



Monthly Board Meeting July 11, 2023

The Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at 4:00 pm at the Denison Solar Array and meeting at Denison Bio Reserve

Those present were:

Supervisors	District Staff	District Staff	NRCS	Associate Board	Guests
Bill Goodman	Kristy Hawthorne	Linda Nicodemus	Joe Koehler	Jeff Baker	Jeremy King
Ron Thompson	Britney Stuller	Deirdre Wetmore		Jeff Bates	
Rodney Tornes	Joe Jarvis	Harley Kirkingburg		Mamie Hollenback	
Seth Dobbelaer	Kyle Seitz	Nick Garavuso			
Kim Byce	Brent Dennis	Briana Hodgson			
	Ethan Koch	Abbie Hogue			

Absent: Brent Dennis, Nick Garavuso, Harley Kirkingburg, Joe Jarvis, Mamie Hollenback, Jeff Bates

Chair Dobbelaer called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- I. BOARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT-** Denison Solar Array tour- Jeremy King led Board and staff on a tour of the Denison Solar Array and discussed the process and costs associated with contracting with AEP.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS & STAFF REPORTS**
 - a. Highlights were included in board packet, staff left after tour
- III. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a. Minutes of June 13, 2023 Board Meeting
 - b. Special Fund Financial Report
 - c. District Fund Financial Report
 - d. Aged Receivables Report
 - e. Cash Disbursements Report
 - f. Leave Balance Financial Obligation Report- 9, 10 & 11
 - g. Overtime/Comp Time approval- listed on Cash Disbursement Report

Kim Byce moved to approve the Consent Agenda items a-g for July 2023 Rodney Tornes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Solar Developments-**
 - **Union Ridge (Harrison Township)-**
 - 1. No update
 - **Open Roads Renewables (Hartford Township)-**
 - 1. Save Hartford Township has filed an appeal in the Ohio Supreme Court on June 20th

b. FEMA Grant Update

- Received notice for a first request for information (RFI) to clarify budget details was issued by FEMA, the response is due July 20th

c. South Licking Watershed Conservancy District Projects

- Flood Study presented at the Director's meeting on June 27th. State and local agency meeting scheduled for July 17th to review results and collaborate on projects in the watershed. Meeting at Van Buren Acres with a tour of the Feeder Canal and weir after the meeting. Soil & Water will be represented by Rodney, Kristy, Linda, Kyle. Agencies that have RSVP'd:

- ODNR- Assistant Chief, Div. Water, Engineering, Parks and Natural Areas
- ODOT- Staff and Gannett Fleming, consultant selected for the study
- OEPA- Div. of Surface Water
- MWCD- Director
- SLWCD- Directors
- USGS
- Senator Schaffer
- Rep. Kevin Miller

Invited but not responded yet:

- Congressman Balderson
- NRCS leadership
- ODA
- OEMA

- **Raccoon Creek**-Raccoon Creek study for clearing and snagging of woody debris continues to move forward. Silver Jackets H & H study being completed and shared with Army Corp. There is approximately \$80,000.00 cost share that will be required, SLWCD looking into funding options.

d. Tech Companies Sustainability projects

● **Central Ohio Water Group-**

1. Kristy is on the steering committee for this rapidly growing group
2. Tech company reached out to Kristy directly. Two options for wetlands and stream restoration have been submitted. A meeting is scheduled on July 19th with Global Water Director for company to learn more about their requirements for projects and to discuss options provided.
3. Working with Intel to set up a New Albany Business Park meeting with tech companies to educate them about the Licking River & Scioto Watershed. A \$100,000 request has been made verbally to do 9-Element plans for the upper and lower Raccoon Creed 12 HUC watersheds

V. NEW BUSINESS- no new business

VI. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

a. NRCS Report- DC Joe Koehler

- Joe discussed report
 1. Saveson Wetland was discussed and how it is being taken over by muskrats

b. District Report- Kristy Hawthorne

- Urban Program update- Linda Nicodemus
 1. Initial meeting scheduled with LC Engineer and Planning for Stormwater Regulation review per JEO contract SWCD initiated.

