



# ODA Updates for SWCD Board Meetings March 2023

**ODA/Area:**

**Area 5 Administrator’s Conference Call – March 9<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 am**

**SFY 24-25 Budget-** In case you missed this presentation during the OFSWCD partnership meeting, here’s an overview of Governor DeWine’s Executive Budget for SFY 2024-25 for SWCD and ODA-DSWC programs. The executive budget is very favorable for SWCDs, ODA, and H2Ohio! Below is a breakdown of requested funds for SFY 24 compared to funds for the current year (SFY 23). The Governor’s Executive Budget is now being reviewed by State Legislators. The final budget for SFY 2024-25 will be approved by legislature and the Governor by June 30, 202

| Description                | Current Year        | Executive Budget Annual Recommendations for SFY 24-25 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| SWCD General Fund          | \$11,810,000        | \$14,410,000  |
| SWCD 5BVO (Fees)           | \$8,000,000         | \$9,500,000   |
| Soil & Water Phos. Program | \$10,700,000        | \$0   |
| H2Ohio Program             | \$49,323,765        | \$69,018,000  |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>\$79,833,765</b> | <b>\$92,928,000</b>                                   |

**Local appropriations & Form 11** – Local SWCD appropriation estimates show expected increases again for this year! **Remember: Any local funds to be considered for State Match for Fiscal Year 2024 must be deposited into the special fund by April 30<sup>th</sup> and your district needs a resolution or other proof of approval for funding you receive from your County’s General Fund.** Form 11 is used to report and validate your SWCD’s local appropriations. This form is usually completed in April and May once all local funds and supporting documentation have been received. The form can 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.

**H2Ohio Update-**Governor DeWine released his executive budget proposal for FY 2024 & 2025. Proposed funding for ODA’s H2Ohio program includes \$69 million annually for H2Ohio programming, and \$7 million in funding for SWCD technical assistance to support the H2Ohio program. If these budget proposals are realized in the final budget approved in June, ODA plans to continue the current efforts in the Western Lake Erie Basin and expand program efforts to cropland across the rest of Ohio. Specific plans for H2Ohio are currently under development and will be dependent on funding approved in the final budget. ODA is finalizing purchase contracts with Myfarms for H2Ohio software development. ODA’s goal is to deploy the Myfarms software before any new H2Ohio program enrollment will be completed in the next fiscal year. The new software will support H2Ohio program enrollment, contract management, and practice certification and verification activities. ODA’s goal is to reduce the administrative time required of SWCDs to deliver the H2Ohio program and process payments, as well as to increase program consistency across the project area.

**Welcome new ODA Employee-** DSWC would like to welcome Steve Johnson to our engineering team! Steve comes from Union SWCD and will now be assisting SWCDs in Area 4 with engineering needs. Steve’s new office location will be at Shelby SWCD.

**Forestry Technical Assistance Grant** – The ODNR-DOF received a federal grant to provide forestry technical assistance in the Lake Erie Watershed. Through an application process funds will be distributed to SWCDs to support forestry assistance, train staff, facilitate programs, and provide resources. Application information will be available to SWCDs in the Lake Erie Watershed later this month.

**2024 ADP and TDP Trainings-** The OSWCC approved a recommendation to offer technician development (TDP) and administrative development (ADP) trainings free of charge to SWCDs starting January 2024. Staff training is one of three priorities for the HR committee and offering trainings free of charge will hopefully encourage SWCD staff to take advantage of training opportunities. This change also helps ease the administration of these training programs by not having to provide refunds or collect payments from SWCDs. Training costs typically include meals, materials, and occasionally meeting room rental. Beginning January 2024, \$84,000 of funds will be set aside to cover SWCD training costs, any funds not used will carry over into the following year. ODA DSWC does not charge for staff time involved in these trainings.

