



# 2020-2024 Five-Year Business Plan

## Focus on the Future

**2020-2024**

**Your partner in:**

- Erosion Control
- Water Quality Protection/Soil Health
- Natural Resource Concerns

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*The function of a district is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus to coordinate them so they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.*

### Goals through 2024

1. Facilitate responsible urban and rural development, land use and local infrastructure, including energy resources, to best care for valuable water and land resources using modern technology and skilled staff
2. Leverage state, federal and grant dollars within our local economy to better care for our valuable manmade and natural resources while collaborating with a broad array of government and non-government organizations to address community-specific challenges
3. Serve as a resource to enhance the profitability and environmental stewardship of farms, the top land use and economic driver in Fairfield County
4. Educate area youth and community leaders about the vital importance of properly caring for the often-overlooked value of our community's soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources

### Community Partner since 1943

<i>Creation</i>	<i>Past</i>	<i>Present</i>
<p>The District was established in 1943. Authority of the District is given under the Ohio Revised Code Section 940 (previously 1515). We are governed by a Board of five publicly elected Supervisors representing the diversity of resource concerns in the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District.</p>	<p>The District has worked for more than a half century in partnership on flood control and erosion reduction that helps protect Lancaster and the Hocking River Valley with the Hunter's Run Conservancy District as well as the Rushcreek Conservancy District protecting Sugar Grove and Bremen.</p> <p>These flood control structures help protect part of the commercial and industrial engines of our economy by controlling storm water run-off and water quality in our community.</p>	<p>The District has been involved in assisting county and local governments with erosion and sediment control and compliance with the Ohio EPA's Phase II requirements since its inception.</p> <p>We still partner with the United States Department of Agriculture for Farm Bill conservation program practices, the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for agriculture and silviculture pollution complaints as per Ohio Revised Code 940.</p>
<p><b>The mission of the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District is "to be a progressive natural resource advocate by assisting the public with conservation choices".</b></p>	<p>We have always aided Fairfield County residents and agencies with drainage issues and provided guidance.</p>	



## Initiatives

All Fairfield SWCD initiatives are predicated on the Goals as defined. Failure to achieve these specific goals positions the District to see a decline in personnel providing services required for the longer term agreements and partner agreements in place throughout the County and region. With our mission in mind, and our ever-increasing economic limitations, here are more details of the broad initiatives for the future through 2024.

### **1. Facilitate responsible urban and rural development, land use and local infrastructure, including energy resources, to best care for valuable water and land resources using modern technology and skilled staff**

**A.** Urban storm water management planning and water quality improvement have been an increasingly important service provided by the District. Changes in development from Regional Planning agreements and an increased number of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) named communities led us to support more community MS4 permit programs by taking primary lead on Drainage Erosion and Sediment Control (DESC) in two townships while supporting the City of Pickerington, Village of Lithopolis, and County permit needs through limited compensation agreements. This was not the approach taken 25 years ago, but the mandates of the EPA MS4 Permits on communities created the need and we have filled it. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnerships already crossing us into Franklin County. This work is reliant on certified or Licensed Professionals and will become more important in coming years as communities continue to grow.

The District's role in these agreements includes: reviewing major subdivisions and re-zoning for the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission and for townships (technical review, subdivision regulations, active transportation subcommittee); consulting with other agencies concerning storm water management; performing inspections for sediment and erosion control on construction sites as needed; reviewing and inspecting all individual drainage, erosion, and sediment control plans for Violet and Liberty Twp.; water infrastructure mapping for Fairfield County Utilities in the Little Walnut watershed in Violet Township; public outreach/education to comply with NPDES Phase II permits issued to two townships in Fairfield County (Liberty and Violet); administration of portions of the Fairfield County MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Program for Violet Township, Liberty Township, Village of Lithopolis, and the City of Pickerington. In the future we hope to: increase Violet Township services, increase Pickerington services, increase County services with mapping/inventory and inspections and a countywide storm water GIS layer, and conduct biological sampling (QHEI) to facilitate improvement and maintenance of local urban water quality. These efforts will support our ongoing MS4 area agreements and generate District income.

**B.** The District also maintains a modern array of AutoCAD software, GIS software, GPS surveying and mapping equipment which are available to assist in EPA Phase II compliance through service agreements and traditional agricultural services. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnership and requires appropriate liability insurance and modern equipment. Additional work reliant on a Professional Engineer could be brought back in the future, if funding allows the hiring of one to support partner agencies.

**C.** In 2012, the District identified invasive plants as a threat to natural systems in both rural and urban parts of the county and positioned itself to take on that challenge with other government entities and obtained herbicide application equipment, licenses and insurance. The District continues to adapt and change and now provides limited pesticide application and the necessary equipment to combat noxious and invasive plants on parks, road rights-of-way or government facilities. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnerships. This work is reliant on Licensed Applicators, appropriate liability insurance and modern equipment. The need for this too will only



increase in the future. Invasive plant efforts are attempting to look regionally along US 33, the Walnut Creek and Hocking River and reduce movement of seed sources to reduce maintenance costs. This type of work recently included a 5-year agreement between Fairfield, Hocking, Vinton and Jackson SWCD's Wildlife Specialists to monitor and map the Nelsonville Bypass for ODOT and USDA Forest Service (2015-2019, now completed).

**D.** Rural area improvements for the Conservancy District initiatives include dam inspections, asset inventory, wildlife demonstrations, and development of adjacent land use planning priorities with the goals of transferring institutional knowledge of operations, improved use of public lands and maintaining or increasing public health and safety. Activities include invasive plant treatments, dam safety, lake management workshops, beaver monitoring and watershed sampling.

**E.** The USDA, through NRCS, is working to protect the pollinating insects that are a crucial part of healthy agricultural and natural landscapes. The 2018 Farm Bill retains all of the pollinator conservation provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill and adds targeted support for the creation of honey bee habitat and apiaries under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) that are beneficial in both rural and urban areas of the county.

**F.** Hocking Hills Woodland Plan (2013). Participation is voluntary and open to all landowners; however, the focus of the plan is on small woodlot owners and woodland cabin owners. The goal is to maintain healthy woodlands in the area by providing information and natural resource professional assistance to landowners.

**G.** The Natural Resource Oil and Gas Stewardship initiative seeks to diversify income and enable a stable energy supply for the future. It also seeks energy monitoring and educating community leaders and landowners on solar field development. Fairfield County already has numerous energy transmission corridors and systems including the TransCanada/Columbia Pipeline Group and Crawford Storage field in Berne Township. In addition, there are still productive oil and gas reserves. At the same time, these projects must be handled in a manner that protects and balances the needs of the other valuable natural resources and land uses in the county. The District is uniquely positioned to continue addressing the vital needs. Projects in the area include the replacement pipelines and abandonment projects, orphan well closures, maintaining pipeline standards for restoration, community risk reduction and awareness, fire suppression, safety seminars, adhering to the community land use plan, and addressing risks for tile installation and ground water exposure in Rushcreek, Richland, and Pleasant Townships. The District also offers technical support for fracking and gas pipeline landowners for pre- and post-construction drainage issues.

**H.** Our proximity to Columbus and our agriculture land base as land application sites for nutrient rich biosolids offer both potential benefits and challenges for the urban and rural areas of the county. With this, District oversight is vital. Cooperative efforts continue with the City of Columbus Com-Til Compost Facility.

**I.** With regard to wildlife assistance, the District assists county residents with nuisance animal problems and issues/administers deer damage permits for orchards, nurseries, and cropland in Fairfield County. We also work closely with sportsmen's clubs and conservation groups on wildlife topics and issues, assist county residents with questions and concerns on managing their ponds, assist residents in creating or improving wildlife habitat on their land, perform post-planting inspections and mid-contract inspections on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts for NRCS, and develop management plans for school land labs and small area parks.

**J.** Review logging plans and investigate/report silviculture complaints.

**K.** The District also conducts yearly inspections on Goss Ditch, Lateral A – South Fork of the Licking River. We also participate in inspections of flood control dams for Rushcreek, Hunter's Run, and Upper Hocking Conservancy Districts upon request.



## 2. Leverage state, federal and grant dollars within our local economy to better care for our valuable manmade and natural resources while collaborating with a broad array of government and non-government organizations to address community-specific challenges

**A.** In the 1980s the District began to embrace its role with urban development. The District set a goal to employ a Professional Engineer in 1994 with one being employed until 2018. It currently employs a Professional Landscape Architect. These are rare professionals in most Districts. The combination of this collaboration-focused philosophy and our unique combination of professionally licensed and certified individuals allows the District to aid many partners beyond the limitations of the USDA and ODA Engineering agreements (when an engineer is on staff), serving all landowners and stakeholders, not just those participating in government programs. This is a key pillar of “cooperative” conservation in the eyes of the District that brings funding and expertise into the community that would not otherwise be present. We continue to discuss a shared Professional Engineer with local Conservancy Districts.

**B.** Because the District can aid in addressing issues on the private lands and public land in all of Fairfield County, the District works with many cooperators for natural and agricultural resource concerns on behalf of the Commissioners and their constituents including but not limited to: Public, Technical and Private Schools, Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Department of Agriculture, other state, county and national Soil and Water Conservation Districts, United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Pheasants Forever, area chambers of commerce, Lancaster Parks and Recreation, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks (four locations within Fairfield County), Fairfield County Parks, Fairfield County and Ohio Farm Bureau, Fairfield and Franklin Boards of Health, all Township Trustees (Violet and Liberty by agreement), all municipalities (Pickerington and Lithopolis by agreement) and Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow (BLT) watershed group. We coordinate forest/woodland programs with ODNR Service Foresters, assist the Fairfield Land Preservation Association with acquiring conservation easements, and we coordinated with Fairfield County Board of Departmental Disabilities, City of Lancaster and Fairfield County Parks on the Sensory Trail with planning/construction of a wetland development including boardwalk and covered bridge along Fetters Run, opposite the universally accessible tree house. We coordinate with the Fairfield County Sheriff, Litter and Recycling, and Violet Township on drug collection and recycling events in Violet Township. We also continue coordination with the Fairfield County Auditor’s office on additional GIS layers, CAUV evaluation assistance, and plat book creation.

