

**THE OHIO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM
DELIVERY TASK FORCE REPORT
December 31, 2011**

Introduction

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have provided a strong, locally-led effort delivering “on the ground” natural resource programs and conservation education for over 70 years. Over this time much has changed including new environmental challenges, new public agencies and non-governmental organizations, fluctuations in public funding, and advancements in technology, conservation practices and information gathering. While SWCDs maintain a strong local identity and positive reputation for local conservation program delivery, the Ohio Legislature sought to evaluate the potential impact external and internal impediments have on SWCD program delivery and effectiveness.

Substitute House Bill 153 required the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) to convene the Conservation Program Delivery Task Force. The Chairman of the OSWCC, in cooperation with the Director of ODNR and in consultation with the Office of Budget and Management (OBM), appointed a task force of nine members (Appendix A), which began meeting in August. The objective of the task force was to develop policy and legislation recommendations that encourage the sharing of services across all levels of government and removing impediments to organizational management and program delivery through SWCDs. The Task Force was to submit recommendations by December 31, 2011, to the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

During a five-month period, seven meetings of the Task Force were held. The Task Force considered information from many sources including comments of SWCD staff and Boards of Supervisors, ODNR Division staff, survey data on SWCD program use from local government officials, results from a January 2011 Battelle Report on SWCDs, presentations by OSU experts and input of a 22 person advisory group (Appendix B) representing many different conservation and natural resource interests from across the state.

While gathering input it became apparent to the Task Force that SWCDs are very creative in stretching financial resources by sharing costs and services, and performing these services at a lower cost than the state average salaries for like positions and responsibilities. SWCDs have also taken significant cost-cutting measures including layoffs and sharing of services and resources both at the intra and inter county level. SWCDs are in the business of conservation and this not only applies to natural resources, because they have taken it to the operational level in everything they do, including conserving financial resources.

This report contains three categories of Task Force recommendations which will help address impediments and encourage efficiencies aimed at optimizing the delivery of conservation programs through Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The three categories are: 1) issues requiring legislative action, 2) changes possible through administrative rules and/or OSWCC or Division policies, and 3) items that can be implemented by policy and operational changes and actions of local SWCDs.

I. Legislative Recommendations

A. Re-Alignment of Program Delivery Process and Funding Impact

Statutory authority for natural resource and environmental issues rests primarily with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio Department of Health. In addition, the Ohio Water Development Authority, Ohio Public Works Commission, OSU Extension, The Ohio State University, Heidelberg University and others also have either statutory authority or program involvement in issues related to natural resources and environmental quality.

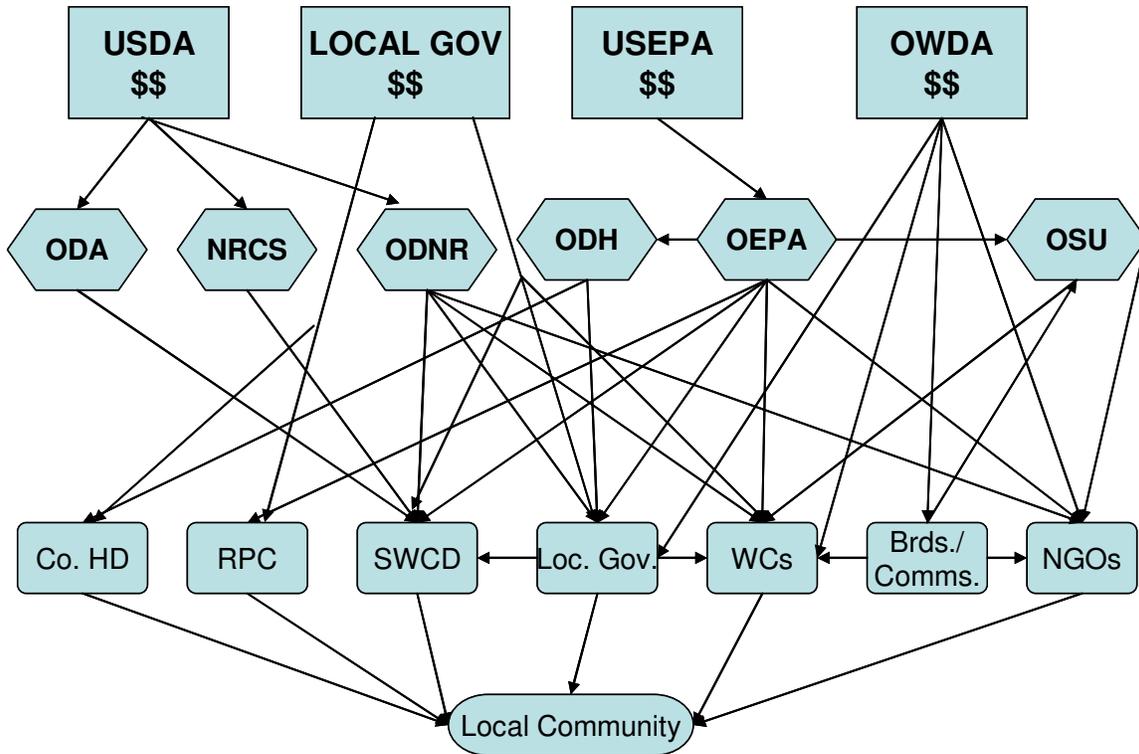
There are also a number of boards and commissions tied to state agencies or operating independently that have statutory standing or policy involvement in these issues as well.

