

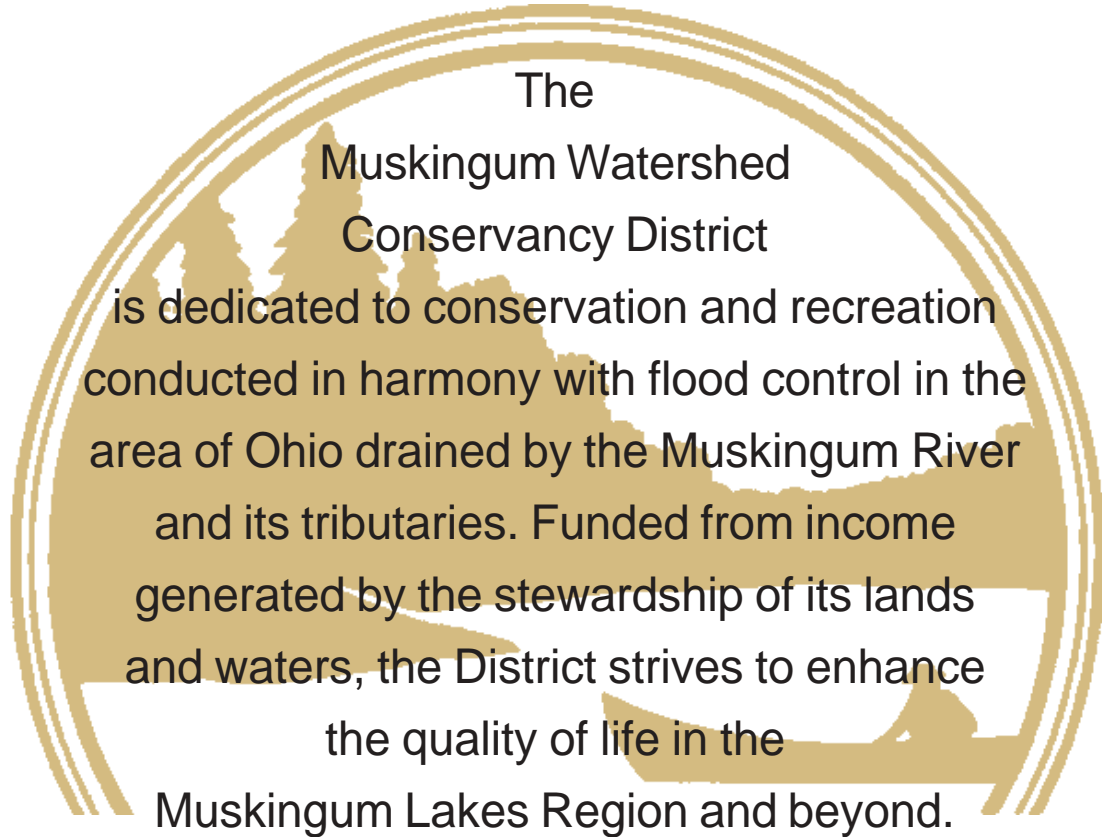
Annual Report of Operations *2003*



*Commitment
to the Future*



Mission Statement



The
Muskingum Watershed
Conservancy District
is dedicated to conservation and recreation
conducted in harmony with flood control in the
area of Ohio drained by the Muskingum River
and its tributaries. Funded from income
generated by the stewardship of its lands
and waters, the District strives to enhance
the quality of life in the
Muskingum Lakes Region and beyond.



Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
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Phone (330) 343-6647 or toll free (877) 363-8500
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Visit our web site at www.mwcdlakes.com
Email us at info@mwcdlakes.com

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation
A charitable foundation supporting the mission of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
Visit our web site at www.muskingumfoundation.org
Email us at info@muskingumfoundation.org

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In Memory



*Regis A. Wissler, Jr.
1949-2003*

The 2003 edition of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Annual Report of Operations is dedicated to the memory of Regis "Rick" Wissler, a longtime seasonal camper at Seneca Lake Park and a member of the MWCD's Development Advisory Committee.

Wissler, 53, a resident of the Greater Pittsburgh area and a retired firefighter, died in 2003. In his memory, Wissler's family has created the Regis Wissler Endowment Fund to help fund projects to benefit Seneca Lake Park.

During 2003 alone, the fund resulted in the purchase of new benches that were placed around the hiking trails in the park, and other trail improvements were made as well. The fund is a component fund of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation Inc.

For information about the fund, contact the Seneca Lake Park office at (740) 685-6013 or the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation toll-free at (877) 363-8500.

On the cover...

Seneca Lake serves as the backdrop in the photo on the cover of this edition of the MWCD's Annual Report of Operations. The other photos include the grand reopening ceremony for a renovated Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center (top), boats sailing as part of the Atwood Cup Regatta (middle) and improvements made at one of the structures in the Chippewa Subdistrict (bottom).

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History

For seventy years, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) lakes have become well known for providing pockets of nature, protected within a fast-paced world. Visitors enjoy affordable, recreational activities such as camping, boating, fishing, swimming, wildlife studies and other nature-oriented activities on 16,000 acres of water and 38,000 acres of land. But that's only part of the story.

In the 1800's early settlers came to the Muskingum River Valley for the abundance of natural resources, dense forests and excellent crop soil. As trees were cleared away, the lands natural protection was destroyed creating soil erosion and uncontrolled water runoff. These factors contributed to a number of major floods during the 1800s, causing widespread property damage and loss of lives.

The single greatest flood disaster came in 1913 and claimed 500 lives and caused more than \$300 million in property damage in Ohio. As a result, flood control became a necessity.

MWCD was created in 1933 under the Ohio Law as a separate political subdivision. The district encompasses 20 percent of the state or 18 counties: Ashland, Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Knox, Licking, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Richland, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas, Washington and Wayne.

By its original plan, MWCD was responsible for raising funds and planning, building and administering flood control and conservation projects. The federal government announced availability of funds to build the necessary reservoirs and MWCD joined forces with federal and state governments to accomplish the work. By 1938, the construction of 13 earthen dams and one concrete dam was complete.



The downtown area of Zanesville near the city's noted Y Bridge was inaccessible in many locations following flooding in 1935.

In 1939, the Federal Flood Control Act transferred flood control operations to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. MWCD remains responsible for conservation and recreation on its lands and lakes.

Each of the 14 MWCD reservoirs connects with the Muskingum River, which was the foundation for the name Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. The ten permanent reservoirs are Atwood, Beach City, Charles Mill, Clendening, Leesville, Piedmont, Pleasant Hill, Seneca, Tappan and Wills

Creek. Bolivar, Dover, Mohawk, and Mohicanville dams impound water only in times of high water.

MWCD's headquarters is located in New Philadelphia, Ohio and is guided by a Board of Directors. The members of the board are appointed by the Conservancy Court, which is made up of common pleas court judges from each of the 18 counties.

Over the years, the success of the MWCD has been the subject of study throughout the U.S. and in some foreign countries. At the core of this success are four basic policies adopted by the first Board of Directors:

1. The MWCD would pay real estate taxes to the various counties on land not dedicated to public use. For the first 29 years, taxes were paid on all Conservancy District lands. Since then, taxes have been paid on lands not used strictly for public purposes. In all, the total has been well over \$2.5 million.
2. The MWCD would operate on a minimum of tax income. The MWCD is a government agency that receives no direct tax revenue for operations.
3. The MWCD would make its lands and waters available to the public for fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking and other outdoor activities.
4. The MWCD would not do the same work as any other state or federal government agency. It's a successful policy that encourages MWCD to combine the resources and efforts of some 13 state and federal agencies into MWCD programs and plans.



By 1938, the 14 dams in the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District system had been constructed. Here workers are busy with tasks related to the construction of Clendening Dam.



Neighborhood residents in the city of Zanesville receive assistance from the Civilian Conservation Corps in making and placing sandbags for protection from anticipated flooding in 1935.

The value of the Conservancy District's capital investments during the first six decades approached \$25 million, and the annual recreation benefits exceeded \$65 million. All this has been firmly established on a self-sustaining basis — paid through visitors' fees, commercial and residential leases, contracts for services provided to other public agencies, self-liquidating bonds and occasional federal and state grants.

The MWCD's system of dams and reservoirs, operated in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has tamed the watershed and built beautiful lakes that receive millions of visitors each year. MWCD has developed marinas, campgrounds, boat launch ramps, picnic areas, and leased residential sites, which provide visitors with a variety of ways to enjoy the outdoors.

MWCD Reservoir Completion Dates

Atwood completed in 1937 on Indian Fork Creek
Beach City completed in 1937 on Sugar Creek
Charles Mill completed in 1935 on Black Fork of Mohican River
Clendening completed in 1937 on Brushy Fork Creek
Leesville completed in 1937 on McGuire Fork Creek
Piedmont completed in 1937 on Stillwater Creek
Pleasant Hill completed in 1938 on Clear Fork of the Mohican River
Seneca completed in 1937 on Seneca Fork of Wills Creek
Tappan completed in 1936 on Little Stillwater Creek
Wills Creek completed in 1937 on Wills Creek
Bolivar completed in 1937 on Sandy Creek
Mohawk completed in 1937 on Walhonding River
Dover completed in 1937 on the Tuscarawas River
Mohicanville completed in 1936 on Lake Fork

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Introduction

History buffs someday may review the events of 2003 at the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and point to it as a key year the political subdivision made some significant strides to secure the future of the flood protection system of reservoirs. In the year it celebrated its 70th anniversary, the MWCD completed and worked on numerous items that demonstrate its “Commitment to the Future.”

Working toward a plan to secure its financial stability, further development of a plan to prioritize and address the needs of the flood protection reservoir holdings and improvements made at one of the state’s premier resorts and meeting centers were just some of the many projects handled by the Board of Directors and staff of the MWCD in 2003.

Arguably foremost among these initiatives was the initial step the MWCD took during 2003 to study the feasibility of levying an assessment for establishment of a consistent and reliable source of funding for maintenance and related projects at its 14 reservoirs. Indeed, it is not every day, or every year for that matter, that the MWCD’s Conservancy Court has been asked to consider a petition from the Board of Directors to conduct a readjustment of the appraisal of benefits received by property owners in the MWCD’s 18-county region.