The District also works extensively with private landowners and land managers of Fairfield County including: farmland owners, forestland owners, urban and rural residential home owners, commercial property managers, camps and private club owners. In addition, the District works with Rushcreek Conservancy, Hunter’s Run Conservancy (SWCD and Commissioners are local sponsors) and South Fork Licking Conservancy.

**C.** In terms of funding, the District has operated in cooperation with the Board of Fairfield County Commissioners since 1943, in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). It has been the cooperative nature of the Commissioners to grant public dollars from their General Fund to the District, which has resulted in numerous agreements and projects for the betterment of Fairfield County and its watersheds for drainage, flooding, water quality, natural and agricultural resource conservation for future generations. Municipalities and townships have provided additional local public dollars to the District to further projects for the betterment of their political subdivisions’ watersheds for the same purposes.



These local dollars bring in state and federal funding to benefit and enhance our community. The District pursues matching funds from the State of Ohio for grants made by the Commissioners from their General Fund along with municipalities and townships also making grants to the District each year to further cooperative goals. **These State funds are not guaranteed annually.**

The District has requested that the Commissioners provide baseline funding from their General Fund and operational space at the Ag Center, 831 College Avenue, Suite B in Lancaster. Operational space is used in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service. The District has operated in cooperation with the Board of Fairfield County Commissioners through the Fairfield County Engineer in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6137 (ditch maintenance). Time expended in these efforts is billed as defined by the ORC and is not eligible for matching grants from the State. Because special grants become available for water resource concerns, the District must remain flexible and hold back some "local match" to pursue such funds as we have done to obtain Clear Creek and Buckeye Lake OEPA Section 319 grant funding in the past.

### **3. Serve as a resource to enhance the profitability and environmental stewardship of farms, the top land use and support other economic drivers in Fairfield County**

**A.** One of the key roles of the District is to offer technical assistance with agricultural engineering projects in the County. For this effort the District offers survey, design, construction, and inspection of conservation practices such as animal waste systems, grassed waterways and grade stabilization structures, agrichemical containment, mortality composting, livestock watering systems, systematic tile drainage, water and sediment control basins, wetland development, etc. We also design dry hydrants for use by local fire departments.

**B.** We have a state mandate to investigate agricultural and silvacultural pollution complaints and work with landowners to solve problems.

**C.** The District assists with on-farm drainage issues.

**D.** We work to administer USDA landowner incentive programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

**E.** Through our Agriculture Soil Health Initiative through USDA-NRCS, we hope to facilitate the goal of 140,000 acres of agricultural land in production in the County by 2022 and beyond to enhance the protection of critical resources and improve water quality. Projects for this effort include encouraging the use of cover crops, winter wheat, proper stewardship of biosolids/beneficial use products, and soil sampling. This is guided by the 2002/2018 Land Use Plans and Fairfield Growing, an agricultural economic development plan created in 2011. This is also in alignment with the Lancaster-Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Action Plan (2016) and the Fairfield County Active Transportation Plan and Open Space Plan (2009).

**F.** The District prioritizes and assists county residents with the County Commissioners' and ODA's Clean Ohio Local Agriculture Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP) applications. In addition, we assist county residents with alternative land protection programs through the Fairfield Land Preservation Association. We also conduct follow-up monitoring of land enrolled in the LAEPP Program (3,519 acres as of 1-1-20) and the Walnut Township Ag Security Area renewed for 10 years in 2017.



G. The District works regularly with local food promotion to help connect consumers with farmers, return underutilized land to production, support Ohio State University Extension efforts with the chamber of commerce and contact with Destination Downtown, and encourage economic development with small local farms through soil type production summaries, workshops on small plots, and holding events to cover pertinent topics. Recent projects include Keller Market House, high tunnels and greenhouses, and the Lancaster Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce's Taste of Fairfield County.

#### **4. Educate area youth and community leaders about the vital importance of properly caring for the often-overlooked value of our community's soil, water, wildlife, and other natural resources**

A. Through our Land Lab Initiative we provide support and assistance for areas designated for educational purposes including the Fairfield Union Land Lab, Liberty Union Land Lab, Amanda-Clearcreek Land Lab, and Lancaster Fetter's Run Stream Corridor including Sensory Trail Corridor.

B. We participate in and cooperate with various adult education workshops on topics including pond and stream bank management, forestry and tree identification.

C. We integrate curriculum in a number of school classroom programs using hands-on topography and erosion modeling and wildlife education. We facilitate soils education, an important testing component of core curriculum.

D. We provide a weekly educational wildlife/conservation column in the *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*.

E. The District works to increase farmer awareness of facts concerning nutrient loss, soil erosion prevention, alternative manures, long-term farm sustainability, and winter wildlife management through field days, sampling trials/reports, and signage.

F. We participate in a number of extracurricular youth activities as well. These include: the Earth Camp outdoor education event held at a different park location each year for third, fourth and fifth grade students; annual Clear Creek Day event for Amanda-Clearcreek 6th grade students; MS4 education for all 7th graders in the Pickerington Schools and Bloom Carroll's 4th graders; classroom or land lab presentations on various conservation topics in Fairfield County schools as requested; a free tree program for all 5th grade students countywide; participate in the annual youth event with Pheasants Forever and other conservation partners in April each year; annually serve as judges for local and district school science fairs and 4-H summer projects; annual High School Envirothon Contest for 17 central Ohio counties; and the annual High School Soil Judging Contest.

G. The District holds an annual meeting/banquet in September each year which honors conservation farmers of the year, an educator of the year, and a conservation partner of the year award.

H. Fairfield SWCD maintains an internet home page at [www.fairfieldswcd.org](http://www.fairfieldswcd.org) and Facebook page, publishes three District newsletters, participates in the Fairfield County Fair AGmazing Agri-Center, maintains a frequent local radio programming presence along with YouTube video interviews, and serves on the Lancaster-Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Agriculture Committee.



**Business Organization and Key Personnel**

District staff is highly educated, experienced, diverse, and able to assist in many aspects of their co-workers and public needs. Since 2007 the District has not replaced the positions of soil scientist, professional engineer, and secretary/receptionist. Office management was assumed by an Engineering Technician in 2018. Technology, integration of job descriptions, and a decline in state match and other work due to a downturn in the economy of the previous decade brought on diversification of services. Additional staff reductions would create extreme challenges to continue to raise additional funding sources. At this time the District believes the following core personnel and job descriptions must remain or services will be lost to the County, Townships, Municipalities, Non-Profits and tax paying landowners.

**Five District Board of Supervisors**

**District Manager/Engineering Technician**  
 Agriculture Pollution Abatement  
 Farm Bill Projects  
 Tile plans  
 Conservancy District Assistance  
 Administrative and Management  
 Chamber of Commerce Liaison  
  
*General Education*  
*General Inquiry*  
*Drainage Complaints*  
  
**ODA-DSWC Technician Development Program**  
**Level 5 Certified**  
**USDA-NRCS Engineering Job Approval Authority**  
**ODA-DSWC Administrator Development Program**  
**Level 2 Certified**

Urban Specialist	Resource Specialist	Fiscal Coordinator	Engineering Technician	Wildlife/Education Specialist
RPC Subdivisions DESC - Drainage Erosion & Sediment Control MS4 - Multiple Separate Storm Sewer System Pesticide Application  <i>General Education</i> <i>General Inquiry</i> <i>Drainage Complaints</i> <i>GIS/GPS Mapping</i>  <b>Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control</b>  <b>Pesticide License</b>  <b>Project Wet Certified</b>	Farmland Preservation Silviculture Pollution Abatement Timber Harvests DESC MS4 Pesticide Application Special Projects Conservancy District Assistance  <i>General Education</i> <i>General Inquiry</i> <i>Drainage Complaints</i>  <b>Professional Landscape Architect</b>  <b>Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control</b>  <b>Pesticide License</b>	Budgets Timesheets Policy/Inventory Invoicing Personnel Assistance Marketing -Newsletter -Web -Facebook Annual Tree Sale Daily front door presence  <i>General Education</i> <i>General Inquiry</i>  <b>Administrative Assistant Development Program through ODA-Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC)</b>	Pollution Abatement Farm Bill Projects Tile plans Conservancy District Assistance  <i>General Education</i> <i>General Inquiry</i> <i>Drainage Complaints</i>  <b>ODA-DSWC Technician Development Program Level 1 Certified</b>  <b>Pesticide License</b>	ODNR Wildlife Grant Deer Damage Permits Timber Harvests Pesticide Application NRCS CRP Mid-Contract Mgmt. Education -Core curriculums -MS4 -Newspaper, radio -Speaking  <i>General Inquiry</i>  <b>Pesticide License</b>  <b>Certified in: Project Wet, Wild &amp; Learning Tree</b>  <b>ODA-DSWC TDP Program Level 1 Certified</b>



## Staff Resources

The District maintains a diverse staff of six employees knowledgeable and certified or licensed in many resource concerns.

The District employs an ODA-DSWC Level 5 Engineering Technician with NRCS Job Approval Authority; another Level 1 Engineering Technician; a Resource Specialist who is a Professional Landscape Architect (PLA), a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control

(CPESC) and a licensed commercial applicator; and an Urban Specialist with a background in soils and water quality who is also a CPESC and a licensed commercial applicator. The District also employs a Wildlife/Education Specialist and a Fiscal Coordinator.

The professional skills and longevity of our staff are rare in most Conservation Districts which positions us as a strong local partner. The District currently holds

multiple cooperative agreements working with the Fairfield County Commissioners, Fairfield County Utilities, Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission, Violet and Liberty Townships, the City of Pickerington, the Village of Lithopolis, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the United States and Ohio Department's of Agriculture along with the Hunter's Run, Rushcreek, and South Licking Conservancy Districts.



### Carrie Brown, Engineering Technician

**Carrie Brown** is a 2008 graduate of Ohio University with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Middle Childhood Education and a 2015 graduate of Miami University with a Master of Arts Degree in Biology.

