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Issue

Inside Your

OASWCDE

OASWCDE is looking for a few good....

OASWCDE looking to fill vacant director seat & for future director candidates.

The OASWCDE recently had a seat on our board vacated by Ryan Smith, a director from Area 4. The board is looking for a candidate from that area who is willing to serve the remainder of Ryan's term that ends in March of 2015.

The OASWCDE Board of Directors is also looking for candidates from Areas 1, 3, and 5 who are interested in serving as a director. These areas have directors with terms that are up. The current directors for Area 3 and Area 5 are term limited and are not able to run again.

The term of a OASWCDE director is 3 years. The director repre-

senting an area must be an employee of a SWCD in the designated area and a member of the OASWCDE.

The board of directors for the OASWCDE are active at the state level by providing representation on several state committees and task forces. We are members of the NRCS state technical committee and civil rights committee, we provide representation to the OWSCC meetings, ODNR program specialists meetings, and OFSWCD Board of Directors meetings to name a few. We have also served on the Drainage Task Force, the Conservation Delivery Task Force and the Urban Conservation Task

Force, as well as others.

Directors are responsible for providing input and seeking out new opportunities for professional development for SWCD employees across the state of Ohio. Directors are involved with the planning and implementation of the All Ohio Partnership Meeting.

Please contact the current directors in your area if you are interested in serving. The Board of Directors need individuals from the various areas of expertise to serve as Directors to make sure all areas are represented. The Board of Directors is only as effective as those willing to serve.



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The OSWCC Summer Tour was held in Area 4 on July 9th & 10th. On day one, the SWCDs of Area 4 did an outstanding job showcasing how conservation looks on the landscape of Southwestern Ohio and urbanized areas to the commission members on hand. Participants learned how the Mt. Adams Stabilization wall came to be as well as the conservation efforts used to prevent homes of Lux Lane housing development, in Hamilton County, from being condemned. Participants interacted with individuals utilizing a community garden and toured Carriage Hill Development, the location of the 2013 Home-A-Rama in Butler County, and saw how the owners were using conservation BMP's to make their development more attractive and sustainable. The tour visited Mill Creek Confluence Project which includes over 5,000 linear feet of restored stream channel and a substantial riparian floodplain that assists in alleviating localized flooding. During the bus trip to the different sites, local SWCDs educated participants on historical and statistical information about the counties.

On day two, the commission members listened to a presentation on the Great Miami River Watershed Water Quality Credit Trading Program. The commission members also discussed and approved state match for SWCDs, the development of a template to be used in reporting the annual plan of work, a policy for determining what local funds qualify for state match, requests for Conservation Assistance grants, the 2014 SWIMS project funding and additional funding for the Grand Lake St. Mary distressed watershed project.

www.oaswcde.org

Dedication of Continuing Ed Scholarship

OASWCDE dedicates Continuing Ed Scholarship in memory of Dick Sorg.

At the 2013 OFSWCD Summer Supervisor School held in Area 1 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in Perrysburg, Ohio, the OASWCDE Board of Directors announced, they were dedicating the Continuing Education Scholarship offered to OASWCDE members to the memory of Dick Sorg.

Dick began his career in soil and water conservation in 1971 with Muskingum SWCD, his home county, as a district aide and ended his career there in 2011 as the district administrator when he retired.

Dick was a true believer in conservation and as a result of his passion, he brought

several individuals into the world of soil and water conservation districts not just at the local level but statewide as well. He believed firmly in the mission of the Ohio Association of Conservation District Employees and was a member of the association since its inception and until his passing in 2012.

Dick believed in the importance of the voice of a soil and water conservation district employee and encouraged their professional development. Through Dick's efforts led to a string of awards for himself as well as his SWCD and helped change the face of conservation throughout Ohio.

Though the awards he was apart of were gratifying, Dick received the most gratification from seeing conservation being applied to the landscape of Muskingum County as well as statewide.

Dick and his efforts are deeply missed.



Pictured above is Dick Sorg educating the youth of Muskingum County.

2013 Scholarship Winners

The Sherry West Memorial Scholarship is a \$500 academic scholarship presented to a child of an OASWCDE member who has been a member for the previous 3 years prior to the award. The scholarship is awarded based on community service and academics. This year 2 scholarships were awarded. The first recipient is Riley Hardval, daughter of Kelly Hardval from Trumbull SWCD. Riley is a Sophomore at Edinboro University and is majoring in Pre-Med Biology. The second recipient is Michelle Petit, daughter of Linda Petit from Franklin SWCD. Michelle is a Sophomore at Wittenberg University and is majoring in early childhood education.



Dick Sorg Scholarship Recipient: Mark Watkins



Sherry West Scholarship Recipient: Riley Hardval



Sherry West Scholarship Recipient: Michelle Petit

The Dick Sorg Continuing Education Scholarship is a \$300 scholarship presented to an OASWCDE member who has been a member for the previous 3 years prior to the award. The 2013 recipient is Mark Watkins, District Technician for Union SWCD.

OASWCDE Membership Benefits

As of today, membership is currently at 140. Thank you to all those employees, District Boards and affiliates who renewed their memberships with the OASWCDE for 2013. We appreciate your support and will continue to try to make a difference on your behalf.