The last time such an appraisal of benefits was conducted – 1936. After the Conservancy Court unanimously voted that a material change in the values of properties in the region had occurred since the 1936 appraisal of benefits, the MWCD began development of a plan to address the next steps. By the end of 2003, MWCD staff started several projects related to the maintenance assessment proposal, figuring that completion of the projects would take a couple of years at the very least.

Ohio’s largest of 21 active conservancy districts, the MWCD is the only one that does not levy and collect an assessment for maintenance of its facilities. Traditionally, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District has been able to operate primarily from revenue generated by the management of its resources. However, while these routine sources of revenue have been adequate to address the day-to-day needs of the MWCD, they cannot keep pace with the mounting issues related to the age and overall condition of the reservoirs. And because so much of the MWCD’s annual revenue stream is tied to its performance related to the recreation season in the late spring, summer and early fall months, dependable incoming funds cannot be gauged in a reliable fashion.

A strong reminder of this came in 2003 as the Conservancy District, plagued by poor weather throughout the summer, saw its income plunge considerably. Despite a strong effort by staff to control expenses below their projected levels, the MWCD still completed the year with a deficit of more than \$820,000. Besides the normal strain this put on MWCD operations and projects for future years, the shortfall also cut the MWCD’s fund balance to less than \$1 million. As a goal, the MWCD strives to maintain a fund balance of about \$3 million for emergency and self-insurance purposes.

But the residents of the watershed served by the MWCD also have shown that they care about the future needs and work of the Conservancy District. The results of a survey conducted by an Ohio State University research team in the MWCD region were compiled and the responses revealed that many are looking to the Conservancy District for leadership and services in the areas of water quality, alternative sources of water supply and outdoor recreation and greenspace. The survey, conducted by noted OSU environmental researcher Dr. Ted Napier, also found that the community would like to be involved

in planning efforts for the future of the MWCD reservoirs and also would be willing to contribute financially toward their maintenance needs.

The MWCD has pledged to use the information obtained in the survey as a very important source of information in guiding planning and development efforts.

Outdoors, the summer of 2003 probably can be summed up by one word: rain. If it was not raining on virtually every summer weekend and many weekdays, the forecasts in the area were calling for it to arrive soon, it seemed. The recreation season was interrupted on numerous occasions by weather issues for visitors to the MWCD lakes who boat, camp, fish, hike, bike and enjoy the reservoirs in numerous other ways. Inclement weather led to high water and the closings of launch ramps at Atwood, Leesville and Pleasant Hill lakes. Then in the late fall, a strong thunderstorm roared through the Atwood Lake region, toppling trees and damaging several cottages at Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center and at privately owned residences in one of the cottage areas at the lake.

While frustration did set in among the Conservancy District staff, administration and Board members related to the budget and weather conditions, some positive events did occur to provide a sense of accomplishment and service to the residents of the region. One of those steps toward the future occurred when Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center unveiled its renovated public areas and guestrooms following a \$3.1 million renovation.

Originally constructed in 1965, the resort had undergone only numerous cosmetic improvements over the years. The project begun in January actually included the shutdown of the 104-room lodge and conference and meeting center for a period of 11 weeks while workers refurbished everything from wallpapers and carpets to installation of an elevator between the two levels of the resort.

The MWCD considers itself fortunate and is very grateful for the grant funding it received to help pay for the improvements, all the while pledging that the remaining cost of the work must be covered by revenue generated by the operation of the resort. No funds from the MWCD general operating budget are available to cover these costs.

A new member of the MWCD Board of Directors also was welcomed in 2003. With the completion of his two terms on the Board and subsequent retirement, Steve Kokovich of New Concord replaced Frederic J. Grant III of Zanesville on the Board. The appointment of Kokovich, a Muskingum College professor and administrator, was made by the Conservancy Court during its annual meeting in June.

By the end of 2003, the Conservancy District also had put final approval to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The MOU was negotiated for a couple of years following the expiration of a lease agreement the MWCD previously had with ODNR's Division of Wildlife. As part of the MOU, both the MWCD and ODNR pledge cooperation among their various groups, divisions and staff members and agree to meet on a routine basis to discuss common issues.

Conservancy District officials also were informed that the outdoor drama and cultural center devoted to the life and work of John "Johnny Appleseed" Chapman and located on property leased from the MWCD near Charles Mill Lake was expected to open in the summer of 2004. Construction was under way in 2003 on the outdoor amphitheater and the Johnny Appleseed Heritage Foundation Inc. was busy handling details related to development of the drama and the center.

In the spring, the MWCD also was the recipient of an "Excellence in Tourism Award" from the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance. The Conservancy District lakes annually attract an estimated 5.5 million visitors to the 54,000 acres of water and land space managed for public use. Estimates have shown that more than \$270 million per year is pumped into the region's economy due to the existence of the lakes and their activities and operations.

Sadly, Tappan Lake was the scene of a drowning of a teen-ager who was on vacation with his family in August. The 14-year-old boy fell off a moving boat near the dam in the early evening of Aug. 4 and searchers were unable to locate his body until a week later. As part of the aftermath of the accident, a debriefing session was held for all safety and rescue personnel who participated in the emergency response and search efforts, and MWCD staff studied the potential for formation of a dive team for its lakes.

Safety for guests and staff at MWCD facilities was a point of emphasis in 2003. By the close of the year, the Conservancy District had employed a full-time safety coordinator to implement routine and special job-related and special safety programs. The Board of Directors also approved policies that address proposed developments of landfills in the MWCD region and spill prevention and hazardous waste handling at the marina it operates at Pleasant Hill Lake Park. In addition, a proposal for management of nuisance aquatic plants on the water's surface at the lakes also was developed.

As the MWCD looks toward 2004 and beyond, the challenges in front of the Conservancy District staff and Board of Directors will require attention to detail without overlooking the overall needs of the MWCD, said John M. Hoopingarner, executive director/secretary. "I have no doubt that the work this Conservancy District is undertaking at this point in time is critical to securing its future and the future of the flood protection system in the Muskingum River Watershed," Hoopingarner said. "And there also is no doubt that we are eager and ready to accomplish these goals."

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Conservancy Court



*The Honorable
Damian J. Vercillo
ASHLAND*



*The Honorable
John M. Solovan
BELMONT*



*The Honorable
William J. Martin
CARROLL*



*The Honorable
Richard I. Evans
COSHICTON*



*The Honorable
David A. Ellwood
GUERNSEY*



*The Honorable
Michael K. Nunner
HARRISON*



*The Honorable
Thomas C. Lee
HOLMES*



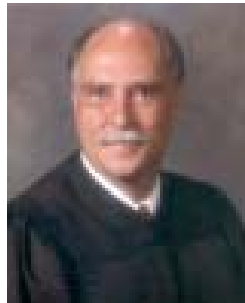
*The Honorable
James Ronk
KNOX*



*The Honorable
Jon R. Spahr
LICKING*



*The Honorable
D. W. Favreau
MORGAN*



*The Honorable
Mark C. Fleegle
MUSKINGUM*



*The Honorable
John W. Nau
NOBLE*



*The Honorable
James DeWeese
RICHLAND*



*The Honorable
Jim James
STARK*



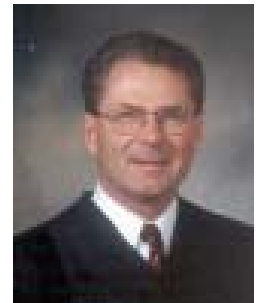
*The Honorable
Jane Bond
SUMMIT*



*The Honorable
Edward E. O'Farrell
TUSCARAWAS*



*The Honorable
Timothy A. Williams
WASHINGTON*



*The Honorable
Mark K. Wiest
WAYNE*

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Board of Directors



*David E. Brightbill
President*



*Joanne Limbach
Vice President*



*Thomas A. Depler
Board Member*



*Harry C. Horstman
Board Member*



*Steve Kokovich
Board Member*

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Staff



*James B. Cugliari
Treasurer*



*John M. Hoopingarner
Executive Director/Secretary*



*Richard A. Bible, P.E.
Manager of Operations/Chief Engineer*

GROUP MANAGERS

*Mark A. Jukich
Manager of Conservation*

*Roger A. Devorace
Manager of Recreation-Leases*

*John R. Grasselli
Manager of Recreation-Parks*

*John Huls
Manager of Atwood Resort*

MWCD STAFF

For a complete listing, see page 95.

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Board of Appraisers



Members of the MWCD Board of Appraisers during the year 2003 were (L-R): Tom Roe (Chairman), Mark Waltz, and Jim Navratil.

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Development Advisory Committee



Members of the MWCD Development Advisory Committee during the year 2003 were (L-R): Larry Robinson, Kevin Power (Chairman), Ray Kuczkowski, Gordon Maupin, Bob Blanke, Bill Taus, Dick Armstrong, Jim Bates, Lucinda Zeiher, Dave Parham, Faye Heston, Myron Delaney, and Bill Ward. Absent when photo was taken: Chris Copeland, Ron Grimm, John Hildreth, Scott O'Donnell, and Bonnie Wissler.

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Conservancy Court

Chapter 6101 of the Ohio Revised Code provides that the Conservancy Court, comprised of one common pleas court judge from each county in the Conservancy District, shall be vested with the power to exercise jurisdiction over the Conservancy District, including the appointment of the Board of Directors.

The Court of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, which meets annually on the second Saturday of June, held its 2003 meeting June 14 in the Tuscarawas County Courthouse at New Philadelphia. The Honorable William J. Martin (Carroll County) presided. Pursuant to law, the 2002 Annual Report of Operations of the MWCD was submitted to the Court for review and approval, along with reports of subdistricts and a list of transfers of funds.

The Court also appointed Steve Kokovich of New Concord to a seat on the MWCD Board of Directors. Kokovich was selected to begin serving a five-year term to replace Frederic J. Grant III of Zanesville, who retired from the Board after completing his second full five-year term, the maximum permitted by the Court.