Federal agencies such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service , Farm Service Agency, U.S.EPA and Fish and Wildlife Service also represent various resource priorities and programs, as well as, funding.

In addition to the government agencies at the federal and state levels, a number of non-governmental organizations (NGO) exist and are involved in program delivery funded by state and federal dollars. This can be in addition to local government funding made available for local conservation priorities and programs. Some of these NGOs or local agencies may actually be receiving funds to carry out programs without coordination by the state agency with statutory authority for the program.

As a result, conservation program delivery and funding at the county, state, and federal levels is fractured among these multiple agencies and groups resulting in a well intentioned but unfocused approach to addressing Ohio's natural resource needs. While each federal, state and local delivery process may produce worthy conservation efforts; prioritization, coordination and integration efforts are frequently lacking and are often challenging, confusing and inefficient. A schematic diagram designed to illustrate the current delivery of funds and services is shown in Figure 1.

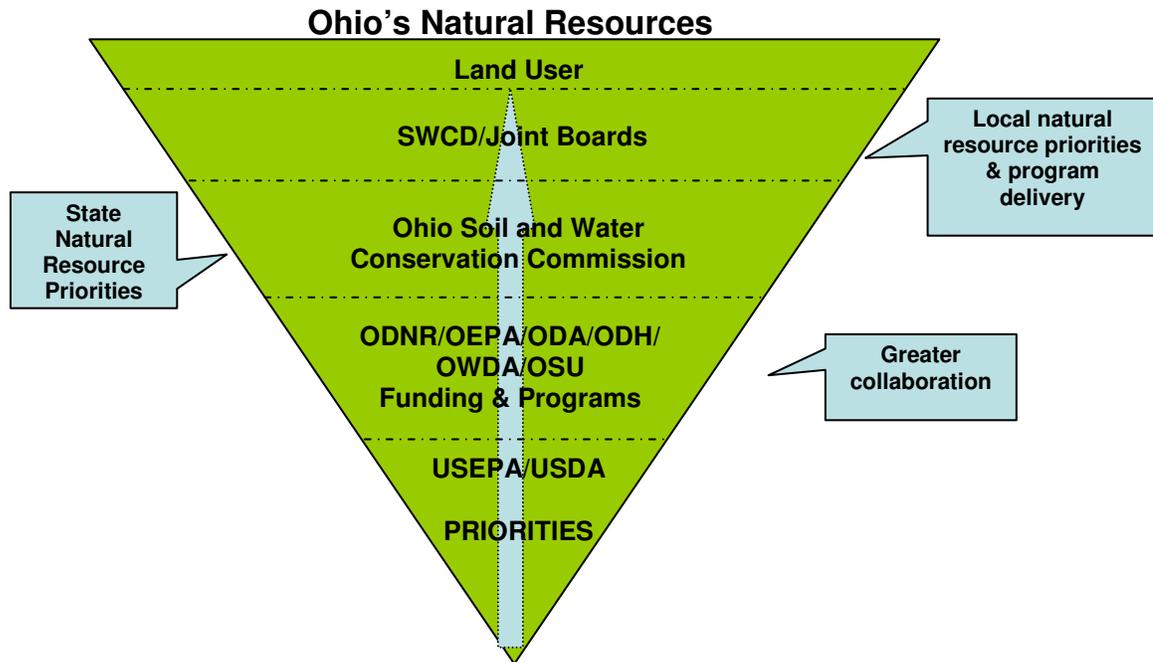
Figure 1. Current Delivery Methodology



Legend; USDA- United States Department of Agriculture; USEPA- United States Environmental Protection Agency; OWDA- Ohio Water Development Authority; ODA- Ohio Department of agriculture; NRCS- Natural Resources Conservation Service; ODNR- Ohio Department of Natural Resources; ODH- Ohio Department of Health; OEPA- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; OSU –Ohio State University; Co. HD- County Health Departments; RPC- Regional Planning Commissions; SWCD- Soil and Water Conservation District; Loc. Gov.- Local Governments; WCs- Watershed Coordinator Program; NGOs- Non-Profit Organization

The Task Force recommends a more streamlined model for federal and state funded program and service delivery. This process would align state natural resource and environmental priorities, and would focus staff resources and public funds to achieve measurable results. SWCDs are positioned to know the needs of the local communities and are able to direct resources meeting state and national resources goals, ultimately gaining better voluntary action and compliance and providing a more user/business friendly system.

