

Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission

April 9, 2014 – ODNR Building E-1

2045 Morse Road, Columbus, OH

DRAFT Meeting Summary

**Call to Order (10:01 am)**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call Commission Members Present**

Chairman Tom Price

Vice-Chairman Fred Cash

Kevin Elder

Larry Vance

Bill Knapke

Etta Reed

**Additional Attendees**

Mike Bailey (ODNR-DSWR); Ronda Tipton (ODNR-DSWR); Lisa Syx (ODNR-DSWR); Jeanne Russell (ODNR-DSWR); Rob Hamilton (ODNR-DSWR); Jeff Ankney (ODNR-DSWR); Dorothy Farris (ODNR-DSWR); Greg Nageotte (ODNR-DSWR); Andy Ware (ODNR-DSWR); Michelle Lohstroh (USDA-NRCS); Terry Cosby (USDA-NRCS); Joe Glassmeyer (OFSWCD President); Mindy Bankey (OFSWCD); John Schlichter (ODA); Tim White (Erie SWCD); Steve Maurer (USDA-FSA); Russ Gibson (OEPA); Rick Wilson (OEPA)

**Welcome**

Chairman Price called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and asked if there were any additions or changes to the day's meeting agenda as presented.

Action: Kevin Elder moved to accept the April 9, 2014 meeting agenda as presented. Larry Vance seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Price then asked if there any additions or corrections to the January 15, 2014 draft meeting minutes, as presented.

Action: Fred Cash moved to approve the January 15, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Kevin Elder seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

## **Commission Member Reports**

Bill Knapke had nothing to report.

Etta Reed deferred her comments to the Update on the Match Task Force.

Fred Cash had nothing to report.

Tom Price shared with members of the commission the comparative N and P load reduction benefits, on a per mile basis, between natural design channels and two-stage ditches. The results are significant, as natural design ditches assimilate much more nitrogen and phosphorous per mile. They are also very expensive at over \$1 million in costs per mile.

Kevin Elder deferred his comments to the agency report.

Larry Vance shared that he has attended over nine days of meetings so far this quarter. He also shared with members of the commission that SWCD employees are not just employees, but are dedicated professionals.

## **Recognition of Guests and Public Comment**

Chairman Price recognized John Schlichter, Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, and Lisa Syx, Fiscal Officer with the Division of Soil and Water Resources, as two guests in attendance.

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 reminded members of the OSWCC that the filing deadline is soon approach to file Financial Disclosure Statements with the Ohio Ethics Commission.

He reported that Fred Hammon had retired from ODNR-DSWR, and the process would begin to fill Fred's position.

## **OSWCC Appointments**

Two requests were submitted to the Commission to consider for appointments to SWCD boards.

Action: A motion was made by Etta Reed to approve the appointment of Jason Mayberry to fill the vacated seat of Frank Greenlee of Belmont SWCD. Larry Vance seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Action: A motion was made by Bill Knapke to approve the appointment of Ron Wilker to fill the vacated seat of Allen Imwalle of Auglaize SWCD. Kevin Elder seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

## **Legislative Update**

Mike Bailey shared that SB 150 is on the floor of the House today, and will likely be considered for concurrence by the Senate the week of May 7<sup>th</sup>. The result would mean that the bill would likely become effective some time in latter August.

In the Capital Bill just signed by the Governor, Sen. Randy Gardner has secured \$10 million for the Healthy Lake Erie fund. The funding will largely be used for identifying alternatives to the open lake disposal of dredge material in Lake Erie, as well as for wetlands restoration and shoreline resiliency projects.

The Governor's Mid Biennial Review (MBR) was introduced on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The 1620 page proposal was eventually broken down into 10 different bills. HB 490 would, among other things, transfer the Ag Pollution Abatement authority of livestock manure from ODNR to ODA. Deputy Director John Schlichter and Chief Bailey answered questions of members of the OSWCC relative to the proposal and SB 150.

