

Utica Shale benefits public through MWCD

Oil and gas has been developed and produced in Ohio since 1860. In fact, when the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) was formed in 1933, thousands of acres of land it acquired had already been leased. Thus, MWCD has been managing oil and gas leases for more than 80 years.

The recent development of the Utica shale in Eastern Ohio, and the revenue produced now and in the future will result in significant benefits for the general public and landowners in the MWCD 18-county region.

Since 2011, MWCD has entered into leases for approximately 24,000 acres it owns at Clendening, Leesville, Seneca, and Piedmont reservoirs. These leases have generated signing bonuses of more than \$173 million to date, with significant additional revenue to be generated from royalties paid on production. MWCD has committed to a strategy to invest the funds to maximize public benefit.

The MWCD Board of Directors has directed these funds be used to reduce its debt and to make improvements at MWCD parks, marinas, and recreation facilities and programs.

To date, this has included:

- Reduction of nearly \$5 million in MWCD debt.
- Making \$80 million in needed repairs to existing facilities over the next 10 years.
- Development of a Master Plan to renovate its recreation facilities, resulting in \$160 million of customer-driven improvements over the next 10 years.
- Reduction of the maintenance assessment by 50%, resulting in a \$5.5 million savings to landowners in the watershed.
- Development of a revolving loan fund administered by the Ohio Water Development Authority to assist local communities with water quality enhancement projects in the Watershed.



A tranquil boat ride on picturesque Charles Mill Lake (photo by Jim Bell)

Truck traffic reduced from MWCD water supply policy

As the oil and gas industry for the Utica Shale development grows in Eastern Ohio, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) lakes have been recognized as a source of water by the industry.

And the MWCD is ensuring that the impacts of the water removal process are not adding water truck traffic to the area's township and county roads.

Through its short-term water supply policy, the MWCD requires every company that negotiates an agreement with the MWCD to obtain water from its lakes to use a temporary pipeline system to obtain the water. Trucks are not permitted to be used in the water removal process.

The result: through mid-July, the MWCD policy had led to the direct removal of over 78,000 one-way tanker truck trips across the roads that surround the lakes.

Over the last couple of years, the MWCD has agreed to the sale of 262 million gallons of water from three lakes (Clendening, Piedmont and Seneca lakes). The MWCD lakes have an estimated 68 billion gallons of water in them during the summer season, so through its conservation management practices, the MWCD can properly regulate the removal of water according to its policy.

The oil and gas industry requires water for the process to produce minerals from the Utica Shale layer, and the MWCD lakes provide an appropriate resource for a portion of the needs in the immediate production areas around the lakes, according to terms of the short-term water supply policy.

The MWCD also restricts water availability to certain times of the year and maintains the ability to reduce or halt water removal as a part of any agreement.

MUSKINGUM
WATERSHED
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Lake Views

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Mission Statement

Responsible stewards dedicated to providing the benefits of flood reduction, conservation and recreation in the Muskingum River Watershed.

**From the desk of the Executive Director
What if we don't?**

Several years ago, I was contacted by a long-time Atwood Lake resident. He was very concerned about the possibility of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) entering into a lease for the development of oil and gas. This was at about the time when news of horizontal drilling and hydrologic fracturing began to make headlines here in Eastern Ohio.

I informed him that, yes, MWCD was studying the possibility and that we had already been contacted by several representatives of oil and gas companies interested in leasing MWCD land. We had also assembled a team of experts to advise and guide us in making any decisions to lease MWCD land for shale oil development.

He seemed very upset, concerned, and even perplexed. He asked, "Why would a 'conservancy' even consider doing that?" His question took me a bit by surprise. Oil and gas production on MWCD land has occurred since the District was formed more than 80 years ago. As a resident of Atwood Lake, he must have surely known that. But so often we must remind ourselves that what is commonplace and routine for us here at MWCD, may not be as well-known and understood by the public we serve.