Figure 2. Proposed Aligned Delivery Process



The Task Force recognizes that federal funding, programs and priorities are established and administered by those respective federal agencies, often with direction provided by Congress. As a result of this structure, the Task Force recommends that discussions be held with the various federal agencies in an effort to coordinate natural resource priorities, implement programs and direct funding in a manner that will meet both federal and state objectives. If applicable, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the federal, state and local agencies should be developed.

The Task Force recommends that the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission under O.R.C. 1515.02 be reconfigured (see section B1 below) and authorized to establish Ohio state natural resource priorities. The OSWCC would coordinate the establishment of those priorities in conjunction with those state agencies, boards or commissions with an interest relating to those natural resource issues under O.R.C. 1511.

Once priorities are established, a strategic plan and program implementation strategy would be developed by the Division of Soil and Water Resources in conjunction with the appropriate agencies and interest groups. The implementation strategy would be approved by the OSWCC and adopted by the appropriate state agencies.

The state natural resource priorities would determine the priorities and basis for the distribution of state funds related to natural resource issues associated with O.R.C.

1511. The OSWCC would be authorized to serve as the clearing house to ensure state funds from any agency are prioritized and directed toward programs related to the state natural resource priorities.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) represent the “boots on the ground” for addressing natural resource issues under O.R.C. 1511. The Task Force recommends that all state funding associated with addressing the state natural resource priorities be included under 1515.02 (A) with preference given to those “areas” representing a state natural resource priority. “Areas” may include SWCDs, counties, multiple counties, townships or conservation works of improvement areas.

SWCDs and/or joint boards would be eligible for funding through 1515.02 with the development of a natural resource priority implementation strategy to be coordinated by the Division of Soil and Water Resources and approved by the OSWCC. SWCDs may implement the programs or engage and coordinate the funding with other local entities, but retain the responsibility for achieving the strategy goals.

The OSWCC shall authorize the Division of Soil and Water Resources to develop a specific strategic plan, components or specific goals to be adopted and implemented by local SWCDs to ensure a level of consistency in program delivery.

The OSWCC under 1515.02 is not able to directly allocate federal funds. The Task Force recommends that the OSWCC collaborate with the respective agencies on the coordination of priorities, focus, and goals and provide recommendations to the federal agencies on the possible allocation of funds to cooperatively address state natural resource priorities.

To facilitate a more gradual move toward this approach, the legislature should utilize the sunset review process to evaluate the possibility of transferring the duties and responsibilities of the various boards and commissions to the OSWCC.

The proposed aligned system will recreate how Ohio addresses its natural resource priorities by removing process impediments and maximizing and focusing public dollars and staff through the current mechanism to implement solutions at the point closest to the opportunities and challenges.

B. Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission

B1. Reconfiguration

O.R.C 1515 establishing the OSWCC makeup has not been revisited since 1963 and no longer accurately reflects the range of services and constituencies the commission and SWCDs represent. To more effectively carry out the proposed re-alignment of program delivery presented above, the Task Force recommends a reconfiguration of the Commission which might consist of seven to nine citizen members. In addition, the Task Force recommends that the members represent a broad range of natural resource, environmental and conservation interests with no specific representation limitations other than political affiliation. State and federal agencies or state institutions and SWCDs would instead serve on an advisory board to the Commission. (See Appendix C for sample draft legislative language.)

B 2. Powers and Authorities

The Task Force recommends the following changes to O.R.C. 1515. The changes will clarify and in some instances expand existing powers and authorities of SWCDs to provide flexibility in working across multiple geopolitical boundaries, and to meet the demands of an ever-changing landscape of natural resource concerns.

a. Improve Joint Board Powers and Authorities

Currently O.R.C. 1515 allows SWCDs to form a joint board for the purpose of construction, maintenance, and operation of a conservation work of improvement. Conservation works of improvement have been primarily utilized by SWCDs to complete drainage projects in western Ohio, including engineering plans, assessments and sometimes easements.

