



WYANDOT TRIBUTARY

Wyandot Soil and Water Conservation District

97 Houpt Drive, Suite A, Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Volume 26 — No. 1

Board of Supervisors

Brian Frisch, chairman
Brad Weaver, vice-chairman
Ryan Swinehart, fiscal agent
Jeff Fox, secretary
Andrew Welly, member

Board Meetings are second
Thursday of each month

SWCD Staff

Jeff Hohman: Ditch Maintenance Supervisor	419-731-2565
Todd Karg: Technician	419-731-2566
Eileen Kuenzli: Office Manager/Secretary	419-731-2557
Jeremiah Logsdon: Technician	419-731-2567
Joanna Redd: Special Project Manager	419-731-2580
Derek Ridder: Agricultural Drainage Technician	419-731-2576
Duane Shawk: Nutrient Management Technician	419-569-5281

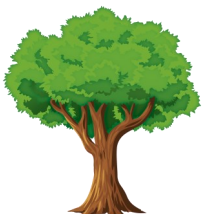
2022 ANNUAL REPORT

January 2023

New Agricultural Drainage Technician

Derek Ridder is the new Agricultural Drainage Technician for the Wyandot Soil and Water Conservation district. He started on January 9, 2023.

He attended The Ohio State University, while attending, he received a bachelor degree in agricultural business with a minor in production agriculture. Working on his grandparents farm growing up, he learned a lot about crop production and raising hogs and cattle. He is overly thrilled to have the opportunity to work here at Wyandot SWCD. In his free time, he enjoys watching football, DIY home improvement projects, helping around the farm and planning his wedding with his fiancé, Emily, which will take place this fall. You can reach Derek at derek.ridder@oh.nacdn.net or at 419-731-2576.



Tree Seedling Sale Order Form Enclosed

Deadline to order: March 13, 2023 or when stock is sold out

2022 IN REVIEW



The 74th annual banquet was held on August 9. A special visit was made by Representative Bob Latta. Jeff Fox and Andrew Welly were elected to the board. Larry Passet was recognized for his 24 years of service on the board of supervisors.



Wyandot SWCD and NRCS assisted with the county and district soil judging contests in September. Thank you again to Jim Smalley and Jean Shumaker for allowing us to hold the contests on their properties.



The Halloween Hike has made a come back. Held on October 23 at Gottfried Nature Center. Over 50 people came and enjoyed a presentation on bats, hiked around the wetland and cooked over the campfire. What a fun, spooky time!



The Carey First Grade classes spent a few hours learning about habitats and exploring the Gottfried Nature Center with Joanie on November 2.



Wyandot SWCD, NRCS and FSA team members visited 8 county elementary schools for the Ag in the Classroom program December 5-9. Students learned about how many hats a farmer wears, made trail mix and discussed how agriculture impacts our daily lives. Thank you to Wyandot County Farm Bureau who assisted with the cost of the program!

2022 CONSTRUCTION



In 2022, 20 grassed waterways were completed for a total of 17,353 feet for 7 landowners. Just over 42% of construction feet included tile replacement which totaled 7,352 feet. The Wyandot SWCD has an estimated 35-40 waterways slated for 2023.

This waterway was completed in September 2022.



This wetland was completed in September 2022. The project covers 23.64 acres that includes a 6.49 acre pool and 17.15 wetland buffer acres. These projects create natural water quality improvement, flood protection, shoreline erosion control, opportunities for recreation and much more.

There were 11 total wetland projects completed in 2022.



This 95.10 acre wetland was completed in August 2022. Out of the 95.10 acres, 75.37 acres were wetland buffer with a 19.73 acre pool.

We had 33 total projects for CREP, H2Ohio and WQIP in 2022. This represents 745 acres of conservation being installed. 3,995 acres of watersheds are contributing to and being filtered by these projects.

2022 WANDOT SWCD FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SPECIAL FUND BALANCE 12/31/2021	\$205,678.51
RECEIPTS:	
County Appropriation	153,000.00
State Appropriation	148,643.00
2021 Ditch Maintenance Reimbursement	57,446.57
Other Revenue (incl. NRCS,CAUV)	12,043.18
TOTAL INCLUDING CARRYOVER	\$576,811.26

EXPENSES:	
Salaries	300,304.63
Supplies/Postage	3,873.46
Equipment	15,204.84
Contracts & Repairs	452.32
Contract Services	4,783.88
Dues/License Fees/Property Ins.	7,313.30
Education/Information	571.62
Travel & Training/Staff and Board	9,438.95
Advertising/Printing	3,355.85
Public Employees Retirement	41,514.88
Workers' Compensation	2,022.89
Medicare	4,088.98
Health Insurance	79,178.87
Other	985.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$473,089.47
SPECIAL FUND BALANCE 12/31/2022	\$103,721.79