In addition to our forestry and agricultural operations, MWCD has developed its oil and gas resources. It is part of our natural resources mission. Income from these sources help offset the cost of providing public access to our lands and fund a wide variety of recreation facilities and conservation initiatives. It is responsible stewardship.

So, I asked the caller, "Would you be surprised to know that MWCD has been involved in oil and gas production since MWCD was formed in 1933?"

He answered, "I sure would!"

I informed him it was true, and then asked, "Would you be surprised to know that there are 42 existing wells at Atwood Lake on MWCD land?"

He responded, "I certainly would be surprised!"

And I said, "That's the idea!"

The MWCD oil and gas lease is a carefully crafted agreement, with multiple safeguards to protect the environment and our lakes. It has been studied, praised and copied by a number of other government and public organizations. The placement of well pads is controlled by MWCD and each is carefully shielded from public view. So, I was pleased to know that the caller was unaware of any oil and gas wells at Atwood Lake.

He and I continued our discussion of the pros and cons of oil and gas drilling and the impact of the more recent shale oil development in our watershed. I explained that landowners all around MWCD lakes will be executing leases and that production of oil and gas on adjacent lands will be a reality. When that occurs, if MWCD has not negotiated its own lease, it could be faced with the possibility of being forced into pooling its land with nearby landowners under Ohio's unitization laws, without the environmental safeguards mentioned above.

With that said, the more important question we should ask is, "What if we don't negotiate and execute a lease for oil and gas production which contains the important environmental safeguards protecting MWCD lands and water?" (A copy of the most recent oil and gas lease is available for review on our website at www.mwcd.org)

*John M. Hoopingarner
MWCD Executive Director*

MWCD shows patriotic support

Pictured at right, John Hoopingarner (*left*) signed a "Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve" on September 24, 2014, in the presence of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve representatives Tom Luczynski (*center*) and Jack Griffen (*right*). The Statement recognizes that the Guard and Reserve are essential to the strength of our nation.



MWCD Board cuts assessments in half

Property owners will see their assessments paid to the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) cut in half beginning next year.

Members of the MWCD Board of Directors have approved a plan to provide for a 50-percent reduction in all assessment payments from property owners beginning in 2015 by using funds generated from the conservancy district's recent oil and gas leases of its property in the Utica Shale development to cover project costs normally paid for by the assessment funds. MWCD officials also have pledged that they will continue to review periodic financial reports to determine if the reductions will be warranted or if further reductions could be enacted due to revenues produced from the oil and gas leases.

"The oil and gas management on the district's properties have permitted the MWCD to invest in our public-use facilities and recreational areas, and now it is possible to extend those benefits to the property owners in our watershed by enacting this 50-percent reduction in the assessment collection," said John M. Hoopingarner, MWCD executive director/secretary. "It has been and will continue to be our goal to maximize the public benefits that have been created by the responsible stewardship of the MWCD's natural resources."

The assessment reduction will result in an estimated \$5.5-million overall cut in the amount of assessments collected in 2015 by the MWCD. The conservancy district will use oil and gas funds to fill that gap and ensure that all of the projects to maintain the system of reservoirs and dams constructed in the 1930s continue as planned. The MWCD collected about \$11 million annually in assessments from property owners in the Muskingum River Watershed.

Hoopingarner said the MWCD has committed about \$350 million over the next two decades for its obligations related to upgrades and maintenance for the system of reservoirs and dams in the Muskingum River Watershed and for updates to its recreational facilities. With that in mind, routine financial reviews will be very important and any major cuts in oil and gas revenues could result in corresponding assessment adjustments, he said.

The MWCD has collected more than \$173 million worth in signing bonus funds from four leases it has signed in the Utica Shale development for its properties at Clendening, Leesville, Piedmont and Seneca reservoirs.

The MWCD has managed oil and gas leases on its properties for its entire 80-year history as a part of its overall natural resources stewardship program. Oil and gas leases developed by the conservancy district have served as a model for other owners of public property considering strategies for management of leases that provide for revenues to enhance public benefit and services while ensuring the highest level of environmental protections.

