



February 9, 2026

4:00 Board Meeting

February 10, 2026

9:00 am Opening General Session

Updates from:

John Wilson, State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

Kirk Hines, Chief, Soil and Water Conservation, ODA

Chad Stang, President, OASCDE

Samantha Steiner, President, OFSWCD

Gary Blair, President, NACD

Special Presentation from Lara Hamilton, Lynchburg-Clay High School. Lara's team has been the state champion Envirothon team for the past two years. She will share the experiences she has had as an educator, the impact Envirothon has had on her students and give a glimpse at the national competition.

10-10:45

Holmes County Water Quality Initiative – *Trevor Berger, Holmes SWCD* - While it started with our typical in-county collaboration, the Holmes County Water Quality Initiative has started taking root and integrates the best of partnerships, software and coordination. While the story is as much about the partnership between the Holmes SWCD, Health Department, GIS and Engineer; the function (and data) is driven by the software. Each partner has their own platform developed by GEOACE, based in GIS. With the ability to collect and share data, we can work to further the goal of enhancing water quality and the overall environment for the citizens of Holmes County. Let us show you what it's about and some of the ways we are already putting this collaboration to work. Project Partners; Holmes SWCD, Holmes County General Health District, Holmes County Engineer/Sanitary Engineer, Holmes County GIS Department, GEOACE

Thinking Outside the Box by Educating in Confinement – *Wendy Baker, Defiance SWCD* – For a year and half Defiance SWCD has partnered with the Juvenile Justice Ministry of Defiance Youth for Christ to bring monthly environmental lessons to the youth incarcerated in the Juvenile Detention Center of Northwest Ohio. Taking part in the “Life Skills” portion of their Tuesday school day, brings ideas and influences about environmental issues, encouraging healthy choices and coping methods, as well as career and interests that will positively affect their futures. Using curriculum and lesson ideas already built into the Soil & Water framework to reach an often dismissed demographic within our communities.

Improving your MS4 Program through Audit – *Jason Fyffe –Ohio EPA & SWCD Panel* - Audits can sometimes be a painful process, but by entering with a growth mindset programs can grow and develop. Learn how to take your MS4 program to new levels by hearing about the Ohio EPA auditing process and what the agency is specifically looking for to be compliant. Also, hear from experienced SWCD Directors who have successfully navigated the State and US EPA audit process during a Q&A portion.

First Term Supervisor – These sessions will focus on the basics of what it means to be a SWCD Board Member and what is needed to be successful starting your first term. Understanding partnerships, funding and the powers of SWCD Boards will be followed up with scenarios that you may encounter during your time with the SWCD. This is a two-block session for supervisors in their first term. The sessions will not repeat but will extend through the break.

Deferred Compensation - Account Executive *Kathy McCully* will provide an overview of Ohio's deferred compensation program as well share what the program offers for district employees. This session will include a question-and-answer portion as well.

11-11:45

What's New in the World of Whitetails? Population Status and Disease Update, Clint McCoy, Deer Program Administrator, ODNR will discuss recent population trends, results of the 2025-26 season harvest and what it might mean for next season. I will also spend much of my presentation discussing two primary diseases affecting Ohio's deer herd, Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). A severe EHD outbreak occurred in the summer of 2025 resulting in widespread mortality in traditionally deer-rich counties of southeastern Ohio. Additionally, we continue to document the spread of CWD into new areas. I will attempt to bring some clarity to what this means for deer and deer management in Ohio and what we can expect moving forward.

Statehouse lobbying – Where do I begin?

Construction Sediment Controls – Justin Reinhart, Ohio EPA, *A Deep Dive into Construction Site Sediment Controls: everything you need to know about them before you review a SWP3 or inspect a site. We'll also talk about what's changing in the Rainwater manual regarding Sediment Controls.*

Rethinking Hardwood Seedling Production – William Barnhill, ODNR - This presentation provides an overview of the Buckeye State Tree Nursery and its shift toward containerized greenhouse production. It explores the challenges and opportunities of modern growing systems while emphasizing the importance of maintaining Ohio ecotype seedlings for in-state conservation efforts

First Term Supervisor (continued)

Conservation Planner Levels, Associated Job Approval, and How to Access AgLearn – LaRae Baker - Learn how to access the AgLearn system so you can then learn about the different levels of NRCS conservation planner and how to get needed levels of job approval authority to reach the level that will work for you.

12-1:30 Lunch

Speaker: Nick Ciolli, County Commissioners Association of Ohio,
“Property Tax: Abolishment or Reform”

1:45-2:45

H2Ohio Conservation Pilot Program and Enrollment Opportunities – ODA H2Ohio team
- Join this session to get details about funds available through the H2Ohio Conservation Pilot Program; RFP details, as well as H2Ohio Contract Extension Opportunities for the Statewide project area

Rapid Fire Urban – Want to learn a lot in a little bit of time? Join a few of our districts as they share some great programs - Backyard Conservation Grant (Mahoning), Urban Lot Splits (Fairfield), Urban Conservation Lab (Warren) & CEU's and Business Outreach (Franklin)

Rapid Fire Agriculture – Looking to quickly pick up a few ag projects to take home to your districts? Join us as we hear from the following districts -- Hay Testing Program (Jackson), Farmland Preservation (Amanda Bennett), Conservation Cost Share Programs (Monroe), Urban Ag (Hamilton) & Grazing Councils (Adams)

Rapid Fire Education – Want to learn from some of our favorite teachers? Join us as the following educators share their programs Parade Outreach (Hocking), Conservation Creations (Shelby), Southwest Ohio Woodlands Association (Butler), Conservation Camp (Preble) & Education Loaner Trunks (Brown).