Carrie has worked for the District since 2019. She is an Engineering Technician focused on USDA Farm Bill program design and construction of projects such as grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures and tile systems. She also assists with Fairfield County's conservancy dams. Carrie is a licensed Pesticide Applicator with the State of Ohio. Prior to working with the District, Carrie worked for Dawes Arboretum as a Conservation Project Manager, where she was focused on habitat restoration. Carrie resides in Fairfield County, just outside of Lancaster.

### Sondra "Nikki" Drake, District Manager/Engineering Tech.

**Nikki Drake** is a 1994 graduate of Ohio University-Lancaster with an Associates Degree in Office Management Technology. Nikki has completed the highest levels of training available through the Ohio Department Agriculture-Division of Soil and Water Conservation's Technician Development Program. She is currently training through ODA-DSWC's Administrator Development Program.

Nikki has worked with the District since 1999. As an Engineering Technician, she has focused on USDA Farm Bill programs for agricultural producers while maintaining job approval authority through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, petition ditch inspections with the County Engineer, conservancy dam inspections, along with other duties. She also became District Manager in 2018. Prior to working with the District she was employed in the insurance industry. Nikki resides in Fairfield County, just outside of Stoutsville.







## **Jonathan Ferbrache, Resource Specialist, PLA, CPESC**

Jonathan Ferbrache is a 1998 graduate of The Ohio State University, College of Engineering with a Bachelors of Science in Landscape Architecture. Jonathan is a Professional Licensed Landscape Architect (PLA) with the State of Ohio, a licensed Pesticide Applicator with the State of Ohio and a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) through EnviroCert International.

Jonathan has worked for the District since 2007 as a Resource Specialist who assists developers and local governments with EPA Phase II compliance, administers the Farmland Preservation Program along with other duties. Prior to working with the District he was employed by Fanning/Howey Associates Inc. of Dublin, Ohio, and Smith Group JJR of Ann Arbor, Michigan, directly involved with K-12 school facility and subdivision design and construction. Jonathan resides in Fairfield County, just outside of Bremen.



## **Chad Lucht, Senior Urban Specialist, CPESC**

Chad Lucht is a 1994 graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelors of Science in Agronomy, Soil Science with a minor in Environmental Geology, Water Quality. He is a licensed Pesticide Applicator with the State of Ohio and a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) through EnviroCert International.

Chad has worked with the District since 2001. As the Senior Urban Specialist, he has focused on Phase II compliance with County and local governments and assisted developers and property owners with compliance requirements along with other duties. Prior to working with the District he was employed by The Ohio State University as a field project coordinator for the Soil and Water Resources Program at their research facility in Piketon, Ohio. Chad resides in Fairfield County, just outside of Pickerington.



## **Tommy Springer, Wildlife/Education Specialist**

Tommy Springer is a 2005 graduate of Hocking College and 2007 from Rio Grande College with Associates Degrees in Fish and Wildlife Management and Natural Resource Management and a Bachelors in Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Management. Tommy's wildlife position is funded in part through a grant by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Tommy is a licensed Pesticide Applicator with the State of Ohio and previously a Certified Prescribed Fire Manager with the Division of Forestry.

Tommy has worked for the District since 2014. Tommy aids land managers (private and public) on USDA Farm Bill programs for wildlife enhancement and wildlife crop damage to row crops, orchards, vineyards and nurseries. He aids in defining management approaches for ponds, wetlands and woodland systems. He writes the "Conservation Corner" for the *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*, does radio programs, conducts in-classroom education and special events with our partners. Prior to working with the District he was employed by Franklin County Metro Parks. Tommy resides in Fairfield County, between Lancaster and Lithopolis.





### Christina Holt, Fiscal Coordinator

Christina Holt is a 1996 graduate of Ohio University-Lancaster with an Associates Degree in Office Management Technology.



Christina has worked for the District since 1996. She is the longest serving District employee in our 75-year history. Chris began as the Administrative Assistant, but in 2019 was re-titled as Fiscal Coordinator. She processes budgets, invoices, timesheets and provides front desk services for walk-in residents and taxpayers with resource concerns. She has completed the highest levels of training available through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation Administrative Assistance Development Program. Chris resides in Fairfield County, just outside of West Rushville.

### Federal and Local Partnership



David Libben serves as the District Conservationist and Brice Shaw as the Soil Conservationist for Fairfield and Hocking Counties. The USDA-NRCS resides with the District through invitation of the District and the enduring cooperative relationships to implement the programs of the Farm Bill as they relate to compliance with wetlands, highly erodible land and conservation planning. Our engineering staff works directly with the Farm Bill programs. We seek reimbursement for our time in engineering these practices whenever possible. **These Federal funds are not guaranteed annually.** The District always seeks manpower assistance when available from our USDA-NRCS partners to keep costs down. When interns are available from USDA, OU-L, and Hocking College, we pursue them to support our work and their education experience.

### Staffing Trend 2000-2020

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
Engineering Technician																								
Engineering Technician	/Dist. Mgr.																							
Eng Tech (pt)																								
District Engineer	/District Manager																							
Urban Specialist																								
Urban/Resource Specialist																								
Soil Scientist																								
Education Specialist																								
District Manager/Wildlife Specialist																								
Administrative Assistant	retitled 2019 to Fiscal Coordinator																							
				Secretary/Receptionist (part time)																				

Over the last 20 years, Education Specialist and Wildlife Specialist positions were combined into one. District Manager shifted from being combined with Wildlife Specialist to District Engineer to Engineering Technician. Lost positions include a part-time secretary/receptionist, one part-time engineering technician, a full-time soil scientist and a full-time professional engineer.



The District Board of Supervisors is made up of five publicly elected individuals representing the diversity of resource concerns in the Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District. Each elected term is 3 years. Candidates for the positions are typically sought by a committee made up of one current Board member and several previous Board members. **These Supervisors are not compensated for their service.** The goal of the District is to maintain regional diversity of where the Supervisors reside, types of resource concern awareness they bring to the table as well as diversity of viewpoints, experiences and leadership among other cooperators. Supervisors must be in compliance with Sunshine Laws. This business plan was developed under the direction of the following:

**Matt Reese, 2016-current**

-Editor of the *Ohio Country Journal*

Areas of Expertise:

Media and Outreach

Tree Farm Operations

4-H and Youth Programs

Liberty Township



**Wendy LaRue, 2017-current**

-Full-time educator

Areas of Expertise:

Conservation Practice Construction

Education

Row Crops

Clearcreek Township



**Linda Claypool, 2019-current**

-Retired from USDA, Farm Service Agency

Areas of Expertise:

Commercial Banking

Farm Loans

Real Estate

Row Crops and Dairy

Hocking Township



Commissioner Jeff Fix swearing in Linda (left).

**Gregg Pontius, 2021-current**

-Retired farmer

Areas of Expertise:

Row Crops

4-H, FFA, Young Farmers

Amanda Township



**David Ochs, 2021-current**

-Full-time farmer

Areas of Expertise:

Orchard, Specialty Crops including Hoop House

Local Foods

Landscaping

Pleasant Township



## Collaborative Partnerships: Public and Private

Existing agreements with continued responsibility for Fairfield County:

County Commissioners - Memorandum of Understanding with SWCD, March 18, 1974

*“The Foundation for an Enduring Cooperative Working Relationship”*

County Regional Planning Commission - Memorandum of Understanding with SWCD and USDA for planning assistance, July 19, 1974

County Engineer - Agreement for Ditch Maintenance, July 30, 1982, Volume 28, Page 364 as ORC 6137. Being revised.

County Regional Planning Commission - Agreement for Subdivision Plan Review, July 13, 1983

County Engineer - Agreement to Review Approved Subdivision Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP), January 1, 2003, 02-12.71.c

County Utilities - Agreement for Use of GPS Mapping and GPS Survey Equipment, February 12, 2009, 09-02.03.e allocation of dedicated funds for equipment.

County Commissioners - Resolution designating the SWCD as the County Local Sponsor Representative for the Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program, January 25, 2011, 11-01.25g

City of Pickerington - Agreement for Storm Water Management Program Services (MS4), March 13, 2014, 2014-0313-01

County Commissioners/Violet Twp. Trustees - Agreement for Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) Services. Funds are rolled into General Fund allocation and not issued separately, August 23, 2016, 2016-08, 23b

Village of Lithopolis - Agreement for Storm Water Management Program Services (MS4), August 8, 2019, 2019-0808-1



Pictured: NRCS Orientation for New Employees (nationwide) training at the Sensory Trail tree house, Rushcreek Conservancy's Rush Creek Lake, Buckeye Lake outfall inventory, sediment study at Lancaster High School ecological area, Earth Camp group photo.

Because the District can aid in addressing issues on both the private and public lands in all of Fairfield County, the District works with many cooperators for natural and agricultural resource concerns on behalf of the Commissioners and their constituents including but not limited to:

Private Landowners and Land Managers of Fairfield County including:

- Farmland owners
- Forestland owners

Urban and Rural Residential homeowners  
 Commercial property managers  
 Camps and private club owners

Rushcreek Conservancy  
 Hunter's Run Conservancy  
 South Fork Licking Conservancy

(SWCD and Commissioners are local sponsors)

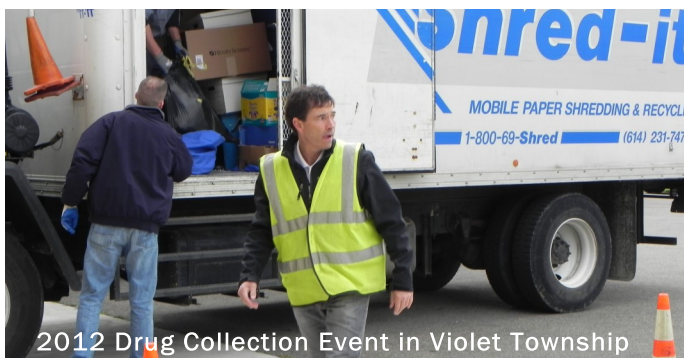
In 2013, the District staff wrote 26 Emergency Action Plans for the county's Class II and III permitted dams. This placed landowners and Conservancy Districts in compliance with ODNR Division of Dam Safety regulations and provided our EMA with critical information in case of any dam emergency.

