



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News July 2020

Board Supervisor Candidates Being Sought

Richland Soil & Water Conservation District is seeking interested, conservation-minded, local leaders to promote conservation of the county's natural resources through education, planning



and technical assistance which are key to the success of the District. Two supervisors will be elected on November 5, 2020, and begin their term in January 2021. Supervisors are elected to a three-year term as a public official and serve without pay. Supervisors advocate for the District, attend and participate in monthly board meetings, assist with District programs and services and attend area and state meetings.

Anyone who is a resident of Richland County and at least 18 years old is eligible to run for Board Supervisor. Nominations of candidates for the Richland SWCD Board of Supervisors may be made 2 ways:

1. Candidates are nominated by the Richland SWCD Nominating Committee. Nominated candidates must complete and submit form EL-1 by September 8, 2020.
2. A Richland county resident may petition to be a candidate with ten valid signatures on the EL-2 form. Signatures must be from individuals who are eighteen years of age or older that own or occupy land within Richland County. The EL-2 form must be completed and submitted by September 18, 2020.

Nomination forms and more information may be obtained by contacting Erica Thomas, Richland SWCD Administrator, by calling 419-747-8686 or email thomas.eric@richlandswcd.net or Lanny Hopkins, Nominating Committee Chairperson at 419-565-8177 or lannyhopkins@yahoo.com.

Thank you



Thanks to Alvin Horst, Jr and Allen C. Gwartz for each putting 155 acres of farmland into the 2020 Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP), also known as the Farmland Preservation Program. The easement ensures farms remain permanently in agricultural production. Richland Soil and Water Conservation District is the local

sponsor on behalf of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The program

supports the state's largest industry, food and agriculture.

Both gentlemen have agricultural operations in the Black Fork Watershed. Alvin Horst, Jr. is a grain and hog producer northwest of Shelby in Plymouth Township and Allen C. Gwartz's grain operation is east of Shelby in Jackson Township. [Read more.](#)

Local Food Producer List

Now more than ever, people want to know where their food is coming from, how it's grown and how to get it. Richland SWCD, along with our partners, want to develop a Local Food Grower and Producer List for Richland County. If you grow produce, raise meat, have a dairy farm, etc...and sell to the public, please complete a brief questionnaire to be added to the [list](#). Please contact [Theresa](#) with questions.

Best Plants for Pollinator Gardens



The Pollinator Partnership wants to take the guess work out of how to plant a pollinator garden. Click on this [link](#) for a card with planting instructions, including native plants you may want to include.

We'll be collecting common milkweed seed pods again in the fall, so start watching for your favorite picking spot. If that spot isn't on your property, make sure to ask permission before picking.

Handling Water from Nearby Property

Q. Large culvert allows water from field across road to flow onto my property and is washing away my land. What can I do?

A. We are sorry to hear about the troubles you are having with water and how it is affecting your property. After looking at the maps available to us, there appears to be an intermittent or dry channel that comes from the roadway area and is surrounded by trees and vegetation on the eastern side of your property. Here is some [documentation](#) to better help you understand about overland flow and landowner responsibilities. We suggest adding some baseball to softball sized rock in the key bends in this channel to reduce the amount of flow that will keep from eroding your property as much as you are currently experiencing. Go from bank to bank in the channel at the key bends where the erosion is the worst and put the rock in those areas to help slow down and guide the water through your property. You could also use tall native grasses to help stabilize the banks where the erosion is happening and live willow tree cuttings too.



Do you have a question or concern? Please [let us know](#).

What is a Dry Weather Inspection in the MS4 Program?

A dry weather inspection starts at least 72 hours after the last rainfall or snow melt of at least a half inch or more. We go into a water of the state (ditch, creek, river or pond) where outfalls have been identified. We go to those outfalls and see if there is any type of discharge still flowing. If there is, we take a sample, take it back to the office and chemically test the sample. We test for ammonia, e-coli, nitrates, phosphorus, potassium, nitrates, and dissolved oxygen to name a few. These results will help us determine what the contamination may be and where it may be coming from so we can track it and eventually eliminate it. To learn more about the MS4 program, go [here](#).

OSU's Phenology Calendar

The Ohio State University has an [online phenology calendar](#) where you can type in your zip code to find a list of what/when things will be in bloom in your area based on the number of growing degree days that have occurred. The list also includes several pesky insect species and what life stage these insects are in based on the number of growing degree days that have passed. To put this information into practice let's look at the non-native, invasive gypsy moth. Gypsy moth larvae defoliate the infested tree and tend to



prefer oak trees as well as other native trees. If annual defoliation occurs due to pest pressure, they may even kill the tree. Let's say we've got a gypsy moth infestation on an oak tree and we want to treat the infestation chemically. When using chemical treatments, please read and follow all label directions. Treatments are most successful when applied to the foliage during the gypsy moth larvae's early stages¹. Based on the phenology calendar, gypsy moth eggs hatch around growing degree day 192. For reference, this is also around the time when the Eastern Redbud produces its first bloom. So, in theory, when Eastern Redbuds start to bloom, the window of opportunity for optimal chemical treatment of a gypsy moth infestation is either here or fast approaching. For more information on gypsy moth infestations please visit the link below:

¹[ODA Gypsy Moth Program Information](#)

Volunteer Update

Thanks to Ontario High School students, L to R, Greg, Brayden and Jason for volunteering with us.

They are helping Dan Herrold, MS4 Technician, with surveying storm water systems and outfalls in Mifflin, Madison, Springfield and Washington Townships. They are also monitoring streams in the Upper Olentangy Watershed.

Make sure to check the [Water Data Map](#), to see what volunteers are reporting and where **it is** and **isn't** raining. To learn more about volunteering at Richland SWCD, please visit our [volunteer](#) page on the website or contact [Theresa](#).



Rain Barrel Sale

A rain barrel is a container that is used to collect and store rainwater. Water collected in a rain barrel can be used in gardens, landscaping, and lawns.

We are selling Rain Barrels for \$70. To learn more and buy a barrel, please click [here](#).

Mark your calendar for the [Rain Garden and Barrel Workshop](#) on October 20.



Earth Stewardship Celebration



We are in our 24th year of the Earth Stewardship Celebration and encourage individuals and groups to participate in cleaning up, planting and beautifying an area. Richland SWCD volunteers have been working on the front flower bed at the Longview Center. New plants, mulch and plant identification stakes have been added. Thank you to Ella and Barb for continuing to work on the bed! Register your Earth Stewardship project by August 14. For details on how to enter a project go [here](#) or if you have an idea for a project, contact [Theresa](#).

Important Dates

August 8 & 9: Richland SWCD will be at Gorman Nature's Pollinator Weekend from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day - **make sure event is still happening before going.**

August 14: Deadline to register your Earth Stewardship Celebration project

August 20: Board Supervisor Meeting, Longview Center, 5:00 p.m.

November 5: **Save the Date** for the Annual Celebration!

SWCD Staff

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Board Supervisors

Brian Alt, Chairperson

Fred Cooke, Treasurer

Aaron Dearth, At Large

Lanny Hopkins, Secretary

Dave Krichbaum, Vice Chair

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.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
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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.