2. Contract for GIS services will start on Friday, July 14th. Linda, Joe and Kyle will be working through the process
- District Update- Kristy Hawthorne
 1. Ohio Water Environment Association article published: Collaboration Key in a Rapidly Developing Watershed
 2. Ohio Geological Survey Grant to study western part of Licking County meeting July 19th. Jeff Bates attending with Kristy
 3. Invited to speak at:
 - MORPC Sustainable Community Development Rural Forum at Village of Buckeye Lake
 - Sustaining Scioto Board: August 9th
 - Newark Rotary about River Round Up: August 14th
 - ODA- Administrative Development Program: August 23rd
 4. Hartford Fair Natural Resources Area programming
 - Will be scheduling a work day to prep for fair- TBD
 - Schedule is finalized. Will provide list at Board meeting. Will be looking for volunteers on Sunday (OSU BugMobile, ice cream eating contest), Monday afternoon (food contests), Friday (Skill-a-thon, FFA challenge- new for 2023: Alumni challenge)
 - Thursday is typically President's brunch and Balderson Ag Committee meeting
 5. River Round Up- Saturday, September 9th
 - Registration is live
 - Granville parade was a success.
 - Preview float scheduled for Friday, August 18th- location TBD, lunch/proclamations at 11:30am and on the water around 12:30pm
- c. Building/Equipment/Safety Committee- Chair Goodman-
 - Vehicle procurement- Hawthorne stated we are still researching and looking into possibly buying an older vehicle
 - d. Budget Committee- Chair Thompson-
 - Credit card use restrictions- stamps.com, Google workspace
 1. Hawthorne stated we will be paying for these services out of District Fund due to new credit card restrictions at the Auditors
 - e. Grant Sub-Committee- Chair Thompson-
 - 2023 application deadline September 29th
 1. No applications have been received yet
 - f. Program Committee- Chair Byce-
 - Proposed Annual Banquet date: October 10th at The Grove by the River. Board Meeting directly beforehand
 1. Discussed changing up normal set up due to larger staff

- g. Policy/Personnel Committee- Chair Goodman-
 - Central Ohio AmeriCorps Program
 1. Franklin Soil & Water has received a grant through ServeOhio to start an AmeriCorps program. In the process of getting committees created. There will be 8 host sites with 12 AmeriCorp members this year. Franklin is hiring a program coordinator with AmeriCorp member hiring during the month of Sept. Goal to have members at host sites in Oct. The members will be required to serve 1,760 hours, approx. 32 hours per week over a one-year commitment. Licking SWCD will pay \$9,000 for one member. Responsibilities of the member will be helping with education and outreach.

- h. Nominating Committee- Chair Thompson-
 - Candidate information form due August 5th

- i. Legislative Committee- Chair Goodman-
 - State Budget Discussion
 1. Update from OFSWCD:

The budget process was completed on June 30th, and here is where things stand: There were no changes from the Senate version of the bill, so:

- 12.5 million in state match
- Earmark at \$4.2 million for statewide use (largely H2Ohio implementation)
- \$4 million in the division’s line item
- \$9.5 million in “tipping fees”
- \$60 million for H2Ohio

Other items that may be of interest:

- No carve out for research from H2Ohio
- The MALC at OSU was funded
- State fair line items were funded
- Additional funds were not restored for Ohio Proud, County Agricultural Societies, Hemp at oda
- It appears that some of the money for ODNR was restored in the Senate and stayed through conference.

- j. Board & Associate Board member reports
 - Board agreed to cancel August board meeting due to busy fair schedule

Rodney Tornes moved to adjourn at 5:47 pm, Kim Byce seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Britney Stuller, Administrative Assistant LCSWCD

Seth Dobbelaer, Chair LCSWCD

Bill Goodman, Secretary/Treasurer LCSWCD