The Task Force recommends the purpose for which joint boards can be created be expanded and clarified. SWCDs would then have the authority to create joint boards encompassing multiple geopolitical regions for the purpose of implementing conservation and natural resource-based programming through sharing of services. This would allow SWCDs to cooperatively take advantage of new and emerging approaches to market-based funding and conservation activities, such as nutrient and carbon trading. Additionally, it is recommended that the Ohio Attorney General's office be authorized to serve as the legal representative of these joint boards, since they may cross multiple local government jurisdictions. (See Appendix D for sample draft legislative language.)

b. Conservation Works of Improvement

Currently when a conservation work of improvement (O.R.C. 1515.19) involves more than one district/county, and is recommended by the joint board

of SWCD supervisors to the joint board of county commissioners for approval, it is voted upon. If the vote to approve or disapprove a project results in a tie by the joint board of county commissioners, the Director of ODNR must cast the deciding vote. These tie votes can result in multiple delays, and increase the costs of the project.

To improve the process of establishing conservation works of improvement, it is recommended that O.R.C. 1515.21 be amended to require a majority “no” vote by a joint board of county commissioners in order to disapprove a project authorized under O.R.C. 1515.19. . Language for this statutory change should be developed in consultation with ODNR, Ohio’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the County Commissioners Association.

c. SWCD District Boundaries

O.R.C. 1515.03 establishes the boundary of the SWCD to be coextensive with the geographical area of the county. There is currently no statutory authority to allow districts to voluntarily redraw their district boundaries to enhance the delivery of conservation programs and services. Because the original formation of each SWCD occurred through referendum, the process to voluntarily dissolve, combine and later de-couple districts must be investigated prior to adding appropriate language to O.R.C. 1515.

It is recommended that the Ohio Attorney General issue an opinion as to this process.

The Task Force recommends creating permissive authority for the SWCDs to alter district configurations so as to:

- Help ensure long-term SWCD sustainability and adherence to their conservation purpose,
- Strategically position SWCDs for the future by establishing the ability to direct programs and services within appropriate geographical boundaries to address the identified natural resource needs while retaining a program presence in each county,
- Develop a funding and program delivery model that provides the flexibility to adjust to changes in local, state and federal financial support and conservation priorities.

The Task Force unanimously agrees that any new language that provides for the opportunity to redraw districts boundaries be initiated by the local board(s), and include provisions for that local board(s) to return to its original boundaries.

II. State and OSWCC Policy and Administrative Rule Changes

Conservation districts should be utilized as a one-stop shop for delivering multiple resource conservation programs, making it easier for constituents to apply for permits, programs, and technical assistance. This would make landowners and business owners in Ohio more competitive, and encourage economic opportunities that do not exist today due to impediments created by bureaucratic processes and lack of integration.

A. Unified Mission Statement

The task force recommends that the OSWCC formally adopt a mission statement that provides a solid basis for the goals and objectives of the commission as well as an overarching concept under which the local SWCDs can operate their individual programs and services. The OSWCC mission statement should read:

“To utilize and coordinate technical, financial, and educational resources to be directed for the conservation and enhancement of local and state natural resource priorities through the engagement and cooperation of the local community.”

B. Soil and Water Information Management System (SWIMS) Policy

The Commission and the Division of Soil and Water Resources will evaluate the current SWIMS program to ensure it is achieving the intended purposes. The Task Force recognizes a need for and recommends that a program be put in place that will provide for accurate reporting of results and activities reflecting local program priorities and programs directed at local and state natural resource priorities.

C. Watershed Coordinator Partnerships

The Task Force recommends that the Commission, together with other applicable state agencies, review and amend the current application and point structure for funding watershed coordinator positions in order to further incentivize partnering with SWCDs.

D. Rebranding SWCDs

The Task Force recommends that the OSWCC and the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts evaluate their communications and awareness plans, including the ‘soil and water’ description for districts.

E. State Programs and New Initiatives

The Task Force recommends the Commission and Division monitor initiatives being developed at the Ohio Department of Administrative Services that would provide opportunities for the participation by SWCDs, potentially reducing cost and providing consistency in program delivery.

F. Outsourcing Opportunities

The Task Force recommends state agencies review current local program delivery processes and personal services contracts for opportunities to outsource work through the SWCDs.

G. Stormwater Program Assistance

Continue to investigate the possibility of designating qualified local programs and using SWCDs to administer these local programs to help implement state and federal storm water management requirements.

III. Local SWCD Action Items – Through Policy and Operational Changes

Due to increasing pressures on funding and other resources, many SWCDs have already pursued creative ways to share costs and services and improve efficiency. Through the shared services survey, items, procedures and shared services already being undertaken by one or more SWCDs will be shared with districts for immediate consideration and implementation. The Commission will continue to work on identifying additional areas where sharing of services are appropriate. The current shared services summary is included in this report as Appendix E.

