

Ross Soil & Water Conservation District
September 13, 2022
ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The September meeting will be in Conference Room D at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday September 13th
Career Day activities also underway at the Fairgrounds

SPECIAL ELECTION

Since Tyler Whitten withdrew from an already uncontested election, the district will hold a special election. To accomplish this by the end of December, we need to recruit candidates by 10/17 and start the election on 12/1.

ANNUAL MEETING

Thanks to all for pulling off a successful annual meeting. In addition to ten supervisors and staff, 48 residents, guests and partners were at the banquet for a total attendance of 58. Paid attendance was 23 yielding \$276. The treasurer's report district fund bills to pay lists several expenses related to the annual meeting. I have requested an invoice from Sunroom Catering but have not received one as of September 6th and have not received an invoice yet from iHeart Media. We'll review the annual meeting checklist to identify areas for improvement.

FAIR WEEK

My thanks to the entire staff for pulling together to create an impressive fair display. There was good feedback about the old pictures. I especially appreciate Julie Kyle for igniting the discussion. Most expenses were in July.

EDUCATION/CAREER DAY

As the board meeting gets underway in Room D at the service center, set up and registration will be underway at the fairgrounds for Career Day. Staff will be at the fairgrounds. The district is providing t-shirts and paying a contractor to dig the soil pit. JT Flowers is presenting at the wildlife station. Ben and Tabby are student escorts. The NRCS's Brian Cooley will lead a demonstration at the soil pit.

OSU WOODLANDS

Cancelled - Replaced by Career Day as fall education event

JOB APPROVAL AUTHORITY

The cooperative work agreement with the USDA allows our district techs to design engineering plans under the authority of an NRCS licensed civil engineer. Greg Wells is our Supervisory Civil Engineer and can "pre-certify" district techs to approve their own designs - to a certain extent - based on their experience. This process is called Job Approval Authority (JAA). The board needs send a formal letter to Greg requesting JAA be reviewed for staff.

POLICY

We'll review the latest language on the Equipment Rental and Aerial Services policies discussed in July.

NRCS/RTK

We'll review the current version of the NRCS cooperative agreement to use the RTK drone.

2022 BUDGET EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

Budget discussions last year included planned upgrades for the powerful GIS computer, the plotter, and an education computer. Greg Rouse has been pricing GIS computers anticipating a fall purchase.

2023 BUDGET PROCESS

Staff will begin updating the budget for 2023. The board should review a draft at the October board meeting next month and approve the final budget and employee evaluations the November board meeting. Our budget presentation to commissioners is scheduled for November 14th.

DETENTION PONDS

Ben and Tabby met with commissioners who are receiving resident input regarding detention pond maintenance. A small group is advocating to let the ponds “go wild.”

DRILL MAINTENANCE

The treasurer’s report includes expenses the staff spent on drill repairs in August.

LAEPP

Proceeding with Title work for Putnam and Acton applications - in person 2023 Local Sponsor Training 9/8.

FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

The administrator attended the Farm Bureau annual meeting as an individual and reports the organization passed measures designed to ease candidate recruitment difficulties by reducing the number of seats on the board and redefining the term “agriculturalist.” The organization also passed policies that:

- Support Testing Local Wells, Control of Noxious weeds, Expansion of CRP/CREP
- Oppose Water Fees and changes to WOTUS

OPHI

Collecting Milkweed for the Ohio Pollinator habitat Initiative

TREE SALE

Proceeding with Athens consortium - Solves supplier issue and offers residents more varieties

FOR THE RECORD

Friday August 26, 2022

- Received Signed Form 11 - Received first quarterly payment: \$53,985.00
- Received Notification Agreed Upon Procedures has been completed - no discussion until certified

DISTRICT MONTHLY STATS

Cooperator Projects	Hours
Zurmehly Drainage	22.0
Tom Mallow Farm Drainage	15.0
Mallow Farm Drainage	11.0
CJ Immell Farm Drainage	10.0
Paul Brown Drainage	10.0
Zach Zurmehly Drainage	10.0
Pancake Farms Waterways	6.0
Vanzant Farm Drainage	4.0
Beatty Farm Drainage	2.0
Ed Acton SSD	2.0
Ed Acton Waterway	2.0
Ramsey Farm Drainage	1.0
TOTAL	95.0

District Projects	Hours
Equipment Repair & Maintenance	23.0
EQIP_I&E_SURVEY_DESIGN_CHECK_ROSS	22.0
ROSS COUNTY_DRAINAGE I&E	16.0
Urban Detention Pond	15.0
CRP Expiring Contract Assessment	13.0

POND_I&E_ROSS COUNTY	12.0
SCIOTORIVER_WATERTEST_WLS	7.0
Drainage and Erosion I&E_Ross County_2022	5.0
Urban Ditch Maintenance	4.0
Urban Plan Review	2.0
Equipment Rental	2.0
TOTAL	121.0

Wildlife Projects	Hours
10413 - Wildlife - Habitat Management FY22	24.0
10425 - Wildlife - Wildlife Conflict Technical	9.0
10448 - Wildlife - Wildlife EQIP Assistance FY23	7.0
10402 - Wildlife - Basic Service EDU FY22	5.0
10420 Wildlife - Ohio Landowner/(OLHAP) FY23	4.0
10443 - Wildlife - Public Lands Mgt. Grassland	3.0
TOTAL	52.0

GIS Projects	Hours
GIS	84.0
GIS UAV	20.0
GIS 911	18.0
GIS CAUV	2.5
GIS Program Assistance	2.5
2022 SWCD Statewide Drone Program	1.5
GIS Census	1.0
TOTAL	129.5

BMP Projects	Instances	Acres
Equipment Rental - No-Till Drill	4	37
Technical Assistance - Drainage	2	7
Technical Assistance - General	8	
Technical Assistance - Ponds	1	
Technical Assistance - Silviculture	1	
Technical Assistance - Soils	1	
Urban - Detention Basin Inspection	1	
Wildlife Habitat Assistance	1	

EDU Projects	Date	Activities	Adults	Children
Annual Meeting	8/18	1	58	4
Ross County Fair	8/12	5	1000	2000
Geotextile Fabric Sales	8/29	1	1	

August Sales	Amount
Geotextile Fabric	\$420.00
Annual Meeting	\$276.00
No-Till Drill Rental	\$200.00
Water Test	\$160.00
TOTAL	\$1,056.00