

Board of Supervisors Reorganize and Meeting Schedule



Due to schedule conflicts, the Board Supervisor meetings have changed to the third Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. and the public is welcome to attend. The next meeting will be held March 17. If you wish to attend, please contact Richland SWCD Director [Erica Thomas](#).

Virtual Conservation Story Time Underway



Make sure to watch Virtual Conservation Story Times Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. We are hosting them in conjunction with the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library (MRCPL).

Many of the story times are posted on our [website](#) for a week, but some could not be recorded due to publishing guidelines. **February 24's story time will be read live on our [Facebook Page](#) at 10:00 a.m. and needs to be watched while live since it can't be recorded or saved.**

Each Virtual Conservation Story Time provides Preschool to Second grade children with a different story, activities, and a book list related to the story's topic.

Thank you to volunteer Candy Brenner, MRCPL, and a grant from the Richland County Foundation for helping make the Virtual Conservation Story Time possible.

Only Rain Down the Drain

Join us this year as we share tips on keeping stormwater drains clear through the theme of [Only Rain Down the Drain](#).

Storm Drains and roadside ditches eventually lead to our inland lakes and the Ohio River.

Here are things we can do to make sure that there is "Only Rain Down the Drain":

1. Sweep up driveways and sidewalks instead of hosing them with water.
2. An outdoor hose can use up to 20 – 30 gallons of water per minute.
3. You will not have as many chemicals (antifreeze and oil just to name a couple) getting into the storm drains.



4. Antifreeze kills fish when it reaches streams or any body of water.
5. You will reduce (potentially contaminated) stormwater runoff.
6. Using less water allows it to stay underground or in reservoirs which helps preserve wildlife and saves water for future use.
7. Using a broom and dust pan instead will save water.

Black Fork Ditch Petition and Ditch Petition Process



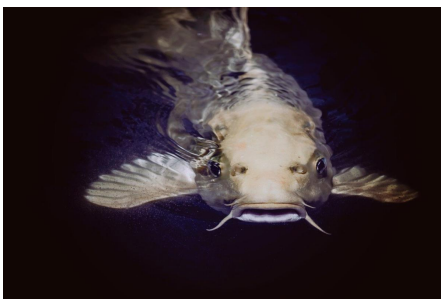
To help with the cleaning efforts and maintain the Black Fork River for years to come, the City of Shelby and rural community members will continue their efforts by filing a Joint Ditch Petition with the Richland County and Crawford County Commissioners February 24. More details on the Black Fork Ditch Petition may be read [here](#). There is updated information on our [website](#) about the general ditch petition process.

Tree Seedling Sale

The Clear Fork FFA Alumni Tree Seedling Sale is a great opportunity to purchase seedlings plus help Clear Fork FFA program. The sale will take place Friday, April 9, 2021, at Clear Fork High School, Richland County Fairgrounds Nature Park and Planktown Market. Any leftover seedlings will be sold Saturday, April 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon or until all seedlings are sold, at the Richland County Fairgrounds Nature Park. The price remains the same at \$10.00 per bundle of 8 seedlings. The Flowering Pack and Birdhouses will be available again, too. For more details, please visit the [website](#).



Order Fish for Your Pond



Make sure you don't miss your chance to "catch" some fish during our Pond Fish Sale! Order and payment are due April 16, 2021 and pick up is April 23 at the Richland County Fairgrounds from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. **This will be the only pond fish sale we hold this year, so make sure you order!** All prices are the same other than the minnows are \$7.00 per 100. For species, prices and an order form, please visit the [website](#) or call 419-747-8686.

Watch Upcoming In the Know Video Series

Natalie Snyder, this semester's Communication Intern, has been working with staff and landowners to provide a series of videos about soil and water topics. So far videos have been recorded on the [Stormwater Permit](#) process, Only Rain Down the Drain, Nutrient Management, the Farmland Preservation program, Windbreaks, Spring Development and Manure Composting. Additional videos are being planned about the Pond Fish Sale and Bird Feeding and Tips. Stay tuned!



Intern Update

Kourtney Van Wagner has been working through snow, wind and ice the past few weeks as part of her internship assisting Dan Herrold with the MS4 Program. They are finishing the outfall surveys for Madison Township and starting on Mifflin Township. They also "star" in the upcoming In the Know Video Series, Only Rain Down the Drain, about why keeping storm drains clear of pollutants and debris is important to humans, wildlife and nature.

Natalie Snyder has produced five virtual conservation story time videos so far and has other recorded videos she is editing. Her first Facebook Live story time with Commissioner Darrell Banks airs at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow. Make sure you watch! Jennifer Dean from the Mansfield Richland County Public Library was last week's guest reader and we have more guest readers ahead including Natalie's mom and Emma Sturts, a member of the Lexington High School Girls Basketball team. Natalie has also had planning meetings and started recording the In the Know educational series on a variety of topics. So far, the three-part series on the Stormwater Permit Process has been completed and may be found on the website. We have also shared Part 1 of the series on social media. Continue to watch the website for story times and in the know videos!

Important Dates

February 24: Virtual Conservation Story Time, Whose Poop is That? read by Commissioner Darrell Banks, 10:00 a.m. on [Facebook Live](#).

March 1 to 3: [Virtual Ohio Woodland, Wildlife and Wetland Conference](#)

March 5: [Wildlife Diversity Conference](#)

March 17: Board Supervisor Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

April 9 & 10: Clear Fork Alumni [Tree Seedling Sale](#)

April 14, 21, & 28: Grazing School Webinars

April 16: [Pond Fish Sale Orders Due](#)

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Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson

Fred Cooke, Treasurer

Robert McConkie, Jr., At Large

Lanny Hopkins, Secretary

David Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Longview Center, 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44906. The meetings are open to the public. Call to confirm meeting date, time and attendance. If you plan to attend a board meeting, please contact Erica Thomas, District Administrator, in advance so that enough meeting packets will be prepared.

To be more efficient in answering and managing phone calls, we are using an automated answering system. If you call our main number at 419-747-8686 you will be given the opportunity to connect with a staff member or partnering office. Individual phone numbers and email addresses are provided on the left. If you have any questions, please [let us know](#).

RICHLAND SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 205B, Mansfield, OH 44906
419.747.8686 | www.RichlandSWCD.net

See what's happening on our social sites:



For information on varied volunteer opportunities within our office, including scanning and archiving historical photos and documents, engaging young people in the District, becoming a Precipitation Monitor, Lake Monitor, Stream Quality Monitor, Office Assistant, Photographer, help with Special Events or be an Earth Team volunteer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, please [click here](#). **Congratulations to volunteers for being awarded the 2018 NRCS National and Northeast Regional Earth Team Chief's Field Office awards!**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Programs and assistance of the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, age, national origin,

ancestry, disability or veteran status.