

May  
2013  
Issue

Inside Your

OASWCDE



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## Pollution Abatement MOU

*Update on the events related to the current MOU.*

The OASWCDE directors recently had the opportunity to meet with the OFSWCD Directors and Karl Gebhardt, Division Chief for ODNR-DSWR, to discuss the Pollution Abatement MOU and the draft language for LSC 130 0081-2 proposed by ODNR and ODA.

First and foremost, thank you to Mindy Bankey and the Federation directors for inviting us to participate in the discussion.

There was a great deal of dialogue centered around the relationship with ODNR and SWCDs and the need for communication between those entities.

As a result of the discussion, changes were made to the MOU to address the concerns brought out during the meeting. Karl, expressed a willingness

of the Division to work with districts that may be short-staffed or need further training to ensure a potential pollution issue can be adequately addressed in a timely manner.

Also as a result of a request of Michelle Mattix, Area 1 Director, the Division has created a Ag Pollution TDP class being offered in each of the 5 areas to train staff who are not familiar with the procedures. As each SWCD understands, ag pollution abatement is of high priority and we must work together to continue making a difference in this area.

We appreciate the willingness of the Division to work with us and believe they recognize the need to work closer and improve communication with districts, the OFSWCD and the OASWCDE throughout the future as we work together to address conservation chal-

lenges.

With this in mind, we ask each SWCD Board to fully review the revised MOU for prompt consideration and signature.

We believe it is important to show a good faith gesture as a result of the revision of the MOU.

Training Dates for AP Training:

- \* Area 1 June 12-13 Findlay, Oh
- \* Area 2 June 17-18 Seville, Oh
- \* Area 3 June 25-26 Cambridge, Oh
- \* Area 4 June 5-6 Dayton, Oh
- \* Area 5 June 27-28 Chillicothe, Oh

## STATE MATCH UPDATE

As a reminder, we need to stay vigilant in our discussions with our legislatures about the state match as well as the importance of finding additional resources for SWCDs to address State Priorities. The budget numbers are not final and although the State Match was initially included, we still need to be communicating not only what we are doing but also what we CAN do with additional resources. The possibilities are endless when SWCDs are involved!

[www.oaswcde.org](http://www.oaswcde.org)



## Who does this guy think he is...

*A message from ODNR Chief of Division of Soil & Water Resources, Karl Gebhardt.*

Normally this would be an opportunity for an introduction, but for many it has already taken place; either personally or through Tia's "Chief's interview minutes," which I enjoyed reading myself. I hope we will have the opportunity to meet personally, if we haven't already.

Bill Swank, the former Executive VP for the Ohio Farm Bureau and a former boss of mine for 18 years, told me during my interview: "You will hear that I am a real SOB. If you are ever in doubt, I just ask you to call me and find out for yourself, because sometimes I will be, and sometimes people just assume I am because of what needs done or said, and they probably aren't used to that." Bill was right.

Another Farm Bureau leader whom I never met, but still had some influence on

me was Murray D. Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln was the first Executive VP of Farm Bureau. In addition, he founded what became Nationwide Insurance, and Farm Bureau Cooperative (Landmark). His biography is entitled, "Vice President in Charge of Revolution," reflective of his management style and resulting accomplishments. Maybe this helps to explain some things about me, but I will be the first to admit I am not in the same class as Bill and Murray. While both men weren't afraid to poke, challenge, question and lead their organization to great accomplishments as unpopular as that sometimes made them, they also had a sincere appreciation and respect for others. They were leaders, but they knew they couldn't do it alone. How about you? What do people think

about you? Are you possibly an SOB, or a Vice President of Revolution? Do you dare to challenge yourself and others, do you see things as they were, are, or how they could be? Do you adapt and overcome? Do you have the courage to "poke and be poked?" After a 40-year career working with some very good leaders and followers, I still ask myself those questions. I hope the same for you.

I'll leave you with this parting thought. In his book, "Good to Great," Jim Collins writes, "Good is the enemy of Great, and that is one of the reasons we have so little that becomes great."

Thank you for what you do. I look forward to working with you. And if you are ever in doubt, please give me a call.