The five-member Board is appointed by the Court to oversee the operations and business affairs of the Conservancy District. The MWCD manages 54,000 acres of land and water space dedicated to public use – including 10 lakes, five lake parks and Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center – in an 18-county region in eastern Ohio. The Conservancy Court meets annually to review the previous year's operations of the Conservancy District.

In another matter, the Court also appointed a Dover man to the MWCD Board of Appraisers. Mark J. Waltz, an appraiser who owns and operates Waltz Appraisal Services at Dover, replaces Ronald L. Pissocra of Dover, who retired from the Board of Appraisers. Waltz, a graduate of Kent State University, served as the chief deputy auditor and senior staff appraiser for more than 17 years in the Tuscarawas County Auditor's Office. He also has experience in the Dayton area as an appraiser.

The three-member MWCD Board of Appraisers meets to handle property-related issues, including review of proposed land acquisitions and sales for the Conservancy District. They also are charged by law with approving the methodology for determining assessments of the MWCD, based on the relative benefits/damages to property owners. Members serve terms of three years.

Other members of the Board of Appraisers are Thomas Roe of Wooster and James Navratil of Medina. Navratil was approved for a new term on the Board of Appraisers during the meeting.

The Court also approved a petition filed by the MWCD Board of Directors requesting that a readjustment of the appraisal of benefits for the purpose of providing an equitable basis for the levy of a maintenance assessment in accordance with Ohio law (see related story on Page 32).

Board of Directors

Ohio law mandates that the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Board of Directors consist of five members appointed by the Conservancy Court. The Board is empowered to handle all of the items necessary or incident to the fulfillment of the purposes for which the Conservancy District was established. Members of the Board of Directors as of December 31, 2003, were:

Member	Term Expires
David E. Brightbill, Lower Salem	July 18, 2007
Thomas A. Depler, Shelby	July 18, 2004
Steve Kokovich, New Concord	June 3, 2008
Harry Horstman, Scio	June 3, 2005
Joanne Limbach, New Philadelphia	June 8, 2006

Meetings of the Board are open public sessions and conducted in accordance with the public meetings laws as required by the Ohio Revised Code. Twelve meetings were held during 2003 at various locations, along with a brief session at the annual Conservancy Court meeting June 14. Meetings routinely are held on the third Friday of each month and begin at 9:00 a.m. Meetings of the Board were held in 2003 on the following dates and locations:

January 17	Buckeye Career Center, New Philadelphia
February 21	Hampton Inn, New Philadelphia
March 21	Dover Public Library
April 18	Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center
May 23	MATC/OUZ Campus Center, Zanesville
June 14	Conservancy Court, Tuscarawas County Courthouse
July 21-22	Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center
August 22	The Cabin Restaurant, Charles Mill Lake
September 19	Roscoe Village Inn, Coshocton
October 17	Holiday Inn, Cambridge
November 21	Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center
December 18	Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center

David E. Brightbill served as president of the Board during 2003 while Joanne Limbach was vice president. Minutes of all meetings are on file in the MWCD's main office at New Philadelphia.

David E. Brightbill

- Appointed to MWCD Board of Directors on June 11, 1994, as a result of the passage of Ohio House Bill 450, which expanded the Board from three to five members
- Executive Director of the Washington-Morgan Community Action Agency headquartered at Marietta
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Washington County Community Improvement Corporation
- Graduate of Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in education

For most of his life, David E. Brightbill has been connected to the lakes of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. A native of North Central Ohio, he grew up in the area surrounding Charles

Mill and Pleasant Hill lakes. For two summers during his college years, he worked at Pleasant Hill Lake as a seasonal employee of the Conservancy District.

Following his college graduation, Brightbill worked for more than 20 years in an office beside the Ohio River.

Thomas A. Depler

- Appointed to MWCD Board of Directors on June 11, 1994, as a result of the passage of Ohio House Bill 450, which expanded the Board from three to five members
- Member of the MWCD Development Advisory Committee, 1993-94
- Partner in the legal firm of Poland, Depler & Shepherd Co., LPA, at Shelby, Ohio
- Member of the Richland County, Ohio State and American Bar Associations; also a member of the American Judicature Society and Ohio Hospital Association Society of Attorneys
- Member and past executive of numerous Shelby area community and civic organizations
- Received juris doctor degree from the Pettit College of Law at Ohio Northern University
- Graduate of Bowling Green State University with a bachelor's degree in finance and bank management

As a high school student, Thomas A. Depler spent many weekends boating and camping at Charles Mill and Pleasant Hill lakes. With those fond experiences behind him, Depler later found himself even more interested in the lakes. "When my family became a cottage site lessee in 1991, I was interested in the workings of the District and became involved through the MWCD Development Advisory Committee," he said.

Since his selection to the Board of Directors in 1994, Depler has helped guide the MWCD through many challenges and opportunities. "The greatest challenge is providing for the financial viability of the District," he said. "Being the largest conservancy district in the state has some advantages, but because of our size and the extent of our operations, finances are critical. In the past the finances of the District always have been generated internally. Unfortunately, the services provided and the infrastructure of facilities that have been created can no longer be supported by our own operations."

One of the advantages of the Conservancy District's operations that Depler points out is its attraction as a "regional source of outdoor recreation and conservation."

"This enables the area within the Conservancy District to enjoy facilities which otherwise the state of Ohio would not have the ability to provide. Control is more local and grass-roots, which again, the state would be unable to provide," he said.

Harry C. Horstman

- Appointed to the MWCD Board of Directors on June 8, 2002, to fill vacancy created by retirement of Joseph J. Sommer of North Canton
- Member and past chairman of MWCD Development Advisory Committee
- Inaugural member of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation, Inc., Board of Trustees
- Camp manager for the United Methodist Church's Camp Aldersgate on property leased from the MWCD at Leesville Lake, 1965-99

- Commodore of Atwood Yacht Club, 2002
- Member and former chairman of the Conotton Creek Trail development committee
- Spent 34 years as a teacher and administrator in school districts in Carroll, Harrison and Tuscarawas counties, retiring in 1991
- Has served on the boards and/or held memberships in numerous area and regional civic and community organizations
- Graduate of Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in education and Kent State University with vocational director's certification

Harry Horstman has been associated with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District for nearly 40 years. As the former manager of Camp Aldersgate on Leesville Lake for 35 years, Horstman spent his summers leading activities for youths and adults.

Upon his retirement as an educator, Horstman has continued his work with the MWCD in various capacities, including as a charter member of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation, Inc., Board of Trustees.

Steve Kokovich

- Appointed to MWCD Board of Directors on June 14, 2003, to fill vacancy created by fulfillment of two-term service by Frederic J. Grant III of Zanesville
- Administrator and member of the education department faculty at Muskingum College
- Member of and president of New Concord Village Council
- Member of the board of directors for the John and Annie Glenn Historical Site at New Concord
- Active in development of system of walking trails and community lake for New Concord area. Also involved in the National Road historical and tourism effort
- Graduate of Muskingum College, Ohio State University and Ohio University

Steve Kokovich may be the newest member of the MWCD Board of Directors, but he hardly is a stranger to the facilities of the MWCD. The Harrison County native grew up as a regular visitor to Clendening, Piedmont and Tappan lakes in the region.

Kokovich has taught at Muskingum College since 1976.

Joanne Limbach

- Appointed to the MWCD Board of Directors on June 8, 1996, to fill vacancy created by retirement of Maynard A. Buck Jr. of Cadiz
- Member of the MWCD Development Advisory Committee, 1995-96
- Founding member of Limbach and Associates at Columbus, Ohio, 1992-present
- Director of governmental affairs for The Success Group Inc., 1991-92
- Tax Commissioner, Ohio Department of Taxation, 1983-91
- Tuscarawas County commissioner, 1977-83
- Public schoolteacher in Dover, North Royalton and Columbus districts, 1962-78
- Member of numerous professional and civic organizations throughout Ohio
- Graduate of Muskingum College with a bachelor's degree in history; also a graduate of Bowling Green State University with a master's degree in history

Joanne Limbach is a part of many important decisions for the MWCD, but her involvement with the Conservancy District goes back to a simpler time. "As a native of Steubenville, fishing with my dad at Clendening or Piedmont seemed like a world away," she said. "We'd spend most spring and summer weekends fishing."

Her connections with the Conservancy District continued locally as she moved to the New Philadelphia area and was elected Tuscarawas County commissioner and from a statewide view as she was appointed Ohio's tax commissioner. "Probably my main interests are trying to find balance within the mission statement," she said. "I think that the Board members are extremely talented and bring such a wide variety of experience that the decisions, while not always popular, do reflect the best kind of process."

Board of Appraisers

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District's Board of Appraisers is a three-member panel that approves the methodology for determining assessments of the MWCD, based on the relative benefits/damages to property owners.

The board members, who are appointed by the Conservancy Court and serve staggered terms, also make recommendations to the Board of Directors on property sales and acquisitions based on presentations by MWCD staff.

The Board of Appraisers held two meetings at the MWCD main office in New Philadelphia on February 14, 2003 and July 11, 2003. Members of the Board of Appraisers as of December 31, 2003, were as follows:

Member	Term Expires
James Navratil, Medina	June 13, 2006
Thomas A. Roe, Wooster	June 3, 2005
Mark J. Waltz, Dover	June 3, 2005

Thomas A. Roe served as chairman of the Board of Appraisers in 2003. Minutes of all meetings are on file in the MWCD's main office at New Philadelphia.

Waltz was appointed by the Conservancy Court during its meeting in June to replace longtime Board member Ronald L. Pissocra of Dover, who retired during 2003 from the Board of Appraisers.

After concentrating on the readjustment of the appraisal of benefits for the Chippewa Subdistrict for much of the past few years, the MWCD Board of Appraisers turned its focus in 2003 to the proposed readjustment of the appraisal of benefits for the Conservancy District.

Three lead general course for MWCD

According to Ohio law, the Court of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District exercises jurisdiction over the district, including the appointment of the Board of Directors. The day-to-day operations and business of the Conservancy District primarily are handled by the full-time and part-time MWCD staff, under the leadership of three administrators. John M. Hoopingarner is the executive director/secretary; Richard A. Bible, P.E., is the manager of operations/chief engineer; and James B. Cugliari is the treasurer.

