

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kristy Hawthorne
Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District
740-670-5330
KristyHawthorne@LickingSWCD.com
www.LickignSWCD.com

Join Us for the South Licking River Watershed: Current State and Strategic Vision

[Licking County, OH] — May 28, 2024 — The Soil & Water Conservation District and the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District is pleased to announce the State of the South Licking River Watershed Open House, scheduled to take place on June 10, 2024 from 5:30 -7:30 pm at Alexandria Church of Christ, 5380 Moots Run Rd, Alexandria, OH 43001. This event is open to all community members, stakeholders, and environmental enthusiasts who are interested in the health and future of the South Licking River Watershed.

Event Overview: The State of the Watershed meeting aims to provide a comprehensive update on the current state of the South Licking River Watershed. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about recent water quality data, ongoing conservation projects, and future initiatives designed to protect and enhance the watershed. Project leaders will provide brief presentations starting at 6 pm. Information tables with experts will be on hand to provide project details and answer questions.

Agenda Highlights:

- **Welcome and Introduction:** Opening remarks by Kristy Hawthorne, Soil & Water and Kevin Elder, South Licking Watershed Conservancy District and an overview of the meeting objectives.
- **Raccoon Creek Flood Study:** The flood mitigation study is focusing on identifying areas of flood risk in the watershed, refine H&H models using updated information and develop alternatives for flood damage reduction projects in the Raccoon Creek watershed.
- **FEMA Hazard Mitigation:** The project is to conduct a flood mitigation study focusing on identifying areas of flood risk in the South Fork main stem watershed from Pataskala to Heath, refine H&H models using updated information and develop alternatives for flood damage reduction.
- **Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategies reports update:** A living strategic planning document that summarizes causes and sources of impairment, establishes critical areas, identifies quantifiable objectives to address causes and sources of impairment, and describes projects designed to meet those objectives. Completed reports will be available and updates on the Headwaters of Raccoon Creek and Moots Run reports will be provided.
- **USGS Water Quality Testing on Raccoon Creek:** USGS's mission to provide reliable scientific information to provide data to support water resource management, policy making, and regulatory decisions. Managing the water quality testing site on Raccoon Creek.

- **Community Feedback and Interactive Session:** Open forum for attendees to share information and participate in focused discussions at the information tables.

Who Should Attend: This meeting is ideal for local residents, environmental organizations, government officials, researchers, educators, and anyone passionate about the sustainable management of our watershed.

Registration: The event is free to attend. Interested participants are encouraged to RSVP at <https://forms.gle/f7M8mDpzGj3MjaeV6> or call 740-670-5330 for planning purposes.

Quote: "We are excited to host the State of the Watershed meeting and bring together diverse voices to discuss the future of the South Licking River Watershed. It's a unique opportunity for the community to engage with experts, share their insights, and contribute to the preservation of our vital water resources," said Kristy Hawthorne, Director, Soil & Water Conservation District.

For more information, please contact: Kristy Hawthorne
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