



Ottawa Soil & Water CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2025 Annual Plan of Work



Conservation of our soil resources is in the hands of the people who live on the land. Therefore, this program will be no more effective than their understanding, and the cooperation given by them.

Board of Supervisors

William Hartman	Chairman	Portage Township
Jim Sass	Vice Chairman	Salem Township
Roland Sandrock	Treasurer	Allen Township
Todd Hecht	Secretary	Harris Township
Josh Behnke	Member	Carroll Township

SWCD Staff

Michael Libben	District Program Administrator
Becky Simpson	Environmental Educator and Fiscal
Joe Uhinck	Wildlife Specialist
Jarred Molesky	District Technician / Ditch Maintenance
Jason Laubacher	District Technician / Ditch Maintenance
Kylie Nissen	District Technician / Stormwater
Olivia Rahm	Administrative Assistant / Outreach

Affiliate Staff

Vacant	Nutrient Management Specialist – Sandusky SWCD
Vacant	Deputy Drainage Engineer – Ottawa County Engineer

NRCS

Clint Geldine	District Conservationist
Emma Jahns	Soil Conservationist
Sarah St. Johns	Conservation Technician
Joe Rumschlag	Area Engineering Technician
Owen Schassberger	Farm Bill Biologist

Objective: RURAL DRAINAGE

Objective Description and Outcomes:

Promote, implement and improve drainage on agricultural lands.



Partners: Land owners, land contractors, county engineer, township trustees

Specific Activities

PROJECT OR INITIATIVE	TIMEFRAME	STAFF	MEASURABLE GOAL	STATUS
Provide technical knowledge and assistance to install new subsurface drainage systems and maintain present ones.	Continually	Libben, Molesky, Laubacher	Design 5 tile systems annually.	
Support and assist in cooperative group and petition drainage projects.	Continually	Libben, Molesky, Laubacher, Rahm	Initiate 1 project annually. Perform 6 year review on 4 projects annually.	
Conduct inspection and evaluation of all maintenance ditches to determine maintenance needs and costs.	Spring	Laubacher, Molesky	Evaluate all maintenance ditches. Perform 1 maintenance bottom excavation annually.	
Utilize news media and website to inform public of benefits of good drainage systems and their maintenance	Spring, Fall	Laubacher, Molesky, Nissen, Rahm	2 press releases. 1 annual ditch maintenance letter.	
Target maintenance ditches for filter strip installation with direct mailings	Annually	Laubacher, Molesky, Nissen	As needed, based on inspections.	
Meet with County Engineer about Ditch Maintenance policy and procedures.	Annually	Molesky, Laubacher, Libben	Quarterly meetings.	
Work with landowners doing "private" dip-outs.	As needed	Molesky, Laubacher	As needed.	
Facilitate cost share for Log Jam assistance	As needed	Laubacher, Molesky	As needed.	
Promote 4R Program to all landowners	Continually	Libben, NMS, Rahm	2 newsletters, 2 landowner meetings	
6 Year Reviews	Continually	Molesky, Laubacher, Toris	Initiate 4 annually	

Objective: URBAN DRAINAGE

Objective Description and Outcomes:

Promote, implement and improve water quality with conservation measures that reduce storm water runoff or protect property from flooding.



Partners: Land owners, home owners, contractors, county commissioners, county engineer, township trustees, TMACOG

Specific Activities

PROJECT OR INITIATIVE	TIMEFRAME	STAFF	MEASURABLE GOAL	STATUS
Mange the counties MS4 program.	Continually	Laubacher, Nissen, Rahm	Update report and Illicit discharge survey	
Provide technical assistance for the installation of stream bank and shoreline protection	As needed	Uhinck	As needed	
Provide technical assistance for the installation and maintenance of dikes	As needed	Uhinck	As needed	
Support and attend area watershed groups and other special meetings.	Continually	Libben, Nissen	Attend Portage River Basin TMACOG WQ Council; TMACOG Stormwater Coalition	
Utilize news media and website to inform public of practices that improve water quality.	Continually	Laubacher, Nissen, Rahm	2 news articles	
Non-Point Source Pollution Education to promote water quality	Continually	Simpson, Libben, Nissen	Educational programs.	
Promote 4R Program to all landowners	Continually	Libben, NMS	Breakfast and lunch meetings.	

