

MATCH TASK FORCE MEETING NOTES

The February 2014 Match Task Force meeting was held on February 27, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in Building G-1 conference room at the ODNR campus on Morse Rd.

The following were in attendance:

Fred Hammon (ODNR-DSWR); Dorothy Farris (ODNR-SWR); Kevin Elder (OSWCC); Etta Reed (OSWCC); Maria Robinson (Office of Internal Audit); Ryan Garber (Office of Internal Audit); Cheryl Subler (OFSWCD); Chris Schimpf (Seneca SWCD); Matt Peart (Wayne SWCD); David Anspach (Clermont SWCD); Irene Moore (Jefferson SWCD); Steve Hawkins (Gallia SWCD); Tom Price (OSWCC); Mindy Bankey (OFSWCD); Ronda Tipton (ODNR-DSWR); Rob Hamilton (ODNR-DSWR); Liz Cline (ODNR-DSWR); Jeff Ankney (ODNR-DSWR); Clark Hutson (ODNR-DSWR); Chad Amos (ODNR-DSWR); Teresa Holter (ODNR-HR) meeting facilitator.

Fred Hammon welcomed everyone to the 3rd Match Task Force meeting. Fred announced to the group that he would be retiring at the end of the month, March 28th, 2014. Dorothy Farris will be leading the task force group in the future.

The meeting moved forward with Fred and Teresa addressing the Task Force agenda items. Fred distributed and reviewed funding survey information. Due to information being gathered quickly this information will continue to be updated. Irene reviewed her spreadsheet on other state funding opportunities. Excellent feedback was received. Irene will continue to modify the spreadsheet as more feedback is received. Dorothy Farris shared additional policy issues for clarification list. There is a great need for more and better clarification on where and how the funding is being used, must show accountability. The group discussed the history of what funds have been used and what resources are available, or could be available. The meeting continued to discuss existing funding sources, a mini SWOT was conducted. Audience participation was also welcomed and received.

Strengths

- Current stability of funding has allowed districts to hire and retain technical staff
- Locally driven programming
- Able to address diverse needs in state and county
- Encourages counties to be creative
- Locally driven by county vs state
- Strong support at local and state level
- Legislative support
- Sharing of information between counties
- Diversity of programs
- Flexibility of Soil and Water districts
- Relationship between Division and SWCDs
- Have tool to show how they are accountable (SWIMS)

Weaknesses

- DNR and how they use their funds
- Not currently using the \$8,000 authority
- Restrictions on county funds for state match
- Counties are not being creative
- No focus on statewide issues
- Accountability at county levels
- Is SWIMS report reviewed/used?
- Complacency of some Boards
- Do not diversify customers
- Traveling across state – do not share success
- No dedicated funding

Opportunities

- Stable fund for all districts
- Opportunity to apply for additional funding for special projects
- Look at how we do things; counties involved and provide input
- Emphasis on nutrient management and water quality (all land users)
- Accountability for funding provided
- Local leadership; stronger support
- Diversify customers/partner and board make up
- Bring in a parity to water quality
- Work with EPA to see about additional funding, include urban
- Explore opportunity of dedicated funding – i.e. Oil and Gas \$\$

Threats

- How losing dollars from tipping fees through EPA would affect match rate
- Additional strings on state funding
- Losing local control
- Only so much money available and everyone trying to get the same amount; need to show value
- Pressure of losing remaining \$2.9 GRF
- Diversification of board specifically
- Potential loss of program responsibilities of SWCDs
- Potential division between urban vs rural funding
- Do not like threats on tire tipping fees

Funding Sources

Current

- GRF flat and possibly decreasing even more in the future
- Solid waste tipping fee
- CD&D
- Tires

Many continue to fluctuate

Increases

- Not likely

Potential New Sources

- Severance tax
- Tax on nutrient run-off
- Tax on soil lost
- Tax on food and/or water
- Tax on water treatment or sewage
- Increase tax on fertilizer
- Fees vs tax
- Fees for service; i.e. soil inspection
- Local tax levy / now combined – Fair Board, Soil and Water, Extension

Agenda items for March 20th meeting

- *Fred* - Update from General Session on meeting with Soil and Water
- Origin of county funding discussion
- *Irene* - Bring back specific information from state of NC, MO, IA, WI, ND and WA
- *Dorothy* - Show us Geauga's SWIMS
- *Allen Soil and Water* - New Funding Model (invited)