John M. Hoopingarner

- Appointed to position September 1, 1989, by the Board of Directors.
- Prior to appointment was in private law practice for 10 years in New Philadelphia.
- Served as chief counsel to MWCD from 1986-89 and associate legal counsel from 1979-86.
- Tuscarawas County native also served as instructor of real estate law at Kent State University, 1985-89.
- Graduate of Muskingum College (bachelor's degree, 1976) and Ohio Northern University College of Law (juris doctor, 1979).
- Vice president, Recreation/Navigation of the Water Management Association of Ohio
- President of the Ohio Conservancy District Conference
- Member of the Ohio Water Resources Council, Advisory Group
- Member of numerous professional and civic boards, associations and organizations.
- Resides in Dover with wife and two children.

As the executive director/secretary, John M. Hoopingarner holds what generally can be considered the most visible position in the MWCD organization. He routinely serves as the source of official news and information from the Conservancy District, actively participating in public relations and civic affairs as the representative of the MWCD.

Only the agency's third chief executive, following Bryce C. Browning and Raymond Eichel, Hoopingarner performs a mix of mandated and general expected duties on a daily, weekly and yearly basis. He is expected to perform the responsibilities of secretary of the conservancy district as detailed by law in the Ohio Revised code Chapter 6101 and executive director in accordance with the bylaws of the MWCD. He also advises the Board of Directors and Conservancy Court on such matters.

Hoopingarner also directly supervises the performance of several MWCD staff members, including the manager of operations/chief engineer and treasurer. His role also is to administer and coordinate the development of Conservancy District policies, rules and regulations. Besides these duties, Hoopingarner oversees the MWCD's involvement in the operation and maintenance of Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center, including the financial performance of the facility.

Richard A. Bible, P.E.

- Appointed to position April 17, 1995, by Board of Directors.
- Prior to MWCD appointment, was in private industry for 25 years - 21 years at W.E. Quicksall and Associates of New Philadelphia as design engineer, project engineer and vice president; and four years at Ben Cookson and Associates of New Philadelphia as vice president.

- Served as acting chief engineer for the MWCD for two years while with Quicksall.
- Past president of Tuscarawas Valley Society of Engineers and a member of Ohio Society of Engineers.
- Graduate of Tri-State University in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Registered professional engineer in states of Ohio and Indiana.
- Member of numerous professional and social boards, associations and organizations.
- Tuscarawas County native resides in New Philadelphia with wife, has two adult children. Graduate of New Philadelphia High School.

Richard A. Bible's responsibilities as manager of operations/chief engineer for the MWCD also are rooted in Ohio law, but have expanded well beyond those legal stipulations to serve the many facets of the Conservancy District's reach.

Bible performs the work of chief engineer as prescribed by law in Chapter 6101 of the Ohio Revised Code and advises the executive director/secretary and Board of Directors on these items. He manages and directs the operations of the Conservancy District, including the projects of the conservation, engineering, recreation-leases, recreation-parks and Atwood Lake Resort work groups. In this capacity, Bible provides general supervision of operations as superintendent of all the works and improvements of the Conservancy District and its subdistricts.

Bible also is responsible for MWCD communication with agencies of government such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and others. His duties also include preparation of the MWCD's annual operational budget and assurance of quality performance in all phases of the operations of the Conservancy District.

James B. Cugliari

- Appointed to office of treasurer April 17, 1995, by Board of Directors
- Began career with MWCD in December 1985 as assistant auditor/systems manager
- Prior to employment with Conservancy District, served as an auditor for the State of Ohio for three years
- Graduate of Marietta College in 1982 with a bachelor's degree in accounting
- Tuscarawas County native graduated from Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School
- Member of numerous professional, community and social organizations and activities
- Resides in Dover with wife and four children

Along with the executive director/secretary and manager of operations/chief engineer, the position of treasurer of a conservancy district in Ohio is provided for and has some mandated responsibilities as detailed in state law.

In his position as treasurer of the MWCD, James B. Cugliari must perform those functions as well as other duties as prescribed by the Conservancy District. Cugliari manages and directs the finances of the MWCD, including planning, procurement and investment of funds; preparation of the annual budget; conducting audit functions; maintenance of all personnel records; long-range forecasting; and the insurance activities for the organization. He also advises the executive director/secretary and Board of Directors on these matters.

Cugliari prepares monthly and annual financial statements and analyzes financial data to determine the fiscal position of the MWCD and subdistricts, along with preparing forecasts of the future financial position and budget requirements of the Conservancy District. He oversees internal audit functions, coordinates the work of outside auditors and authorizes the procedures for the protection and custody of all funds.

His role also involves managing and supervising the work to be performed by Conservancy District employees, contractors, subcontractors and others relative to the finances of the MWCD. He oversees a staff consisting of an accountant, computer systems coordinator, payroll clerk, accounting clerk, purchasing agent and controller for Atwood Lake Resort.

Personnel

Staff from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District work at several locations and in numerous positions in fulfilling the mission and operations of the Conservancy District.

The MWCD employs nearly 450 people during the summer months when its facilities are in peak demand. This includes part-time and seasonal status employees. The MWCD has about 200 full-time employees.

The following employees received special recognition for their years of service (through 2003) during the MWCD Employee Service Awards Dinner held January 23, 2004, at Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center.

Karen S. Miller (Administration)	30 years
Linda L. Treacle (Finance Group)	30 years
Gwenneth L. Floyd (Recreation-Parks Group)	25 years
Bernard V. Schreiner (Recreation-Leases Group)	25 years
Jack W. Kibble (Engineering Group)	15 years
Daniel R. Mager (Charles Mill Lake Park)	15 years
Robert D. Jones (Engineering Group)	10 years
Jeannie Mangon (Finance Group)	10 years
Gregory W. Russell (Atwood Lake Park)	10 years
Thomas A. Stanley (Recreation-Leases Group)	10 years
John R. Birney (Tapan Lake Park)	5 years
Orliage C. Byrom (Finance Group)	5 years
Randy D. Canfield (Engineering Group)	5 years
John K. Huls (Atwood Lake Resort)	5 years
Linda A. Leach (Seneca Lake Park)	5 years
Christina K. Price (Administration)	5 years

A complete listing of employees of the Conservancy District as of December 31, 2003, is located on Page 95 of this report.

For the first time, the MWCD also presented recognition plaques to all seasonal employees at MWCD facilities who have completed 15 or more seasons of work with the Conservancy District, as of 2003. Those employees are as follows:

Larry E. McCullough, Seneca Lake Park	40 seasons
George D. Eberwine, Seneca Lake Park	29 seasons
Anthony L. Amicone, Atwood Lake Park	25 seasons
Pamela S. Fisk, Seneca Lake Park	17 seasons
James W. Heakin, Tappan Lake Park	17 seasons
Carolyn K. Jones, Leesville Southfork Campground	16 seasons
Dennis P. Jones, Leesville Southfork Campground	16 seasons
Lottie A. Lawler, Seneca Lake Park	16 seasons



Receiving her award for 30 years of service was Karen Miller, from MWCD Board of Directors member David Brightbill (L), Manager of Operations/Chief Engineer Richard A. Bible and MWCD Board member Harry Horstman.



Bernard Schreiner (middle) receives his 25-year service award from David Brightbill (L) and Harry Horstman.



Larry E. McCullough(middle) receives his recognition award for 40 seasons of service at Seneca Lake Park from Harry Horstman (L) and David Brightbill.



George D. Eberwine (middle) receives his recognition award for 29 seasons of service at Seneca Lake Park from Harry Horstman (L) and David Brightbill.



Receiving his award for 25 seasons of service to the MWCD is Larry Amicone (middle).

Development Advisory Committee

Created by the MWCD Board of Directors in 1992, the 18-member Development Advisory Committee (DAC) provides an organized public support system for responsive and effective economic development, conservation and recreation programs.

DAC members are appointed by the Board of Directors and serve staggered three-year terms.

Robert G. Blanke served as chairman of the DAC during 2003, and David L. Parham was vice chair. The DAC meets quarterly and held sessions during 2003 on January 31 at the Dover Public Library, May 2 at Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center, August 1 at Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center and October 31 at Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center.

Through their quarterly and subcommittee meetings, DAC members are updated about MWCD projects and operations. DAC members also present numerous items for discussion and possible action by the MWCD Board of Directors during the year.

There were seven subcommittees that handled DAC items during 2003. They are the Capital Improvements, Finance and Development, Government Relations, Natural Resources, Public Information and Education, Recreation and Leases and Volunteer Programs subcommittees.

Members of the DAC as of December 31, 2003, including their county of residence, term and ties to the Conservancy District, were the following:

- **Richard L. Armstrong** – Carroll County – 2004 – Armstrong, a cottage site lessee who resides at Leesville Lake, is the retired former commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
- **Jim Bates** - Tuscarawas County - 2003 - Bates, a businessman in Port Washington, is a camper at Seneca Lake.
- **Robert G. Blanke** - Harrison County - 2004 – Blanke is a retired employee of the Metropolitan Park District of Columbus and Franklin County and resides in the Tappan Lake area.
- **Chris Copeland** - Harrison County - 2005 - Copeland, who is an avid outdoorsman and a cottage site lessee at Tappan Lake, is an attorney and the economic development director for the Harrison County Community Improvement Corporation.
- **Myron E. Delaney** – Richland County – 2004 – Delaney is a retired State Farm Insurance agent and a fisherman and hunter at Charles Mill and Pleasant Hill lakes.
- **Ronald Grimm** – Tuscarawas County – 2003 – Grimm, who is a Dover High School biology teacher, has spent much of his life enjoying outdoor recreation at the various MWCD lakes.
- **Faye A. Heston** - Stark County - 2003 - Heston, who has served on the boards of numerous civic and community improvement groups in northern Ohio, also leases a cottage site at Atwood Lake.
- **John Hildreth** - Richland County - 2005 - Hildreth has spent 10 years as the program administrator for the Richland County Soil and Water Conservation District, working with MWCD staff on various projects.
- **Raymond F. Kuczkowski** - Harrison County - 2004 - Kuczkowski is retired from Standard Oil Co. at Cleveland, is a cottage site resident at Tappan Lake and an active member of the Tappan Volunteer Fire Department.
- **Gordon T. Maupin** - Wayne County - 2003 - Maupin is the director of The Wilderness Center located near Wilmot.

