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Issue

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OASWCDE



2013 Annual Partnership Meeting

Update on the happenings at the Annual Partnership meeting.

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OFSWCD President, Joe Glassmeyer after gavel ceremony at Tuesday Luncheon.

What a great meeting we had this week in Columbus at the Renaissance Hotel Downtown.

First and foremost, thanks to Mindy Bankey and Laura Hollingsworth with the OFSWCD, the ODNR-DSWR staff and the OASWCDE Area Directors for all their efforts in putting together a successful meeting.

There were several compliments on

the quality of the workshops subject matter and presenters.

The attendance was a refreshing sight to see. Attendance for this year's event was approximately 450 board supervisors, staff and presenters. It was great to see the partners in conservation networking and discussing ideas on how to develop stronger programs back in their own districts.

A special thank you to our new OFSWCD President, Joe Glassmeyer, for his very heartfelt recognition of the OASWCDE in his comments at the luncheon on Tuesday. It means a great deal to know the OFSWCD values the contribution OASWCDE and its membership makes to further the State's conservation efforts.

We would also like to thank Fred

Hammon and wish him the best of luck in his new position with the Oil and Gas Division of ODNR.

A special thank you as well to the previous OASWCDE officer team of Dan Donaldson, Dona Rhea, Michelle Mattix and Tammy Jones. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

If you were in attendance this year, please provide your area director with feedback on what you liked and areas you would like to see a workshop on in the future.

Thank you to our partners for a great meeting.



The OASWCDE holds bi-monthly meetings to conduct business. Below are the dates set for these meetings for 2013.

April 18th

June 20th

August 15th

October 17th

December 19th

www.oaswcde.org

NCDEA Update

By Irene Moore, NCDEA President

During this last year, the opportunities to visit with soil and water district staff from across the states has reaffirmed my appreciation of just what we all do for agriculture and natural resources conservation.

2012 was a year of enlarged partnership activities. We held four National Conservation Partnership leaders meetings including two nationwide video conferences that incorporated members of state conservation partnerships. We began addressing issues of the conservation delivery system such as "field offices of the future" and the shape of conservation programs authorized by the Farm Bill. We also dealt with operational and challenging issues such as transitioning QuickBooks off of USDA computers. In cooperation with NASCA and NACD we explored ways to get discounts and alternative QuickBooks options. In the end virtually all states worked out solutions that fit their needs.

Your NCDEA Board met for their regular mid-year board meeting in addition to the annual meeting. We have been serving as a workgroup to accomplish deliverables for two grants this year. One is aimed at promoting conservation and program participation. The other is identifying how multiple environmental benefits can be recognized in public policy today.

On behalf of the NCDEA board I want to express appreciation to NRCS Retired Chief Dave White for his support during his tenure. He has been a great support of the Conservation Partnership and led the agency during some very challenging years. We also look forward to working with his replacement Acting Chief, Jason Weller, and have already had productive meetings and conversations with him in his new role.

To the dedicated conservation district employees across the nation, I offer my appreciation for the great work that you do and for the professional delivery that you expend on your customers, partners, and volunteers. With so many land use changes and weather events affecting our environment, district employees are being challenged in new ways each day. It is said that we find inspiration and happiness in work and life. Let us be an inspiration to each other and learn from each of our experiences. Contact your NCDEA North Central regional representative Sandy Stratman (Missouri) at sandy.stratman@maswcd.net and tell us your story; give us your ideas; or just share your thoughts on how we can rally to help you to expand your employees association in your state. I also invite you to the NCDEA website at <https://sites.google.com/site/myncdea/home> or access the link from the NACD website. We want to continue to build your National Conservation District Employees Association and WE CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Congratulations to the winners. For more information on the winners, visit our website to read their bios.

2013 Conservation District Board Member and Professional Awards

At the 2013 Annual Partnership Meeting, the OASWCDE presented the 2013 Outstanding Conservation District Professional and the Outstanding Conservation District Board Member Awards.