**"Class II and III dams still can present hazards to life and property. Having an EAP assists the dam owner and first responders to lessen that risk."**  
 - Jon Kochis, Fairfield County EMA

Fairfield and Franklin Boards of Health

- All Township Trustees
- Violet (by agreement)
- Liberty (by agreement)

- All Municipalities
- Pickerington (by agreement)
- Lithopolis (by agreement)



2012 Drug Collection Event in Violet Township



Chamber of Commerce Taste of Fairfield event

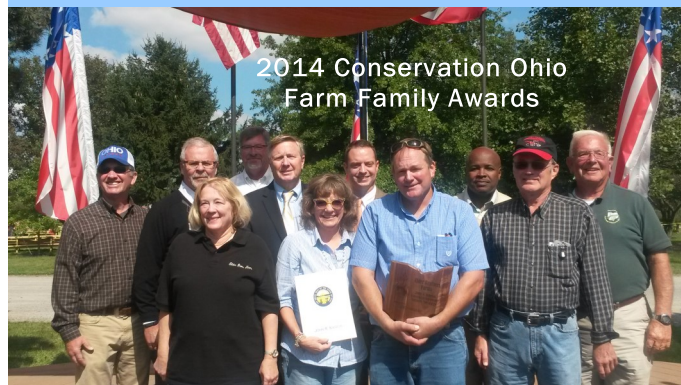
- Public, Technical and Private Schools
- The Ohio State University Extension
- Local, County and Regional Park Districts
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- Ohio Department of Agriculture
- Other Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- United States Department of Agriculture, NRCS
- Farm Service Agency



*"We appreciate Commissioners' time provided to discuss the renewal of the Walnut Twp. Agricultural Security Area this morning." members of the Fairfield Land Preservation Assoc., a local land trust serving our county.*

MOU's and working relationships with non-government organizations

- Fairfield County Farm Bureau
- Fairfield Land Preservation Association
- Pheasants Forever
- Chambers of Commerce



2014 Conservation Ohio Farm Family Awards

## Where we are, plans and laws that guide us.

### WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND REDUCTION

- Ohio Revised Code 939-940  
The District is responsible to aid in the adopted rules and standards for agricultural pollution abatement. These rules and standards address appropriate application standards for animal waste in addition to proper design and construction of manure storage and treatment facilities. **State match funding is tied to compliance.**
- Clean Water Act 1972
- County and Municipal Well Head Protection Plans
- Buckeye Lake Nutrient Reduction Plan 2013
- Walnut Creek Watershed Planning Partnership, Balanced Growth Plan 2012
- TMDL for Walnut Creek Watershed 2010
- TMDL for Hocking River Watershed 2009
- TMDL for Big Walnut Creek Watershed 2005
- Strategic Planning and Organizational Visioning for Soil, Water and Natural Resources Community of Conservation Serving Ohio 2011
- Rural Action Watershed Planning Initiative  
"Managing for the Future in the Ohio River Basin" 2015
- Fairfield County Community Health Improvement Plan 2017-2019

Supporting public health, high quality municipal water systems, construction, industry and recreation in urbanizing areas.

Land Mass  
8.29% Urban  
0.50% Open Water

### 140,000 ACRES OF AG LAND IN PRODUCTION BY 2022, PROTECTION OF CRITICAL RESOURCES AS WELL AS WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

- Guided by the 2002 Land Use Plan updated in 2018
- Fairfield Growing, An Agriculture Economic Development Plan 2011
- Lancaster/Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Action Plan 2016
- Fairfield County Active Transportation Plan and Open Space Plan 2009
- *ODOT, USFW and USDA Pollinator Initiatives 2015*
- Hocking Hills Woodland Plan 2013
- Invasive plant efforts are attempting to look regionally along US 33, the Walnut Creek and Hocking River and reduce movement of seed sources to reduce maintenance costs. This includes a 5-year agreement between Fairfield, Hocking, Vinton and Jackson Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Wildlife Specialists to monitor and map the Nelsonville Bypass for ODOT and USDA Forest Service (2015-2019)

Supporting the largest private economy sector in food and agriculture

\$143,543,000 in agriculture receipts

Land Mass  
62.77% Cropland (172,000 acres)  
23.89% Forest

*2017 Ohio Annual Bulletin*

### DIVERSIFIED INCOME AND ENERGY KEEPS FAIRFIELD COUNTY MOVING AND GROWING

- Fairfield County already has a lot of energy transmission corridors and systems including the Columbia Pipeline Group and Crawford Storage field in Berne Township
- Still productive oil and gas reserves
- Our proximity to Columbus and our agriculture land base as land application sites for nutrient rich biosolids
- Strong ground water resources for industry
- Large percentage of forested lands for industry
- 2016—Recreation and leisure needs assessment survey—City of Pickerington/Violet Township
- Insight 2050—MORPC/Columbus partnership/Urban Land Institute
- Solar field development

Regional balance must be considered long-term. Columbus is primarily reliant on surface water from the north, while the west has development limitations. Fairfield County is well positioned to support food based industry through strong ground water systems and protected ag lands.

# Maintaining local control or response when opportunities arise for economy driven needs.

## Legend

4R - Fertilizer-Right Source, Right Time, Right Rate, Right Place  
 EAP - Emergency Action Plan  
 FHS - Flood Hazard Study  
 FHAR - Flood Hazard Analyses Report  
 SWMP - Storm Water Management Plan  
 QHEI - Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index

## Ag Storm Water

-Tile  
 -Waterways  
 -Erosion reduction  
 -Cover crops  
 -4R  
 -Farmers, landowners, ODNR, ODA, USDA

## Flood Water

-Dam EAP's  
 -FHAR Hocking River 1977  
 -FHAR Upper Hocking River 1979  
 -FHS Rush Creek 1980  
 -EMA, Hunter's Run & Rushcreek Conservancy Districts, ODNR and USDA

## Urban Storm Water

-Violet 2015 SWMP  
 -Liberty 2015 SWMP  
 -Pickerington 2015 SWMP  
 -Lithopolis SWMP 2019  
 -Builders, developers and EPA

## Wildlife

-Recreational lakes  
 -Ponds  
 -Stream health monitoring  
 -Silviculture pollution  
 -Hunters, fisherman, loggers, ODNR and EPA

## Priority Watersheds

-Buckeye Lake, Walnut Creek and the Hocking River assessments and QHEI  
 -Upper Hocking (Hunter's Run Conservancy District)

## Legend

LAEPP - Local Agriculture Easement Purchase Program  
 FLPA - Fairfield Land Preservation Association  
 NRAC - Natural Resource Assistance Council 17

## Commodity Foods

-Grains  
 Corn, soybeans and wheat  
 -Livestock  
 Beef  
 Pork  
 Dairy

## Specialty Crop

-Keller Market, Produce Auction, Farmers Markets  
 -Grass Fed Beef  
 -Pasture Poultry  
 -High Tunnels

## Invasive Species Control

-Farmland  
 -Forest land  
 -Public Land  
 -Violet Twp.  
 -Fairfield Co. Airport

## Conservation Easements

-LAEPP  
 -FLPA  
 -NRAC's

-Utility corridor managers for the control of the spread of seed

## Legend

ODA - Ohio Department of Agriculture  
 EPA - Environmental Protection Agency  
 ROW - Right of Way

## Biosolids

-Sludge from municipal sources  
 -Biodigester waste  
 -Manure  
 -Commercial nutrients

-Synagro, Quasar, City of Columbus, farmers, ODA and EPA

## Oil and Gas

-pipelines  
 -orphan wells  
 -minimizing well pad impacts

-ODNR, drillers, pipeline companies, landowners

## Electric

-Remote solar systems  
 -ROW concerns  
 -Geothermal  
 -Utility corridor managers to sustain services

## Forestry

-Firewood  
 -Chipping  
 -Loggers and foresters



Our staff assisted the City of Pickerington with stream bank stabilization projects. The District provided surveying, engineering and landscape plans as part of the grant's in-kind requirement using Section 319 grant funding with the Ohio and US EPA with engineering oversight from the City of Pickerington.



Historically the District has assisted with EPA Phase II education requirements for Violet and Liberty Townships, City of Pickerington, Village of Lithopolis and serves on multiple committees through the Regional Planning Commission. The District is diligent in communication with mutual concerns for water resources of the County.



## Modern Resources for Resource Concerns

In the 1980's, the District began to embrace its role with Urban development. The District set a goal to employ a Professional Engineer in 1994. The District employed a Professional Engineer until 2018 and currently employs a Professional Landscape Architect. These are rare professionals in most Districts. These professionally licensed individuals allow the District to aid many partners beyond the limitations of the USDA and ODA Engineering agreements. Serving all landowners, not just those participating in government programs, is a key pillar of "cooperative" conservation in the eyes of the District. **The District's goal is to staff an Engineer if funding allows in the future.**

The District also maintains a modern array of AutoCAD and GIS software and GPS surveying and mapping equipment which are available to assist in EPA Phase II compliance through service agreements and traditional agricultural services. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnership. **This work is reliant on appropriate liability insurance and modern equipment.**

The District continues to adapt and change and now provides limited pesticide application and the necessary equipment to combat noxious and invasive plants at parks, road rights-of-way or government facilities. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnership. **This work is reliant on licensed applicators, appropriate liability insurance and modern equipment.**

The District now dedicates time and resources to specific municipalities and townships through annual cooperative agreements. This was not the approach taken twenty years ago, but the mandates of the EPA MS4 Permits on communities created the need and we have filled it. This area of workload shows potential for income growth and new partnerships. **This work is reliant on certified or licensed professionals to assure a high quality product is produced for the cooperative entities.**



Lancaster High School Stream Bank Stabilization



Violet Township Stream Inventory





## Assets and Liabilities

### Type of Operation

Local Government

### Real-estate and Facilities

Facility is rented from the Board of Fairfield County Commissioners:  
831 College Avenue, Suite B in Lancaster, Ohio.

