



Monthly Board Meeting September 19, 2023

The Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met at 4:00 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	Chad Amos
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			
	Abbie Hogue				

Absent: Mamie Hollenback

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

- I. **BOARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT-** Board Election- Review voting procedure and timeline
 - a. Hawthorne discussed the election process and timeline. She also went over the different ways voters can vote.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS & STAFF REPORTS**
 - a. Staff discussed District Highlights
 - Hawthorne stated she was processing the staff highlights differently by pulling all the information from Beehive.
- III. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - a. Minutes of July 11, 2023 Board Meeting
 - b. Minutes of August 25, 2023 Special Board Meeting
 - c. Special Fund Financial Report- July & August
 - d. District Fund Financial Report- July & August
 - e. Aged Receivables Report
 - f. Cash Disbursements Report- August & September
 - g. Leave Balance Financial Obligation Report- 12, 13, 14, 15
 - h. Overtime/Comp Time approval- listed on Cash Disbursement Report

Ron Thompson moved to approve the Consent Agenda items a-g for July & August 2023. Rodney Tornes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Solar Developments-**
 1. **Union Ridge (Harrison Township)-**
 - a. No update

2. **Open Roads Renewables (Hartford Township)**- Save Hartford Township has filed an appeal in the Ohio Supreme Court on June 20th

b. FEMA Grant Update

1. Anticipating being funded. Working with Administrative Assistant to learn FEMA GO portal to accept and report on grant. RFP process in place from the 2D Model selection process.
 - a. Have not received any recent updates, still in the waiting process to see if we were chosen to be funded.

c. South Licking Watershed Conservancy District Projects

1. Budget will be provided for cost share for various projects
 - a. Hawthorne distributed and discussed the many various grants/projects within SLWCD and LCSWCD. She stated that Soil & Water has transferred \$25,000.00 from a renewed CDAR into a Money Market account to hold for future projects. She then stated she would like to contribute \$15,000.00 to the Conservancy District's cost-share to help with their Snagging & Clearing Grant to help them and the Silver Jackets move on to the next step.

Bill Goodman moved to approve Soil & Water's contribution of \$15,000.00 from the District Money Market to assist with SLWCD's cost-share for the Snagging & Clearing Grant. Ron Thompson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Raccoon Creek Debris Field study, Snagging & Clearing Grant- USACE waiting for 2D Model to be complete by Silver Jackets. Feasibility study on hold and cost share has been requested.
 - a. Discussed previously
3. Flood Study- 2D Model complete. Working through the process for public records request
 - a. Final Report has been provided for review
 - b. Hawthorne discussed needing to research process for public records requests due to the model being owned by two different partners.

d. Central Ohio Water Group- Tech Companies Sustainability projects

1. Global Tech company direct conversation with us about water quality projects and River Round Up

e. USGS Water Quality Monitoring-

1. Hawthorne discussed the price breakdown and how much LCSWCD has agreed to cost-share yearly. Hawthorne also went over the timeline.

V. NEW BUSINESS-

- a. **LAEPSP Sponsor Resolution-** ODA requirement to be a local sponsor for the Farmland Preservation program
 - Hawthorne went over the yearly requirement to be a local sponsor.

- b. **OEPA 9-Element Plan Grant-** We were awarded \$15,000 to do 9-Element plans for the Headwaters of Raccoon Creek and Moots Run. We will be contracting work out with Kyle as the lead.

VI. COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

- a. NRCS Report- DC Joe Koehler
 - Koehler discussed his report
 - Discussed working on the waterways with Brent Dennis. Stated he has been a huge help.
- b. District Report- Kristy Hawthorne
 - Urban Program update- Linda Nicodemus
 - 1. Review fee structure and recommendations- motion to approve
 - a. Hawthorne and Nicodemus discussed the changes that needed to be made to the fee schedules.

