

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
LICKING COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
March 10th, 2008**

The Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District, Board of Supervisors met Monday, March 10th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Agriculture Service Center, Newark, Ohio. Those present were:

<u>Supervisors</u>	<u>District Staff</u>	<u>NRCS Staff</u>
Jeff Carr – C	Jim Kiracofe	John Johnson
Charles Warthen-F	Pat Deering	
Jim Hoover- M		
Jim Conrad – Sec/Treas		
Debra Walton - VC		

Guests: Merv Bartholow
George O'Donnel
Tim Weisert

Chairman Carr called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Introductions were made between the above guests and our Board. The three gentleman are apart of the Buckeye Lake Civic Association, which was founded in 1947. Buckeye Lake includes three counties, four townships and three villages in its 37 shoreline miles. The Association is concerned with the general welfare of the Buckeye Lake area and the quality of water in the lake. There are many sources of impairments degrading the water in the lake. This includes geese, high levels of phosphorus, miles of seawalls, sanitation facilities and water disturbances. The association would like to partner with the Soil & Water Districts in Licking, Perry and Fairfield, along with ODNR, OEPA and other entities to improve the lake's water quality. The initiative hopefully would improve the quality of life in the region and allow future generations to use and enjoy the lake.

II. CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion to accept Items A-E on the agenda was made by Conrad and seconded by Warthen. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business:

None

IV. New Business:

A. Drainage Maintenance Reports - The Board reviewed the year end totals that were submitted to the Commissioners. The reports included the District and Highway Department amounts spent on maintenance in 2007. Currently all of our projects are through the Commissioners office, and not through our Board. DPA Kiracofe shared concerns the Division has with the checks and balances for drainage maintenance projects. A motion to approve the report was made by Walton and seconded by Warthen. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Skiles' Leave Buy Down – Last year the Board revised the District policy to reduce accumulated annual leave within the O.R.C. Per policy, the Board has an obligation to purchase a portion of the accumulated leave for some employees at their Anniversary Date of Employment (ADE). For Skiles,

(March 20, 2008 ADE) the District must purchase the difference between 242 hours and 196 hours. A motion to approve the buy down of up to 46 hours at \$24.69 per hour was made by Warthen and seconded by Conrad. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Committee Reports:

A. Building/Equipment Committee – Committee Chair Conrad advised that he has spoken with DPA Kiracofe regarding the need for a sprayer to use for ditch maintenance. Technician Evans is checking on prices. Funds are very limited in the county maintenance funds or the highway department at this time. Kiracofe suggested the District purchase a sprayer and be reimbursed by the maintenance fund as the sprayer is used. The Board was supportive of Evans obtaining quotes for a sprayer and presenting them to the Board.

The District's copier is getting old. DPA Kiracofe and AA Blin met with a representative from Modern Office Methods to get prices on a new color copier to replace our current black and white copier. It is their intent to have additional quotes from other companies to present to the Board.

Chairman Carr advised the Commissioners have approached Wachtel McAnally to reconstruct the Ag Service Center parking lot and improve the drainage. ADR is assisting with the project. Rain gardens, bio-filters and other green features have been mentioned to incorporate into the project. Carr suggested Board members should share with the Commissioners the importance of a demonstration project of this nature.

B. Budget Committee – Committee Chair Warthen reported on the Cash Basis Report that was submitted by AA Blin at the end of February. He let the Board know that the District is in very good financial status.

C. Program Committee – Committee Chair Walton reported the committee met earlier and reviewed the revised draft of the 2008 Annual Goals. One goal was modified slightly. The Committee approved the revised draft and presented it to the Board. A motion to approve the revised draft was made by Hoover and seconded by Warthen. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee also discussed Long Range District Goals. Committee Chair Walton suggested the District should put forth a vision of what Licking County would ideally look like in 10 years. Chair Walton and DPA Kiracofe plan to meet with David Hanselmann looking at the various resources the Division has for assisting with this effort. Hoover noted a concern of managing any additional workload and the need to prioritize goals to be accomplished.

D. Policy/Personnel Committee – Committee Chairman Carr asked the Board if they had any questions on the revised staff job descriptions. A motion to approve the job descriptions as submitted was made by Warthen and seconded by Conrad. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Nominating Committee – Committee Chair Hoover advised he had nothing to report.

F. NRCS Report - DC Johnson reported NRCS is still operating without a budget. There have been cutbacks on programs, services offered and training.

DC Johnson and his staff are still doing follow-up on EQIP. They are trying to keep all producers current and on schedule. There are six forestry contracts that have not been funded which may get carried over to the next fiscal year.

Last week NRCS had Civil Rights training. A state wide Civil Rights Inspection may happen in May, by choosing four or five Districts to get a depiction of what is happening around the state.

DC Johnson also had the Board sign a required transportation usage document that spelled out the rules for District staff regarding the use of an NRCS vehicle.

G. District Reports

- A. Resource Awareness Day will be held tomorrow at the Look Up center on O'Bannon Ave. DPA Kiracofe requested Board members assist if available.
- B. The NRA Tour of Geauga County fairgrounds and Malabar Farms has been cancelled due to weather.
- C. The Ag Breakfast is March 20th. 54 Century Farm applications were received. These farms will be recognized during the breakfast. The power point presentation is almost finished and a book is being put together.
- D. Annual Reports - The insert will go out for public viewing next Wednesday.
- E. There will be a boy scout installing a rain garden near the barn during his spring break.

Board Members Report – Board Chairman Carr would like to see DC Johnson and DPA Kiracofe put their reports into a paragraph form in the Board packets so Board members can read their reports ahead of time, instead of discussing each item individually during the meeting. The rest of the Board agreed to try this concept to see how it works. He would also like to see the calendar added in the monthly packets.

Board member Hoover stated that he will be attending a Federation meeting this Thursday from 9:30-3:30.

At 8:35 a motion to enter into executive session to discuss DPA Kiracofe's evaluation was made by Conrad and seconded by Walton.

Roll Call Vote:

Walton Y Hoover Y Conrad Y Warthen Y Carr Y

At 9:00 p.m. a motion to return to open session was made by Conrad and seconded by Walton. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to accept Kiracofe's evaluation was made by Hoover and seconded by Warthen. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:02 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Hoover and seconded by Walton. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandy Bline- Administrative Assistant

Jeff Carr - Chairman

Jim Conrad, Secretary/Treasurer