## 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 to 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 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](http://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 are offering 5 free memberships as a result of an anonymous donation. If

you are interested in the free membership, please contact Cathy Bobo for an application.

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.

# Director's Perspective *by Tim White, Area 2 Director*

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why do I do what I do?" Is your choice of occupation by compulsion or compassion? For some folks maybe the rationale was simply you needed a job to make ends meet. In all honesty, that's how it started out for me. However, it didn't take very long for me to view my choice of vocation as more of a rewarding profession, a thought-provoking and stimulating position, in actuality. Throughout these past 18 years, rather than dreading to see the beginning of another work week greet me, I looked forward to the opportunities, as well as the challenges.

There have been numerous soil and water conservation district personnel over the years that have inspired and motivated me to do what I do and try to be the best that I can be. It's often the things people say and do that encourages us be conscientious and diligent in our own efforts, despite the level of achievement. As the "Gifted Hands" doctor, Ben Carson, puts it, *"Success is determined not by whether or not you face obstacles, but by your reaction to them. And if you look at these obstacles as a containing fence, they become your excuse for failure. If you look at them as a hurdle, each one strengthens you for the next"*.

It was only a couple of years ago that I was unfortunately obligated to say goodbye to a coworker and a friend in this field of conservation. Though his passing was not without a good deal of sadness, there are some great things my friend had accomplished and as a result, his legacy and his signature on the land still live on.

Following a noon day, July thunderstorm in 1973, John's true passion and inspiration for learning and sharing with others his own land ethics and ecological passion was realized...The Woods Nature Reserve was conceived. The Woods became a sanctuary for John, his wife and children to visit, practice personal conservation, and share with others the seasonal wonders.

In 1985, The Woods became Ohio Tree Farm #2174, certified by the Timber Stand Improvement efforts. In 1991, John and his family constructed a simple 14' by 14' cabin from swamp white oak logs, where family Thanksgivings from then on would take place.

John's pastimes at The Woods included creating, restoring and enjoying wetlands, vernal pools, grasslands, woodlands, a 4-acre pond, a shelter house and foot trails. One of his favorite quotes was from another famous conservationist, a familiar name to all of us, Aldo Leopold, who stated *"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."*

John was eager to share his passion by encouraging conser-

vation and providing instruction regarding land ethics, along with his study of all things in nature for present and future generations. His love for wildlife and their habitats guided his service towards the residents and landowners of the county he resided in, as well as assisting his Wildlife Specialist's and soil and water conservation district colleagues with their own projects.

One of John's renown sayings was *"healthy wetlands don't bite"*. Thousands of students who have since visited the natural area John restored and preserved now have a greater appreciation for the land and its resources as a result of In-Pool Wetland and Freshwater studies, Arbor Day events, Master Gardeners for Backyard Wildlife programs and countless hours of educational programming that John conducted himself over the years. In the words of many who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him, *"John has left the world a better place"*.

When we were born and the exact moment in time we are called out of this walk of life are definitely two things we have little power over. A close call this past October made me realize that! Yet, we do have control over what happens between those two dates on our monument. It's what Linda Ellis refers to in her poem as "The Dash". A snippet of her poem says, *"...that dash represents all the time...spent alive on earth and only those who loved (someone like John) know what that little line is worth. For it matters not how much we own, the cars...the house...the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash."*

May we never lose our appreciation for the land, our water, wildlife, the air we breathe, and for one another. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone connected to our soil and water conservation "family", for the example you've provided, the hard work, and the inspiration. I know that we will do our best to keep this passion and conservation commitment ever growing, building our own legacies as stewards of all things good that the Creator has provided for us.

One more word of wisdom I would like to impart, also by Ben Carson, is to *"think big and use your talents. It doesn't mean we won't have difficulties along the way. We will...we all do. If we choose to see the obstacles in our paths as barriers, we stop trying. Successful people don't have fewer problems. They have determined that nothing will stop them from going forward. I am convinced that knowledge is power – to overcome the past, to change our own situations, to fight new obstacles, to make better decisions."* If we will purpose to take care of our soil, our streams and rivers – our natural resources – they will take care of us and all those who follow after us!

## 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

## OASWCDE MEETING DATES

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

June 20th

August 15th

October 17th

December 19th