

December
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Issue

Inside Your

OASWCDE



Training Needs Survey Competed

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

The OASWCDE recently conducted an online survey to assist in determining the professional development and training needs of Ohio SWCD employees. Thank you to all the employees who responded.

The 225 responses we received generated a massive amount of information that was used to determine session topics for the 2014 All Ohio Partnership

Meeting as well as possible topics for Summer Supervisor School.

The survey also provided the directors with the information they needed to determine whether or not the idea of revitalizing an All Employee Meeting should be considered. There was an overwhelming response to proceed with conducting such a training and the directors will be working with OFSWCD to see how we can

make this happen. This would be a 1 day training opportunity for SWCD employees.

You can view the results of the survey on the OASWCDE website at www.oaswcde.org.

If you are interested in providing additional information regarding training needs, please submit your ideas to your area director of contact Tia Rice at trice@senecaswcd.com.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Training Needs
Survey

OFSWCD Annual
Meeting

Director
Perspective

Vacant Director
Seat Filled

OASWCDE Director
Meeting Dates

71st Annual Partnership Conference

"Conservation Dynasty—Serving for Tomorrow"

The 71st Annual Partnership Conference will be held March 3rd and 4th at the Columbus Renaissance Hotel in downtown Columbus. Randy Frazier will be the guest speaker kicking off the Conference. Randy spoke at lunch a few years ago about "Bees, Butterflies and Buzzards."

As always, we will hear from our partners regarding agency updates which may include an update from the new NRCS Chief, Jason Weller, who has been invited to attend the conference.

In addition to the Legacy Luncheon – there is an array of conservation workshops designed to help SWCD employees with their work responsibilities as well as the operational aspects of the District. Some of the workshop topics include: Success stories from the recent toolbox, education and nutrient management grants provided by the OSSWC; SWCD Marketing Plans and the Modern Newsletter; What's impacting Oil and Gas Pipeline Development in Ohio; News from the CCAO Drainage Law Task Force ; Oil and Gas Easement and Water Withdrawal Implications; Soil Health & Cover Crops with Dr. Hans Kok; Conservation Crusader - Get this Superhero Flying in YOUR District!. These are just to name a few.

To get signed up today or learn more visit www.ofswcd.org. CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

www.oaswcde.org

A Director's Perspective

Cathy Bobo—Area 5 Director; Program Administrator, Athens SWCD

Greetings from Athens County. I hope all of you had a very Merry Christmas and are ready to start a new year. It seems like just yesterday we were working with Mindy and Laura to plan the 2013 annual meeting and here we are planning the 2014 meeting. Where has the year gone? I'm sure there are a few of you that are asking the very same question. I can remember my parents telling me the older you get, the quicker time will go by - Oh how true that is. The OFSWCD's annual meeting is planned for March 3 – 4, 2014, during that time the OASWCDE will hold an election to fill Director's positions in Area 1, Area 3 and Area 5. As an outgoing Area 5 director, I would encourage each of you to become more involved either as a member or even consider a director's position.

The OASWCDE is just that – the EMPLOYEE'S association. I can remember the hesitation to allow the Association to form when it was originally suggested. Some thought it was a way to form a union and others just for the unknown. Since the Association began, it has grown in both its membership and its ability to participate at the table of many conservation partnerships as a result of its leadership of dedicated employees.

The Mission of the OASWCDE is "To strengthen local SWCD programs" by Promoting the professional development of employees; Enhancing cooperation between Districts through improved communication and information sharing; Establishing a platform for which to communicate with affiliated state and national associations; Offering the talent and expertise of all District employees throughout the state as a resource to assist, support and develop District programs and Foster a sense of belonging for employees that extends beyond individual Districts and binds dedicated people to the cause of conservation.

Programs available through the Employees Association are: The Catastrophic Sick Leave program which was established in 1997 to assist SWCD employees in need of sick leave benefits. The Catastrophic Sick Leave program is administered by the Employees Association. To date 6 employees have benefited from this program.

The Sherry West Memorial Scholarship program and the SWCD Staff Continuing Education Scholarship program were developed to provide financial assistance in furthering conservation education. The Conservation District Professional and Board Member awards were developed to recognize employees and board member for their contribution conservation.

Welcome Caitlin Botschner

OASWCDE vacant director seat filled.

The OASWCD Board would like to welcome Caitlin Botschner, Stormwater Program Coordinator from Warren SWCD to the Board. Caitlin is filling the seat left vacant by Ryan Smith.

The Board of Directors continues to seek 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 representing 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 several task force and committees. Directors are re-

sponsible 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.

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

Caitlin Botschner
Warren SWCD

Area 5

Cathy Bobo
Athens SWCD

Dona Rhea
Delaware SWCD

The OASWCDE Board of Directors holds bi-monthly meetings to conduct business. The meeting dates set for 2014 are January 16th and March 4th. The remaining dates will be set at the March 4th meeting.