### Chattel Property and Insurance

*District insured under CORSA, not associated with the Fairfield County policy.*

- No-till drill, seeder, tree planter kept in Ag Center parking lot  
*(need in SWCD controlled facility)*
- Trailer/John Deere Gator kept in Ag Center parking lot  
*(need in SWCD controlled facility)*
- Co-owned boat and trailer kept with Fairfield County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)  
*(agreement on file)*
- Concrete forms, kept on private property by handshake agreement  
*(need in SWCD controlled facility)*

Property, less vehicles: per renewal schedules on file (\$133,033 in 2019)

District owned vehicles: 4

Deductible: \$2,500

Liability: \$3,000,000 including Errors and Omissions Liability

*\*Numbers current as of May 2019 policy\**

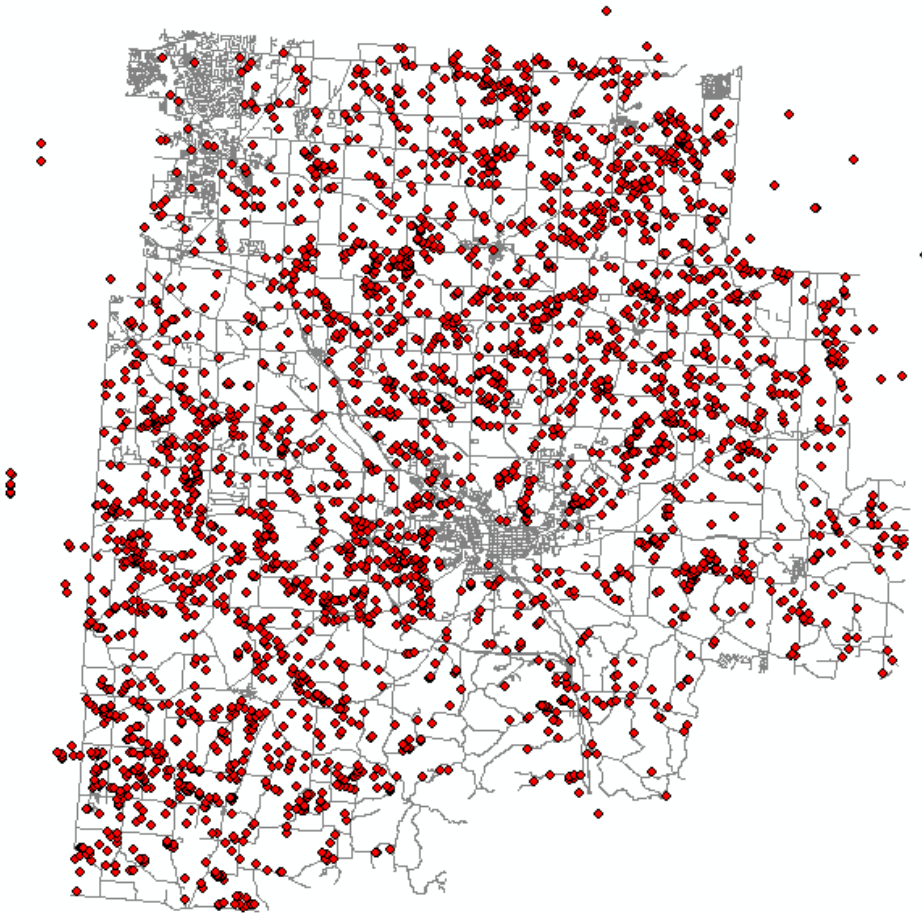
## Large Equipment Replacement Schedule

<u>Year</u>	<u>Item to be Replaced</u>	<u>Replacement/New Item</u>	<u>Estimated Cost to Replace</u>
2020	(1999 Jeep donated to BLWC 2018)	4x4 SUV	\$ 20,000.00
		Back up cameras (3 vehicles)	\$ 2,200.00
		Drone w/ RTK survey ability	\$ 21,500.00
		Hydrone for sediment studies	\$ 6,750.00
2021	Laptop—urban	Desktop	\$ 2,400.00
2022	Dell Server & components (if needed)	Updated server & components	\$ 10,000.00
2023	Pesticide equipment (if needed)	Pesticide equipment	\$ 1,000.00
		Ricoh copier (if needed)	\$ 12,500.00
2024	HP Designjet T2500 plotter	Plotter	\$ 7,500.00
2025	2013 GMC Sierra	4x4 pick-up	\$ 31,000.00

### Historical Data

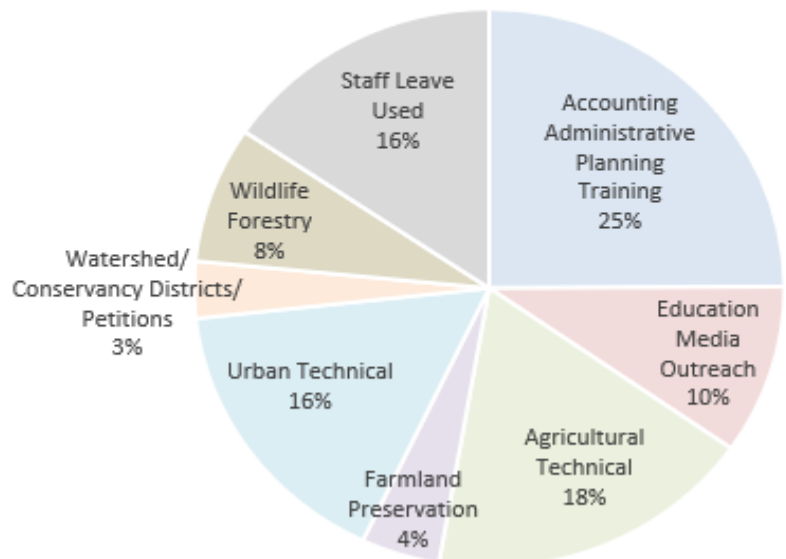
#### Years of historic engineering data

2,941 Dots capture where the District has provided engineering plans for conservation practices over the last 80+ years. (Petition ditches/tiles are not included and will be developed in a separate database.)



#### 2015-2019 Hours

#### Fairfield Soil & Water Conservation District



This is a distribution of staff time that we want to maintain. If future needs would merit, the urban technical portion could increase with the addition of another staff member. H2Ohio could also generate the need for more agricultural staff.



**Historical Data (continued)**

In the past 5 years, approximately half of our revenue has come from local appropriations. Incoming revenue chart (page 20) shows more partnerships are being made with similar conservation goals. These increased funds have not offset the decline in state match typically seen. State match for 2020 increased. We hope that level of funding continues at minimum but is not guaranteed.

Recent increases in development and an increased number of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) named communities has led us to support more community MS4 permit programs, taking primary lead on Drainage Erosion and Sediment Control (DESC) in two townships while supporting the City of Pickerington, Village of Lithopolis, and County permit needs through limited compensation agreements.

In 2012, the District identified invasive plants as a threat to natural systems and positioned itself to take on that challenge with other government entities and obtained herbicide application equipment, licenses and insurance. Currently 4 of 6 employees are licensed. Annual work is completed with the Fairfield County Airport Authority and Violet Township. ODNR/ODA continue to shrink their services for professional engineering for non USDA programs. The District seeks compensation for use of equipment, fuel, paper and software costs to support the services that our agriculture community demands most. When grant opportunities arise to the benefit of the District, we pursue them including those that support EMA, watersheds and schools.

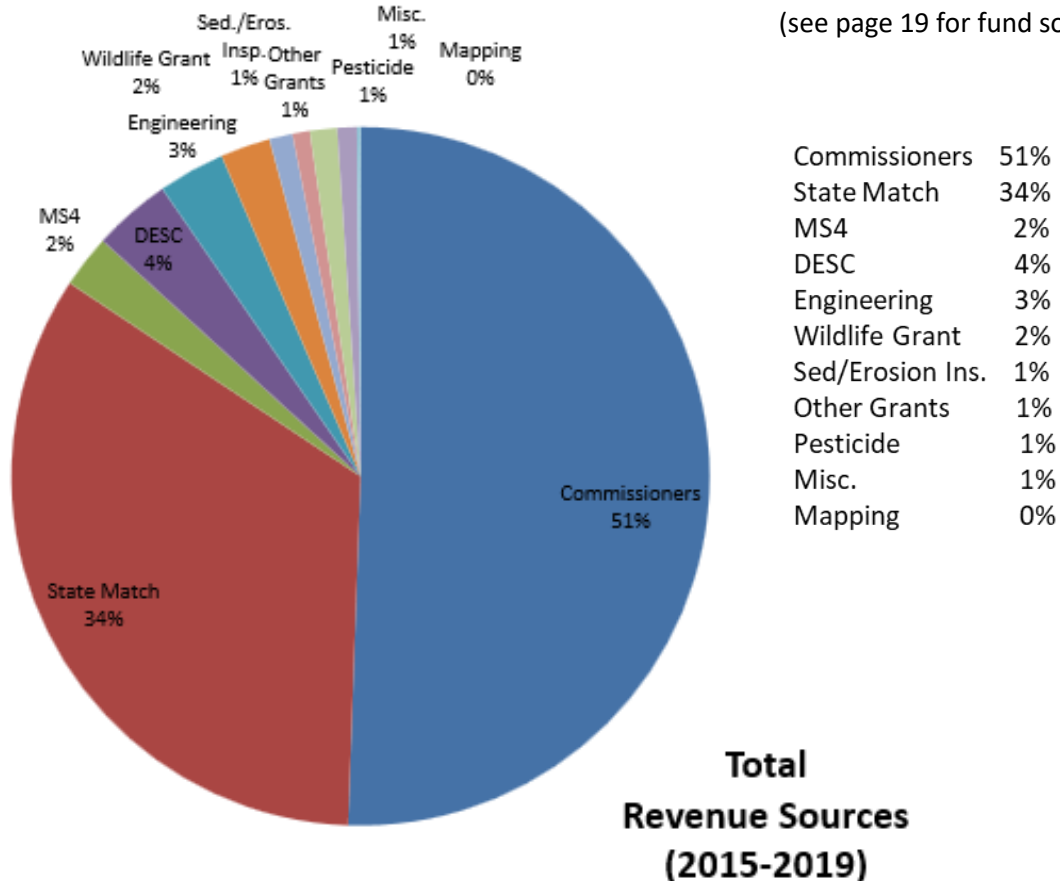
**Accounts: Sources and Uses**

<p><b>District Fund</b> <i>Since 1943</i></p>	<p><b>Special Fund</b> <i>Since 1963</i></p>	<p><b>Dedicated Conservation Fund</b> <i>Since 2013</i></p>
<p>Primarily funds scholarships, local cash match for grants and miscellaneous expenses</p> <p>Income derived from:</p> <p>Plat Book Sales Marking Flags Annual Tree Sale - <i>Since 1967</i> (Licensed by ODA) Tree Planter Rental No-Till Drill &amp; Seeder Rental</p>	<p>Primarily funds salaries, benefits and contract services</p> <p>Commissioners (General Fund) - <i>Since 1951</i> Commissioners MS4 Township MS4 City/Village MS4</p> <p>State Match - <i>Since 1959</i> The above local funds are State Matched (Historic range is 55-93%)</p> <p>Division of Wildlife Grant (not matchable)</p> <p>*EPA 319 Grants (not matchable)</p>	<p>Primarily funds large equipment</p> <p>Drainage Erosion and Sediment Control (DESC) and other Urban Storm Water</p> <p>Invasive Plant Treatment</p> <p>USDA reimbursement, non traditional engineering and tile plans</p> <p>*Most monies from “unmatchable” agreements are held in this account to cover purchases on our large equipment inventory schedule.</p> <p>*All contract services include reimbursable costs and follow the 319 grant process so that we pay back the dedicated fund for long-term equipment costs.</p>