Assessments are collected through landowners' county property tax statements, and the funds legally must be used to pay for projects and programs that protect the operation of the system of 16 dams and reservoirs that were constructed nearly 80 years ago for flood reduction and water conservation benefits in the Muskingum River Watershed. Nearly 95 percent of all property owners subject to the assessment have paid the minimum annual amount of \$12 per year.

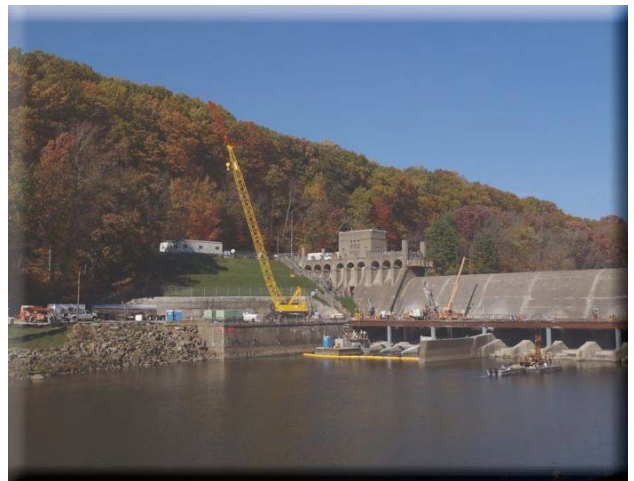
The MWCD serves as the federally required local cost-share sponsor for the work that has been identified at several of the system's dams owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Projects are under way at both Dover and Bolivar dams in northern Tuscarawas County, others are planned and the entire project plan at the dams is projected to cost more than \$600 million and the MWCD share is estimated to be up to \$137 million.

In addition, the MWCD has spent assessment funds on shoreline stabilization projects at the MWCD lakes, planning for dredging of the lakes that will begin later this year, grant funding for area communities for projects that encourage flood reduction and water quality improvements and other programs. Assessment revenues by law cannot be used to pay for projects that enhance or improve the MWCD's recreational programs and facilities, and all expenditures must be covered by guidelines stipulated in the Amendment to the Official Plan of the MWCD that was approved in 2005 by the Conservancy Court and the Board of Directors.

The MWCD collects assessments from owners of property in all or portions of the following counties: Ashland, Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Knox, Licking, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Richland, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas, Washington and Wayne.



(Top photo) Completed shoreline work at Charles Mill;
(Below) Dover Dam view of platform during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rehabilitation project.



Future of MWCD facilities very bright

A \$160-million master plan addressing major upgrades and deferred maintenance needs at several of its recreational facilities and two marinas, has been completed for the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD).

The MWCD worked with the internationally recognized planning firm of Woolpert Inc. of Dayton, OH, to develop the plan, which has received the approval of the MWCD Board of Directors. A copy of the plan and additional materials and information is available on the MWCD website at www.mwcd.org/planning.

“As many of our guests and customers are fully aware, the past two years have been spent reviewing and planning for what the future of the MWCD’s parks, campgrounds and two of its marinas can be,” said Scott Barnhart, MWCD’s chief of recreation. “We have been encouraged by the level of participation and interest that our guests have shown us during this process, and many of the recommendations and suggestions contained in the master plan were developed from their thoughts and ideas.”

Several steps have been taken to move the process of redevelopment along, a process that may take several years before it is completed in its entirety. “A project manager and parks planner have been contracted to help facilitate and implement the master plan from both a recreation and engineering perspective.” said Scott Barnhart, MWCD’s Chief of Recreation.

Much of 2014 has been spent verifying project priorities, performing vital utility surveys to determine current and future utility needs of the parks and marinas, and creating building standards. By developing building standards, for example, the time it takes to develop each individual location will be minimized. These standards will address everything from campsite design, layout of shower buildings, and the look and function of activity centers and welcome centers, while also keeping in mind our customer’s needs, the disruption it will cause, and who will be affected by the construction of the master plan projects.