- **F. Scott O'Donnell** – Lorain County – 2004 – O'Donnell is superintendent of the financial institutions for the Ohio Department of Commerce and has more than 20 years experience in the banking industry in various executive capacities.
- **David L. Parham** – Cuyahoga County – 2004 – Parham, a cottage site lessee at Atwood Lake and an attorney in Cleveland, specializes in land use planning issues and is a former member of the Shaker Heights City Council.
- **Kevin T. Power** - Wayne County - 2003 - Power, who is a cottage site resident and boats at Pleasant Hill Lake, works in the Department of Entomology at the Ohio Agricultural and Research Development Center at Wooster.
- **Larry Robinson** - Tuscarawas County - 2003 - Robinson, who has recreated on the lakes for many years, is retired from the Ohio Mideastern Government Association.
- **William J. Taus** – Summit County – 2004 – Taus, a cottage site lessee at Charles Mill Lake and president of Furnace Technology Inc. of Akron, designs and services equipment for facilities throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico.
- **Bill Ward** - Summit County - 2005 - Ward, who operates many Dairy Queen restaurants in the eastern part of Ohio, is a cottage site lessee at Piedmont Lake.
- **Bonnie Wissler** - Mt. Lebanon, Pa. - 2005 - Wissler, whose late husband Regis also previously served on the DAC, is a resident of the Mt. Lebanon, Pa., area and a seasonal camper at Seneca Lake Park.
- **Lucinda Zeiher** – Belmont County – 2003 – Zeiher, a schoolteacher in the Martins Ferry School District, spends summers camping and fishing at Piedmont Lake. She has received Huskie Muskie awards for catching muskellunge of 42 inches or greater in length.

The Year in Review

Court OKs benefit appraisal work to begin

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District took a giant step in 2003 when it received direction to begin the work of updating its records to determine the current benefits accruing to the properties located in the 18 counties of the District as a result of its system of reservoirs.

The judges of the MWCD Conservancy Court, during their annual meeting, approved a petition filed by the Conservancy District's Board of Directors requesting a readjustment of the appraisal of benefits for the purpose of providing an equitable basis for the levy of a maintenance assessment in accordance with Ohio law. The last such appraisal was conducted in 1936. MWCD cites a material change in the values of property in the District since the last appraisal as the reason for this action.

"It has been estimated that this system of dams and reservoirs has prevented more than \$2 billion in property damage and saved countless lives," John M. Hoopingarner, MWCD executive director/secretary, told members of the Court during a public hearing to consider the petition held during the Court's session June 14 in the Tuscarawas County Courthouse. "The system of reservoirs owned and operated by MWCD are in need of repair and must be maintained to protect the integrity of the flood protection system of which they are a part."

Initial estimates of this cost exceed \$70 million and consist of erosion control, sediment removal, pollution control, debris removal and a variety of other maintenance projects. These cost estimates will be addressed in an engineering report that also will plan and prioritize the work to be done, and establish a timetable for completion. It is anticipated that much of the maintenance work to be done will be completed over a series of years or be of an ongoing nature for the life of the reservoirs.

"Ohio law provides the means for funding such projects. It requires the appraisal of benefits be conducted to determine whether an assessment of property owners within the watershed is viable," said James J. Pringle of the law firm Miller & Kyler at New Philadelphia, chief legal counsel for the MWCD.

The 1936 appraisal was conducted by MWCD when it was anticipated that it solely would be responsible for the operation of the dams. When the MWCD transferred ownership and control of the dams to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in 1939, the need for the levy of a maintenance assessment was postponed. Now that the reservoirs have been in service more than 65 years, the need to provide funds for the repairs and maintenance needed now and in the future is critical.

Col. John Rivenburgh, commander of the Huntington District of USACE, which oversees the dams in the MWCD system, told Conservancy Court members that the MWCD has been an eager partner in efforts to improve the dams over the past several years. The MWCD has served as the local sponsor of several projects that have improved flood protection capabilities by the dams. The reservoirs now are in need of similar improvements to provide adequate protection, he said.

Rivenburgh also said the MWCD has enthusiastically supported the USACE's recent research to develop an emergency flood warning system for the region, as well as other projects. "I think we're going to see some pressure on the District to provide clean water to communities and to businesses,"

Rivenburgh said. "The Corps also has been aware of this and will assist the District as these requests and needs arise in the future."

MWCD was organized by the residents of the region in 1933 for the primary purpose of flood control. Construction of 14 dams was completed by 1939. During this process, MWCD formed close working relationships with and received direct support from several government agencies.

The reservoir areas currently under MWCD control consist of 10 lakes with approximately 16,000 acres of water surface and 38,000 acres of surrounding land. The partnership for the operation of these dams and reservoirs between MWCD and USACE requires a constant cooperative effort.

MWCD and USACE meet regularly to review their respective responsibilities and to anticipate and address issues of concern. USACE is directly responsible for the operation of each dam and the elevation of water levels at each reservoir and downstream. It is the responsibility of the MWCD to operate and maintain each reservoir for flood control purposes in coordination with the operation of the dams by USACE. The USACE currently is in the process of conducting a federally funded reconnaissance study within the watershed that will be used by MWCD in its analysis of the condition of its reservoirs.

The need to update the appraisal of benefits has been under consideration for more than 10 years. Although the process to implement the assessment is clearly defined in Ohio law, MWCD has been reluctant to use this power as a means of funding. Traditionally, MWCD has been able to operate primarily from revenue generated by the management of its resources.

More than \$12 million has been raised annually over the past several years from MWCD recreation facilities, including its parks, campgrounds, marinas, cottage sites and Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center, and its conservation projects, including farming, timber production and mineral development. This revenue has been sufficient to maintain day-to-day operations. But the age and condition of the MWCD reservoirs today will require far greater resources than it can produce from its traditional sources.

A maintenance assessment is a possible way to address the cost to keep the reservoirs in optimum condition and to achieve compliance with a number of regulatory standards to assure the safe operation of the integrated system.

"It must be stressed that the process approved by the MWCD Conservancy Court for the readjustment of the appraisal of benefits is only a part of what must be done to satisfy the requirements of Ohio law before the levy of a maintenance assessment," Hoopingarner said. "It is anticipated the readjustment of the appraisal of benefits will take several years to complete. Taking this action does not mean that the levy of a maintenance assessment is inevitable - rather, it will give MWCD a basis for how to proceed in the future.

"If the maintenance assessment is levied, the burden may be shared by a very large number of property owners, thus keeping the amount of each assessment relatively low in relation to the benefit derived from the works of MWCD."

There are more than 950,000 parcels of property within the jurisdiction of MWCD that could be subject to the maintenance assessment. Ohio law requires that if a property is determined to receive a benefit, then the levy of assessment must be at least \$2 per parcel per year. An assessment levied at

the absolute minimum has the potential of yielding nearly \$2 million annually to assist MWCD in maintaining the integrity of its reservoirs for future generations. Funds generated by the maintenance assessment may only be used for reservoir maintenance and cannot be used for recreation improvements or maintenance of park facilities.

Maintaining high water quality will be another focus of the use of the maintenance assessment. Although water quality is generally considered good at MWCD reservoirs, there is an increasing need to address the issue of sewerage and the need for sewer systems in the reservoir areas. MWCD could become a viable partner with local governments for the development of sewer systems.

In a report issued recently by Dr. Ted Napier of Ohio State University, a scientific survey of residents of MWCD shows strong support for the need to maintain MWCD reservoirs and a very high priority is placed on improving water quality. Napier, who discussed the survey for the judges of the Court and presented them with a written report, said that in his 33 years of survey work at OSU he found the MWCD survey to rank among the most positive.

"I have never seen positive evaluations to this magnitude," he told the Conservancy Court. "We had a tremendous response rate and the residents were very interested in participating when they learned their comments and thoughts were going to be part of the planning process for the region."

MWCD is the largest of Ohio's 21 conservancy districts, but is the only one that does not levy an assessment for its operations.

"We stand before you today, ready to begin the work that will continue to provide the people of the region with the flood protection that is expected and the high water quality that is valued," Hoopingarner said. "This will not be a rapid process, nor is it anticipated that it will be without strong attention to detail by our dedicated staff. This is the necessary step this Conservancy District must take in order to restate and confirm the commitment made 70 years ago to protect the residents of the Muskingum River Watershed from the ravages of flooding."

Survey shows support for MWCD operations

The lakes and facilities of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District are valuable resources in the eyes of the residents who live near them, many of whom would like to be involved in planning efforts for their future effectiveness, according to a survey conducted in the watershed region.

Dr. Ted Napier, a professor of resources sociology and environmental policy with Ohio State University who conducted the survey, said that preliminary results from more than 1,100 respondents in the 18-county MWCD region indicate residents also would be willing to contribute financially to the maintenance needs of the reservoirs. "I have had to go into a lot of public agencies and inform them that people don't feel they are getting the job done," Napier told the MWCD Board of Directors during their meeting in February. "We do not see that here."

Overall, most services and opportunities provided to the public by the MWCD received a high rating of satisfaction from survey respondents, Napier said. Those listed on the form included boating, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, picnicking, wildlife observation, flood protection and water quality protection.

“This survey has been an energetic task and one that we’ve all been waiting on with a high level of anticipation,” said John M. Hoopingarner, MWCD executive director/secretary. “The information that we learn from the public will be a key component for us as the Conservancy District conducts both short-range and long-range planning to benefit the public in the most effective methods possible.”

The MWCD, which manages more than 54,000 acres of property including 10 lakes for flood control and public use in eastern Ohio, joined with OSU and the Governor’s Office of Appalachia to sponsor and fund the Muskingum River Watershed Natural Resources Development Needs Assessment Study.

