

Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission

November 12, 2014 – ODNR Building E-1

2045 Morse Road, Columbus, OH

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Call to Order (10:04 am)

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call Commission Members Present

Chairman Tom Price

Vice-Chairman Fred Cash

Etta Reed

Larry Vance

Ex-Officio Members Present

Kevin Elder

Kris Swartz

Dr. Scott Shearer

Mike Bailey

Dan Dudley

Additional Attendees

Mike Bailey (ODNR-DSWR); Ronda Tipton (ODNR-DSWR); Kirk Hines (ODNR-DSWR); Rob Hamilton (ODNR-DSWR); Chad Amos (ODNR-DSWR); Liz Cline (ODNR-DSWR); Fred Hammon (ODNR-DSWR); Jeff Ankney (ODNR-DSWR); Clark Hutson(ODNR-DSWR); Jennifer Fish (Franklin SWCD); Michelle Lohstroh (NRCS); Kris Swartz (OFSWCD); Tim White (OASWCDE)

Welcome

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 10:04 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 November 12, 2014 meeting agenda as presented. Etta Reed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Price then asked if there any additions or corrections to the July 9, 2014 draft meeting minutes, as presented.

Action: Larry Vance moved to approve the July 9, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Etta Reed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commission Member Reports

Etta Reed reported that she is continuing to participate in monthly conference calls on the National Association of Conservation Districts' Urban and Community Policy Working Group in an ex-Officio capacity.

Fred Cash reported that July's conservation tour was informative experience, and that he has recently attended Cuyahoga SWCD's annual meeting and Farm Bureau's meeting.

Tom Price reported that he appreciated the presence of Dan Dudley from Ohio EPA at today's meeting, and that this has been a very fast summer on water quality issues. He stated that he is cognizant of the public's attitude that farmers are not doing enough to improve water quality.

Larry Vance reported that he recently had the opportunity to speak at Brown SWCD's 70th annual meeting, and will be speaking at Delaware SWCD's annual meeting later this month. Mr. Vance also noted the recent passing of two conservation leaders in Ohio: Mr. Clarence Durban and Mr. Nevin Smith.

Kris Swartz deferred comments until the OFSWCD agency report.

Kevin Elder deferred comments until the ODA agency 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 Mike Bailey reported that much has occurred since July's meeting. Dorothy Farris has been promoted to the SWCD Program Administrator, filling the position vacated by Fred Hammon's retirement. Dorothy's previous position as Program Specialist will soon be filled. Jeanne Russell has recently retired as Education Coordinator. ODNR has currently posted this position as well.

Following the water quality problems faced by the City of Toledo in early August, USEPA Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman convened a meeting with State and federal officials, including Directors Butler, Daniels and Zehringer. Soon after the meeting, USEPA announced \$5.94 million in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding for ODNR, and \$1.5 million in funding for Ohio EPA.

The final proposal for the *Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Phosphorus Reduction Initiative* has been submitted to USDA-NRCS under the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). If fully funded, this project will result in \$20 million in new funding to the WLEB portion of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan over the course of five years. Ohio's portion would be \$14 million. Final word on funding determination is expected before the OSWCC's next meeting.

Hearings will resume again this week for House Bill 490 in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. HB 490 was originally introduced on April 1, 2014 as part of the larger Mid-Biennium Review bill. Several amendments are expected over the course of the next few days.

The Fiscal Year 16-17 biennial budget process will soon be starting, as agencies have begun to submit budget requests to the Office of Budget and Management.

OSWCC Appointments

Two requests were presented to the Commission to consider appointments to SWCD boards.

Action: A motion was made by Larry Vance to approve both appointments (*Nicole Turner to fill the vacated seat of David Totterdale of Belmont SWCD; and Dave Adams to fill the vacated seat of Steve Brunner of Pike SWCD*). Etta Reed seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Joint Boards

Next, the OSWCC considered the approval of one request for joint boards.

Action: Fred Cash moved to approve the request from Wood SWCD, Ottawa SWCD and Sandusky SWCD to form a joint board for the Toussaint Improvement Project. Larry Vance seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OSWCC Action and Discussion Items

Invited Presentation:

Mr. Dan Dudley of Ohio EPA provided members of the OSWCC with an update presentation on Ohio EPA's Nutrient Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG was formed in November 2013 in response to comments received during early stakeholder outreach regarding nutrient water quality standard (WQS). Mr. Dudley provided members with a one-page handout detailing: the background, composition, purpose, charge, progress and next steps of the technical advisory group. Two additional meetings of the TAG have been scheduled for November 14th and December 14th.

Update on Conservation Assistance Grants

As follow up to requests from members of the OSWCC at the previous meeting, updates were provided by DSWR staff. ODNR-DSWR Program Specialist Clark Hutson provided additional background information on the decision of Lorain SWCD to ultimately withdraw its application for a 2014 Conservation Assistance Grant.