Conclusion

The Task Force was created to develop policy recommendations that would encourage the sharing of services across all levels of government and remove impediments to organizational management through Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Task Force recognizes that historically SWCDs have provided an outstanding benefit to their communities and the state, and at a great value to the taxpayers. In spite of this successful tradition, the challenge of establishing natural resource priorities and the monitoring of program results toward those priorities will be the basis on which the success of SWCDs is determined in the future. With this in mind, the Task Force offers recommendations that encourage the sharing of services across all levels of government and remove impediments to service and program delivery. In addition, the Task Force suggests organizational processes that will result in SWCDs being better leveraged as a vehicle for advancing programs that achieve measurable results on both local and state natural

resource priorities. This would be accomplished in a way that maximizes the investment of public dollars in conservation programs and services.

It is the opinion of the Task Force that streamlining and focusing the current flow of public resources, aligning natural resource priorities, expanding the flexibility of SWCDs to voluntarily adapt their operational structure, and continuing to explore areas where cooperative efforts are possible, SWCDs can build on their fine heritage and lead Ohio's natural resource conservation efforts into the future.

Appendix A

Task Force Members

Tom Price, Chairman	OSWCC
Larry Antosch	Ohio Farm Bureau
Terry Cosby	NRCS
Karl Gebhardt	Genoa Township Trustee
Josh Hahn	County Commissioners Association
James Harris	Defiance County Commissioner
Rep. Bob Peterson	Ohio House of Representatives
Etta Reed	Butler County SWCD
Carmella Shale	Geauga County SWCD
Kent Stuckey	Crawford County SWCD

Appendix B

Advisory Group Members

Mindy Bankey	OFSWCD
Jason Bruns	Shelby SWCD
Randy Cole	OBM
Dan Donaldson	SWCD Employee Association
John Dorka	Ohio Forestry Association
Kevin Fall	Butler County SWCD
Jonathan Ferbrache	Fairfield SWCD
Ryan Fink	SWCD Employees Association
Jennifer Fish	Franklin SWCD
Heidi Fought	Ohio Townships Association
Russ Gibson	OEPA
Rep. David Hall	Ohio House of Representatives
Dusty Hall	SOCHE
Kurt Heyman	Erie SWCD
Senator Cliff Hite	Ohio Senate
Breann Hohman	Erie SWCD
Steve Jenkins	Meigs SWCD
Joe Logan	Ohio Environmental Council
Michelle Lohstroh	NRCS
Jerry McBride	Hardin SWCD
Irene Moore	Jefferson SWCD
Dr. Richard Moore	OSU
Brent Pence	Clark County SWCD
Anthony Perry	OBM
Nick Schwab	Reily Township Trustee

Appendix C – Sample Draft Language for O.R.C. 1515.02 OSWCC Powers and Duties

There is hereby established in the department of natural resources the Ohio soil and water conservation commission. The commission shall consist of nine members of equal status and authority, eight of whom shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, and one of whom shall be designated by resolution of the board of directors of the Ohio federation of soil and water conservation districts. A vacancy in the office of an appointed member shall be filled by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the remainder of that term. All appointed members shall be persons who have a knowledge of or interest in the natural resources of the state. Not more than four of the appointed members shall be members of the same political party. The commission shall be supported by an advisory group which may consist of officials or employees of agencies such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Health, OSU Extension, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and/or other natural resource related groups.

Appendix D – Sample Draft Language for O.R.C. 1515.17 Joint Board Powers and Authorities

The supervisors of any two or more adjoining soil and water conservation districts may, with approval of the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission, form a joint board of supervisors for the purpose of carrying out any or all powers and authorities under 1515.08 and for the purpose of construction, maintenance, and operation of a conservation work of improvement located or to be located in such districts. Each district will have the same number of supervisors on the joint board, except that where the members on the joint board would otherwise be an even number, an additional supervisor shall be designated from the district in which it appears that the highest amount of taxes, assessment, or benefit for the project or improvement is to be made.

A joint board may exercise the powers given the supervisors of a soil and water conservation district under Chapter 1515 of the Revised Code in connection with activity identified in 1515.08 or conservation works of improvement for which it was formed.

The attorney general, an assistant attorney general, or special council appointed by the attorney general shall be the legal advisor of the joint board. The attorney general shall be the legal council of the joint board in all civil actions brought by or against it and shall conduct all actions in his official capacity. The joint board of supervisors may also employ such attorneys as may be necessary or desirable in the operations of the joint board.