The National Conservation District Employees Association created the awards program in 1998. The purpose of the program is to annually recognize professionalism and dedication in the people behind the nation's conservation district programs.

To be eligible for these awards, all nominees must have been employed for three years or have four years of board service at the time of nomination.

This year, Beth Diesch, Education Specialist for Seneca SWCD, was awarded the District Professional award. Butler SWCD Supervisor, Etta Reed, was awarded the District Board Member award.

Applications for next year will be available on our website or from your area directors.



2013 Outstanding Conservation District Professional, Beth Diesch (left) with Tia Rice, Area 1 Director (right)



2013 Outstanding Conservation District Board Member, Etta Reed (left) with Ryan Smith, Area 4 Director (right)

CSLP Update

Thank you to those employees and SWCD boards who have contributed to the Catastrophic Sick Leave Program (CSLP) request for Pike SWCD on behalf of Mary Sibole. We are pleased to say that we have received enough donations to cover Pike SWCD's CSLP request on behalf of Mary. This is great news for her and her District.

Those Districts participating were Clermont, Erie, Highland, Holmes, Lucas, Madison, Montgomery, Seneca, and Wayne. Thanks again to their donations.

If you would like more information about the Catastrophic Sick Leave Program, please contact Tia Rice, CSLP Coordinator at trice@senecaswcd.com or at (419) 447-7073.

Introducing... Your 2013 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

Ryan Smith - Vice Pres.
Butler SWCD

Area 5

Cathy Bobo
Athens SWCD

Dona Rhea
Delaware SWCD

Director's Perspective *by Tia Rice, Area 1 Director*

I had the opportunity to discuss district sponsored memberships with one of the participants at the 2013 Annual Partnership Meeting. The individual said, "The board is all about supporting the OASWCDE with district sponsored dues, but why should we if the employee doesn't see the value in supporting initially by paying their own dues. If you could answer this question, we would be more than happy to sponsor the dues for our employees."

I've contemplated that question to be able to answer it and I'm sorry to say I can't. An employee should be the first to find value in our organization. I look at the OASWCDE as a representation of all the employees in Ohio. If our membership numbers don't support that, our voice is not as strong. There is no question there are changes and improvements to be made. We cannot continue to grow as an organization if we don't receive support and input from our fellow SWCD employees.

You have heard me discuss several times the additional representation the OASWCDE brings to committees and task force groups both at the state and national level. This representation is only as good as the information we bring

A perspective on why supporting OASWCDE is important.

to it and back from it for our members. That's why this is the start of a bi-monthly newsletter from the OASWCDE providing updates on the happenings of the OASWCDE and meetings we are participating in on your behalf. I am also encouraging you to participate in our representation as well. When we are asked to serve on a task force or participate in a state or national meeting, we are going to ask the SWCD employees to provide input for the meetings. If we are going to be a voice for the employees in meetings, then we need to hear what you have to say.

My support for the OASWCDE is rooted in my first year as a District Administrator. OASWCDE Area Directors offered guidance on where I could get assistance on things I was unsure of. They listened to my questions and suggestions which made me feel part of a team. If you aren't a member, ask a member why they support the OASWCDE. It's a \$15 investment I believe is well worth it and let's not forget to mention some great membership gifts.

2013

2013 OASWCDE Membership

Thank you to all those employees, District Boards and affiliates who renewed their memberships with the OASWCDE for 2013. To date, OASWCDE membership is at 135 members. We appreciate your support and will continue to try to make a difference on your behalf.

For those who have not renewed their memberships or initially joined, 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 mem-

ber 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 available now and are due June 15th. They will be awarded at Summer Supervisor School. 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. OASWCDE is required by Ohio Revised

Code to administer the Catastrophic Sick Leave Program. To date, we have been able to assist six employees with the Catastrophic Sick Leave Program.

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.