Objective: CONSERVATION

Objective Description and Outcomes:

Promote, educate, and implement conservation measures that will reduce erosion on agricultural lands, prevent phosphorus runoff, and improve agricultural production.



**Partners: Land owners, farmers, agricultural retailers,
Ohio Department of Agriculture, TMACOG, The Nature Conservancy**

Specific Activities

PROJECT OR INITIATIVE	TIMEFRAME	STAFF	MEASURABLE GOAL	STATUS
Provide technical assistance for the installation of conservation practices that reduce soil erosion EQIP and CREP program	Continually	Libben, NMS, Uhinck, Geldine	5 new filter strip contracts.	
Increase tree plantings for windbreaks in County. CREP program	Continually	Uhinck	3 new tree windbreak contracts	
Provide information on Conservation Reserve and CREP Program Sign-ups	Continually	Libben, NMS, Uhinck, Geldine	2 newsletters 3 press releases	
Promote Non-Point Source Pollution Education to reduce erosion in agriculture areas (H2Ohio)	Continually	Simpson, Nissen, Libben, NMS, Rahm	2 news articles. 1 farmer meeting	
Inform landowners of Farm Bill provisions for EQIP Program.	Continually	Geldine, Shassberger	2 news articles	
Continue to support Pollution Abatement Program.	Continually	Libben, NMS	Report in Beehive	
4R Program promotion (H2Ohio)	Continually	Libben, NMS, Geldine, Nissen	1 major meeting	
Hold a soil health meeting (H2Ohio)	February	Libben, NMS, Geldine, Simpson, Rahm	1 meeting	
Conduct a Lake Erie Farm Forum (H2Ohio)	January	Libben, Nissen, NMS, Geldine, Simpson	1 meeting	
Tree Sale Program	April	Simpson, Uhinck	40 orders	

Objective: EDUCATION

Objective Description and Outcomes:

Conduct a strong information and education program to promote conservation and the wise use of our natural resources.



Partners: Land owners, farmers, agricultural retailers, TMACOG, The Nature Conservancy, OSU Extension

Specific Activities

PROJECT OR INITIATIVE	TIMEFRAME	STAFF	MEASURABLE GOAL	STATUS
Continue to publish newsletter for distribution to all cooperators, related agencies and organizations.	March and July	Nissen, Simpson, Libben, Rahm	1 printed newsletter in July 1 in newspaper in March	
Sponsor Ottawa County Students with partial scholarships or donations to attend conservation camps:	Continually	Simpson, Rahm	FFA camp Forestry camp	
Continue fish stocking program through Fender's Fish Hatchery.	Spring and Fall	Simpson, Uhinck, Rahm	40 orders	
Write newspaper articles that publicize the District's soil and water conservation programs	Continually	staff	4 news articles	
provide educational programs to assist k-12 teachers with their science curriculum	School Year	Simpson, Rahm	30 classrooms	
Encourage Ottawa County Schools to participate in the Area I Envirothon/State	Spring	Simpson, Rahm	3 schools	
Ag Week Scholarships-provide college scholarships to Ottawa County residents in conjunction with Ag Breakfast	Spring	Simpson, OSU Extension	2 scholarships	

Partner with ONWR and Magee Marsh on various education days	As needed	Simpson, Uhinck	2 events	
Local Working Group meeting	Annually	Geldine, Libben, Simpson	1 meeting	
Promote 4R Program to all landowners (H2Ohio)	Continually	Libben, Simpson, Geldine, Rahm	3 events	
Ottawa County Fair	July	Libben, Molesky, Rahm	Display and fishing derby	
4 th Grade Ag Day (BCS)	May	All	1 event	
5 th Grade Tour	September	All	1 event	
H2Ohio Workshops	Winter, Spring	Nissen, Libben	2 events	
Day on the Wildside	July	All	1 event	
Women in Conservation	Spring through Fall	Simpson, Nissen, Rahm	6 events	
Annual Meeting	September	All	1 event	
Ag Breakfast	March	All	1 event	
Township Association meetings	Quarterly	Libben	4 meetings	
Beach cleanups	Annually	Simpson, Rahm	1 event	
Conservation Scholarship	Spring	Simpson	2 Scholarships	

Objective: WILDLIFE

Objective Description and Outcomes:

Promote, implement and assist public and private individuals in establishing and improving wildlife habitat.