Appendix E - SWCD Shared Services Document – attached

**Current Shared Services
(as of 10.12.2011)**

Responding SWCD	List the shared services that reap a direct FINANCIAL benefit other than staff time.	List the shared services that reap a direct FINANCIAL benefit other than staff time.	List the shared services that reap a direct FINANCIAL benefit other than staff time.	List the shared services that reap a direct FINANCIAL benefit other than staff time.	List the shared services that reap a direct FINANCIAL benefit other than staff time.	List the shared services that reap a STAFF TIME savings benefit only	List the shared services that reap a STAFF TIME savings benefit only	List the shared services that reap a STAFF TIME savings benefit only	List the shared services that reap a STAFF TIME savings benefit only	List the shared services that reap a STAFF TIME savings benefit only
Coshocton	Share IT services with County	Write the stormwater plans for Coshocton	Partner and house GIS position for County							
Crawford	Share Educational Equipment with neighboring District					Share MNM Specialist with 2 neighboring Districts	Share Targeted Watershed Grant Specialist with neighboring District			
Cuyahoga	The greatest efficiency we provide to Cuyahoga County are the comprehensive Public Involvement and Public Education Programs; erosion and sediment program; and post construction storm water management program that we provide to communities to assist in their implementation of the NPDES rules.	We apply uniform standards across the county that is effective and efficient and provides clarity about the permit requirements to all stakeholders. These programs also provide a savings to communities because of economies of scale in using our assistance								
Darke										
Defiance	Share GPS Survey equipment with County Engineer's Office	Ditch Maintenance shares equipment transportation with County Highway Dept.				Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)	Share a Urban Technician with the City of Defiance			

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(as of 10.12.2011)**

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Responding SWCD										
Erie	Utilizing County IT services	Share Postage Meter with OSU Extension	Vehicle Fleet maintenance managed thru County Facilities Dept	Utilizing County GIS Services		Share an Urban Technician with City / Village / Townships	Wildlife Technician Cost-Shared thru Grant with Division of Wildlife	Share Technician with County Engineer for assistance on Drainage Maintenance B-schedule Updates		
Fayette	Purchase of fuel through county	IT Services through County	Office Space from County and shared with partners	Share computer equipment and GIS services with County	Shared custodial and facilities management through County	none submitted	none submitted	none submitted		
Fulton	Utilizing County IT services	Share Postage Meter w/USDA				Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)	Share Technician with Co. Auditor for CAUV Program	Share SWAT Grant w/ 2 Other SWCD's		
Geauga	Utilize CORSA at the County level to reduce insurance costs both for health insurance and office/liability insurance (includes participation in wellness activities that results in reductions in health insurance premiums at the county level)	Contract employee to County Planning Commission (1 day per week minimum) to assist with mapping (GIS) and township land use plans & Rely on NRCS to address agricultural related issues and concerns eliminating the need for our office to provide that service	Perform our own office cleaning to reduce need to pay for cleaning services Share garbage pickup with OSU Extension and Board of Education – one dumpster divided by 3 offices Share cost of internet service with OSU extension via utilizing a router	Provide Stormwater Basin inspections biannually for all basins installed in the County. Receive reimbursement from the County Engineer from the Drainage Maintenance District. Also, collaborate with County LEPC to garner grant money to provide education programs regarding Household Hazardous Waste,	Prepare annual NPDES MS4 Report for the County. Prepared Good Housekeeping Plan for the County and Phase 2 Townships in meeting MCM3 of the NPDES MS4 Permit. Provide all construction plan review and inspections for construction in the County (Phase 2 or not)	Participate in NE Ohio Stormwater Training Council where multiple agencies and County SWCDs work together to provide training to MS4s. Eliminating the need for each County SWCD to have to provide staffing to facilitate all the trainings. (only create the wheel once)	Participate in the NE Ohio PIPE (Public Involvement Public Education) committee – a group of NE Ohio agencies and County SWCDs working together and utilizing each others resources to provide general NPDES Phase 2 Education programs to the public.	Partner with OSU Extension on Ag Related Education Programs	Partner with Portage SWCD to offer joint Pond clinic that is held alternating Counties each year and hold 2 Teacher Workshops each year	
Greene	Purchase fuel frm County	Share vehicle with County Engineer for urban work	Combine supply purchases to obtain discount pricing			Share staff with Envionmental Services to develop grant and carry out project	Use of parnters to coordinate projects	none submitted		

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Guernsey										
Hancock	Share Office Space, Phone Lines, Office Supplies with USDA					Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)	Share Technician w/ County Ditch Maintenance Program			
Hardin	Share Office Space, Phone Lines, Office Supplies with USDA					Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)				
Harrison						Shares Admin employee with Belmont SWCD				
Henry	Share Office Space, Phone Lines, Office Supplies with USDA					Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)	Share Technician with Co. Auditor for CAUV Program	Share SWAT Grant w/ 2 Other SWCD's		
Highland	SWCD truck is licensed by commissioners. They also provide insurance	Share a technician with Brown SWCD in White Oak Creek Watershed.	CAUV reviews done for county auditor							
Hocking	Purchase our gasoline from the County Engineer	Health Insurance through county plan	Liability and vehicle insurance plans through county.	County provides office space and some IT assistance.	We have a duplicator and we provide duplication services for our Junior Fair Livestock Sale Committee and any other County or Government agencies that request					
Holmes	Utiliizes County IT and GIS department	Share Newsletter with County Chamber of Commerce	County Garage services vehicles			Setup dispalys with local private entites instead of alone				

