

# Richland Soil and Water Conservation District News October 2021

## Board Supervisor Election Underway

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of two Board Supervisors of the Richland Soil and Water Conservationist District Commission (Richland SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Board Supervisors are interested, conservation-minded, local leaders who promote conservation of the county's natural resources through education, planning and technical assistance which are key to the success of the District. Supervisors advocate for the District, participate in monthly board meetings, assist with programs and services, and attend area and state meetings.

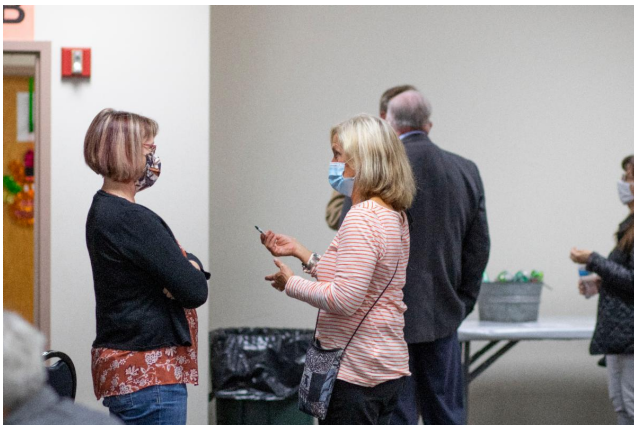
There are two open Board Supervisor seats and the candidates are Lanny Hopkins, Jean McClintock and Mike Temple. The elected Supervisors will begin their three-year term as public officials in January 2022.

In-person and absentee voting begins October 4 and will continue until November 2, 2021. Election ballots may be obtained from the Richland SWCD office Monday through Friday during normal business hours at 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Suite 205B, Mansfield, OH 44906, by calling 419-747-8686, or at [Elections@RichlandSWCD.net](mailto:Elections@RichlandSWCD.net). Absentee ballots must be received by the Richland SWCD office by November 2, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for the supervisor.

Mark your calendar for a special opportunity to vote in-person at the Richland SWCD office October 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a Halloween-themed event. Where a costume and the best costume will win a prize. Snacks and drinks provided.

To learn more about the 2021 Richland SWCD Board Supervisor candidates please visit this [web page](#).





Please join us for the Annual Celebration **Thursday, November 4** from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in person or watch via Facebook Live on the Richland SWCD [Facebook page](#). The Celebration will be held at The Longview Center (same building as our office), 1495 W. Longview Avenue, Mansfield. There is no cost to attend the Celebration.

If you plan to attend the Celebration in-person, please [register by November 1](#) by calling 419-747-8685 or by emailing [Contact@RichlandSWCD.net](mailto:Contact@RichlandSWCD.net).

Watching on Facebook Live does not require registration.

At the Annual Celebration we'll announce the Conservationist of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, announce the Board Supervisor Election results and provide highlights from 2021. There is no cost to attend. For questions concerning the Celebration, please contact [Theresa](#).

## Milkweed Seed Pod Collection



The Richland County-wide Common milkweed seed pod collection continues until **November 5**.

Milkweed seed pods should appear slightly gray and dry. Seeds inside should be brown before harvesting. Please remember, if you want to pick on private property, you need to ask for permission first.

Last year's collection effort in Richland County resulted in 202 milkweed seed packets with planting instructions. If you want free milkweed seeds and

planting instructions, from last year's collection, please contact [Theresa](#).

Fall is a good time to plant milkweed seeds because the cold ground in winter will stratify the seeds. To learn how to make a milkweed seed bomb, watch this [video](#).

Collect the pods in a brown paper bag and drop them off at our office in the green and yellow container. Please don't put them in plastic bags, because they will mold. For more information on how to collect please visit this [website page](#).

After the collection, the seeds will be removed from the pods and we will distribute them for planting. Thank you to Pete Holmes for removing the seeds

from the pods last year. Without his help we would not have had seeds available to distribute this year. Thank you for supporting the Monarch Butterfly and the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative.

## Winter Intern Positions Available



We are seeking candidates for two college internship positions to begin January 2021.

To apply for the positions, send a resume, cover letter, class schedule and transcripts by November 15, 2021, to Richland SWCD, 1495 W. Longview Suite 205B, Mansfield OH 44906 or email

Contact@richlandswcd.net. Please

make sure to indicate which intern position be applied for and include work experience and level of education, including specific coursework you have taken related to the position.

The Agriculture Interns will assist with the Ditch Petition program in Richland County along an 18 mile stretch of the Black Fork River.