**Total Incoming Revenue**

Source	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Commissioners	\$ 274,725.00	\$ 314,725.00	\$ 290,150.00	\$ 297,500.00	\$ 315,000.00
MS4 (Co. Commissioners)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00			
MS4 (Pickerington)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
MS4 (Violet)			\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
MS4 (Liberty)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
MS4 (Lithopolis)				\$ 1,500.00	
MS4 (Airport)			\$ 1,600.00		
State Match	\$ 211,545.00	\$ 199,604.00	\$ 182,952.00	\$ 186,072.00	\$ 216,532.00
Wildlife Grant	\$ 11,290.00	\$ 13,700.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00
AEPP, ODA Grant	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 4,200.00
CAUV Assistance (Auditor)		\$ 2,400.00			
NRCS Technical	\$ 8,600.00	\$ 17,625.00	\$ 39,219.25	\$ 20,894.25	\$ -
DESC (Violet)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 13,800.00	\$ 26,200.00	\$ 19,800.00	\$ 29,100.00
DESC (Liberty)	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00
Dam EAP Grant (ODNR)	\$ 11,200.00				
Tile Plans	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 850.00
Pesticide (all sources)	\$ 6,861.95	\$ 9,730.13	\$ 7,658.08	\$ 5,638.06	\$ 7,174.43
Lithopolis (mapping)				\$ 5,000.00	
Inspections draws (eros/sed)	\$ 7,743.23	\$ 5,481.35	\$ 5,425.65	\$ 8,679.38	\$ 4,195.64
Misc.	\$ 3,952.61	\$ 4,159.57	\$ 6,283.54	\$ 5,635.45	\$ 6,418.80
	\$ 566,567.79	\$ 596,225.05	\$ 590,638.52	\$ 583,719.14	\$ 613,670.87

(see page 19 for fund source)





## 2015-2019 Special Fund Review

	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual
<b>Revenue</b>					
State Grants	\$ 211,545.00	\$ 199,604.00	\$ 182,952.00	\$ 186,072.00	\$ 216,532.00
Wildlife Grant	\$ 11,290.00	\$ 13,700.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00
Other Receipts	\$ 19,320.00	\$ 15,800.00	\$ 26,644.00	\$ 18,800.00	\$ 19,700.00
BWC Refund	\$ 1,354.48	\$ 648.96	\$ 2,048.80	\$ 2,423.80	\$ 2,562.10
Commissioner's Allocation +other intergovt transfers	\$ 274,725.00	\$ 314,725.00	\$ 290,150.00	\$ 297,500.00	\$ 315,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 518,234.48</b>	<b>\$ 544,477.96</b>	<b>\$ 516,194.80</b>	<b>\$ 519,195.80</b>	<b>\$ 568,194.10</b>

### Expenses

Employee Salaries	\$ 298,635.00	\$ 304,384.09	\$ 310,876.31	\$ 294,750.54	\$ 313,129.82
Vacation Payout	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,591.93	\$ 1,255.20
Sick Payout	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Comp Time Payout				\$ 197.80	
Health Insurance	\$ 101,159.28	\$ 108,481.68	\$ 117,536.88	\$ 103,413.06	\$ 118,475.94
Health - EAP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Life Insurance	\$ 399.96	\$ 424.44	\$ 432.12	\$ 396.11	\$ 404.16
Long-Term Disability		\$ 18.32	\$ 250.51	\$ 236.38	\$ 274.80
Short Term Disability			\$ 16.73	\$ (16.73)	\$ -
Medicare	\$ 4,054.46	\$ 4,135.99	\$ 4,205.40	\$ 4,235.06	\$ 4,255.40
OPERS	\$ 41,703.89	\$ 42,613.66	\$ 43,522.43	\$ 41,292.78	\$ 43,558.38
Unemployment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Workers Comp	\$ 3,468.58	\$ 2,601.60	\$ 2,656.24	\$ 2,629.97	\$ 2,419.45
Contractual Services	\$ 7,941.58	\$ 10,598.45	\$ 11,725.41	\$ 10,774.74	\$ 19,006.91
Specialized Services	\$ 3,248.00	\$ 3,248.00	\$ 3,408.20	\$ 3,467.00	\$ 4,862.40
Repair & Maintenance	\$ 843.67	\$ 1,001.46	\$ 1,030.97	\$ 1,252.14	\$ 1,023.76
Rentals/Lease	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Advertising	\$ 2,878.30	\$ 4,279.45	\$ 4,517.60	\$ 4,528.30	\$ 4,121.30
Travel Reimbursement	\$ 2,351.29	\$ 2,516.24	\$ 2,395.88	\$ 2,619.79	\$ 3,127.00
General office supplies	\$ 4,855.79	\$ 5,644.44	\$ 5,251.88	\$ 6,069.54	\$ 7,085.27
Equipment/software	\$ 10,492.22	\$ 9,191.70	\$ 7,896.27	\$ 6,531.19	\$ 4,751.68
Scholarships	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -
Other Expenses					
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 482,082.02</b>	<b>\$ 499,189.52</b>	<b>\$ 515,772.83</b>	<b>\$ 499,019.60</b>	<b>\$ 527,751.47</b>

\* Health Insurance is our greatest variable expense.

**Five Years of Projections**

Fiscal projections for 5 years assume 3% salary increases per year.

Contract agreements are assessment of applicable employee billable hours including benefits with a cost for the two GMC Sierra trucks (recover over 10 years) and average gas usage per vehicle.

Assessment of the replacement cost of the survey units over seven years and the number of hours on “engineering projects” or urban special projects to tack onto cost recovery.

**2020-2024 SWCD Projected Budget****Total Incoming Revenue**

Source	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Commissioners	\$ 321,460.00	\$ 330,732.00	\$ 335,282.00	\$ 345,118.00	\$ 355,250.00
MS4 (Commissioners)	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,400.00
MS4 (Pickerington)	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 6,900.00
MS4 (Violet)	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,400.00	\$ 7,400.00
MS4 (Liberty)	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,150.00
MS4 (Lithopolis)	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,080.00	\$ 4,161.60	\$ 4,244.83	
State Match	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 235,000.00	\$ 185,000.00	\$ 189,000.00	\$ 192,000.00
Wildlife Grant	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 14,400.00
AEPP, ODA Grant	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 6,200.00
CAUV (auditor)					
NRCS Technical	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
DESC (Violet)	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
DESC (Liberty)	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$
DESC (Lithopolis)					
RPC - Commercial Building					
Inspection draws - (Sed/Erosion)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
FLPA Endowment Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,053.00	\$ 1,053.00	\$ 1,053.00	\$ 1,053.00
Tile Plans	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Airport spraying	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 3,307.50	\$ 3,472.88	\$ 3,646.52
Conservancy District spraying					
Violet TWP spraying	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
land labs					
Mapping (Lithopolis Water)					
Mapping (Greenfield Water)					
Misc.	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	\$ 698,010.00	\$ 668,965.00	\$ 624,154.10	\$ 638,638.71	\$ 648,099.52

\* State Match requested on Commissioner funds and all MS4 funds

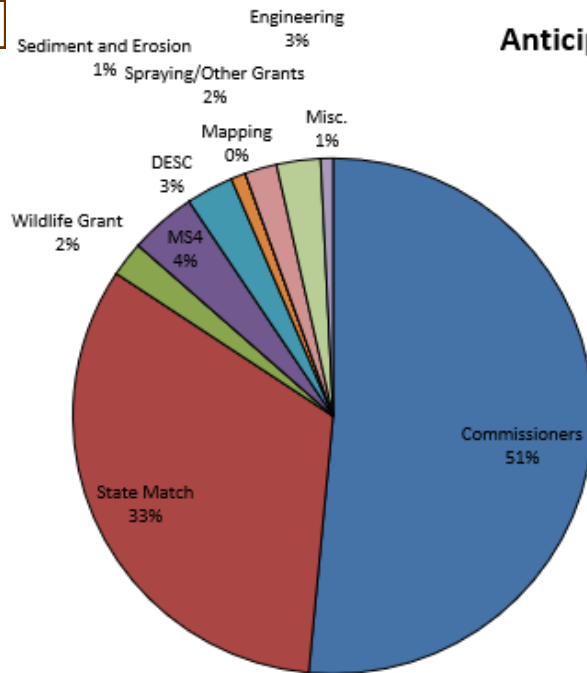
-Misc. (drill/seeder rental/copies/plat books/affiliate memberships)

-Details need yet to be determined for future mapping projects and Conservancy spraying (assistance requested)

-Projections represent a combination of 5-year averages/agreements/estimated requests

-Source colors correspond to fund (see page 19)

## Anticipated Revenue Sources 2020-2024



Commissioners	52%
State Match	33%
MS4	4%
DESC	3%
Engineering	3%
Wildlife Grant	2%
Sed/Erosion Ins.	1%
Spraying/Other	1%
Misc.	1%
Mapping	0%

With State Match representing a smaller section of the pie over the years, other projected revenue sources have had to make up some of the difference.