**ADP -Administrative Development Program** – March 28<sup>th</sup> there will be an ADP session held at the statehouse focusing on the legislative process. We will meet at the Vern Riffe Center at 9:00 for an introduction before touring the statehouse. Following the tour lunch will be provided. The afternoon will include discussion on the budget process and/or the legislative process followed by the opportunity to sit in on general session of the House or Senate. Attendance to this ADP session is limited so we are initially only taking one individual from each district. If multiple individuals from your district would like to attend, please register them as well and if there is room available, they will be welcome. There is no charge for this session. To register please send an email to [cody.hacker@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:cody.hacker@agri.ohio.gov) before March 20<sup>th</sup> stating who from your district is planning to attend and which individual should be given top priority. ODA DSWC ADP 2023 training dates and topics:

**Legislative Process/Statehouse Tour**-March 28<sup>th</sup>-9 am meet at Vern Riffe Center

**Grants Outreach & Budget Process**-May 4<sup>th</sup> - ODA Campus – 8995 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH

**Personnel Management & Leadership**-June 6<sup>th</sup>-ODA Campus – 8995 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH

**Communications & Media Outreach**-August 23<sup>rd</sup> - ODA Campus – 8995 E Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH

**Technician Development Program**- ODA-DSWC Beginner and Advanced level TDP courses planned for 2023 are now open for registration. All classes begin at 9:00am and run to approximately 3:30pm. The Beginner Level is comprised of 8 courses:

**Conservation Engineering** – Online March 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Engineering Resources & Math Refresher** – Online March 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Ag Pollution Abatement Program** – Online March 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Basic Nutrient Management** – April 13<sup>th</sup> – Shelby SWCD – 822 Fair Road, Sidney, OH

**Basic Hydrology** – July 11<sup>th</sup> – Franklin OSU Extension – 2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH

**Inventory & Evaluation** – July 12<sup>th</sup> – Franklin OSU Extension – 2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH

**Soils Engineering** – July 13<sup>th</sup> – Franklin OSU Extension – 2548 Carmack Rd, Columbus, OH

**Surveying** – July 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> – Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH

Advanced Level TDP classes open for registration:

**SWPPP Reviews (At Capacity)** – March 16<sup>th</sup> - Audubon Center - 505 W Whittier St, Columbus, OH

**WASCOBs Design** – April 19<sup>th</sup> – Fairfield SWCD – 31 College Ave Suite B, Lancaster, OH

**Concrete** – August 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> – Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH

**Wetlands Design** – September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> - Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH

**Watering Facilities** – November 16<sup>th</sup> - Horace Collins Lab – 3307 S Old State Rd, Delaware, OH

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)

**OSWCC:** The next OSWCC meeting will be held on April 27, 2023. For more information about the meeting contact Emily Heppner [emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov)

**OFSWCD:** Thank you to everyone who came out to join us for “Conservation Conversations” during our 2023 Annual Partnership Meeting. Almost 450 people in attendance this year. Congratulations to these award winners:

- **H2Ohio Award Winners:** Putnam SWCD, Ed Crawford, and Sunrise Cooperative
- **Hugh Hammond Bennett Regional Conservation Planner Award:** Dee Wiseman, Morgan County
- **OASWCDE SWCD Supervisor Award:** John Mangan, Hamilton SWCD
- **OASWCDE SWCD Staff Award:** Kenny White, Morgan SWCD
- **OFSWCD Teacher of the Year:** Jessica Stonecypher, Zanesville Schools, Muskingum SWCD
- **OFSWCD Supervisor Hall of Fame:** Joe Glassmeyer (Clermont), Fred Glander (Montgomery), John Redick (Wayne)
- **OFSWCD Urban Conservation award:** Warren SWCD
- **OFSWCD District of the Year:** Richland SWCD
- **OFSWCD President’s Award:** Wendee Dodds, Jefferson SWCD

**Mark you calendar!** Summer Supervisor School dates July 30<sup>th</sup>- August 1<sup>st</sup> hosted by Area 4.

**OASWCDE:** On behalf of the OASWCDE board, we hope everyone had a safe trip to and from the OFSWCD Partnership Meeting! It was great to see such a large group in attendance. A few updates are listed below:

- OASWCDE 2023 membership form is now 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.