



2025 1st Board Meeting Resources and Reminders- In case you missed it in December, Resources and Reminders for SWCDs is included as an attachment. It's good to review this document at the first board meeting of the year to make sure all SWCD duties and responsibilities are covered for 2025. The first board meeting is a busy one and includes several administrative items that should be accomplished during the meeting. Listed below are the minimum recommended items to be covered during the meeting:

1. [Review the Ohio Ethics Law and SWCD Policies.](#) This is also a good time to think about any new policies that may be needed or removing any old policies that are no longer relevant.
2. [Re-organize the SWCD Board.](#) Even if there are no changes in officers, the board should discuss and approve by board resolution the SWCD officers for 2025. SWCD Contact Information Sheets indicating 2025 board member positions are due to your program specialist no later than February 1st.
3. [Nominating Committee.](#) To meet SWCD election timelines, appoint an SWCD Supervisor to chair the nominating committee for the 2025 SWCD supervisor election.
4. [2025 SWCD Plan of Work.](#) The plan of work should be reviewed and approved by the SWCD Board at the beginning of the year. The approved plan of work is required to be reviewed quarterly and submitted along with other information later in the year to be eligible to receive state match funding.

Beehive Changes (Thank you, Martin!)- On December 31st Martin Joyce, Beehive Administrator retired. We want to thank Martin for all he has done for the division and SWCDs over the last 30 years! Moving forward, Lindsey Douglas will be taking over the day-to-day responsibilities of Beehive. If you have questions or need assistance with Beehive contact Lindsey lindsey.douglas@agri.ohio.gov (614) 230-7176. Program specialists Chad Amos chad.amos@agri.ohio.gov and Jocelyn Henderson jocelyn.henderson@agri.ohio.gov will also be assisting Lindsey with Beehive needs.

State Funding for Drought Assistance- Many parts of Ohio experienced one of the most significant droughts in history this year and Ohio's agriculture producers were largely at the forefront feeling the impacts of this natural disaster. On December 18th Ohio legislature responded by passed S.B. 54 which included **\$10 million in state funding** to support farmers who have been impacted by drought. This funding will be administered through ODA and will be delivered to producers through local SWCDs. ODA is awaiting further details and anticipates sharing more information on the priorities for this funding in the next few weeks.

Conflict of Interest – Ohio's ethics law prohibits public officials and employees from using their position to benefit themselves, their family or their business associates. The law aims to ensure that public servants act in the public interest, rather than their own. Having a conflict of interest is not illegal, but the response to conflict determines whether a violation occurs. An example Conflict of Interest Form is included along with this update and additional information can be found by clicking [here](#).

Public Records Training – All elected officials are required to attend a public records training by the Ohio Attorney General at least once per term or appoint a public records designee for their office. If appointing a public records designee, identify individuals with the training certificate, affirm at your January board meetings and document the designee in the minutes. A copy of all records training certificates should be maintained in the office. Upcoming training events can be found by clicking [here](#).

Grazing Management: ODA is partnering with local SWCD and NRCS staff to hold producer workshops focused on the *2024 Drought: Managing Pastures Through Drought and Managing For the Future*. If interested in attending one of these events please contact the host district.

- January 7: Guernsey/Noble - Deerassic Park
- January 14: Fairfield – Fairfield County Ag Center
- January 16: Belmont – Belmont SWCD
- January 23: Muskingum – Muskingum County Rural Service Center
- January 29: Pike/Jackson/Scioto – Scioto Twp. Fire House, Jackson, OH

Grazing Management Lunch and Learn: [LINK](#)

January 29 - Warm Season Grass Establishment & Management
Jason Jones – Ohio Grasslands and Grazing Coordinator with Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever

Administrative Development Program – Join the ADP session scheduled for January 7th at 1:00 pm by clicking [here](#). The virtual training will be focused on the 2025 Resources and Reminders.

Additional ADP sessions planned for 2025 include: Legislative Process & Statehouse Tour-Rhodes Tower/Statehouse (March 25th), Sales Tax Overview-Virtual (May 7th), Planning Program Growth & Evaluation-Bromfield Auditorium (June 24th), Policy Handbook Development & Review-Bromfield Auditorium (Date TBD), Human Resources/Leadership-Bromfield Auditorium (Date TBD) and Auditor of State & Records Management-Bromfield Auditorium (October 28th)

Registration guidance and additional details will be shared once available.

Technician Development Program (TDP) - is pleased to announce the 2025 class schedule. Check out the included schedule to learn more! If you have any questions, please reach out to Steve Johnson by phone at (614) 581-5953 or by email at stephen.johnson@agri.ohio.gov.

OFSWCD– Annual Partnership Meeting 2025 will be held at the Hilton Columbus Downtown. The dates for the Partnership Meeting are January 21-23, 2025. January 10th is the registration and hotel room block reservation deadline. Please use this link to register: [Partnership Meeting Registration](#)

OSWCC: The next OSWCC meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2025. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the OFSWCD Annual Partnership Meeting. For more information about the meeting contact Emily Heppner emily.heppner@agri.ohio.gov

OASWCDE:

- 2025 Employees Association Membership forms can be found on the website, <https://www.oaswcde.org>
- The Employees Association is still looking for great “Conservation Contacts” to add to our list in all area’s. This project is being organized to assist the entire state in being able to locate knowledgeable resources for questions, job shadowing, or any other way assistance can be delivered. Emma is making a user friendly interactive map that will benefit us all. Please contact Emma Farahay (EFarahay@eriecounty.oh.gov) if you are interested.
- Be on the lookout for our Taco’s, Tequila, or wine event that will be January 21st from 5-7. This event will feature a Taco bar with either a tequila or wine tasting (your choice). We will also be receiving a presentation from the staff at Parlay Sporting Club & Kitchen on the Tequila and Wine selections. This event will be \$40 per person. <https://ofswcd.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/01/22/employees-association-event-parlay/506590>
- The Taco, Tequila, or wine event is separate from the usual employee association gathering. The gathering will be held at Parlay again this year from 7-9 and one drink ticket will be provided if you are a member.