“There will be multiple projects under construction during 2015 for master plan improvements,” said Mike Rekstis, Assistant Chief Engineer responsible for Master Plan implementation. “These will be limited to projects that either require little design and permitting, or have been under design during 2014. Construction will ramp up at all parks in the following years. The initial push of master plan implementation work will be the design of improvements. During 2015, the existing master plan “renderings” for each of the five parks will be developed further to a full build out conceptual level. This will allow the engineers to determine the infrastructure needs of each park and to layout the locations for underground utilities, roadways and trails. With this information, construction sequencing will be developed so that construction impacts to the public can be minimized.”

“As the work begins, these will be the most comprehensive upgrades at our facilities since their original development and construction a half century ago,” Barnhart said. “Our guests have been patient and understanding through the past several years, and most recently during the planning phase, as we prepared for upgrades, and we want to thank them for their understanding, patience and input during this process. As these upgrades, enhancements and improvements are developed and completed, we expect to see a transformation of our recreational facilities that will serve our guests for generations to come,” Barnhart said. “The master planning process has energized our guests, customers and staff, and we look forward to the future of our facilities as the plans unfold over the next few years.”

Presentations will be scheduled throughout the 2015 season at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Piedmont, Seneca and Tappan. The Master Plan will also be updated on the MWCD website as the projects slated for 2015 are approved by the Board of Directors.



More than \$1.6 million in renovations were made to Piedmont Marina this year, including a new boat launch ramp funded by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Waterways Safety Fund.

MWCD parks now offer online reservations

It’s now easier than ever before to plan an overnight stay at several Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lakes, the MWCD offers online reservations for the campgrounds and cabins located at Atwood Lake Park, Charles Mill Lake Park, Piedmont Marina and Campground, Pleasant Hill Lake Park, Seneca Lake Park and Tappan Lake Park.

Online reservations are available on the MWCD’s website at www.mwcd.org and clicking on the reservation link on the right side of the page.

Water quality testing of MWCD lakes now in 4th decade

Water quality testing at the 10 lakes in the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) system has been conducted since the 1970s, and has expanded in recent years.

The MWCD, which has managed a total of 14 reservoirs in Eastern Ohio for flood reduction and conservation in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for nearly 80 years, has cooperated with the USACE for sampling its lakes since 1973. In recent years the MWCD has participated in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) water quality data collection program for advisory data at three of its swimming beaches and supports the Ohio Lake Management Society's (OLMS) citizen monitoring program at nine of its lakes.

"As the interest in surface water quality has increased in recent years, the MWCD determined that in addition to the data that has been available through the USACE program for many years, there also were other opportunities available to enhance the knowledge of the MWCD staff and the general public," said Mark Swiger, MWCD conservation administrator with more than 35 years of service. "The first question the MWCD receives when the subject of water quality comes up is, 'Are the lakes clean?' And I am pleased to say that yes, overall the lakes are clean."

MWCD staff members work with the water management staff of the Huntington (WV) District of the USACE to sample the MWCD reservoirs, their primary inflowing streams and outflow. Equipment, supplies and training are provided by the USACE, while the MWCD offers field personnel and local oversight for the program.

Temperature, dissolved oxygen, hydrogen ion concentration (pH), specific conductivity, oxygen reduction potential, turbidity and alkalinity are sampled. Water transparency is measured in inches through the program and samples of aquatic insects from the inflowing streams also are collected.

Water samples are analyzed in a contract lab for metals, nutrients and some inorganics. The data is available through files and spreadsheets through the USACE.

"The MWCD and the USACE have been partners for nearly the entire history of the conservancy district, so this data collection collaboration is a natural extension of that relationship," Swiger said.