ODNR-DSWR Program Specialist Chad Amos provided the OSWCC with additional information on the respective applications from Noble SWCD and Morgan SWCD. Noble SWCD's respective plan of work was provided to the OSWCC in advance of the meeting. Morgan SWCD's plan of work was distributed to members of the OSWCC at the meeting.

ODNR-DSWR Program Specialist Jeff Ankney provided the OSWCC with additional information on the Conservation Assistance Grant (CAG) application from Lucas SWCD. Lucas SWCD's plan of work was provided to the OSWCC in advance of the meeting.

Members of the OSWCC asked that all Noble, Morgan and Lucas SWCDs be sent a letter commending them for their work in informing the OSWCC on their plans and progress.

SWCD Match Task Force Recommendations

As follow up to the OSWCC's approval at the July 9, 2014 meeting to adopt the recommendations of the SWCD Match Task Force, Etta Reed reported that the recommendations were shared with delegates at the OFSWCD's Summer Supervisor School. Districts were asked to provide additional feedback or comments to Dorothy Farris. No additional feedback had been received from SWCDs during this time. The SWCD Match Task Force recommendations stand as approved by the OSWCC on July 9, 2014.

Joint Board Statutory Language Task Force

Chief Bailey reported that, now that the work of the Match Task Force is complete, the next Task Force to begin will now be the Joint Board Task Force. The OSWCC approved the creation of this Task Force at its November 2013 meeting, with the objective of establishing recommendations building upon what was evaluated in the OSWCC Conservation Program Delivery Task Force.

ODNR-DSWR SWCD Program Administrator Dorothy Farris has developed a general work plan for the Task Force, and the goal is to convene an initial meeting by the end of the year. The OFSWCD has recommended area representatives to be part of this Task Force.

Larry Vance asked that a mission statement be developed for this Task Force in order to clarify that it will not be in any way addressing the issue of consolidation of SWCDs.

Future 2015 Meeting Dates

The following quarterly meeting dates for 2015, and accepted by consent by members of the OSWCC:

January 14, 2015 (10:00 am). – Building E-1, Assembly Center.

April 16, 2015 (10:00 am) – Building E-1, Assembly Center

July 8-9, 2015 – Area 4 (Union/Madison) and Area 5 (Franklin/Delaware)

November 12, 2015 (10:00 am) - Building E-1, Assembly Center

It was recommended that the April 16, 2015 meeting be targeted for the OSWCC's reorganization meeting.

Agency Reports

OSU: Dr. Scott Shearer reported that Vice-President McPheron had recently launched the \$1 million Field-to-Faucet initiative, and a director for this effort will soon be announced. Jeff Sharp has been named Director of the School of Environment and Natural Resources. The Global Water Initiative is the broader umbrella effort over the Field to Faucet initiative.

USDA-NRCS: Michelle Lohstroh, Assistant NRCS State Conservationist, reported that MOUs are currently being executed between SWCDs, NRCS and ODNR. These MOUs allow for flexibility for all entities to work together. SWCDs have been engaged in hosting local work group meetings for NRCS.

NRCS has been actively engaged in Lake Erie work, and much has been accomplished with \$2 million to spend, plus an additional \$1 million added in. Ohio NRCS is looking forward to the Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) Phosphorus Reduction Initiative being accepted soon under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Conservation compliance will continue to be a priority.

OPEA: Dan Dudley of Ohio EPA's Division of Surface Water, reported the Hypoxia Task Force will be hosted in Columbus May 18-22. OSU will concurrently plan this event in conjunction with a Healthy Soil / Healthy Water workshop.

ODA: Kevin Elder reported that training has started with OSU for the new Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification program under SB 150, and over 700 individuals has been trained in the first three sessions. Twenty-six more sessions are being set up by OSU. ODA has begun its FY16-FY17 budget preparation process. Permits issued by the Division of Livestock Environmental Permitting are up to 215 facilities. ODA is continuing to work on HB490 and responding to questions on that. The Office of the Attorney General is preparing a statement for re-submission of NPDES authority.

OFSWCD: Kris Swartz, Vice President of the OFSWCD, reported that he attended the first training session of the Agricultural Fertilizer Applicator Certification program, and the session was really well attended. The OFSWCD looks forward to working with ODNR in HB490 and other legislative issues.

OASWCDE: Tim White reported that a continuing priority is to expand training opportunities for employees. A computer work shop was recently held, which provided additional training on Excel and social media to twelve members. The association is continuing work on a newsletter, updates to the web site, by-laws, and officer term limits. The next meeting will be held on December 18th.

Being no further business before the commission, Fred Cash moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m. Larry Vance seconded. Motion carried unanimously.