Napier led the OSU research team that delivered survey forms door to door in neighborhoods in the watershed region. He said that he expected about 750 surveys to be completed and was extremely pleased to surpass that figure by about 350. In total, 76 percent of the potential survey participants contacted returned completed forms.

Another portion of the survey asked respondents to help prioritize the numerous projects and responsibilities the MWCD engages in. Improvement and maintenance of present facilities and services rated the highest among survey respondents, Napier said. “There is a propensity in the public that once they see a facility opened or constructed, they want to see it maintained properly,” he said.

More than 800 of those responding to the survey also said they would be willing to pay an annual assessment to help maintain those facilities and services for optimum performance and satisfaction. The average annual amount the survey participants said they would be comfortable paying was nearly \$38. Survey respondents also said businesses located within the watershed should contribute to the overall health of the reservoir areas at an average of nearly \$235 annually.

Napier said that he also received many completed forms that indicated a willingness to pay an annual assessment for maintenance of the MWCD reservoirs, but respondents wrote on the survey that they did not know how much should be considered as a fair amount.

“I think the future is very favorable to go forward with a maintenance assessment and to continue to respond to the services and needs the public believes this organization should provide,” Hoopingarner said. “I strongly believe an anticipated maintenance assessment would be far less than the near \$40 figure indicated in the research.”

One area the MWCD needs to improve, according to survey respondents, is its communication methods with the public. Most of the communication methods participants were able to select from – such as mailings, public meetings, television, radio and newspapers – were considered to be somewhat to moderately useful. About 20 percent of those who filled out forms also said they would prefer to be actively involved in some form of the development planning of the Muskingum River Watershed region.

A report compiled several years ago revealed the MWCD lakes were in need of an estimated \$70 million worth of work to assure their integrity in flood protection and recreation. However, the MWCD has been unable to address the bulk of the needs because the Conservancy District has operated under a tight, balanced budget that does not appear to be improving in the long term.

In 1998, an economic impact study conducted by Market Vision Research Inc. reported the MWCD and its facilities directly impacted 7,500 jobs in the region with a total payroll of more than \$68 million. It also said the lakes were responsible for generating more than \$10 million in consumer sales tax and \$1.5 million in motor fuel tax. More than 5.5 million people visit the MWCD lakes annually.

Budget expectations fall short in 2003

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District has reported a deficit of more than \$800,000 for the year ending December 31, 2003, a cause for concern for the MWCD Board of Directors and its staff.

“The total deficit of \$821,855 has resulted in our cash balance dropping below \$1 million,” said James B. Cugliari. “It is our goal to maintain a \$3 million cash balance for emergency and self-insurance purposes and we must now do everything possible to rebuild the cash balance.

The MWCD is funded almost exclusively from fees charged for the use of its facilities and income generated from the management of its natural resources. It had projected income of \$13.1 million for 2003, but revenues fell short by nearly \$1 million. Expenses (\$12,975,597) exceeded revenue (\$12,153,742) resulting in a reduction of its cash balance from \$1.668 million at the beginning of 2003 to \$980,675 by the close of the year.

Cugliari said the year’s shortfall can be attributed primarily to two factors – the impact of the renovation of Atwood Lake Resort and the effect of poor weather conditions, resulting in reduced recreation income and increased costs of operations.

Reduced revenues at Atwood Lake Resort were expected due to the \$3.1 million renovation that required the lodge and meeting facilities to be closed for 11 weeks in 2003, but the continued downturn in economic conditions coupled with poor weather conditions hampered the performance of the resort throughout the year.

Weather also was the primary factor resulting in revenues falling below projections at MWCD recreational facilities and parks. “We say it quite frequently and it’s not meant to be used as an easy excuse, but the weather certainly plays a very important role in the success of our parks and other recreational facilities,” Cugliari said. “When it rains or the weather turns inclement, or even when forecasts call for conditions to be less than desirable, we absorb that in the form of fewer visits and less revenue.”

The MWCD operates lake parks at five locations – Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca and Tappan lakes – as well as campgrounds at Leesville Lake (Clow’s Marina), Mohawk Dam and the North Branch of the Kokosing River in Knox County. In addition, leased marina operations at eight lakes generate revenue for the MWCD, as well.

The budget performance for 2003 also will have an impact on projected MWCD projects and spending in 2004. In December 2003, Board members approved a balanced spending plan of slightly more than \$13.5 million for 2004.

It’s a beautiful day inside Atwood

A \$3 million renovation of Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center was a highlight for the resort and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District in 2003, but it also should have an impact for years to come.



Nearly every area of the resort was improved as part of the renovation process. Improved lighting and new carpeting are the highlights of the hallway areas leading to guestrooms.

The complete overhaul of the resort's interior has left staff and guests alike praising the work and enjoying the improvements, which cover everything from the ceiling to the floor and parts in between. "We had a tremendous interest in the project, even during the construction period itself," said John Huls, resort manager. "I talked with many people who were near Atwood Lake and aware of the work, so they stopped by and walked around to see what was happening.

"But since we reopened in late March and up until now (late 2003), the comments from guests and visitors alike are very positive. People are happy with what they are seeing and that's very encouraging, because we were diligent in including many of the suggestions by our guests directly into the plans."

The project that provided upgrades in the guestrooms and throughout much of the building kicked off January 6 and included a shutdown of the resort for 11 weeks. Work continued even after the guests returned in late March to the resort, located off State Route 542 between Sherrodsville and Dellroy and overlooking Atwood Lake.

(Right) Many improvements were made in guestrooms throughout the 104-room resort. New bed coverings, renovated windows and exterior doors, bathroom renovations, new carpeting and wallcoverings and much more were included in the work.



(Lower left) Atwood Lake Resort manager John Huls (holding scissors at left), along with MWCD Executive Director/Secretary John M. Hoopingartner (holding scissors at right) were joined by a host of others when the resort celebrated its grand reopening in August after the extensive renovations.

(Lower right) Atwood Lake Resort always has provided a comfortable and scenic location for meetings and conferences. Improvements made in the meeting rooms as part of the renovations should improve the overall experience for meetings and groups.



Installation of an elevator to transport guests quickly and efficiently between the main floor and the conference meeting rooms on the lower level has been a very welcome improvement, Huls said. "For years we have been told by guests that an elevator was needed here," he said. "And we agreed. So it was very gratifying to be able to include it in this project.

"The complete update was exactly what we needed at this time," Huls said. "While the building has held up very well over the years, it had become tired and like all of us in need of a vacation, needed to be refreshed."

The project included updates to all of the resort's 104 guestrooms. Work completed included replacement of windows, installation of new carpet, new bed covers, new wallpapers, new furniture where warranted, updates to electrical systems and other improvements, Huls said.

But that's not where the renovations ended. The work, designed by the nationally renowned hotel architectural firm Earl Swensson and Associates of Nashville, Tennessee, expanded outside the rooms, too. In the dining room, a wide array of work was completed, including new wallpaper, carpet and furniture. The conference and meeting rooms on the resort's lower level also were included in the overhaul, as they also received new carpets and wallpaper, Huls said. Carpets and wallpaper in the hallways also were replaced and the lobby received some improvements, as well. Guests returning for the first time since the renovations will notice brighter hallways leading to their guestrooms, along with a uniform interior design scheme carried out throughout the facility.

"It's exactly the type of improvements our guests have suggested to us in recent years," Huls said. "So it makes a renovation project much easier when the guests and the architect agree on all of the changes that are needed."

The main resort facility was closed during the bulk of the work in order to provide workers with an opportunity to handle the major projects as quickly as possible.

The construction project was handled by the general contractor for the project, the Knoch Corporation of North Canton.

Atwood Lake Resort, owned by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, opened in 1965. This was the first major renovation project it has undergone since then. Since the resort originally opened, it was operated primarily by private hotel management firms through lease arrangements with the MWCD. However, after many years of financial losses for the Conservancy District, the MWCD took over operations on a day-to-day basis in 1997.

Conservancy District officials have said the renovation will be paid for entirely through resort operations and any grant funding that is received. The State of Ohio pledged \$500,000 to the project and the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Grant Development program provided a \$200,000 grant.

The resort, which employs more than 100 people and up to about 150 during the peak summer season, is one of the largest employers in Carroll County. Staff at the resort comes primarily from Carroll, Harrison and Tuscarawas counties. The resort also includes two golf courses, an 18-hole, par-70 championship course and a lighted, nine-hole par-3 course; indoor and outdoor pools; tennis courts; hiking trails; a game room; fitness facility; and more.

“We are proud to be able to serve such a wide range of guests,” Huls said, noting that Atwood provides facilities for small and large groups, organizations and businesses; hosts weddings, receptions and other social functions; is a prime site in the summer months for vacationing couples and families; and is an ideal weekend getaway destination in all seasons.

“We’re not located right on a major interstate and we’re not in an urban center,” Huls said. “And that’s just fine with us and the groups and guests who visit us. The resort is an excellent getaway spot that is just a short drive away from the Cleveland, Columbus and Pittsburgh areas, as well as for people and groups in our surrounding counties who just want to relax and enjoy themselves in a beautiful setting. “All you have to do is look out at the lake when you arrive, and already you begin to feel better.”

Kokovich named to Board of Directors

A Muskingum College professor was selected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District after the retirement of Frederic J. Grant III.

Steve Kokovich of New Concord, an administrator and member of the education department faculty at the college, was appointed by the MWCD Conservancy Court during its annual meeting June 14 in the Tuscarawas County Courthouse at New Philadelphia. Kokovich fills the seat formerly held by Grant, a Zanesville resident who completed his second term on the Board in 2003, the maximum permitted.

A native of Harrison County, Kokovich regularly visited Clendening, Piedmont and Tappan lakes in the region as a youth. A graduate of Muskingum College, he also holds advanced degrees from Ohio State University and Ohio University. Kokovich has taught at Muskingum since 1976.

He also is a member of New Concord Village Council, serving as its president the last nine years, and is a member of the board of directors of the John and Annie Glenn Historical Site at New Concord. During the past several years he has been active in the development of both a system of walking trails in the village and a community lake. He is involved in the National Road effort for historical and tourism efforts in the region and is helping plan a bicentennial celebration for the village of New Concord.