In the last four years, the MWCD also has worked with USGS to test an inland "Nowcast" program to quickly estimate bacteria levels and provide advisories for swimming beach locations at lake parks managed by the MWCD at Atwood, Seneca and Tappan lakes. The MWCD funds an intern position during the summer season to collect and process bacteria samples while USGS provides training, equipment and data analysis. The program is similar to one that has been in place for many years along locations at Lake Erie.

Swiger said the MWCD eventually hopes to expand the program to other lakes and to post data on its website.

Through funding assistance from the MWCD, the Citizen Lake Awareness and Monitoring (CLAM) program operated by OLMS allows citizens to take an active role in learning about aquatic ecology, lake and stream water quality and watershed management in the MWCD region.

Participants collect information to determine turbidity, surface water temperature and water color at nine MWCD lakes, and more recently training has been provided for collection of total nutrients, chlorophyll, and monitoring for harmful algae blooms. OLMS facilitates all aspects of the program and posts information and data on its website at www.eyesonthewater.org.

"Citizens, when properly trained, collect reliable data to complement what is professionally collected," Swiger said. "Citizens can be valuable partners and we have found the CLAMS participants to be both interested and dedicated to the program."



Fun in the Sun!

Beaches at MWCD lakes were busy this summer!

MWCD to monitor water data through gaging system

A multi-faceted water monitoring network is being developed for six of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) lakes to provide valuable data for the MWCD to properly manage its water resources in upcoming years amid the growth of the oil and gas industry in Eastern Ohio.

The monitoring network, being developed and installed beginning this year through the expertise of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will increase and improve stream and lake level gages at and near the MWCD's Atwood, Clendening, Leesville, Piedmont, Seneca and Tappan lakes. In addition, a water quality monitoring process is being developed to target the detection of wastewater from the oil and gas production process, and weather stations will be installed at each MWCD lake park.

The need to bolster the stream and lake level gaging is in response to the increasing demand for water supply by the oil and gas industry, and to make proper conservation management decisions as a further step in protecting the MWCD's water resources, according to Boris E. Slogar, MWCD chief engineer, and Theodore R. Lozier, MWCD chief of conservation.

Flow data of the water in and out of the six lakes will result in helpful details allowing for greater clarity in future decision making for reservoir water withdrawals as well as a developing a better understanding of the hydrologic characteristics for each of the reservoir's watersheds. Water quality monitoring at key locations will provide real-time data and enhance the MWCD's ability to better respond to potential problems within the major tributaries leading into the MWCD reservoirs.

The MWCD, which has sold nearly 234 million gallons of water to the industry as of mid-July, will use the proceeds from water sales to pay for the installation and ongoing maintenance and operation costs of the monitoring network.

The MWCD Board of Directors earlier this year approved spending \$758,200 for installation of the system and an annual maintenance and operation cost of \$334,000.

Tappan site of first location for MWCD dredging program

The flood-storage benefits produced by the lakes of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) will be protected when a dredging program to remove large amounts of sediment from the lake bottoms begins later this year at Tappan Lake in Harrison County.

“We’re at the starting point now of a dredging program in our lakes that will be active for many years to maintain the lakes for proper flood-storage capacity to protect people and property,” said Boris Slogar, MWCD chief engineer. “Dredging of the MWCD lakes is fundamental to the MWCD mission of flood reduction and follows the Amendment of the Official Plan of the MWCD that was adopted in 2005 and very clearly calls for dredging as a key component to the maintenance of the lakes. This multi-year, multi-million dollar effort will protect and extend the useful life of the reservoirs for many years to come.”

The MWCD’s 10 permanent lakes were constructed between 1936 and 1939 as part of a coordinated system of reservoirs and dams designed to reduce the effects of flooding in the Muskingum River Watershed and to conserve water for beneficial public uses. An estimated \$11.1 billion worth of potential property damage has been spared from flooding due to the operation of the reservoirs and dams.