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Huron	Share vehicles / ATV with Ditch Maintenance Dept.	Contract with Local CPA to Complete Financial Recordkeeping requirements.				Share Technician w/ County Ditch Maintenance Program	Share Technician w/ County Floodplain Management Program			
Jefferson	utilize the IT services of the county as well as training opportunities that are offered through the county	Jefferson District has reduced newsletters and have partnered with the Jefferson County Chamber and Progress Alliance to include District information in their electronic mailings to reach a broader circulation								
Knox	Oversees the County Stormwater program	Share GIS services with County	Wildlife Specialist through DOW							
Lake										
Licking	Utilizes County IT department									
Logan										
Lorain	We are currently not paying rent to the County Commissioners & we get free phones and IT support for phones and computers from the County	We share costs of cleaning, lawn services and snow plowing for Ag Center building and grounds with the other two offices here (FSA & OSU Extension).	Employees hours were reduced 10% from 2009 to present. Employees are required to pay 50% of hospitalization premiums from 2009 to present, at a significant cost savings to the District	Supervisors and staff have not been attending Federation & NACD meetings so no money is being spent on those trainings & travel. Employees and Supervisors do not receive any mileage reimbursement.						

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Lucas						Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)	Share Technician and Manage Blue Creek Farm for County			
Madison	Utilizing County IT services	Partner with another SWCD for Rain Barrel Program				Partner with County Park District for Education Programs				
Mahoning										
Marion	Share Office Space, Phone Lines, Office Supplies with USDA									
Medina	Utilize county payroll services, county IT support, county fuel, county prosecutor's office for legal advice, CORSA insurance, county health insurance, vehicle repair dept.	Share FAX and Postage meter with FSA. Share space, vehicles and survey equipment with NRCS Utilize contribution agreement funds from OFSWCD	Free meeting space provided by university of Akron.	Financial support from Farm Bureau with educational landowner programs	Perform education efforts for 9 Phase II jurisdictions	Share Rocky River Watershed employee with Cuyahoga SWCD				

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Meigs	As of October 1, now purchasing gasoline for district vehicles through the local EMS office. EMS has a bulk tank and have agreed to let SWCD purchase gasoline at their bulk price which is typically cheaper than buying at the pump.	District vehicles, rental equipment and office inventory insured through the county CORSA plan.	Our two employees needing insurance are insured through the county health, dental and vision insurance plan. Have gotten quotes from other insurance companies that are much higher than what county offers.	Purchase office supplies through the OFSWCD/Staples agreement. Their prices are significantly reduced, no shipping charges and of course, no taxes.	Employs an Americorp volunteer funded entirely through Rural Action at no cost. SWCD does the interviewing and hiring. The volunteers serve one year terms, it's free labor and they are available for anything that needs done in our office.					
Mercer	Utilizing County IT services	Share Office Equipment w/NRCS, FSA, ODNR	Engineers office supplies fuel for District vehicles	Free use of all county meeting rooms and AV equipment	Free Storage Space at Fairgrounds	Work with County Engineer on drainage projects	Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)	Share Pheasants Forever FB Biologist with 2 other SWCDs	Work with Health Department to jointly investigate nuisance complaints	
Miami										
Monroe	CAUV program with County Auditor	Produce maps needed for all county departments								
Morgan										
Morrow	Share Office Space, Phone Lines, Vehicle, Office Supplies with USDA	Share management of County farm and research plots w/ OSUE and share profits from crops sold.								
Muskingum	Uses County for phones	Uses County for Fuel	Partners with County Auditor for CAUV program							

**Current Shared Services
(as of 10.12.2011)**

Responding SWCD	List the shared services that reap a direct FINANCIAL benefit other than staff time.	List the shared services that reap a direct FINANCIAL benefit other than staff time.	List the shared services that reap a direct FINANCIAL benefit other than staff time.	List the shared services that reap a direct FINANCIAL benefit other than staff time.	List the shared services that reap a direct FINANCIAL benefit other than staff time.	List the shared services that reap a STAFF TIME savings benefit only	List the shared services that reap a STAFF TIME savings benefit only	List the shared services that reap a STAFF TIME savings benefit only	List the shared services that reap a STAFF TIME savings benefit only	List the shared services that reap a STAFF TIME savings benefit only
Noble	We share the internet services with the other agency in our building	Buy truck insurance under County Commissioners policy	Phone services under county plan							
Ottawa	Utilizing County IT services	Share Copier with OSUE	Use OFSWCD program to order office supplies thru Staples			Wildlife Technician Cost-Shared thru Grant with Division of Wildlife	NPS Educator Cost-Shared thru Grant with Coastal Management			
Paulding						Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)				
Perry	Purchase Gas through the County	IT Services through County and NRCS	Advertise website through COC	Share displays with Recycling	Work with EMA and are the County Floodplain Coordinator					
Pickaway	County provides office space at no cost.	County engineer provides a plotter at no charge.	Property insurance provided by county. Includes no-till drill and other rental equipment.	Staples Contract held by County Commissioners -- has reduced operating expenses						
Pike	All insurance through County commissioners	none	none							
Portage										
Putnam						Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)				
Richland	Contract with Local CPA to Complete Financial Recordkeeping requirements.					Manage County zoning and permitting process for Commissioners				
Sandusky						Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)				

