

Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission

January 15, 2014 – ODNR Building E-1

2045 Morse Road, Columbus, OH

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Call to Order (10:00 am)

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call Commission Members Present

Chairman Tom Price

Vice-Chairman Fred Cash

Kevin Elder

Larry Vance

Dr. Scott Shearer

Additional Attendees

Mike Bailey (ODNR-DSWR); Brittney Colvin (Director of Legislative Affairs, ODNR); Ronda Tipton (ODNR-DSWR); Kirk Hines (ODNR-DSWR); Fred Hammon (ODNR-DSWR); Jeff Ankney (ODNR-DSWR); Dorothy Farris (ODNR-DSWR); Jennifer Fish (Franklin SWCD); Michelle Lohstroh (NRCS); Joe Glassmeyer (OFSWCD President); Mindy Bankey (OFSWCD); Tia Rice (Seneca SWCD); Michelle Mattix (Marion SWCD); Brandi Koehler (USDA-FSA); Russ Gibson (OEPA)

Welcome

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked if there were any additions or changes to the day's meeting agenda as presented.

Action: Fred Cash moved to accept the January 15, 2014 meeting agenda as presented. Kevin Elder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Price then asked if there any additions or corrections to the November 13, 2013 draft meeting minutes, as presented.

Action: Kevin Elder moved to approve the November 13, 2013 meeting minutes as presented. Scott Shearer seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Commission Member Reports

Fred Cash had nothing to report.

Tom Price had nothing to report.

Kevin Elder deferred comments until the ODA report.

Larry Vance deferred comments until the OFSWCD report.

Scott Shearer deferred comments until the OSU report.

Recognition of Guests and Public Comment

Chairman Price opened the floor to anyone that would like to provide public comment.

No public comment was provided.

Executive Secretary Report

ODNR-DSWR Chief Bailey reported that DSWR Deputy Chief Ted Lozier had resigned from his position at ODNR effective January 10, 2014, and had started in his new role as Director of Conservation for the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.

On December 20th, the division has officially launched the new Pipeline Standard and Construction Guidelines. Bailey stated that these were shared in draft form with the OSWCC at the last meeting, and they are now publicly available for use.

The OSWCC Match Task Force held its charter meeting on December 20th, and Kevin Elder and Fred Hammon will be discussing the work of the task force later.

ODNR-DSWR will be actively participating in Power Show Ohio on January 24, 25 and 26th. Director Zehringer will also be providing opening remarks on the 24th. A division booth will be staffed each day, and division staff will be providing mid-day demonstrations on the topics of soil health and controlled drainage structures.

Approval of Joint Boards

Next, the OSWCC considered the approval of one requests for a joint board.

Action: Kevin moved to approve the request from Auglaize SWCD and Mercer SWCD to form a joint board. Fred seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

OSWCC Action and Discussion Items

Update on Match Task Force

Kevin Elder and Fred Hammon provided an update on the Match Task Force that was created by the OSWCC at its November meeting. The Task Force met for the first time on December 20th, and will be meeting monthly up until July 2014. Fred Hammon shared with the members of the OSWCC some of the materials which the Task Force is examining, including: the total local funds, state funds and the overall match rate for the past 56 years; 2012 CAUV funds to SWCDs; a list of 46 identified different sources of local funds; and a spreadsheet that shows in more detail the local and state appropriations by district over the past five years.

New Training Resources & Tools for SWCDs

Program Specialists Dorothy Farris and Jeff Ankney provided an update on the newly-revised Administrative Handbook and “Frequently Asked Questions” Handbook for district employees and supervisors. The Handbooks last major overhaul was in 2001, and is now online to provide greater assistance to SWCD supervisors and staff on behalf of the OSWCC. These resources will be available 24/7 and will allow staff to keep current much more easily.

Administrative Rules Updates

Fred Hammon provided an update that the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) has notified ODNR that several rules in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) are overdue. One set of rules (under the purview of the OSWCC) that is coming due for the 5-year review is relative to SWCD election procedures.

He shared with the OSWCC that we will ask them to formally vote on ODNR’s proposed rule package at April’s meeting. These 8 rules have to deal with notices of public meetings, minutes, nominations, voter eligibility, and elections. One key issue that the OSWCC will be asked to consider in April is whether only residents should be eligible to vote in SWCD elections. Fred shared that in 2013’s SWCD elections, only 10 non-resident votes were cast statewide, and 6 of those were by the same individual.