It's still is not too late to renew your memberships or initially join. We encourage you to do so. As members, you are eligible to apply for a \$300 Continuing Education scholarship for yourself. If you have been a member for the past

three years, your child, who is at least a sophomore in college, may apply for our \$500 academic scholarship. Both of these applications are awarded annually. Scholarship and membership applications are available on our website at www.oaswcde.org or from your area directors.

Membership also supports the OASWCDE in its efforts to administer the Catastrophic Sick Leave Program (CSLP). OASWCDE is required by Ohio Revised Code to administer the CSLP. To date, we

have been able to assist six employees with the CSLP.

We also would like to be able to start providing additional benefits but can only do this with support of all employees. We would like ideas on what you think we should be working on and programs you see as beneficial that we could provide. All suggestions may not be executed in the short term, but they will provide us with ideas to base long term goals on which to work towards.

OFSWCD Summer School

At the 2013 OFSWCD Summer Supervisor School, Area 1 showcased conservation BMPs used in northwest Ohio and provided a number of sessions that provided a wealth of information for SWCD supervisors to take back to their own SWCDs to help enhance their programming

Participants enjoyed tours that included a visit to the Robert J Anderson Rural Agricultural Center and the Huntington Center, solar panel manufacturer Isofoton and Bridgewater Dairy, the CSX Northwest Terminal and Hartung Brothers Cucumber processing plant, and a tour of costal conservation BMPs on Lake Erie.

Workshops provided participants with a variety of choices that included a look at the new pollution abatement MOU, succession farming and a look at how CNMP implementation is going in Grand Lake St. Marys. Participants also were able to see how Districts can use social media to communicate their message and tips on hiring the best candidate for the job. SWCDs of Northwest Ohio showed participants how they are implementing the 4R principals with community gardens, cover crops and soil testing, and other enhancements to urban landscapes.

The OFSWCD Auxiliary was able to raise over \$2200 at their live auction for their scholarship with the help of some very generous supervisors. Participants were introduced to Area 2's Conservation Crusader project and got to meet Conservation Crusader in person as well as learn who the partnership for this project is working. During the delegate session, 2 resolutions were voted on as well as changes to the Federation's by-laws.

Professional Development and Training Needs Survey

The OASWCDE will be conducting an online survey to assist in determining the professional development and training needs of Ohio SWCD employees. The information gathered from this survey will assist in determining session topics for the 2014 All Ohio Partnership Meeting. In addition to the All Ohio meeting, the OASWCDE directors are exploring the possibility of revitalizing an All Employee Meeting. This would be a 1 day training opportunity for SWCD employees. The survey will help us to determine if there is a need to revitalize the All Employee Meeting or continue on the direction we are currently on. All employees will be receiving an email with a direct link to the survey. It is essential employees of all job skills complete the survey so we are able to build curricula that meet the professional development and training needs of all SWCD employees whether they are urban or agricultural technicians, education specialists, wildlife specialists administrative employees or employees of other job skills.

The OASWCDE Board of Directors holds bi-monthly meetings to conduct business. The remaining dates set for 2013 are October 17th and December 19th

Your Director's Perspective

Dona Rhea
Area 5 Director
Delaware SWCD
Education Specialist

I have been asked several times why I serve as a director for the OASWCDE when I'm only an SWCD Educator.

I am completing my second term on the OASWCDE Board and am term limited. I am looking to nominate a fellow Area 5 Educator to run for my position on the board during our election to be held at the All Partnership Meeting in February of next year.

I enjoy my position as an educator at the Delaware SWCD and value having been the representation from the education and outreach field on the OASWCDE Board of Directors. This position is dependent upon being self-motivated and holding yourself to a high standard of professionalism. Because the Directors have the motivation of wanting to improve their knowledge, work skills, and resources, the board meetings are successful in accomplishing the goals of the organization.

One of those goals of the OASWCDE Board of Directors is to sponsor and assist in the planning of professional development opportunities for not only educators but all SWCD employees in all fields of work. I find a sense of accomplishment in helping in the professional development of other SWCD employees.

With recent actions at the state level as well as local levels, it is important as ever to maintain professionalism in our work to make ourselves, as SWCD employees, known to our county residents and elected officials as intelligent and useful resources.

Co-workers have kindly teased me by saying "you educators – are just different." Yes, we all are different, but we use the best skills we have to educate fellow county residents in our Districts on how what they can do to assist us in conserving our natural resources.

Reach out and educate others on your area of expertise, whether it be wildlife, drainage, agriculture, or urban issues. That is why I am here as an educator and OASWCDE Director. Why are you here? I hope our answers to this question are similar.

Your 2013 OASWCDE Area Directors and Officers

Area 1

Michelle Mattix - Treasurer
Marion SWCD

Tia Rice - President
Seneca SWCD

Area 2

Dan Donaldson
Lake SWCD

Tim White
Erie SWCD

Area 3

Tammy Jones - Secretary
Monroe SWCD

Jeanette Weinberg
Muskingum SWCD

Area 4

Julia Cumming
Madison SWCD

Vacant position

Area 5

Cathy Bobo
Athens SWCD

Dona Rhea
Delaware SWCD