Rodney Tornes moved to amend and update the Urban Fee structure. Kim Byce seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Stormwater Awareness Week- October 1-7th
- 3. General Program Update
 - a. Nicodemus discussed the progress with the GIS training. Stated they will be moving on to the second phase of the contract.
- District Update- Kristy Hawthorne
 - 1. Speaking engagements
 - a. Hawthorne discussed upcoming speaking engagements and events that she will be attending. Stated she was asked to speak at the MORPC Sustainability Summit.
 - 2. Ohio Geological Survey study- \$700,000.00 Federal Grant
 - 3. Local Food Council
 - a. Kim Byce discussed the group. Stated they are trying to rejuvenate the group.
 - 4. Intel Harvest Celebration
 - a. Hawthorne discussed the event
- c. Building/Equipment/Safety Committee- Chair Tornes-
 - OSU Extension is remodeling a room in their office for the SNAP ED position. We are anticipating getting the office the 1st of October- quote for remodel provided
- d. Budget Committee- Chair Dobbelaer-
 - Form 11- State Match approved
 - 1. State Match was approved for \$300,515.00
 - Initial Special Fund Budget discussion- due end of October

- e. Grant Sub-Committee- Chair Thompson-
 - Site visits at completed projects
 1. Ron and Bill discussed visiting Watkins Intermediate to see their grant-funded aquaponics system.
 - Update on applications received so far- deadline September 30th
 1. 5 applications have been received so far.
- f. Program Committee- Chair Byce-
 - Annual Banquet details:
 1. Board Meeting at 4:30pm
 2. Reception starts at 5:30pm
 3. Dinner served at 6:30pm
 4. Streams and Wetlands Foundation will give a 30-minute presentation on the newly constructed wetland on Swamp Road, history of the area and the 12,000 year old beaver dam they found
 5. Presentation of awards:
 - a. Cooperator of the Year- Learning 4 Life Farm
 - b. Educator of the Year- The Works
 - c. Volunteer(s) of the Year- Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow
 - d. FFA Soil Judging winners- Urban & Ag, Team & Individuals
 6. Complementary Tickets list needs approval
 7. Each team member is setting up a display showing what they do.

Bill Goodman moved to approve 30 Complementary Tickets for the Annual Banquet Ron Thompson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- g. Policy/Personnel Committee- Chair Goodman-
 - Central Ohio AmeriCorps Program- contract with Franklin SWCD needs approved. We have requested 2 AmeriCorps members. One education/outreach position to work with Deirdre & Abbie, second one as a Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator to work with SLWCD in Buckeye Lake area. Buckeye Lake Region Corp and Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow have agreed to pay \$9,000 for the position. Next steps for LCSWCD to have an AmeriCorps person this fall. Will discuss hiring process at the meeting.
 1. Hawthorne shared and discussed the contract with Franklin SWCD for the AmeriCorps.

Kim Byce moved to approve LCSWCD enter into an agreement with Franklin SWCD for the AmeriCorps program. Rodney Tornes seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Team Meetings- with the growing staff, I've broken down our weekly team meetings to smaller groups. Weekly meetings with Education team: Deirdre and Abbie; Watershed team: Brent and Kyle; Program Team: Briana, Britney and Abbie; Linda will take care of Urban meetings. Once a month we will all come together an all-team meeting.
- h. Nominating Committee- Chair Thompson-
 - Planning for Rodney Tornes resignation
 1. Chad Amos discussed the process of replacing a resigning board member.

- i. Legislative Committee- Chair Goodman-
 - Balderson’s Ag Advisory Committee meeting Aug. 10th – HR 4257 – To exclude property and facilities located on prime farmland from certain credits relating to renewable energy production and investment.

- j. Board & Associate Board member reports
 - Bill Goodman shared his NACD Summer Conference experience in Bismarck, SD.
 - Farm Science Review is this week
 - Chad Amos discussed H2Ohio plans and reorganization at ODA that will be happening soon.

Rodney Tornes moved to adjourn at 6:24 pm, Kim Byce seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Britney Stuller, Administrative Assistant LCSWCD

Seth Dobbelaer, Chair LCSWCD

Bill Goodman, Secretary/Treasurer LCSWCD