DISTRICT FUND CHECKING 12/31/2021	\$43,257.61
RECEIPTS:	
Donations	7,327.00
Lowry Scholarship donation	135.00
LE CREP funds	1,318.00
H2Ohio technical assistance funds	34,240.00
Annual Banquet Tickets	455.00
Flags, Probes & tips sold	1,687.69
Other (Interest, reimbursements, sales tax)	18,209.68
TOTAL INCLUDING CARRYOVER	\$106,629.98

EXPENSES:	
Contract Services	130.19
Training registrations	435.00
Advertising and Printing	483.78
Resale Items	2,116.97
Annual Banquet	2,103.35
Equipment	2,998.00
Supplies	78.38
LE CREP payments	3,586.00
Donations Spent	6,191.29
Education	95.84
Transfer H2Ohio funds	34,240.00
Transfer Scholarship donation	135.00
Other	15,129.44
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$67,723.24
CHECKING BALANCE 12/31/2022	\$38,906.74

TREE FUND BALANCE 12/31/2021	\$14,237.47
RECEIPTS:	
Tree Sales	3,230.00
Forbs Sales	8,050.00
Interest Earned	4.65
TOTAL INCLUDING CARRYOVER	\$25,522.12

EXPENSES:	
Seedlings/Forbs/Supplies/Misc.	12,286.44
Other expenses paid from tree fund	5,193.97
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,480.41
TREE FUND BALANCE 12/31/2022	\$8,041.71

SCHOLARSHIP BAL. 12/31/2021	\$5,114.98
RECEIPTS:	
Donations	135.00
Interest Earned	59.64
TOTAL INCLUDING CARRYOVER	\$5,309.62

EXPENSES:	
Scholarship	1,000.00

SCHOLARSHIP BAL. 12/31/2022	\$4,309.62
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CONTINGENCY FUND BAL. 12/31/21	\$35,441.49
RECEIPTS:	
Interest Earned	480.81
CONTINGENCY FUND BAL. 12/31/22	\$35,922.30

WORKING LANDS/H2OHIO BAL. 12/31/2021	\$295,928.75
RECEIPTS:	
H2Ohio funds received	34,240.00
Interest Earned	3,875.85
TOTAL	\$334,044.60

EXPENSES:	
Working Lands Cost Share paid	28,500.00
WORKING LANDS/H2OHIO BAL. 12/31/22	\$305,544.60

H2OHIO PRODUCER FUNDS BAL. 12/31/2021	0.00
RECEIPTS	
H2Ohio funds received	2,131,349.00
Interest Earned	1,628.66

EXPENSES	
H2Ohio Producer Payments	545,102.65
Checks/Deposit Slips	70.00
H2OHIO PRODUCER FUNDS BAL. 12/31/2022	\$1,587,805.01



**This is an
unaudited
financial
statement**



Program Update

From Joanie Redd, Special Project Manager

The H2Ohio program is well underway in Wyandot County. In 2021 and 2022, we had several producers participate in the Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Development as well as following the Overwintering Cover Crop and Conservation Crop Rotation – Small Grains practices. This introduced our county to H2Ohio and prepared us for the Phase 2 Enrollment that occurred in April of 2022. In the Phase 2 contract enrollment, Wyandot County had 50 producers sign-up to participate in 2023-2025. I joined the Wyandot SWCD staff in June and have learned about the program along the way with our producers. I appreciate all the support and patience the last 6 months as I have become more familiar with the program.

Throughout the rest of 2022, producers were busy participating in many of the H2Ohio Best Management Practices, including Manure Incorporation, Conservation Crop Rotation Small Grains and Forages and Overwintering Cover Crops. Right now, H2Ohio is in a down time. As winter sets in, the Conservation Crop Rotation and Overwinter Cover Crop practices are improving soil health, enriching the soil, and tackling erosion which is reducing runoff and the need for fertilizer use. Though we can't see the work these plants are providing, it is crucial help for reducing the need for phosphorus.

In the off season, I am working with participants on verification for practice requirements. On March 15, 2023, I will be conducting field checks for the Manure Incorporation, Conservation Crop Rotation and Overwintering Cover Crop practices. After all practice requirements are met, payments will be issued in early spring.

If you have any questions, or would like to know more about H2Ohio, let me know and I would be more than happy to help!

Phone: (419) 731-2580

Email: joanie.redd@co.wyandot.oh.us

Joanie Redd



SPRING PLANTING

the time of year farmers work tirelessly to plant seeds in the ground that grow to fuel our everyday lives.

H2Ohio farmers do this all while protecting our greatest resource.

h2.ohio.gov 

Retiring from Hard Work: Tami Hastings

From Brad Van Voorhis, District Conservationist

Tami Hastings, NRCS Resource Conservationist, retired on May 31, 2022. Her good humor and conservation knowledge will be missed at our office. Tami started out as a Soil Conservationist in 1986. Over the years she worked in Wyandot, Hardin, and worked on the Indian Lake Water Quality Project. In 1993 she came back to Wyandot County as District Conservationist. The impact Tami has had on Wyandot County can be attested to by the numerous conservation practices she helped landowners install.

