



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

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

### ODA/Area:

- **Form 11** - Form 11's should be completed and reviewed by Program Specialists this month. The form has been updated this year. Please use the updated Form 11 that is available 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**- Internal reviews should be completed and returned to your Program Specialist **by May 27<sup>th</sup>**. This review is designed to be done each year to help ensure that Districts are using best operating practices. Once the review form is completed, email the completed review form to your Program Specialist.
- **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.
- **HB 397 Signed by the Governor** – HB 397 is official and will become effective in July. This bill expands options for SWCD supervisors and employees entrusted with funds to allow the use of insurance policies for crime/theft coverage, in addition to the continuing option of executing surety bonds.
- **APAP Update** – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter APAP SFY22 report is attached.
- **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](mailto:martin.joyce@agri.ohio.gov)
- **ADP Development Program** - The following sessions are currently planned for 2022. May 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 – Diversity and Inclusion (virtual), July 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm Administrative Basics (virtual), August 30<sup>th</sup> at SSS two sessions are planned Policy Development and Implementation as well as SWCD Planning/Goal Setting, October 25<sup>th</sup> District Financials (in-person in Reynoldsburg) and November 16<sup>th</sup> Beehive Tools/Reports (virtual). The log-in information and session information for the virtual sessions will be sent out a week prior via the OFSWCD. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact your program specialist or [cody.hacker@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:cody.hacker@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, we are planning another round of the Beginner level series for this fall.

A CNMP training is being planned for this fall. To help us plan for appropriate class sizes, please let your program specialists know if you have experienced technicians pursuing their Conservation Planning Certification/CNMP certification that would be interested in the training. Please let us know by May 20<sup>th</sup>.

- **H2Ohio**The initial enrollment period for the Phase 2 Sign-up in the WLEB 10 County Expansion Project Area ended on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Division will be collecting and aggregating enrollment data through mid-May. Verification of eligible BMPs that have spring completion dates are ongoing in all 24 districts and SWCD Boards will be approving payments for those practices that are complete and verified.

- **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. Area Envirothon contests were held in late April. Top teams from each area will have the opportunity to participate in the State Envirothon. State Envirothon: June 5<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> – Lake Erie College, Lake County and National Envirothon: July 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> – Miami University, Butler County

#### **UPCOMING DATES:**

- May 12 Administrator's Teleconference focused on SWCD Elections at 11:30 am
- May 17 & 18 – TDP-Pond Design (Full)
- May 25 – ADP-Diversity and Inclusion at 1:00 pm (virtual)
- May 27<sup>th</sup> – Internal Reviews due to Program Specialists
- May 31<sup>st</sup> – Signed Form-11's and approved Annual Plans of Work due to Program Specialists
- June 9 – TDP – Basic Nutrient Management (Spots available)

#### **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 Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) meeting will be held in Minneapolis, MN, May 9-13. Details should be in your inbox, but if you need additional details let me know.
- The National Association of Conservation Districts summer meeting will be held in Puerto Rico, July 17-19. Details are available on the NACD website.

#### **OSWCC:**

- The next quarterly OSWCC meeting will be held in person at ODA Reynoldsburg, on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will start at 10am in the auditorium at ODA.

Agenda items:

- Overview of State Match
- Overview of APAP progress and quarterly report
- Water Quality program updates including: H2Ohio, Regional Watershed program, and Pilot Watershed program with OSU
- Workplan for Beehive in 2023
- Funding for SWCD Training

#### **OASWCDE:** On behalf of the OASWCDE board, we hope everyone is staying safe and healthy! A few updates 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>. Scholarship applications can be found on the website, <https://www.oaswcde.org/scholarships.html>.
- Farm Science Review Clean-Up Days
  - May 3<sup>rd</sup> – OASWCDE Board of Directors
  - May 24<sup>th</sup> – All Staff
  - June 21<sup>st</sup> – All Staff
- 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/ZSrEZAnQHZjkgwqK8>