### **Task Force Update**

Etta Reed and Kevin Elder updated members of the OSWCC on the progress of the Match Task Force, which was created by the OSWCC at its November 2013 meeting. The Task Force is wrapping up the data collection portion of its efforts, and will soon be discussing more recommended changes. Etta and Kevin participated in a panel session with the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) on this topic of this Task Force, and the presentation went very well.

### **Administrative Rules Updates**

Action: A motion was made by Etta Reed to recommend to ODNR to file administrative rules 1515-1-01, 1515-1-03, 1515-3-01, 1515-3-02, 1515-3-03, 1515-3-04 and 1515-3-05 with no change and, provided concurrence with ODNR legal, to recommend amending 1515-1-02 with the addition of e-mail as an alternative form of notification in 1515-1-02 (B) and 1515-1-02 (C). Fred Cash seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Revised Oath of Office Form**

Jeff Ankney reviewed recommended changes to the Oath of Office Form used by SWCD supervisors, which included the addition of the word "affirm," as well as the addition of a new signature line.

Action: A motion was made by Bill Knapke to approve the proposed changes to the Oath of Office form, as presented. Etta Reed seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Update on Education Mini-Grants**

Jeanne Russell provided members of the OSWCC with an update on how the \$25,000 in funds allocated for education in mini-grants for 2013 were appropriated. She also provided an update on the status of the \$20,000 set aside for soil health related mini-grants in 2014.

### **Update on Watershed Coordinator Annual Report**

Greg Nageotte provided members of the OSWCC with copies of the division's recently compiled annual report, and gave members a brief overview of its contents.

Dorothy Farris provided the OSWCC with a brief overview of the planned agenda for the OSWCC Conservation Tour on July 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> in Ashtabula, Lake and Cuyahoga counties.

### **Agency Reports**

OSU: No report.

USDA-NRCS: Terry Cosby, NRCS State Conservationist, reported that the 3-way cooperative working memorandum between SWCDs, NRCS, and ODNR is currently being drafted, and he has asked his employees to volunteer 100 hours/year. Drainage water management will continue to be an emphasis of NRCS, as will cover crops. Pheasants Forever has a youth day coming up on April 12<sup>th</sup>, and the 4R Certification launch was very successful in Perrysburg. The State Technical Committee will likely be meeting again in June. NRCS is expecting a lot of pressure on its field staff, as Farm Bill implementation commences.

USDA-FSA: Steve Maurer provided the OSWCC with a written program update on the status of FSA conservation programs.

OEPA: Russ Gibson reported that several new areas now fall under the Non-Point Source Program within the Division of Surface Water, including Areas of Concern, Harmful Algal Blooms and the Inland Lakes Program. The funding from USEPA for the near shore monitoring is expiring soon, but the division will continue the program with or without USEPA funding. In the Ashtabula River, OEPA has removed three beneficial use impairments within the Ashtabula. Nutrients continue to be a big issue within the Division of Surface Water.

ODNR: Nothing additional to report.

OFSWCD: Mindy Bankey, OFSWCD CEO, reported that the annual meeting on March 3-4 was a big success, with great workshops. The 4R Tomorrow events continue to draw a lot of interest. Plans continue for Summer Supervisors School in downtown Cleveland on July 20-22<sup>nd</sup>.

OASWCDE: Tim White of Erie SWCD introduced himself to the OSWCC as the new representative of the association. The next meeting of the employees association is next week, and the organization is re-

ODA: Kevin Elder reported that ODA currently has over 204 permitted large CAFF's permitted, and 6 more applications coming in. Over 600 CLM's have been trained, and Livestock Inspector Jim Young will soon be retiring. Implementation of Commercial Dog Breeders and Dangerous Wild Animals rules continues.

## **Recess**

Action: A motion was made by Bill Knapke to adjourn the meeting, with the intent of reconvening after lunch at 1:30 pm in order to continue discussion. Kevin Elder seconded. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Chairman Price reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Action: A motion was made by Larry Vance that the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission support HB 490 and SB 150 and formulate a plan to complete a workload analysis in order to determine the capacity needed to implement anticipated changes envisioned through HB 490 and SB 150. Fred Cash seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Price adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.