In November of 2019, Governor DeWine announced his H2Ohio plan for water quality improvements to reduce phosphorus runoff and thereby reduce harmful algal blooms in Ohio's streams, rivers, and lakes.

Lawmakers provided \$172 million for H2Ohio in the budget, to be split between ODA, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Those agencies have already begun announcing the rollout of their spending plans. They will implement agricultural best practices and creation of wetlands, improve wastewater infrastructure, replace failing home septic systems and prevent lead contamination in high-risk daycare centers and schools.

The H2Ohio phosphorus reduction plan will first focus on the Maumee River Watershed and Lake Erie. It will eventually be offered statewide. We anticipate that this effort will improve state match for districts in the future. SWCD efforts will include additional staffing, support nutrient management planning, nine-element watershed planning, and promotion of the 4R certification program. More information can be found on the H2Ohio website at <http://h2.ohio.gov/>. See page 25 for our ongoing efforts on targeted watersheds in our county.

### Financial Goals

*All initiatives are predicated on the Goals as defined. Failure to achieve the Goals positions the District to see a decline of professional staff and those with high efficiency through longevity.*

- Complete Master MOU with the Commissioners
- Maintain current professional and experienced staff which will allow us to increase partner services and sustain current agreement services cost effectively
  - Continue to support a 1:1 state match to regain an engineer on staff (see page 16) and discuss with the State Legislators and SWCD Conservation Commission
- Plan for **3%** annual salary increases to staff and **5%** annual health insurance increases
- Work toward having storage for owned equipment (see page 17)
- Increase herbicide application for invasive plants and public health, safety and welfare for a fee with partners including the Hunter's Run and Rushcreek Conservancy Districts, the Fairfield County Airport, City of Pickerington, City of Lancaster, Townships, City-Regional Park Systems
  - Increase receipts annually to \$8,000 **by 2024**
- Increase MS4 services as new communities are named, Bloom Township and Greenfield Township for DESC specific services.
  - Increase receipts annually to \$28,100 **by 2024**

## 2020-2022 Estimated Special Fund

	2020 Projection	2021 Projection	2022 Projection
<b>Revenue</b>			
State Grants	\$ 275,000	\$ 235,000	\$ 185,000
Wildlife Grant	\$ 14,400	\$ 14,400	\$ 14,400
Other Receipts	\$ 20,450	\$ 20,530	\$ 20,612
BWC Refund			
Commissioners' Allocation & other intergovt transfers	\$ 321,460	\$ 330,732	\$ 335,282
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 631,310</b>	<b>\$ 600,662</b>	<b>\$ 555,293</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
	<i>27 pays</i>		
Employee Salaries (assumed +3%/yr.)	\$ 342,496	\$ 337,959	\$ 348,098
Vacation Payout	\$ 6,500	\$ 12,950	\$ 13,274
Sick Payout	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Comp Time Payout			
Health Insurance (assumed +5%/yr.)	\$ 126,405	\$ 132,725	\$ 139,362
Health - EAP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Life Insurance	\$ 432	\$ 445	\$ 458
Long-Term Disability	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Short Term Disability	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Medicare	\$ 4,966	\$ 4,900	\$ 5,047
OPERS	\$ 48,300	\$ 47,314	\$ 48,734
Unemployment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Workers Comp	\$ 4,927	\$ 4,864	\$ 4,986
Contractual Services	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 13,000
Specialized Services	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
Repair & Maintenance	\$ 1,536	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
Rentals/Lease	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Advertising	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,400
Travel Reimbursement	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
General office supplies	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
Equipment/software	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Scholarships	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50
Other Expenses			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 578,612</b>	<b>\$ 586,808</b>	<b>\$ 600,608</b>

Special Fund is not a full reflection of total budget. Numbers do not account for monies transferred to the Special Fund from non-state matched contracted services (see all estimated incoming revenue chart on page 22). An average of \$30,000 needs to be available for transfer each year to remain solvent at this level if ODA state match does not increase.



## Buckeye Lake

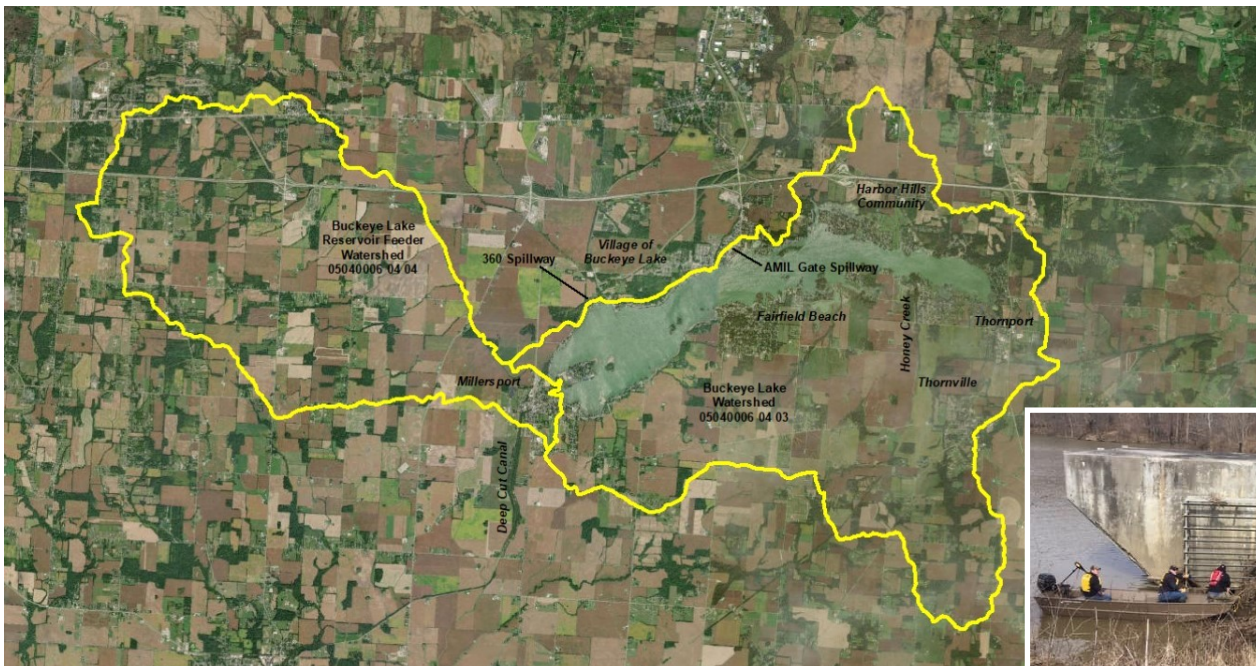
In spring of 2018, Perry Soil and Water Conservation District (PSWCD) applied for the Ohio Watershed Coordinator Grant Program through the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA)-Division of Soil and Water Conservation to enable a Watershed Coordinator position to be established for the Buckeye Lake Watershed. The grant was awarded for three years at \$40,000 per year with the opportunity to renew thereafter. Our staff (FSWCD) in partnership with the Fairfield County Board of Commissioners (FCBC) committed to collaborate and assist the PSWCD in development and support of a Watershed Coordinator for Buckeye Lake. FSWCD desires to see our efforts over the years grow with new perspectives while retaining the foundation and trust that has been built with the community leaders and producers.

Collaboration includes:

- FSWCD has/will submit \$5,000/year dedicated from the FCBC to ODA for fund match which contributes an additional approximate \$2,000/year for a rough \$7,000 total contribution annually from FCBC & FSWCD.
- FSWCD will provide approximately 207 staff hours per year with an estimated value of \$9,661 to aid in planning, implementation and community engagement. This primarily includes Resource Specialist Jonathan Ferbrache who spearheaded efforts in 2012-2013 through an Ohio EPA 319 Grant to inventory the watershed stream channels and conduct soil sampling. Other staff hours have averaged 37.5 hours per year over 2000-2018. This includes a district manager, fiscal coordinator, and education/wildlife specialist who will continue to assist in the Buckeye Lake Watershed.
- FSWCD donated a 1999 Jeep Cherokee Sport SUV to aid in watershed transportation needs. The value of this one-time donation was estimated at \$2,300. FSWCD accommodates space for the coordinator in our office during their estimated one day per week in Fairfield County.
- FSWCD served on the hiring/review panel for the position and continues to attend monthly update meetings.

In early 2020 the first of two 9-element “Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategic Plans” was submitted for approval with the second to be written thereafter. This document outlines projects, time frames, estimated costs, and potential funding sources and is required prior to applying for an EPA 319 Grant. Projects include septic system replacements/upgrades, wetland creation, Canada Goose Habitat manipulation, cover crops establishment, riparian buffer/filter strip plantings, and precision nutrient management plans. In 2019, SWCD spent 153 hours on Buckeye Lake related activities.

Map shows the two Hydrologic Unit Code sub-watersheds, first plan is for eastern boundary containing the lake.