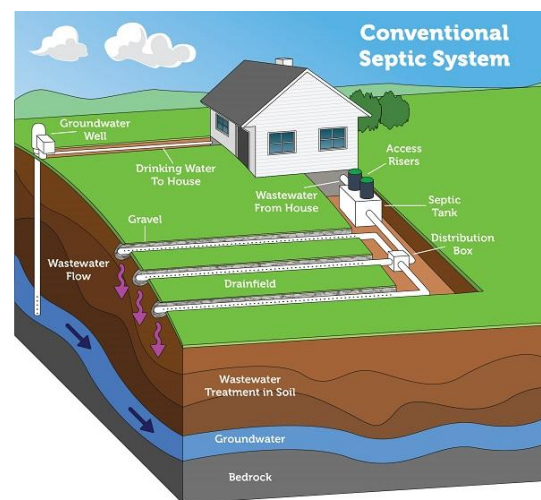
The Communications Intern is being funded due to the generosity of the Fran and Rupp Fund through the Richland County Foundation. The intern will assist with all forms of communication, events and workshops.

Click [here](#) for more information on both intern positions.

## Only Rain Down the Drain: How to Care for Septic Systems

This month's [Only Rain Down the Drain](#) tip is about how to care for septic systems.

1. If you are on a septic system, have it inspected and pumped regularly.
2. If your system is not working properly, they can “overflow” or “leak” effluent into our natural waterways without even seeing it.
3. Effluent can contain e-coli and high levels of nitrates, which can be passed into our drinking water and potentially cause outbreaks and cause algal blooms in local ponds and lakes causing fish kills.
4. Untreated wastewater can also contain fungi that can cause skin eye and respiratory infections.
5. If your septic system is not maintained as it is recommended by the



Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.



manufacturer, you could be causing long term damage to your septic system that may end up costing more to replace than it would have if it were maintained properly.

6. Untreated wastewater is a major health concern and can cause many human diseases.
7. There may be as many as 100 types of different viruses in raw effluent, but they are difficult to identify. (source: gchd.org)

Image courtesy of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

To find out more about Only Rain Down the Drain and the MS4 program, contact [Dan](#) or visit the MS4 page on the [website](#).

## Meet Jordan, New NRCS Staff Member



Please join us in welcoming Jordan Miller to the USDA-NRCS staff as a Soil Conservationist. His main duty is to provide technical assistance to local land owners on protecting natural resources to coincide with their operation and help develop and implement plans with the land owner.

I grew up in Seneca County, Ohio where my brother and I were the sixth generation on the family farm. We raised corn/soybeans and had a beef cattle operation.

I graduated from Old Fort High School and was active in 4-H, FFA, Jr Fairboard and Farm Bureau Youth. I also ran Cross Country and Track and ran in the Ohio Cross Country State Finals my junior and senior year.

I graduated from OSUATI and OSU Main Campus with degrees in Agronomy and Crop Science. I also have an MBA from Tiffin University.

I have a rich and diverse work history including: vegetable/specialty crop research, retail ag, regional agronomist for a seed company, Certified Crop Adviser with 4R NMS certification and even worked as an agricultural loan officer.

I reside with my wife Heather, and two daughters Clara and Tonya in Fredericktown on our farm we purchased from my wife's grandparents. We grow corn and soybeans as well as care for 25 beehives. I am also a member of Resurrection Parish in Lexington, OH.

To reach Jordan call him at 419-747-8691 or email him at [jordan.miller@usda.gov](mailto:jordan.miller@usda.gov)

## Support Richland SWCD Through Richland Gives

What if we all gave on the same day? Richland Gives, an online giving event, will culminate November 30, 2021. Richland Gives is designed to encourage everyone to contribute to local nonprofits they care about through a single giving platform. The Richland County Foundation hosts the event to build capacity, grow philanthropy and make the community stronger.



Please consider financially supporting Richland SWCD anytime throughout the year or via Richland Gives November 15 to November 30. To donate, visit [here](#).

### Intern Did a Little of Everything



I'm Chassidy Flater and I interned during the Summer for Richland Soil and Water Conservation District. I really enjoyed working there as I was able to see and do some fascinating things. While working there my job was essentially to do a little bit of everything, so that meant being out in the field completing inspections, filing paperwork in the office, and compiling spreadsheets. One of the most fun and interesting events I was a part of was most definitely the Richland County Fair. My job was to tend to a booth, make headbands for kids,

and help kids with a scavenger hunt. It was a unique and fulfilling experience getting to see the community come together, as well as seeing the smiles on the kid's faces when they got to pick out a prize. Even though I'm back in high school, I still plan on volunteering every once in a while, to catch up with the amazing staff.

