



Monthly Board Meeting September 10, 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 | Guests |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Bill Goodman | Kristy Hawthorne | Linda Nicodemus | Joe Koehler | Jeff Baker- zoom | John Williams- zoom |
| Ron Thompson | Britney Stuller | Deirdre Wise | | Jeff Bates | |
| Rodney Tornes | Joe Jarvis | Harley Kirkingburg | | Mamie Hollenback | |
| Seth Debbelaer | Kyle Seitz | Nick Garavuso | | | |
| Kim Byce- zoom | Abbie Hogue | Briana Hodgson | | | |
| | Taylor Coy | Jenna Baer | | | |

*struck out= absent

Ron Thompson called the meeting to order at 4:31pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- I. BOARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: River Round Up review**
 - a. Staff discussed each of their RRU sites. Went over pros and cons.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS & STAFF REPORTS**
 - a. Team report was distributed and staff discussed
- III. CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a. Minutes of August 13, 2024 Board Meeting
 - b. Special Fund Financial Report- August
 - c. District Fund Financial Report- August
 - d. Aged Receivables Report
 - e. Cash Disbursements Report- August
 - f. Leave Balance Financial Obligation Report- 15, 16, 17
 - g. Overtime/Comp Time- listed on Cash Disbursement

Bill Goodman moved to approve the Consent Agenda items a-g for August/September 2024 except for Financial Obligation pay period 17; Rodney Tornes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. OLD BUSINESS-**
 - a. **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant-** Review committee scored proposals. 0.15 points apart, hosting interviews with firms next week.
 - Hawthorne and Seitz will be interviewing all three
 1. Looking at timeline and work hours
 - ODOT 2D model to assist- will have to update scope of work
 - Moving forward

- b. **The Nature Conservancy Grant-** Corporate Funding Coordination for Central Ohio project update, articles provided in email.
 - International press release was released by Amazon Web Services
 - There are 4 corporate companies that are funding, not just AWS
 - They will be contracting with us for the grant money- \$1.2 million
 - Possible press conference in the near future
 - Would like to do a big reveal at the annual banquet

V. **NEW BUSINESS- no new business**

VI. **COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS**

- a. NRCS Report- DC Joe Koehler-
 - MOU being updated, provided for your review. Not at final version to approve yet.
 1. Hawthorne and Coy sat through webinar to “review” document. It is not ready for approval.
- b. District Report- Kristy Hawthorne
 - Urban Program update- Linda Nicodemus
 1. Getting ready for 3rd quarter Consortium Meeting
 - a. EPA will be coming to train
 - b. Education and Outreach with Abbie and Deirdre
 2. Mapping almost complete
 - District Update- Kristy Hawthorne
 1. Harvey Solar: MOU for funds to clear debris from Otter Fork watershed- initial discussion
 - a. \$50,000 to keep debris out of Otter Fork
 - b. Remove outdated fees- fee structure has changed, MOU needs updated to reflect
 2. Annual Banquet- October 8th
 - a. Celebrating 80 years
 - b. BBQ menu
 - c. Hawthorne discussed complementary tickets

Bill Goodman moved to approve 27 complementary tickets for the Annual Banquet; Kim Byce seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Budget Committee- Chair Goodman –
 - Office space lease up in December 2024. Commissioners proposed increase of \$15/square foot to match USDA rent.
 1. Commissioners are wanting to raise our rent from \$10.71/sq ft to approximately \$15/sq ft.
 2. Need to discuss with Commissioners, we feel that amount is too high. Will be getting surrounding areas prices.
 - State Match- according to map attached to email, Licking County is 3rd in local match funds in the 2024

- d. Grant Sub-Committee- Chair Dobbelaer & Byce –
 - Deadline to submit application is September 28th
- e. Policy/Personnel Committee- Chair Tornes –
 - Stormwater Specialist- internal promotion- Nick Garavuso to be promoted to Stormwater Specialist

Rodney Tornes moved to approve promoting Nick Garavuso to Stormwater Specialist at \$23/hour; Bill Goodman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Administrative Assistant- initial interviews this week
 1. Hiring for part-time (about 24-32 hours/week)
 2. Top 2 candidates will move on to in-person interviews with the board
- AmeriCorps members- Jenna Baer will do 2nd term with us; Jaret Boettcher accepted the Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator AmeriCorp position (funded by BLRC)
 1. Jaret will start tomorrow, September 11th.

- f. Nominating Committee- Chair Byce
 - Nominating Committee: Ron & Seth on the ballot
 - Rodney Tornes resignation
 1. Rodney has submitted his letter of resignation, effective immediately.

Kim Byce moved to approve Rodney Tornes' resignation, effective September 10, 2024; Bill Goodman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- g. Board & Associate Board member reports

Bill Goodman moved to adjourn at 5:55pm, Ron Thompson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Britney Stuller, Operations Coordinator LCSWCD

Ron Thompson, Chair LCSWCD

Bill Goodman, Secretary/Treasurer LCSWCD