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(as of 10.12.2011)**

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Scioto	The District Administrator does the financial reporting for Gallia SWCD	none	none							
Seneca	Share Office Space, Phone Lines, Vehicle, Office Supplies with USDA	Share I.T. & Internet Services w/Solid Waste District and other equipment w/SWD & OSUE	Make Office Supplies purchase thru County program	Share vehicles / ATV with Ditch Maintenance Dept.	Share Educational Equipment with neighboring District	Share MNM Specialist with 2 neighboring Districts	Share Targeted Watershed Grant Specialist with neighboring District	Share Technician with Co. Auditor for CAUV Program	Share Technician w/ County Floodplain Management Program	Share Technician w/ County Ditch Maintenance Program
Shelby										
Stark	KSU/RC&D Grant supported student intern. Our student is majoring in journalism, media, and helping us develop marketing materials	We are currently sharing some space w/NRCS, making it possible to downsize in our rented space and save \$.	Partnering with Farm Bureau and Stark Parks to provide Environmental Education to the Public.			Our county is sharing an NRCS multi-county technician. He has been a big help in assisting in our ag program since we presently do not have an ag technician.				
Summit	IT services are provided to the District by Summit county Department of Environmental Services at a reduced cost. We share the D.O.E.S. email client and anti-virus software. We also use county servers for back up and use county GIS resources	Health Benefits are provided through the county. Summit County has it's own pharmacy located in Akron where employees can get prescriptions filled	Recent moving expenses were covered by the county. The District is now located in a county building at low cost and has access to a free meeting room. The county provides cleaning services for the office	The District receives legal services and advice (when subpoenaed) from the county prosecutor (review easements, etc.) and from the executive's legal staff						

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(as of 10.12.2011)**

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Wayne	Wayne SWCD buys fuel from county at reduced cost as well as supplies which results in lower costs because of volume discounts. Also use county printing department to process some functions of our newsletter as well as other special publications.	Wayne SWCD provides storm water educational services for the City of Wooster for a conservation appropriation. Money is saved by the City not having to hire a person to do storm water education	Wayne SWCD is the central location for permitting for the county. All permits are under an umbrella permit called a Construction Application Permit. Wayne SWCD employs a Water Management Engineer that administers the permitting process	Traditional shared services through NRCS have saved the SWCD money through the use of high end engineering equipment provided by NRCS and vehicles to travel to Farm Bill related jobs	SWCD Engineer provides consulting services to the County for Block Grant plan review, 2011/208 EPA plans, flood plains, storm water, and others. The Wayne County Engineer is does not work on storm water outside of road right-of-ways and by having an engineer in our office saves the County money by not having to employ an engineer exclusively for stormwater	Wayne and Ashland SWCDs formed a Joint Board of Soil and Water Supervisors to address landowner concerns about drainage of the Muddy and Jerome Forks of the Mohican River. This project used existing staff of both SWCD's to coordinate, design, and inspect the project with no additional staff hired.	The Wayne SWCD and 20 other SWCD's formed a Joint Board within the Muskingum Watershed to develop and address an opportunity for water quality trading. This effort has the potential to save businesses and local government very large amounts of money when point source treatment systems require upgrading by the Ohio EPA	Wayne SWCD is partnering with Medina SWCD to promote buffers adjacent to the Chippewa Creek using Federal programs and funding from the MWCD. By partnering on the project both Districts save money by sharing resources, meetings, document preparation,	With the intensifying oil and gas exploration of Utica and Marcellus Shale landowners have been inquiring about testing private water wells. The Wayne SWCD has partnered with the OARDC to provide "third party" water sampling to pre-test water wells at a nominal fee. See our web page at http://www.wayneswcd.org/landoilgas.html	
Williams						Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)				
Wood						Share a WLEB Technician with Another SWCD(s)		Share SWAT Grant w/ 2 Other SWCD's		
Wyandot	Share Office Space, Phone Lines, Vehicle, Office Supplies with USDA	Oversee maintenance of county farm woods				Share MNM Specialist with 2 neighboring Districts	Share Technician w/ County Ditch Maintenance Program			