## Hunter's Run Conservancy District (HRCD)

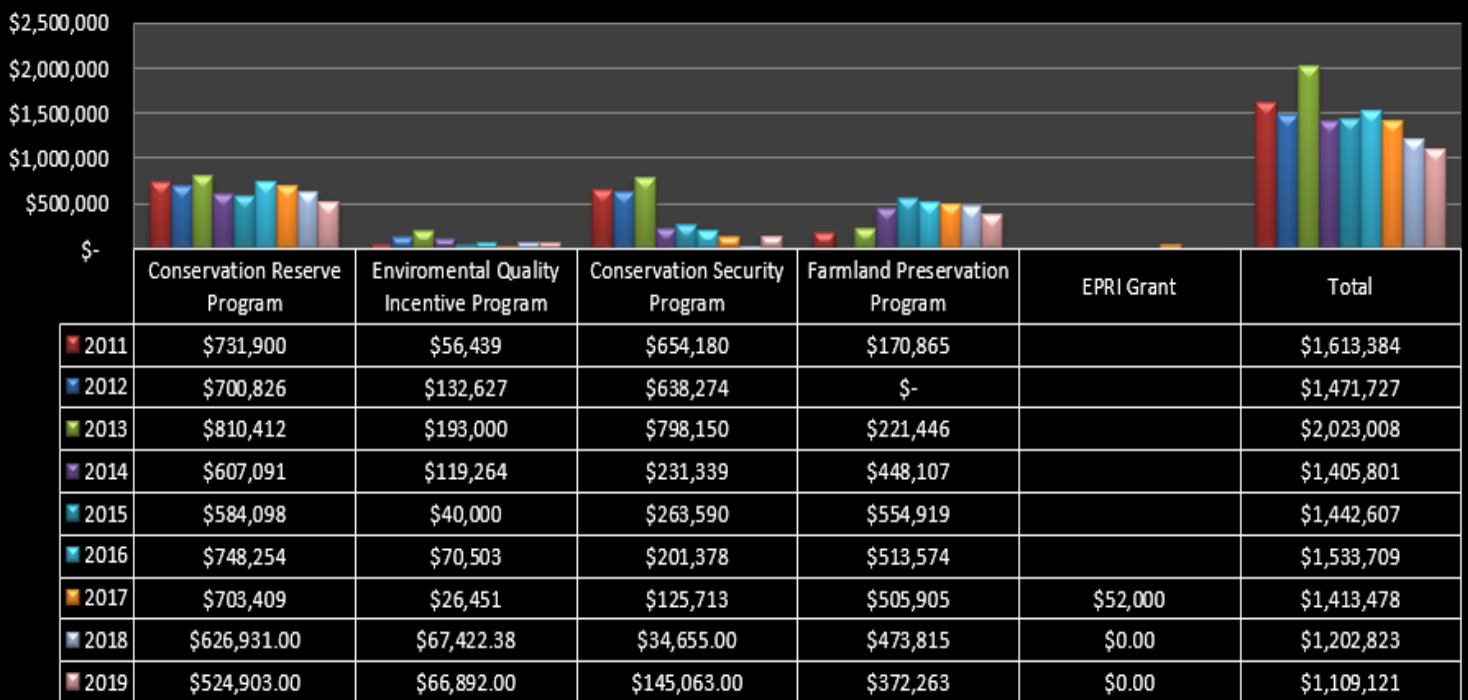
As an original sponsor, FSWCD has worked with HRCD since it formed. In 2019 our staff aided them in building their 3-member board back to full capacity and provided additional expertise and manpower to achieve ODNR Dam Safety goals. That year, FSWCD spent 900.5 hours on HRCD related activities for the 29 flood control/sediment reduction dams including, but not limited to: attending meetings, manually cleaning out dam infrastructure to prevent flooding, providing guidance/training to their board and staff, surveying, reviewing old inspection data and performing new inspections. We will continue to support them until staff is comfortable and dams are in better condition. There may be an opportunity to apply for a watershed coordinator grant in the upcoming years for this watershed also. Bottom right picture above shows Rock Mill Dam principal structure clean out efforts by Emergency Management Agency's Special Operations Team and our staff.

- The Fairfield SWCD was the original petitioner to get both Hunter's Run and Rushcreek Conservancy Districts established (1952/1961).
- There are 22 permit sized flood/sediment control dams in Fairfield County (39 dams total).
- Hunter's Run structures control over 50% of the runoff that goes through Lancaster.
- Rushcreek structures have a 24-87% reduction of flooded area depending on the statistical storm (2,040 to 3,561 acre flood prevention).
- Dams in need of upgrading or rehab = 27+

### Agricultural Statistics

The chart below shows state/federal dollars brought in to the agricultural community through various programs that our staff is involved. These outside monies boost the local economy and would not be possible without work from our staff. Totals for 2011-2019 = **\$13,215,658**. These dollars do NOT go to the Fairfield SWCD budget.

### \$ Into Fairfield County Economy Thru Agricultural Programs



- No Farmland Preservation Program available in 2012 due to statewide lack of funding
- The 2011 Conservation Reserve Program number is incorrect, actual number should be comparable to other years. Complete data was not available.

Farmland Preservation Program in Fairfield Co. is **Ranked #5** of 61 counties participating in program.

Conservation Security Program in Fairfield Co. is **Ranked #6** in the state for funds and **#2** for amount of qualifying participants. This program rewards participants for good environmental stewardship.

In 2019, Fairfield County Auditor records show 214,595 acres enrolled in CAUV (Current Agricultural Use Valuation). This equates to roughly 66% of the county's 326,000 total acreage.

**Agriculture is Fairfield County's largest private economic industry.**



- Developed a 5-year business plan.
- Projects built per engineering designs totaled 148.
- As of June 2019, 23 farms totaling 3,473 acres have easements through the ODA Clean Ohio Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program for nearly \$5.8 million.
- Purchased a warm/cool season grass seeder.
- Hosted 2016 State Soils Judging at the Bader Farm and the 2019 District 7 Soils Judging at the Brandt Farm.
- Supporting a watershed coordinator position to continue efforts established with the Buckeye Lake Watershed Inventory in conjunction with the Ohio EPA 319 Grant Funding.
- Wrote the Fairfield County/Violet Township, Liberty Township and City of Pickerington Storm Water Management Plan and NPDES Small MS4 General Permit 2014-2019.
- Partnerships with various Fairfield County agencies has stretched local funds to accomplish more goals; most recently with Fairfield County Airport, Fairfield County Utilities, Fairfield County Auditor and Fairfield County EMA.
- Sediment studies on various bodies of water for safety and planning purposes: City of Lancaster's Alley Park, Lancaster City Schools, City of Pickerington.
- Continued a unique partnership with US Forest Service and ODOT for non-native invasive species identification on the US 33 Corridor. Project was completed in 2019.
- Key partner in the development of Lancaster Sensory Trail.
- We partnered with the Fairfield County Auditor to assist in CAUV land modernization.
- Over the last 10 years through our Collection Events in partnership with Litter and Recycling, Fairfield County Sheriff and Violet Township, we have served 3,096 vehicles dropping off drugs for proper disposal, electronics to be recycled, and paper to be shredded. Most recently in 2019, 135 pounds of drugs were collected. We have been doing these events since 2010.
- We host an orientation tour (twice a year) for new Natural Resource Conservation Service employees from all over the country. Fairfield County is a technical training ground for agricultural and environmental conservation.
- Jim Davis (former Board Member) was inducted into Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation District's Supervisor Hall of Fame in 2019.
- In 2016, Engineering Technician Nikki Drake was given the OFSWCD Area 5 Employee of the Year Award.
- In 2017, SWCD Board Member Tim White was given the OFSWCD Area 5 Supervisor of the Year Award.
- In 2017, ODA presented a Certificate of Accomplishment to the Fairfield County Fair for the AGmazing Agri-Center at the Fairfield County Fair in the Ed Sands Farm Bureau Building for our efforts along with partners OSU-Extension, Farm Bureau, local FFA chapters.
- 2017 hosted Woodland Walk
- 2018 Grazing School, 2019 Horse Forages & Pasture Management Workshop, 2019 spring grazing tour
- Promoted Storm Water Pollution Solutions and Pick up Poop (PuP) for events at Buckeye Lake, Pickerington Pet Fest and Violet Festival.
- Coordinated the naming of 3 streams in Violet Township and Pickerington with the City of Canal Winchester.
- Assisted with various Buckeye Lake issues including: alternative pump design/concepts (Parrish, West Bank Homeowners Association and Ballard Lane).
- In 2018, celebrated 75-year anniversary.
- Completed an interactive engineering project database through GIS that provides access to 75+ years of conservation plans with the click of a button. A similar residential drainage database was begun and is continually updated to build it.
- Quotes and Fairfield SWCD work has been highlighted in: the *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette*, *Drainage Contractor Magazine*, *Our Ohio*, *Ohio Country Journal*, *Ohio Farmer* and the *Columbus Dispatch*, *Pickerington Magazine* and on: *90.9 FM* and *88.9 FM Saturday Morning Farm Page*.
- Applied and received the states largest ever Electric Power Research Institute grant for reforestation on private land.
- Completed water valve mapping with the Village of Lithopolis and Greenfield Township/County Utilities.
- Participated in the County Land Use Plan update.
- Updated our pond brochure and rewrote our landowners brochure.
- Serve as Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative Milkweed Pod Collection Station since 2015 (was part of pilot program).
- Built a virtual reality sandbox for education purposes with funds from a South Central Power Operation Round Up Grant and created a guide for others to build their own.
- Updated website.
- Partnered with County GIS to update 2015 plat book. GIS received 1st place in the Ohio GIS Map Gallery contest. A new version is to be created in early 2020.
- Hosted Township Trustee training on fence law, drainage law, invasive plants, and conservancy dams.
- Through a DSWC watershed education mini-grant, we educated the public on cover crops to demonstrate the soil quality improvements that cover crops can provide.
- Hosted a dam safety meeting for public officials and landowners.
- Hosted Solar Workshop with Farm Bureau
- Hosted Meet & Greet Ohio Dept. of Agriculture Asst. Director Tim Derickson
- Provided Blanchard River Demo Farms Tour with Farm Bureau
- Provided Hunter's Run Conservancy District additional expertise and manpower to achieve ODNR Dam Safety goals.

*"The District is a trusted partner for our economic development efforts. Our department is grateful that they are part of the team that helps guide growth decisions in Fairfield County."*

—Patrick O'Malia, MPA, EDFP  
Economic & Workforce Dev. Spec.  
Fairfield Co. Dept. of Econ. Dev.  
Fairfield 33 Corridor



*"I enjoyed being a board member. I learned a lot and gained respect for the staff who is very committed to conservation. I am amazed how far they get around in the county to touch every corner. I can't speak enough good about it."*

—Don Rector  
2016-2018 Board Supervisor

**Find us on the web at  
[www.fairfieldswcd.org](http://www.fairfieldswcd.org)  
and follow us on**

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Last updated 2/2021