



ODA Updates for Area 5 SWCD Board Meetings March 2022

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

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.
- **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**.
- **SWCD Fiscal Training Exemption Reminder**- Just a reminder that Ohio law requires various public financial officials to receive continuing training in the investment of public finances or file an exemption from training with the State Treasurer's Office. **SWCD board members** that have financial responsibilities, including signing checks are required to take annual training or complete the exemption with the Treasurer of Ohio. The exemptions must be filed online by December 31, 2022. For more information on the exemption and training visit the Treasurer's website: <http://tos.ohio.gov/cpim>
- **Online New Supervisors Training** – The link for the 2nd quarter of New Supervisor Training will be emailed to new supervisors and their district's administrator within the next few days. Though this training is targeted to new supervisors it is open to all supervisors. If you're interested in the training, please contact your Program Specialist.
- **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**".
- **Sunshine Law/Open Meetings Act** – SWCD board members or their designee are required by [ORC 109.43](#) to attend public records training during each term. In-person and virtual trainings are available to satisfy this requirement. Click [here](#) to view training opportunities for 2022.
- **USDA-NRCS** – Welcomes **John Wilson as newly appointed State Conservationist for Ohio**. He officially began in his new role on February 14th. Prior to this position he served as deputy state conservationist for NRCS in Arkansas as well as spending over 20 years working for NRCS in Ohio serving in various roles including assistant state conservationist and acting state conservationist.

UPCOMING DATES:

- March 1 – Cash Basis Reports are due to the AOS
- March 8-9 – Conservation Tillage Workshop
- March 10 – Area 5 Administrator's Conference Call @ 11:30 am
- March 20-26 – Ohio Ag Week
- March 23 – TDP - Basic Hydrology
- March 24 – TDP – Soils Engineering
- March 29 – ADP – Working with Multiple Generations (virtual)
- March 30 & 31 – TDP – Pond Design and Maintenance
- March 31, April 7 & April 14 – Virtual Pastures for Profit Workshop
- April 5 & 6 – TDP – Surveying
- April 7 – TDP – Inventory and Evaluation
- April 30 - Local appropriations must be received and deposited in the special fund

ODA H2Ohio Awards- Three awards were given during the OFSWCD Partnership Meeting to honor those that have done outstanding work to deliver the H2Ohio Program and improve water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Congratulations to **Henry SWCD** for being recognized for their excellence in H2Ohio program delivery and administration. **Legacy Farmers** received the honor of H2Ohio Agricultural Industry Partner Award and **Steve Davis**, USDA-NRCS received the Lifetime Water Quality / Conservation Advocate Award. This was the first year for these awards. Congratulations to all for a job well done!

OSWCC:

- The OSWCC held their first quarterly meeting on February 28, 2022.
 - The OSWCC welcomed Tony Debevc as the newest OSWCC member. Tony was appointed on November 12, 2021. Tony is a third-generation winemaker and owner of Debonne Vineyards. Tony previously served on the Ohio Grape Industries Committee.
 - Other items of importance on the agenda:
 - Six Supervisor appointments were approved
 - Members received an update about H2Ohio and the Watershed Manager Program
 - A joint board between Williams and Defiance was approved
 - Members were also briefed on 940.111

The next meeting will be held on May 5th at ODA Reynoldsburg.

OFSWCD Annual Partnership Meeting Award Highlights-

- **OFSWCD Presidents Award-** President Matt Peart recognized **Maxine Swaisgood**, retired Administrative Assistant, Ashland SWCD for her kindness, many years of service and dedication to the conservation family.
- **District of the Year- Fairfield SWCD** received this award this year for their outstanding efforts in conservation.
- **Supervisor Hall of Fame- Jerry McBride-** Hardin SWCD and **Dee Caudill** Vinton SWCD were inducted into the SWCD Supervisor Hall of Fame for their outstanding service and contributions to OFSWCD and the conservation partnership.
- **Michael Dick, Maumee Gateway Middle School** -Was selected as the Environmental Educator of the Year. As a middle school science teacher Michael's conservation efforts stem from initiatives to help the Monarch Butterfly. Michael helped start Project Prairie, which creates habitat for the Monarch Butterfly. Michael has helped establish over 7.5 acres of prairie on 19 school campuses. Congratulations to **Michael and Lucas SWCD!**

OASWCDE: On behalf of the OASWCDE board, we hope everyone is staying safe and healthy! We enjoyed seeing everyone at the partnership meeting. 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.
- 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 OASWCDE recognized **Mary Aungst**, Medina SWCD, as the Outstanding SWCD Employee and **Brad Luckey**, Carroll SWCD Supervisor, as the Outstanding SWCD Supervisor during the Conservation Partnership Conference. Congratulations Mary and Brad!