



Monthly Board Meeting

May 14, 2024

The Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at 4:30 p.m. at the Ag Service Center- 771 E. Main St., Newark, OH 43055

Those present were:

Supervisors	District Staff	District Staff	NRCS	Associate Board
Bill Goodman	Kristy Hawthorne	Linda Nicodemus	Joe Koehler	Jeff Baker
Ron Thompson	Britney Stuller	Deirdre Wise		Jeff Bates (Zoom)
Rodney Tornes	Joe Jarvis	Harley Kirkingburg		Mamie Hollenback
Seth Dobbelaer	Kyle Seitz	Nick Garavuso		
Kim Byee	Abbie Hogue	Briana Hodgson		
	Taylor Coy	Jenna Baer		

Ron Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:29 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- I. BOARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT- Rain Barrel updated design and summer workshops**
 - a. Nick discussed the new RB design and answered questions about the changes in design
 - b. Discussed holding rain barrel workshops in the future for \$50.00
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS & STAFF REPORTS**
 - a. Staff went over past months events and shared how Backyard Conservation Day went
- III. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a. Minutes of March 12, 2024 Board Meeting
 - b. Special Fund Financial Report- April
 - c. District Fund Financial Report- April
 - d. Aged Receivables Report
 - e. Cash Disbursements Report- May
 - f. Leave Balance Financial Obligation Report- 5, 6, 7, 8
 - g. Overtime/Comp Time- listed on Cash Disbursement
 - h. Sponsorship for Envirothon- \$500.00

Seth Dobbelaer moved to approve the Consent Agenda items a-h for April/May 2024; Bill Goodman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. OLD BUSINESS-**
 - a. **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant-** Commissioners assigned Soil & Water as the grant's agent. Hawthorne is working on the RFP to send out to choose a contractor to move the grant forward.
 - b. **Grosse Brothers Wetland-** Contract with EDG has been finalized and moving forward on necessary engineering report. Installation required to be completed by November 1st per 319 Grant. ODNR grant paperwork has been reviewed and needs approved for the funding of the engineering services.

Rodney Tornes moved to approve the agreement with ODNR to pay for the \$35,491.00 engineering services (H&H Study) for the H2Ohio Wetland grant; Bill Goodman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

c. **H2Ohio/MyFarms-** ODA has an agreement that is required for all counties utilizing the H@Ohio cost share program, provided via email for your review.

d.

Seth Dobbelaer moved to approve the contact with ODA to secure the 45,000.00 H2Ohio funding for Licking County; Rodney Tornes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS-

a. **MWCD Debris Removal Grant- McKean Township-** Debris field washing out Dry Creek streambank impacting Dry Creek Road. An MWCD Grant created but other circumstances have come up and the landowner's relative removed the debris without waiting on the grant.

b. **Licking County Foundation Proposal-** Unite for Nature- Shape the Future of Sustainable Licking County- proposal was provided to you in an email. The proposal will be another benchmarking data collection opportunity for the county to understand who the environmental/conservation groups are in the county. If the proposal is approved by the Foundation on Thursday, Soil & Water would enter into a contract with Kane Learning to do some consulting, proposal attached.

Seth Dobbelaer moved to approve entering into a contract with Kane Learning for \$5,500.00 for facilitation, contingent on grant approval; Rodney Tornes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

a. NRCS Report- DC Joe Koehler- written report provided

- Discussed the business in the office and the new staff that has started
- 40-45 applications have been funded through the EQIP/CRP program.

b. District Report- Kristy Hawthorne

- Urban Program update- Linda Nicodemus

1. Stormwater regulations – Nicodemus noted Soil & Water's work in partnership with the Planning Dept and Engineer Dept to review and update the local stormwater regulations.
2. Single Site Development application is an OEPA requirement as part of the stormwater management permit. The team has worked through the requirements from the OEPA, Prosecuting Attorney's office and the Commissioners. Final details being ironed out as part of the MOU with the Commissioners before implementation can start.
3. Commissioners MOU & Stormwater Management Plan update, which is also part of the Single Site Development Application, continues to move forward.

- District Update- Kristy Hawthorne

1. Strategic Planning- Hawthorne reported out about Kane Learning meeting with the team for a half day retreat. Hawthorne and Kane Learning have been working one-on-one to get the first year's goals finalized. The Board should have a final report in July.
2. Michael Smith, LC Auditor requested a meeting to discuss Ag Security areas and potential to do the CAUV inspections once Courtright retires.
3. Harvey Solar- Four neighbors to the Harvey Project entered into a Good Neighbor agreement which Soil & Water was asked to be the escrow holder. Although the project

is still at the Supreme Court, Hawthorne a discussion with prosecuting attorney to move the contract forward.

c. Budget Committee- Chair Goodman –

- Form 11

1. Hawthorne explained the Form 11 worksheet and the purpose of it to determine ODA State Match funding.

Bill Goodman moved to approve the 2024 Form 11 to request state match funding; Rodney Tornes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Audit updated to Agreed Upon Procedures

1. Stuller explained our office was approved for an Agreed Upon Procedures which covers 2022-23. A full audit can be expected for the 2024-25 audit period.

d. Grant Sub-Committee- Chair Dobbelaer & Byce – no updates

e. Policy/Personnel Committee- Chair Tornes –

- MORPC Intern hire: Joe Platt is an OSU student majoring in Public Administration and Natural Resources. He will join our team from from May 15th- August 8th, mostly working with Linda and the urban team.

Rodney Tornes moved to approve hiring Joseph Platt as the MORPC intern at \$15/hour for 40 hours/week from May 15th to August 8th; Seth Dobbelaer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- The need for additional help in the office has been discussed over the last few months.

Hawthorne provided draft job descriptions for an Admin. Assistant and an Assistant Director. After reviewing the workload, job descriptions and budget, Hawthorne was tasked to determine funding sources and options for the board to continue the conversation.

- Hawthorne is requesting to attend a multiday conference in Cincinnati- Fostering Sustainable Behavior. After a short discussion, the travel request form was signed by the Board Chair.

f. Nominating Committee- Chair Byce –

- Committee Calendar for October election, Stuller to provide via email.

- Potential Board candidate- Leigh Ann Miller met with a few of the Board members and is interested learning more about the responsibilities.

1. Rodney Tornes discussed he is working a lot in Washington County property. Will continue to serve on the board as long as he can but will not be available in the near future.

g. Board & Associate Board member reports

Rodney Tornes moved to adjourn at 7:38 pm, Bill Goodman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Britney Stuller, Operations Coordinator LCSWCD

Ron Thompson, Chair LCSWCD

Bill Goodman, Secretary/Treasurer LCSWCD