“The MWCD has not dredged anything on a scale like this for its entire 80-year history,” said Mark Buchenic of the engineering firm URS, which has been working with the MWCD over the past year to develop a dredging plan for the conservancy district. “Overall, the flood-storage capacity of the lakes has been reduced by about 25 percent over the years, and that could reach to nearly 40 percent if nothing is done in the next 10 years.”

The MWCD and URS reviewed eight conservancy district lakes to identify a priority order for dredging based on a wide range of factors, and have developed the following list in order of priority:

- Tappan Lake
- Seneca Lake in Guernsey and Noble counties
- Pleasant Hill Lake in Ashland and Richland counties
- Charles Mill Lake in Ashland and Richland counties
- Atwood Lake in Carroll and Tuscarawas counties
- Piedmont Lake in Belmont, Guernsey and Harrison counties
- Leesville Lake in Carroll County
- Clendening Lake in Harrison County



A schedule of projected starting dates for dredging at the other lakes has not been completed yet, but multiple projects should be under way simultaneously over the next several years, Slogar said. Schedule and activity announcements will be made as they are developed, he added.

URS is assisting MWCD staff members with obtaining proper permits to conduct the dredging, making determinations about contracting for the work or handling it with conservancy district staff and incorporating strategies to reuse the sediment material that is removed from the lakes.

The MWCD also is working on a long-term communications strategy to ensure that the general public and lake visitors and users are informed about plans, schedules and related details about dredging at the individual lakes. Public meetings to describe plans and receive feedback will be scheduled also.

Slogar said that it is estimated that about 200,000 cubic yards of material will be removed per year when the work begins, and that it costs an estimated \$10 per cubic yard for removal. Funds for the dredging come from the assessment collected from property owners in the MWCD region who receive benefits from the operation of the system of reservoirs and dams.

In general, Slogar said most of the work for sediment removal will occur in the upstream and shoreline areas of the lakes, where most of the material is deposited.

“The lifespan of any manmade lake such as MWCD lakes is based on the rate of sedimentation as part of the operation of the flood-reduction system,” Slogar said. “We have been fortunate that the MWCD lakes have performed as well as they have over the past 80 years and we want to ensure that they will provide the proper storage capacity for many years to come. We look forward to providing updates about this work to the general public and property owners in the watershed in the years to come.”



Recreational opportunities are numerous at MWCD! Photos above (l-r) A lively game of beach volleyball; a serene afternoon of fishing on a quiet lake; and camping. The possibilities are endless!

MWCD parks have individual websites up and running

Connecting with your favorite MWCD lake park, or Piedmont Marina or Seneca Marina, has never been easier to find than now.

The five MWCD lake parks, as well as Piedmont Marin and Seneca Marina, have launched their own individual websites with plenty of features designed to provide updates and more to visitors, guests, campers, cabin guests and everyone who is interested in the park and marina and its events and amenities.

The websites are available at:

Atwood Lake Park – www.atwoodparkohio.org

Charles Mill Lake Park – www.charlesmillparkohio.org

Pleasant Hill Lake Park – www.pleasanthillparkohio.org

Seneca Lake Park – www.senecaparkohio.org

Tappan Lake Park – www.tappanparkohio.org

Piedmont Marina – www.piedmontmarinaohio.org

Seneca Marina – www.senecamarinaohio.org

Messerly Recreation Center opens at Charles Mill

The Messerly Recreation Center is a new facility located at Charles Mill Lake Park and was dedicated on May 17, 2014. A dream became a reality thanks to the generous support of Donna Messerly, the person who makes Charles Mill Lake Park a fun place for families. Messerly, a long-time instructor at Ashland University, has been the activities leader at Charles Mill Lake Park for many years. In this capacity, she develops the schedule of special events, as well as the daily and weekly activities that energize the campgrounds at Charles Mill Lake Park. She also has often spoken to visitors and park leaders about the need for an activities center that host a whole range of events. This led to her generous support for the Messerly Recreation Center. But her work at Charles Mill Lake Park is only a part of the tremendous work that Donna has provided for the community. Messerly began her professional career in 1970 as a physical education instructor at Ashland College and according to campus officials, soon became well known throughout the area for her passion to see recreation available for students of all ages and abilities. She has been honored by her peers for her many contributions throughout her career by several professional organizations. She also was recognized in 2008 as the Outstanding Female Faculty Member at Ashland University. Charles Mill Lake Park and the entire lake community are fortunate to have someone with Donna's talents and giving spirit, and the Messerly Recreation Center is a testament to her dedication and talents.



