SWCDs complete and provide to the Public each year. Unfortunately, there has been a marked increase in the use of Education Events for entering information in Beehive, that is neither education or outreach activities which were completed and provided to the Public. Utilizing Education Events in this manner is neither the correct nor intended use for Education Events and should be avoided. **We are asking for the assistance of SWCD Administrators to help ensure that Education Events are being utilized in the manner for which they are intended.** If anyone has questions or would like more information regarding the use of Education Events can contact Martin Joyce, DSWC, at 614-265-6684 or martin.joyce@agri.ohio.gov

- **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, all the in-person Beginner Level courses planned for this spring are full. You can be placed on the waiting list by registering through this link and selecting the class titled: "**In-Person Beginner Level Classes Wait list**".
- **Envirothon** – The Envirothon is a competitive, academic, outdoor team event for high school students which tests their knowledge in: Aquatic Ecology, Current Environmental Issues, Forestry, Soils and Wildlife. The event is designed to stimulate and reinforce interest in our environment and natural resources while encouraging cooperative decision making, team building, and problem solving. Please consider volunteering, by contacting the host county, for the upcoming dates:
 - Area 1: April 27th – Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Ottawa County
 - Area 2: April 28th – Kent State University – Salem Campus, Columbiana County
 - Area 3: April 27th – Caldwell Lake, Noble County
 - Area 4: April 26th – Myeerah Nature Preserve, Logan County
 - Area 5: April 26th – Tar Hollow State Park, Ross County
 - State Envirothon: June 5th- 7th – Lake Erie College, Lake County
 - National Envirothon: July 24th – 30th – Miami University, Butler County

UPCOMING DATES:

- April 5 & 6 – TDP – Surveying (Full)
- April 7 – TDP – Inventory and Evaluation (Full)
- April 14 – Area 5 Administrator's Conference Call @ 11:30 a.m.
- April 26 – Basic Soils Training (following Envirothon at soils pit 1 – 3 pm)
- April 30 - Local appropriations must be received and deposited in the Special Fund
- May 17 & 18 - TDP-Pond Design (Spots available)
- May 27th – Internal Reviews due to Program Specialists
- May 31st – Signed Form-11's and approved Annual Plans of Work due to Program Specialists

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.

OSWCC:

- The next quarterly OSWCC meeting will be held in person at ODA Reynoldsburg, on May 5th.
- Please send any board appointments to Emily Heppner Emily.Heppner@agri.ohio.gov prior to May 1st.

OASWCDE: On behalf of the OASWCDE board, we hope everyone is staying safe and healthy! A few updates are listed below:

- OASWCDE 2022 membership form is on the website, <http://www.oaswcde.org/benefits--opportunities.html>. Dues must be submitted by April 1st. Any dues paid after April 1st will be rolled over to 2023 membership. We are currently 177 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 8th. Scholarship applications can be found on the website, <https://www.oaswcde.org/scholarships.html>.
- Farm Science Review Clean-Up Days
 - May 3rd – OASWCDE Board of Directors
 - May 24th – All Staff
 - June 21st – All Staff
- David Runkle was appointed to the OASWCDE Board to replace the vacant position left by Bonnie Dailey in Area V.
- The March Edition of the OASWCDE Newsletter included an Employee Survey. Data collected will be used to inform discussions related to issues of pay, staff turnover, and other human resource concerns. The survey can be found here, <https://forms.gle/ZSrEZAnQHJkgwqK8>