An avid fisherman and outdoorsman, he enjoys Seneca and Piedmont lakes on a regular basis.

Members of the MWCD Board of Directors are appointed by the judges of the Conservancy Court to oversee the operations and business affairs of the Conservancy District.

Grant was appointed to the Board in 1993. A former director of public service and city engineer for the city of Zanesville, Grant also serves as owner of a construction firm. He received a plaque from the Court, fellow Board members, administration and staff of the Conservancy District honoring his service to the MWCD.

Storm, high water leave mark in 2003

The year 2003 may be remembered by many who visit the lakes and facilities of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District for the wet conditions that seemed to hover over the lakes all summer. But it also was a reminder that the lakes were created for flood protection in the Muskingum River Watershed.



Spring rains in the Pleasant Hill Lake area left the marina at Pleasant Hill Lake Park inaccessible and closed the launch ramp for several days in mid-May.

Even before the traditional kickoff to the summer season over Memorial Day weekend, rainy conditions led to the closings of boat launch ramps, followed by numerous rainy weekends through the summer and then similar wet weather during Labor Day weekend. A strong storm that blew through the Atwood Lake area in November also caused damage to leased cottages and the four-bedroom cottages managed by Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center.

The wet conditions contributed to the overall budget deficit for the year recorded by the Conservancy District, according to MWCD officials.

High water from rain showers forced the closing of the Pleasant Hill Lake public boat launch ramp for several days beginning May 9 after lake levels

swelled to higher-than-normal readings. Water covered most of the beach and parking lot areas near the marina at Pleasant Hill Lake Park. The high water also forced the temporary relocation of about 150 boats and campers to safe areas around the lake and closed one entire park campground area.

The campgrounds and boat launch ramp were reopened in time for the Memorial Day weekend.

Pleasant Hill Lake Park also sustained damage when a thunderstorm that blew through the region July 8 also was blamed for a downed tree that briefly trapped a camper in her car.

The camper sought treatment at an area hospital for minor injuries after a portion of a falling tree landed on her vehicle, according to Andy Seib, assistant superintendent at the park. Two other people in the campground also sought treatment for minor injuries believed to be associated with the storm, Seib said. A shower building and restroom facility in one of the campground areas, Area E, was damaged by the heavy winds. The door to the building was ripped off and some other damage occurred, Seib said. Trees also fell on a few campers and two other cars. In all, about a dozen trees were toppled and numerous limbs were scattered throughout the campgrounds.

In early September, rising water associated with heavy rain around Atwood and Leesville lakes prompted concerns from many who have docks, boats, campers or even homes around the lakes.

The water level at Atwood Lake reached nearly 5.5 feet above normal summer elevations and was the highest since February 1952, when it reached 6.53 feet above normal. At Leesville Lake, water levels swelled to more than 3 feet above normal summer elevations. The resulting high water led to the closing of the public boat launch ramps at



Many boaters were unable to access their boats or walk on the docks where their boats were tied at Clow's Marina on Leesville Lake after the September flooding.

each lake, flooded docks, walkways and campgrounds, and visible signs of creeping water at various locations around each lake. The levels crested early September 5 and the launch ramps reopened several days later.

Despite the many inconveniences for those who enjoy spending time at the lakes, there was one silver lining in the entire episode – the reservoirs performed their primary function without a hitch. Constructed in the 1930s, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District reservoirs, of which Atwood and Leesville are a part, were designed for flood control into the Muskingum River as part of a 14-dam, 10-lake system in eastern Ohio. Flooding from the streams and tributaries that eventually feed into the river was a constant problem in many locations in the region in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and residents formed the MWCD to address the issues through construction of dams and lakes.

Since then, the MWCD reservoirs have helped avert more than \$2 billion in damage, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the dams at the lakes. In addition, development in areas that could not occur in identified zones due to the threat of flooding previously has taken place, and protection has been offered to the agricultural and business communities for further economic development.

From time to time, the lakes swell beyond their normal elevations, especially when significant amounts of rain fall in a brief period of time, creating a large amount of runoff water into the feeder streams and tributaries that must be managed by the dams.

Starting August 30 the region received nearly 7 inches of rain in a six-day period, according to measurements by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This strong rainfall produced some flooding and high water reported in various areas, and the high amount of runoff increased the elevation levels of the lakes, especially Atwood and Leesville. Those lakes are located in the northern portion of the Muskingum system and already were dealing with the previous rainfall and the runoff produced from heavy rain that flowed from Carroll, Stark and Summit counties.

By September 2, MWCD personnel at Atwood Lake Park were working with staff from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that manage Atwood Dam to identify and move camping units and other property that could sustain water damage. More than 60 camping units were moved to areas of higher ground in the park during the week, especially those located next to the water in the popular “Point” area of the park’s campground.

The MWCD also announced September 3 that given the high water - which at Atwood had reached more than 4 feet above normal summer elevation levels by the afternoon - owners of boats and camping units should check on them. Late that day, the MWCD ordered that the lake’s public launch ramp off State Route 212 near the dam be closed after it was swallowed up by water, and on September 4 the public launch ramps at Leesville Lake’s two marinas – Clow’s Marina near Leesville and Petersburg Marina near Carrollton – also were closed.

On the water, docks were under water in many locations at both lakes, and walkways to docks at the marinas and other spots also could not be used. Boats tied to docks were in danger of sinking, but boaters on the lakes spent time over several days assisting each other in retying lines and using other methods of securing them. Finally, on the morning of September 5, the water crested at both locations.

Because the lakes are part of a system with the other lakes and dams to protect locations downstream from flooding, the Corps must closely coordinate the outflow from Atwood and Leesville with the

outflows of other lakes. For example, downstream conditions on the Conotton Creek and Tuscarawas River at Dover Dam receded to the point by September 4 where some floodgates at Atwood and Leesville were opened to allow the release of floodwaters. And even with the conditions and higher water levels, Atwood and Leesville lakes were not even close to reaching the storage capacity for floodwaters they are designed for.

Atwood's maximum flood storage capacity is nearly 8 feet more than it actually handled during the event, which means it reached about 35 percent of its actual capacity. The record elevation for the lake (6.53 feet above normal) is only 44.6 percent of the lake's total storage capacity.



A portion of the campgrounds at Atwood Lake Park was covered by water following the heavy rain of September.



A shower building was among the damage sustained at Pleasant Hill Lake Park after a July thunderstorm.



A storm that roared through Pleasant Hill Lake Park in July left trees toppled and many campers cleaning up debris around their units.

At Leesville Lake, the record pool level is 6.6 feet above normal, which was set in April 1948, and is 40.6 percent of the lake's total storage capacity. The high elevation in 2003 pushed the lake to less than 20 percent of its capacity.

The Corps is studying the potential damage from a dollar standpoint that was prevented by the reservoirs from the rainfall. Atwood and Leesville lakes, as well as Beach City Lake and dams located at Dover and Bolivar, were affected by the rainfall and responsible for providing downstream protection.

With the amount of rainfall the region received, protection was provided for the immediate area near the individual projects and for downstream locations. Areas near Atwood, Beach City, Bolivar, Dover and Leesville dams that traditionally were prone to flooding before the construction of the dams and reservoirs were offered protection. One such area is the Southside section of New Philadelphia, where New Towne Mall and surrounding retail stores and businesses are located.

Downstream, the release of water from the northern dams was managed to avert flooding in areas such as Coshocton, Cambridge and Zanesville.

Then, a rainstorm that blew through the Atwood Lake region November 12 brought damage to several homes, knocked out electric and telephone service and left behind a trail of toppled and twisted trees and branches. It also had an impact on business at Atwood Lake Resort.

A group staying at the resort that week for a business meeting checked out early due to the black-out associated with the storm and two vacation cabins across from the resort's main entrance were severely damaged by the high winds and falling trees. The tab for the damage and lost business surpassed \$10,000. "In one cabin a tree went through the roof and into the interior ceiling," said John Huls, manager of Atwood Lake Resort. "We were not able to rent it until all repairs were completed."

Huls said the storm knocked out power around 8:00 p.m. on November 12 and left the resort unable to provide guests with heat, light and electric service. Power was restored briefly during the night, but was out again much of November 13 and the members of a large group holding a meeting at the resort left early.

Several homes located in the MWCD's Pines Cottage Area off State Route 542 near the resort also sustained damage. The residents of about 15 to 17 cottages reported varying degrees of damage, according to MWCD staff and rangers, with the most severe being a tree that fell through the roof of one home.

Huls and the MWCD staff commended the effort of the staff of the Carroll County Cooperative Electric Service and township trustees and employees who worked through the night to remove debris and assist residents and guests with needs related to the storm.

MWCD finalizes agreement with ODNR

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources formalized their cooperative relationship in 2003.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two agencies was developed and was approved by the MWCD Board of Directors and ODNR officials.

Valid through 2010, the MOU ensures that ODNR will continue to stock the Conservancy District's lakes with fish, manage all wildlife activities on MWCD property and generally assist in the enhancement of outdoor recreation open to the public at MWCD's reservoirs. The MWCD also pledges to preserve and promote public access for recreational boating, hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor recreational activities.

"We are very pleased to have reached agreement on the important items contained in this Memorandum of Understanding," said John M. Hoopingarner, MWCD executive director/secretary. "Many of the items contained in this document already occur and there never was any real concern of any interruption of activities by either agency, but it is reassuring to formalize the entire agreement."

According to the MOU, the document was established by the two agencies "for the purpose of continuing the existing cooperative relationship between MWCD and ODNR in furtherance of the shared goals, values and objectives for natural resource conservation and public recreation for all."

For several decades, ODNR's Division of Wildlife had a lease with MWCD that mandated the MWCD lakes and majority of the surrounding land owned by the Conservancy District were open for public fishing, hunting, and hiking. However, in 2001 the lease expired after ODNR announced it no longer had the funds to pay MWCD the annual lease fee of more than \$60,000. However, despite the non-renewal of the lease, routine activities conducted by ODNR on MWCD property – including fish

stocking and wildlife management – continued as usual. The MWCD also pledged to continue to provide and maintain as much as possible of its 54,000 acres of land and water space for public access for outdoor recreation.