Donna Messerly



The Messerly Recreation Center located at Charles Mill Lake Park

Details being developed for revolving loan fund

A revolving loan fund to provide resources to assist communities in the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) region with projects to protect and promote water quality and flood reduction will soon be a reality.

The MWCD is working with the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) to fund a program that will be managed by the OWDA and will provide access for local government agencies (such as townships, villages, cities, counties and others) who are seeking sources of funding for these water-related projects.

The MWCD will provide the funding for the OWDA to use for the fund from the MWCD's oil and gas revenues that have grown in recent years from its oil and gas leases in the Utica Shale development in Eastern Ohio.

"As we look at our communities in the MWCD region, many of them have identified very impressive strategies to correct and protect water quality or to reduce flooding in their areas," said John M. Hoopingamer, MWCD executive director/secretary. "But they are facing funding needs in a very competitive environment. It is our hope to enhance the opportunities to provide funding through a loan fund program that continues to build as the low-interest loans are repaid over time."

Some of the eligible type of projects envisioned through the program include water and wastewater treatment facilities and programs, flood reduction and retention facilities and strategies, and surface water quality enhancement programs, Hoopingamer said.

The OWDA was established in the 1960s "to provide financial assistance for environmental infrastructure from the sale of municipal revenue bonds through loans to local governments in Ohio and from issuance of industrial revenue bonds for qualified projects in Ohio."

The MWCD will rely on the expert engineers and professionals at the OWDA to manage requests, make decisions about funding, and then to manage the loan funds. MWCD and OWDA officials are working on the program details and will have announcements about it in the upcoming months, Hoopingamer said.

"The program will be another benefit to the public in the Muskingum River Watershed by being a part of projects that protect water, ensure wastewater treatment and reduce or event prevent flooding in specific locations."



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Maupin appointed to MWCD Board of Directors

Judges of the Conservancy Court of the Muskingum Watershed District (MWCD) have selected the recently retired executive director of The Wilderness Center to take over a seat on the MWCD Board of Directors.

Gordon T. Maupin of Orrville in Wayne County was appointed to a five-year term on the MWCD Board of Directors during the Court's annual session this year. Maupin replaces William P. Boyle Jr. of the Charles Mill Lake area, who has retired from the Board of Directors.

Maupin retired after 32 years of leading The Wilderness Center, which is a non-profit nature center, land conservancy and "ecopreneurial" organization and is located near Wilmot in Stark County. He also is a former member from 1996-2002 of the MWCD's Development Advisory Committee (DAC), which is an 18-member volunteer committee that provides feedback, advice and guidance to the MWCD.

Maupin is a graduate of Missouri State University with bachelor's and master's degrees in biology. He also previously served as the naturalist program coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation, was an information specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, a graduate assistant in forestry for the University of Missouri-Columbia, and an interpretative aide for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Maupin has served on the Association of NatureCenter Administrators Board of Trustees, including as its president from 2001-03, and as part of the Land Trust Alliance, American Association of Museums, Coalition of Ohio Land Trusts, The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation and national and local chapters of the Audubon Society. He also has written numerous articles on outdoor recreation and natural history topics.

Other members of the MWCD Board of Directors are Richard J. Pryce of North Canton in Stark County, current Board president; Harry C. Horstman of Scio in Harrison County, current Board vice president; Joanne Limbach of New Philadelphia; and David Parham of the Atwood Lake region in Carroll County.



Gordon T. Maupin
