

Ohio Soil Water Conservation Commission
January 23, 2013 – ODNR Fountain Square, Building G
Meeting Summary

Call to Order (10:05am)

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call Commission Members Present

Chairperson Tom Price

Bill Knapke

Kevin Elder

Ron Hendrick

Etta Reed

Kris Swartz

Fred Cash (arrived @ 10:25am)

Additional Attendees: Karl Gebhardt, Fred Hammon, Mike Bailey, Kirk Hines, Tina Ray, Jill Evans, Mike Hallfrisch, ODNR-DSWR; Michelle Lohstroh, NRCS; Mindy Bankey, Joe Glassmeyer, OFSWCD; Brandi Koehler, FSA; and Ryan Smith, OASWCDE.

Welcome

Chairperson Price called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions or changes to agenda. Chairperson Price motioned to add item #8 to agenda to discuss summer meeting plans. Bill Knapke moved to approve the agenda, Ron Hendrick seconded. Motion passed.

Chairperson Price asked if there were any additions or changes to November 8 minutes. Hearing none Ron Hendrick moved to approve the minutes, Etta Reed seconded. Motion passed.

Commission Member Comments

Etta Reed reported that the NPDES local quality program talks with OEPA have not went well and OEPA is not interested in changing the program. The Urban Committee will have a breakout session at annual meeting to discuss next steps. She informed the commission she was re-elected as a Supervisor in Butler county.

Kevin Elder deferred.

Bill Knapke no report.

Ron Hendrick no report.

Tom Price reported on hosting an international studies group from the Delaware County LEAD Program. Price attended with the Director a luncheon at the Ohio Nursery and Landscape

Executive Secretary Report

The Commission acted on five board appointments:

Fairfield SWCD: Mike Wolfe to replace Bonnie Calderwood. Ron Hendrick moved to approve. Chris Swartz seconded. Motion carried.

Fred Hammon informed the Commission that a special election would be needed to elect another board member for the Fairfield SWCD. Fred Hammon said that this has happen before; however we have developed a new tracking system that will help us follow which terms are up for election. In the future, the person printing the ballots will be able to cross check that database to insure correctness. Hammon suggested that one motion at the end of all five appointments requests would be appreciated.

Guernsey SWCD: Steve Douglass from Cambridge to replace Blaine Neilley who passed away.

Gallia SWCD: Mat Sanders to replace Jeff Moore who resigned

Muskingham SWCD: Todd Sands to replace Frances Steffy who resigned

Lucas SWCD: Charles Beaver to replace Elvis Johnson who resigned.

Chairman Price asked for a motion to approve the five board appointments. Kevin Elder moved to approve. Ron Hendrick seconded. Motion passed.

Fred Cash reported that he met with Director Zehringer and Karl Gebhardt at Malabar Farms during the Open House. Cash said that Malabar Farm is an incubator for all farming in the state.

Recognition of Guests

Mindy Bankey mentioned that Kris Swartz, Wood County secretary/treasurer will be the new Vice President of the OFSWCD. Bankey introduced Joe Glassmeyer to the group who will replace Kent Stuckey in February at the Annual Meeting as President. Joe is a retired farmer and school bus driver for the local school district in Clermont County.

OSWCC Action and Discussion Items

Commission Reorganization

Executive Secretary Gebhardt was appointed temporary chair for the purpose of running the election of Commission Chair. Gebhardt asked for nominations for Chairperson. Fred Cash motioned that Tom Price be re-nominated as Chairperson of OSWCC. Kevin Elder seconded. Motion carried. Tom Price accepted the nomination.

Chairman Price asked for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

Ron Hendrick moved to nominate Fred Cash as Vice-Chairperson.

Etta Reed seconded. Motion carried.

Review Agricultural Abatement MOU

Kirk Hines reported on the development of an updated Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (APAP) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ODNR-DSWR and Ohio's SWCDs. Kirk explained that the current MOU was executed between ODNR-DSWR and each of the 88 SWCDs in 2005. Since there have been several changes to the APAP since 2005, Kirk shared that it is recommended that a new agreement be executed. Kirk reviewed the proposed changes to the MOU and explained that it was being reviewed by ODNR legal staff. Karl Gebhardt stated he had recently communicated with the legal staff in this regards, and the new language was approved. Kirk informed the commission that OAC 1501:15-5-14 requires that the terms of this agreement (APAP MOU) is reviewed and approved by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Chairman Price asked if there is any discussion on the MOU and if not, was there a motion to approve the changes.