Forestry BMP – Bob Mulligan – Want to improve the quality of logging in your county? Funding is now available to assist professional foresters who develop Forestry Pollution Prevention Plans (FP3s) for SWCD board approval. Incentive payments are also available for loggers who fully implement the BMPs identified in the FP3 and install BMPs that exceed state standards. This program is a joint effort of the ODNR Division of Forestry and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) who secured the funding through a Landscape Scale Restoration Grant (U.S. Forest Service funds). *Note: Funds will be available within the Ohio River Watershed and the Appalachian counties of the Lake Erie watershed.*

3-4

Education Trailers – Several districts (Butler, Gallia, Jackson and Knox) have assembled their own education trailers. Listen to them talk about the financial considerations, assembly and use of these amazing tools.

Learn and Burn - This presentation will highlight the use of prescribed fire to manage woodlands for oak regeneration, detailing the process implemented at Meigs Conservation Area. It will also cover future Learn and Burn opportunities and how natural resource professionals and private landowners can be trained during these hands-on workshops.

Precision Grazing: Managing Soil, Water, and Wildlife Without Physical Fences-
Charles Hord - Sales Specialist Nofence USA - This session explores how virtual fencing enables precision grazing management, protecting soil and water resources, enhancing wildlife habitat, and improving livestock distribution without the need for physical fences.

H2Ohio 2026 – ODA H2Ohio Staff - *Join this session to get updates on H2Ohio enrollment numbers for 2026-2027 contracts, as well as learn about new H2Ohio initiatives for 2026*

Administrators Roundtable – Since many of our administrators wear multiple hats, this roundtable in advance of other roundtables.

Be Salt Smart – Coordinated by Franklin SWCD

4-5

Roundtables

Technicians

Educators

Wildlife

Administrative Assistants

Urban Networking (offsite)

Supervisors

Wednesday, February 11

9:00 *Ensuring Farmland Preservation is not an Afterthought – Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau* - Energy infrastructure, data centers and neighborhood expansion - Ohioans are involved in complex power siting, commercial, and residential developments. The immediate “now” time frame to address a variety of planning issues is a “short” thirty-year time block. What strategies need to be employed that ensure preservation of farm assets are not considered an afterthought? The roles of professional and volunteer leaders involved in farm and natural resource conservation could be changing. While federal and state law provide some options, work on local stipulations is vital.

10-10-:45

USDA – USDA staff in attendance are welcome to join State Conservationist John Wilson for a staff update.

H2Ohio Drainage Water Recycling Program -Justin McBride - The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) is launching an initiative to install drainage water recycling systems across the state. These systems are designed to capture and store runoff water from farmland, which can then be used for irrigation during the growing season. Join us to learn more about how these innovative systems work and the ODA's efforts to expand their usage on Ohio's agricultural landscape.

AI in Agriculture: Join Dr. Scott Shearer to learn how AI can be used to guide farmers in making better cropping and conservation practice decisions, more effective utilization crop production inputs (improved NUE, targeted pesticide application), and autonomy.

Area 3 SSS Meeting – a meeting for those districts in Area 3 helping with SSS.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Tools and Best Practices - Travis Luncan, Warren Co. SWCD, Having access to and understanding the results of water quality testing can help with identifying and tracking illicit discharges. While water testing can be costly, we will look at some economical options. We will also discuss what the test results can tell us, options for testing, and some best practices for an IDDE program.

SWCC Meeting

OACI Updates – Districts have been working very hard to gather data for the Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative to assess the adoption of farmer conservation practices. Come hear from the chair, Jeff Duling, on the latest assessments and what they mean for water quality.

11-11:45

Basin Retrofits – Chris Rust, P.E. Strand Associates

Has your District wondered if starting a basin retrofitting program might increase your stormwater contracts? Have your MS4 communities started to look at basin retrofits as a realistic TMDL performance standard to meet the latest NPDES MS4 Permit? If so, Chris Rust has all the information you might need. Chris will detail assessing basins for retrofit considering criteria such as location, cost, land ownership, complexity of conversion. He will explain design considerations with detention vs retention and outlet configurations. Chris will take us through some actual projects that he has been a part of at Strand Associates. Q&A available at the end of presentation.

Ag. Pollution Abatement - Updated MOU & SOP – Peter McDonough - The Division of Soil & Water Conservation has updated the Memorandum of Understanding and Standard Operating Procedures for the Ag. Pollution Abatement Program. This session will review the changes and discuss statewide pollution complaint response.

What's New at Waterman - Dr. Graham Cochran – If you have driven down Lane Avenue lately you have noticed some significant changes around the Waterman Farm property. These changes will benefit students in their learning opportunities as well as enhance public outreach. Learn about those changes including the Mulit Animal Learning Center (MALC).

Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission Continued

Ohio's Wildlife History Timeline Interactive Program – Sarah Schott - Join Wildlife Communications Specialist Sarah Schott with the Ohio Division of Wildlife to learn about the history of wildlife and wildlife conservation in Ohio. This interactive program is great for

teaching 4th grade and up. Sarah will describe how the program works and how you can borrow materials from the Ohio Division of Wildlife or get you started developing your own for your county. All participants will leave with education resources.

12-2

General Session: Awards Luncheon