Legislative Update

ODNR Director of Legislative Affairs Brittney Colvin reported that SB 150, introduced by Senators Hite and Peterson, is currently in its seventh version, and is almost to the finish line. At this point, the bill would grant most authority over fertilizer to ODA, and ODNR has very little in the bill. The proposed changes to the OSWCC are still in the bill. She reported that the members of the Ohio General Assembly will likely be in session until mid-May. At the same time, the Mid-Biennial Review (MBR) process is soon starting, and an MBR bill is likely to be introduced in the latter part of February.

Agency Reports

OSU: Dr. Shearer reported that Dean McPherson sends his regards, and the college of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences will be looking to hire additional faculty expertise on water-specific issues, as the college continues to increase its focus on sustainability. Additionally, the college looks to be experiencing an increase in funding of 7-9%.

USDA-NRCS: Michelle Lohstroh, Assistant NRCS State Conservationist, reported that State Conservationist Terry Cosby is currently in Washington, D.C. participating in a committee looking at vehicle usage. The application period for the Conservation Stewardship program has been extended through February 7th. NRCS will be partnering with SARE to host a live cover crop and soil health forum webinar on February 18th. USDA is offering a second sign-up for Hurricane Sandy relief, which extends to Cuyahoga and Ashtabula counties. Three NRCS District Conservationists have recently retired. Finally, the three way cooperative working memorandum between SWCDs, NRCS, and ODNR will soon be re-visited.

USDA-FSA: Brandi Koehler provided the OSWCC with a written program update on the status of CRP acreage. She stated that, since 01 October 2013, FSA has been unable to accept applications or approve new contracts. The Lake Erie CREP program currently has 43,000 acres enrolled, with a goal of 67,000

acres. Since 2012, the new Highly Erodible Lands initiative is targeting those lands with an erodibility index of 20 or greater.

OEPA: Russ Gibson reported on behalf of Brian Hall of the Division of Surface Water. Russ reported that Director Scott Nally has recently resigned from OEPA. As a non-point source update, the programmatic responsibility has expanded to Lake Erie, Remedial Action Plans, and Areas of Concern. OEPA is working with NRCS on three National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) watersheds in Ohio, including Broken Sword Creek. That project is partnership between NRCS, OEPA and Crawford SWCD. OEPA is also working on three target nutrient reduction projects with GLRI funding in Lost Creek (Crawford SWCD); Powell Creek (Defiance SWCD); and the Blanchard (Hancock SWCD).

ODA: Kevin Elder reported that the Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting currently has rules out for a five year review, and expects they will be done by March. Additionally, ODA is updating its MOU with OEPA and the Division of Soil and Water relative to manure response. ODA currently has over 200 permitted large CAFF's permitted, and new construction is expected to pick up as weather permits. New Puppy Mill regulations are being drafted at ODA, and the new Dangerous and Wild Animal registration rules took effect on January 1st.

OFSWCD: Mindy Bankey, OFSWCD CEO, reported that preparation continues for the annual meeting on March 3-4 at the Columbus Renaissance Hotel, and registration is now live on the web site. The Chief of NRCS may be in attendance as well. During Monday's luncheon Director Zehringer will be honoring Bill Richards with ODNR's Cardinal Award. NACD's annual meeting in Anaheim, CA is coming up in a few weeks, and quite a few SWCDs will be sending representatives.

OASWCC: Tia Rice reported that this will be her last OSWCC meeting as a director of OASWDE, as she is term limited out. She and Michelle Mattix will be attending the NACD's annual meeting.

ODNR: Mike Bailey reported that former Chief David Hanselmann, in new position as instructor at OSU's School of Environment and Natural Resources, brought 35-40 students from his capstone environmental policy course to ODNR recently. Director Zehringer provided a welcome to the students, and they were able to hear presentations from the Divisions of Soil and Water; Mineral Resources Management; Oil and Gas; Forestry; Wildlife; Watercraft and Parks.

OSWCC Appointments

One request was submitted to the Commission to consider for appointment to an SWCD board.

Action: A motion was made by Kevin Elder to approve the appointment of David Kemler to fill the vacated seat of David Jones of Van Wert SWCD. Scott Shearer seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment

Action: A motion was made by Larry Vance to adjourn. Fred Cash seconded. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.