### Last Chance to Sign up for H2Ohio in 2021

This is the last call to sign up for H2Ohio this year. The deadline to apply for Voluntary Nutrient Management Plans is **October 15.**

[H2Ohio](#) is a new, state-wide **water quality program** that offers monetary incentives to farmers/producers for implementing **conservation-focused best management practices (BMPs)**. The aim is to encourage producers within

the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) to adopt practices that will help decrease phosphorus runoff from agricultural land. Lake Erie has been the focus of this project due to the **harmful algal blooms** that have occurred there. In 2020, the H2Ohio program was rolled out to fourteen counties within the WLEB. This year, Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Agriculture is rolling out H2Ohio to the remaining ten counties within the WLEB. **Richland County is one of them!**

Contact [Evan](#) or [Jordan](#) for more information about or to apply to H2Ohio.



**FINAL CHANCE TO SIGN UP IN 2021 FOR:**



**Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan Development**  
**\$10/acre**  
Applications due by **Oct.15th**



**Small Grains**  
**\$35/acre**  
Applications due by **Sept.15th**



**Overwintering Cover Crops**  
**\$25/acre**  
Applications due by **Sept.15th**

**Act Now!**  
This will be the only time payments are available for developing a Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan!

**Contact us at :**  
**419-774-7890/419-747-8688**  
or  
**Visit our booth at the**  
**Belleville Street Fair**  
**September 15th-17th**  
Applications will be taken on a first come first serve basis



**RICHLAND**  
**SOIL & WATER**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
**419-747-8686**  
[www.RICHLANDSWCD.net](http://www.RICHLANDSWCD.net)

## Help Spread the Use of Cover Crops



If you plant cover crops, please let us know so we can get you a cover crop yard sign. The signs aren't very big and we will bring you one. We'll take a photo of you with your cover crop and sign like Carl Ayers of Ayers Farms. Thanks, Carl! If you are interested in a sign, please contact [Theresa](#).

## Applications Being Accepted for Farmland Preservation Program

The Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP), also known as the Farmland Preservation Program, allows for landowners to put their farms into an easement that ensures farms remain permanently in agricultural production. The Farmland Program supports the food and agriculture industries, which are Ohio's largest industries.

We are accepting applications for the next enrollment period until January 31, 2022. For more information on the program, contact [Matt](#) or visit the [Farmland Preservation Office](#).

## Important Dates

**October 15:** Deadline to apply for [H2Ohio](#) Voluntary Nutrient Management Plan

**October 28:** [Trick or Treat and Board Supervisor Voting](#), 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.,

Richland SWCD office

**Until November 2:** [Board Supervisor Election](#)

**November 4:** [Annual Celebration](#)

**Until November 5:** [Milkweed Seed Pod Collection](#)

**November 11:** Office closed in observance of Veterans Day

**November 15:** [Intern](#) applications due

**November 15 to 30:** [Donate](#) to Richland Gives in support of Richland SWCD

**November 25 & 26:** Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving

**January 31, 2022:** Applications due for [Farmland Preservation Program](#)

#### **SWCD Staff**

**Erica Thomas, District Administrator**  
419-747-8684  
[thomas.ERICA@richlandswcd.net](mailto:thomas.ERICA@richlandswcd.net)

**Dan Herrold, MS4/Urban Technician**  
419-747-8077  
[herrold.DAN@richlandswcd.net](mailto:herrold.DAN@richlandswcd.net)

**Jordan Keller, Urban Technician**  
419-747-8688  
[keller.JORDAN@richlandswcd.net](mailto:keller.JORDAN@richlandswcd.net)

**Evan Stern  
H2Ohio Stormwater Technician**  
419-747-8367  
[stern.EVEAN@richlandswcd.net](mailto:stern.EVEAN@richlandswcd.net)

**Theresa Sutter, Community  
Relations Coordinator**  
419-747-8685  
[sutter.THERESA@richlandswcd.net](mailto:sutter.THERESA@richlandswcd.net)

**Matt Wallace, Agriculture Technician**  
419-747-8687  
[wallace.MATT@richlandswcd.net](mailto:wallace.MATT@richlandswcd.net)

#### **NRCS Staff**

**Jason Ruhl, District Conservationist**  
419-747-8691, Ext. 3  
[jason.ruhl@usda.gov](mailto:jason.ruhl@usda.gov)

**Jordan Miller, Soil Conservationist**  
419-747-8691, Ext. 3  
[jordan.miller@usda.gov](mailto:jordan.miller@usda.gov)

**Noah Cable, Farm Bill Biologist**  
419-707-2940  
[ncable@pheasantsforever.org](mailto:ncable@pheasantsforever.org)

#### **Board Supervisors**

Brian Alt, Chairperson  
Fred Cooke, Treasurer  
Robert McConkie, Jr., At Large  
Lanny Hopkins, Secretary  
Vacant, 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](http://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.