Tami is enjoying her retirement by traveling and visiting family, camping, and having more time for the farm. The Wyandot County SWCD and NRCS staff and supervisors would like to thank Tami for her years of service and give our best wishes.

NRCS staff are still available to assist you at the Wyandot County office. For questions or concerns, call (419) 294-2311.



Lowry Scholarship 2022

The Wyandot Soil and Water Conservation District is continuing to offer a scholarship to Wyandot County residents who have been accepted or are currently enrolled in an accredited post-secondary institution for the Fall of 2023 and hold a GPA of 2.5 or higher. Eligible students must be pursuing a degree in Natural Resources, Environmental Science, Agriculture, or a related field.

This scholarship was made possible by Antoinette Lowry. Ms. Lowry made a generous contribution to the district to assist with conservation education and scholarships for youth of Wyandot County.

Interested students can contact Joanie Redd to receive the application. The application, current transcript and a letter of recommendation are required. Application materials must be received by March 31, 2023.

If you have any questions about the scholarship or the application, you may call Joanie Redd at (419) 731-2580 or send an email to joanie.redd@co.wyandot.oh.us.



Wyandot County Nutrient Management Plans 2022

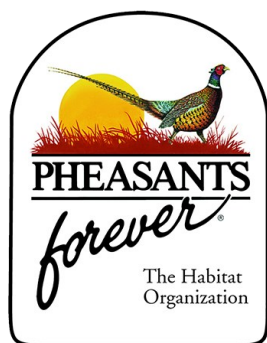
From Duane Shawk, Nutrient Management Technician

Plan Type	# of Plans	# of Acres Included
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)	12	1,455 acres
Grazing Management Plan (GMP)	1	80 acres
Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)	1	330 acres



New Pheasants Forever Biologist

Celeste LaFleur



Celeste LaFleur is the new Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist for Hancock, Wyandot, and Hardin counties. She graduated from Miami University of Ohio with a bachelor's in Biology and Environmental Science. Before joining Pheasants Forever, Celeste

worked in Arizona, northern Michigan, and Wyoming as a field biologist and outdoor educator. Celeste is an Ohio native and 4-H alumni and is excited to help producers accomplish their conservation goals. In her free time, Celeste enjoys birding, mushrooming, playing bagpipes, photography, and other outdoor activities. You can reach her at clafleur@pheasantsforever.org or at 567-208-0615.



Planning Meeting Update

From Eileen Kuenzli,
Office Manager/Secretary

On January 9, 2023, the Wyandot SWCD Planning Meeting was held at the Gottfried Nature Center. 26 participants, including SWCD supervisors, staff, county commissioners, county engineer, county auditor, county treasurer, township trustees, NRCS, ODA and others discussed priorities of the district. Office Manager Eileen Kuenzli explained the purpose of the meeting was to get input from those that we serve and those who serve us, in order to find ways to manage our backlog of work.

The mission statement of Wyandot SWCD is "To educate and assist the people of Wyandot County to conserve and protect our natural resources." She explained that soil and water are the specific natural resources that are our priority. Copies of the draft Annual Plan of Work and draft Long-range Plan were available to give participants a complete picture of what we do. A questionnaire was provided to participants and to recent visitors to the office to rank what they feel our priorities should be, keeping in mind their needs, our mission, whether anyone else provides the service, how much benefit it is, how many people benefit, and whether or not we are good at it. Comments were shared.

The Wyandot SWCD board of supervisors then decided to pursue a transition away from handling group compromise and petition drainage projects due to workload and the limitations we are faced with involving staffing, office space and budget. That transition will begin soon. We will continue to serve the drainage needs of the county through providing aerial maps, tile records, the ditch maintenance program, and conservation practices.



This is a typical before and after comparison of a section of the hull ditch that was dipped out last year. These pictures are about 6 months apart. As you can see the top photo shows a large amount of sediment that has been deposited from upstream erosion. The problems associated with this build up consist of overall ditch capacity issues which results in flooding due to no storage within the channel during peak rain events. Also, the issue of backing up of the tile outlets due to the water lever from the filling in of the channel results in improper flow through subsurface drains leading to the ditch.

The positives of this ditch design are that the sediment did get deposited and is able to be placed back onto the farm field. If the sediment is not captured it would then be transported north to Lake Erie. The sediment also holds a large amount of nutrients captured by the vegetation and sediment deposits from a variety of upstream actions. By the action of the dip out, the nutrients can be removed from the ditch bottom along with the large amount of old growth vegetation. This mixture of soil and nutrient rich organics can really boost productivity of ag crops as well as individual garden/landscape projects. The bottom picture will eventually start filling in with upstream sediment and start the process of collecting sediment to be removed all over again. The pictured section of the Hull ditch was placed on maintenance in 1999 and this was the first dip out of this section in 23 years.