Partners: Land owners, farmers, agricultural retailers, ODNR Wildlife and Forestry, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited,

Specific Activities

PROJECT OR INITIATIVE	TIMEFRAME	STAFF	MEASURABLE GOAL	STATUS
Provide information and technical assistance to marsh owners for maintenance of existing wetlands.	Continually	Uhinck	Address in all conservation plans	
Assist landowners wishing to develop wetland habitat work through the permit process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Review Team and Ohio EPA.	Continually	Uhinck	2 permits	
Provide technical information and assistance for woodland maintenance and woodland improved harvesting.	Continually	Uhinck	Provide assistance	
Provide liaison service with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife for wetland restorations cost sharing and provide surveying and design assistance to these landowners. (H2Ohio)	Continually	Uhinck	4 restorations	
Support efforts of Lake Erie CWMA in education and eradication of invasive species	Continually	Uhinck	As Needed	
Administer and promote CREP, WRP and WHIP by increasing wetland acres in Ottawa County.	Continually	Uhinck	100 acres	
Promote, implement and assist public and private individuals to establish habitat with assistance of Division of Wildlife, ODNR,	Continually	Uhinck	100 acres of habitat	

US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Pheasants Forever				
Work with Erie-Ottawa-Sandusky Chapter of Pheasants Forever to establish warm and cool season grass and habitat	Continually	Uhinck	100 acres of new habitat	
Utilize News media to inform public of the importance of our wildlife resources	Continually	Uhinck	3 news articles	
Wildlife Specialist will assist landowners with human/wildlife conflicts including crop and property damage by wildlife	Continually	Uhinck	As needed	
Work with landowners enrolled in USDA Conservation Programs to establish wildlife habitat & food plots on their property	Spring	Uhinck	50 acres	

Committees

Nominating

Meeting Responsibilities

Commissioners Quarterly	Libben / Simpson
Envirothon/SSS	Simpson
GLW	Uhinck
Lake Erie CWMA	Uhinck / Libben
Lake Erie Marsh Owners	Uhinck
RC&D	Libben / Sass
TMACOG-Water Quality	Libben
TMACOG-WLEB Advisory Group	Libben / Simpson
TMACOG – Storm Water	Nissen
Portage River Water Trail	Simpson
Ottawa County EMA	Libben, Nissen

Active Partnerships

Ottawa County Commissioners	- funding
Ohio Department of Agriculture	- SB 1, 299, H2Ohio; Pollution Abatement; training
Ohio Soil and Water Federation	- administration and lobbying
Ohio SWCD Employees Assoc.	- employee support
Ottawa County Engineer	- ditch maintenance / deputy drainage engineer
TMACOG	- grant assistance / committees
Sandusky and Wood SWCD	- Nutrient Management technician
Allen and Clay Township	- MS4 permit
Maumee AOC	- project funding
Great Lakes Commission	- soil erosion grant
Ohio EPA	- 319 grant
ODNR	- H2Ohio
ODNR Div. Of Wildlife	- Wildlife Specialist
ODNR Private Lands Biologist	- wetland restoration
Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge	- GLRI grant; programs
US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program	- wetland restoration
Pheasants Forever	- wildlife seeding
Ducks Unlimited	- wetland grants
Army Corp of Engineers	- permits
Winous Point Marsh Conservancy	- grants; education
Schedel Gardens	- education
Benton Carroll Salem Schools	- education
Port Clinton City Schools	- education
Genoa Area Schools	- education
The Nature Conservancy	- 4R education