Fred Cash moved to approve the changes. Bill Knapke seconded. Motion carried.

Chairperson Price recommended a five minute break at 11:15am. The commission meeting resumed at 11:22am to allow Mike Hallfrisch to prepare for his power point presentation on general water withdrawal rights and regulations.

Ohio's water withdrawal laws and rules

Mike Hallfrisch, Administrator of the Water Resources Section gave a power point presentation about the Ohio's water withdrawal laws and rules. Hallfrisch talked about the O.R. Codes 1521.16 Water Withdrawal Registration and 1501.33 Consumptive Use Permit and the Great Lake Compact (see handouts). Elder asked if agriculture is 90% of consumptive use. Hallfrisch said no.

GLSM distressed watershed update

Gebhardt reported on Grand Lake St. Mary's 155 CMPs that were due on December 15. There were twelve cooperators that did not meet compliance. And there were 12 Notice of Violation issued on December 31, 2012. Out of the 12 there were 5 no and 7 yes that submitted their CMPs. The five had Chiefs Orders issued and thirty days to request an administrative hearing. Director Zehringer and the Governor are behind this initiative. Gebhardt gave many thanks to Terry Mescher, Frances Springer, Mercer SWCD and the DSWR staff.

Cash asked what objections the cooperators have about submitting their CMPs. Gebhardt said the number one reason was they did not know what to do with the manure. Price asked what percentage of the spreading space is taken up. Hines said 90% of land base.

Gebhardt said that a second issue will be monitoring the Chickasaw branch and it will cost \$54,000 to install the monitoring station and \$20,000 per year for sample testing

Budget and Legislative update

Gebhardt spoke about the State budget and how all Agencies had to do two budgets. The first is a zero budget and the second is a 10% reduction budget which had to be done by February 4. The State budget was rolled out by OMB Director Keen on February 6. The Transportation budget may include funds to repair 4

Dams. On February 11 we should learn about the main operating budget and February 19 is the Governor's State of the State address in Lima, OH.

Evans reminded all the commission members to file their Ethics reports by April 15 and that the forms can be downloaded and printed off the Ohio Ethics website. However, on-line filing is not yet available.

Western Lake Erie Basin program progress

Mike Bailey reported on progress of the WLEB Phase II in Wood, Henry, and Defiance counties with the help of Mark Seger, conservation engineer in Area 1 and Justin McBride, engineer intern along with Ed Crawford, WLEB specialist. The first phase in the pilot is about 20,000 acres and the long-term goal to reach about 35,000 acres.

Agency Reports

OSU: Ron Hendrick reported that there were lots of retirements.

NRCS: Michelle Lohstroh reported that the Farm bill is on hold and continuing resolution the budget will keep EQUIP going with some dollars. Sequestration will reduce the budget, maybe by half. Government program delivery will be like an application for NRCS services that you customize

FSA: Brandi Kohler discussed DRP (handout) CPEE – 10 years SAFE – 15-20 years Cooperator can opt-out but pay the fees.

OEPA: no report. Chairperson Price requested that Gebhardt get bullets points from Director of OEPA to report to commission meetings in the future. Gebhardt agreed.

ODA: Kevin Elder reported on an exotic animal bill, invasive trees in SW Ohio, and phosphorous task force. Hammon mentioned attending a Farmers meeting in Deshler. The speaker, from an ag consulting company said to get on board with nutrient management plans. They are already in NY, PA, IA and western side of state.

ODNR: Gebhardt reported on the Malabar Farm renovation at the Big House and the new manager is Kory Boyer who has a background in operating small farms. Malabar Farms will showcase conservation farming in the coming years. Cash said he was very impressed with Malabar Farms and that Director Zehringer encouraged folks to come back and visit.

OFSWCD: Mindy Bankey reported on the 4R Programs, Farmers Breakfast Meetings, and the Soybean Council. She reminded all about the Annual OFSWCD Meeting February 25 -26 at the Renaissance Hotel and that they would be hosting a legislator reception to meet with Legislators.

OASWCDE: Ryan reported about OFSWCD evening activities which would be a charter bus to the Hollywood Casino and that he continues to work with Mindy on the Annual meeting.

Chairman Price requested a motion to adjourn at 12:45pm. Ron Hendrick moved: Kevin Elder seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.