

## **2023 Local Workgroup Meeting:**

### **The most important soil, water and/or natural resources need or issue in Licking County is:**

- Water quantity- too much water
- Impervious-compacted soils
- Runoff/Drainage
  - Runoff & stream production
- Maintain water resources
- Grasses from mowing buildup
- Inconsistent/increased rainfall
- Farmland Preservation easements must stand up to development
- Need rules/regulation for small solar systems to protect the resources
- Log jam issues due to dead ash
  - In general
  - Regulations/ cost prohibitive
- Development pressure
  - Offset land use with preserved open land
  - Safety on the road
- Raccoon Creek aquifer watershed
- Water runoff from massive hard surface
  - Volume in waterways
  - Lack of water to recharge aquifers
- Waterway management
- Escalating land prices
- Aquifer pollution/contamination
- Forestry
- Pollinator

### **Suggestions for better informing/educating/assisting users of our natural resources are:**

- Social media videos, tv/news channels, radio, billboard, mailed letters, education in schools
- Ag Education (Cover Crop)
  - Organizations & programs
- Education importance of watersheds
- Education techniques for young/old generations
- Education for townships (ditching)
- Funding
  - Federal/local- advocating to congress Farm Bill
- Establish priorities for Licking County Water and focus by region
- Education/awareness of industrial growth
- Problem- lack of controlled news source- consolidated info portal
- Rely on NGO's
  - Farm Bureau
  - SWCDs
  - Other organizations
- Personal connections/network

## **Suggestions for policy to help conserve our natural resources are:**

- Encourage green infrastructure
- Stormwater credits program
- More local enforcement/authority
- Make policies regarding soil and water usage/runoff
- Promote development of grasses (helps runoff)
- Carbon tax dividend- businesses pay “tax” for amount of carbon released in atmosphere, then money goes to the people to spend however
- Logistics for farm machinery
- Funding for SWCD education- natural resources
- Updated township zoning regulations
  - Setbacks
- Incentive to use better fertilizer, etc.
  - Research and development
- Review regulations to reduce laws limiting equipment to repair waterways affected by log jams
- Log jam funding- County/State/Federal
- Water channeling policy to address increased water flow due to development
- Conservation easements
- County-wide natural resources plan
- Concentrate residential/commercial development
  - High-density means more green/farm
- Better/stronger water conservation regulation
- Identify natural ‘corridors’
- Regulating small solar fields
- Small commercial
- Education for township trustees about solar
- Private property rights