The new agreement assures the same cooperative relationship with not only ODNR's Division of Wildlife, but also all divisions of the agency. "We certainly believe the public benefits from the work of ODNR at the MWCD reservoirs," Hoopingartner said. "We are very pleased that this work will continue and even be enhanced where possible." As part of the agreement, the agencies will meet at least once a year to review the agreement and recommend any changes. ODNR has numerous divisions dedicated to the protection and proper use of the state's natural resources.

Boating accident claims teen at Tappan

A Stark County family's vacation at Tappan Lake turned tragic in August 2003 after a teen-age boy fell off a moving boat and drowned, leading to a weeklong search by numerous agencies and volunteers before his body was recovered. The body of 14-year-old Anthony J. Sandy of the Massillon area was found August 11 at the bottom of Tappan Lake after a search effort that involved hundreds of emergency personnel and volunteers. Area emergency personnel located the body of Sandy in the general vicinity where he reportedly fell off a moving boat in the early evening of August 4.

According to reports, Sandy was riding on a boat with three family members a few hundred yards away from the dam at the lake's western end when he fell into the water and failed to return to the surface.

Rescue personnel, including numerous area and regional rescue, diving and dog units, searched the lake for Sandy's body for nearly 70 hours over eight days. Divers reported the search primarily was conducted in water ranging from 30 to 35 feet in depth with poor visibility moving toward the muddy lake bottom.

During the search and recovery efforts, the portion of the lake from the public launch ramp off State Route 250 to the dam at the western end of the lake was closed to public boating access. To assist the personnel who conducted the search, a free critical incident stress-debriefing meeting was held a couple of weeks later at Tappan Lake Park. The Tuscarawas County Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team conducted the meeting with trained stress counselors available to discuss the incident with participants.



A rescue helicopter lands next to Tappan Lake during the search for a teen-age boy who died after a boating accident on the lake.

Johnny Appleseed readies for 2004 opening

The countdown to the first performance of the outdoor drama celebrating the life of Johnny "Appleseed" Chapman was moving along rapidly in 2003. Officials from the Johnny Appleseed Heritage Center and Outdoor Drama (JAHCOD) complex presently under construction near Charles Mill Lake at



An artist's drawing shows the design of the amphitheater that will host the outdoor drama at the Johnny Appleseed Outdoor Heritage Center complex.

Mansfield told members of the Board of Directors of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District in August that the opening show is scheduled for June 22, 2004.

Chris Parson, JAHCOD executive director, told Board members that work on the center's 1,600-seat amphitheater had been under way for several weeks at the complex located off State Route 603 near Mifflin. JAHCOD leases a 45-acre tract of property from MWCD just east of the dam at Charles Mill Lake where the complex is located.

The Appleseed project's J.M. Smucker Center, a 90-seat auditorium and library, has been completed and is open. It also is part of the wide-reaching series of facilities and programs that JAHCOD plans to promote, support and nurture Chapman's legacy as a humanitarian, philanthropist and conservationist. "We already have the nature trail complete, too," said Parson, who has acted in and worked for several outdoor dramas around Ohio. "We are working on it to make it more visible and accessible."

William E. Jones, founder and president of JAHCOD, said excitement is beginning to build as the complex takes shape and the organization creates the timetable to prepare for production next season. "The reach and the impact that this project is going to have will be astronomical," Jones said.

The JAHCOD will celebrate the life and work of Chapman, who planted nurseries, practiced his missionary work and conducted activities in the area where the complex is located as part of his involvement during the War of 1812. In 2000, a land tract of more than 100 acres managed by the MWCD was dedicated as the "Johnny Appleseed Forest."

Parson said auditions and other activities associated with launching production of the outdoor drama recognizing Chapman's life and work were slated to begin in early 2004.

MWCD Board members also approved a new 25-year lease with JAHCOD with some updated details and language that will assist the organization to qualify for some possible state funding. "I'm really excited to see this moving forward," said David E. Brightbill, president of the MWCD Board of Directors. "The impact it's going to have on the community will be tremendous."

MWCD confirms safety efforts with new coordinator

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District stamped a year that it devoted to improving safety at its facilities for the general public and employees with the hiring in 2003 of a full-time safety coordinator.

Scott W. Tritt of Bolivar was hired for the newly created position to coordinate all aspects of work-place safety for the MWCD, including compliance issues, creation of specific safety plans for individual positions and other related tasks.

Previously the owner of Safe T Consulting and Associates at Bolivar, Tritt has more than 10 years of experience in the occupational safety field. He is a certified fire safety inspector and a member of the McKinley Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers. He also is a member of the Tuscarawas County Local Emergency Planning Committee, chief of the Zoar Volunteer Fire Department and safety director for the East Central Ohio Builders Industry.

Spill prevention, hazardous waste plan adopted for marina

A plan to prevent oil and gas spills and to control hazardous waste items at Pleasant Hill Marina has been developed by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. The plan, designed for Pleasant Hill Marina on Pleasant Hill Lake, will be required to be in place for all marina operations by July 2004, said Richard A. Bible, MWCD manager of operations/chief engineer. Pleasant Hill Marina is operated by the MWCD, the only marina it manages at any of its lakes.

New federal requirements from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stipulate that marina operations must prepare and implement a plan "to prevent any discharge of oil into navigable waters or adjoining shorelines." Oil, as defined in the requirement, is "oil of any kind in any form, including but not limited to petroleum, fuel oil, sludge, oil refuse and oil mixed with waste other than dredged spoil and oily mixtures."

Bible said the MWCD supports the requirement as a method of increasing awareness of marina staffs, boaters and the general public about the importance of promoting and maintaining the health of lakes and streams. The MWCD lakes were constructed for flood control purposes in the 1930s and can be used as sources of public water supply.

The MWCD plan provides a wide scope of information, including contact details for management of the marina, broad inventory of fuel-related equipment utilized at the marina, reporting requirements, prevention and emergency response guidelines and other related listings. Bible said that the other nine marinas on the MWCD lakes also will have to develop a similar plan to meet the federal guidelines. The other MWCD marinas are operated by private businesses or individuals who lease the ground the marinas are located on from the Conservancy District. MWCD marina leases stipulate that marina operators comply with all rules, regulations and laws that apply to them, he added.

Policy deals with nuisance aquatic plants

As hearty aquatic plants have reached nuisance levels at several of its lakes, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District developed a policy in 2003 to guide management and in some cases, eradication of the plants.

Aquatic plants, which survive above or very near the surface of the lakes, are a visible problem at several locations and in some instances, have choked off access to certain parts of a lake for swimming, boating and fishing. By the summer of 2003, the MWCD had received six requests for assistance in their removal or management from cottage area residents, docking associations and marinas.

“This is something we are being faced with on an increased basis at several locations,” said Richard A. Bible, MWCD manager of operations/chief engineer.

One of the more visible locations for the existence of one of the prominent aquatic plants affecting a lake – the American Lotus, which appears as a large lily pad type plant - is at the eastern end of Tappan Lake off State Route 250 near the entrance to Tappan Lake Park, Bible said. The Conservancy District has had limited experience in dealing with the plants and the complaints they have generated, he added.

In 2001, the MWCD granted permission to a dock association to hire a professional applicator to treat white water lilies at Leesville Lake. In 2003, to help alleviate a problem and learn more about the process, the MWCD paid to treat one acre of American Lotus at Seneca Lake. The project at Seneca Lake involved the application of a plant-killing substance that has been deemed completely safe for the water and fish and other aquatic life in the lake, said Mark Swiger, MWCD’s mineral and agricultural coordinator who oversaw the work. He added that weather conditions had to be considered in the application since the above-water portion of the American Lotus plant is very waxy.

According to terms of the policy, the MWCD will review identified areas of potential nuisance aquatic plants and recommend a course of action based on “the multiple-use aspect of the lake and the health of the aquatic environment.”

Aquatic plants are recognized as “natural components of the reservoir environment, and when properly managed provide food and cover for waterfowl, fish and smaller aquatic organisms, help protect shorelines from erosion by reducing the effects of wave action, filter sediments suspended in the water and add oxygen which is critical to a healthy environment,” according the proposed policy. However, besides limiting recreational opportunities, excessive levels of a particular species also can decrease native plant diversity and have a negative aesthetic impact on the lake. The policy also provides guidelines for identification, review and evaluation, and steps to follow in programs to limit or eradicate plants from certain areas of an affected lake.

MWCD sets policy for landfill proposals

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District does not possess any regulatory authority over the location of landfills in Ohio. But that doesn’t mean that it fails to have an interest.

In 2003, the Conservancy District’s Board of Directors adopted a policy and guidelines for how the MWCD should monitor and respond to the proposed installation, expansion or abandonment of a landfill. The proposed construction of a landfill near Beach City Reservoir prompted MWCD officials to examine how the organization should react to similar developments.

The MWCD informed the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) during the summer of 2002 that it opposed the location of the Ridge Landfill near Beach City, which was proposed to be built by Norton Environmental Inc. In its letter to OEPA, the MWCD cited several concerns related to its opposition, including the potential for groundwater contamination, the proposed location of the landfill and potential geologic difficulties.

The policy adopted by the Board includes a policy statement and several guidelines. The proposed policy, developed by the MWCD’s conservation staff members, reads as follows: “The (MWCD) has an

interest in the impact that construction, operation or abandonment of a landfill can have on adjacent property, surface water and ground water. Though the Conservancy District has no regulatory authority with regard to siting landfills in the state of Ohio, the Ohio EPA provides opportunities through public meetings and comment periods to express concerns or opposition to proposed landfills, and District staff should be prepared to comment when appropriate.”

The policy also includes several guidelines to help Conservancy District staff manage their reaction to landfill-related issues. Those guidelines detail how MWCD staff will investigate the issue, prioritize involvement and formally oppose installation or expansion of a landfill.

Public opposition to the proposed Ridge Landfill has been very vocal and active, with public meetings held by OEPA and project opponents, along with numerous organizations and public agencies formally expressing their opposition.

Norton, located in Independence, OH, has filed an application with OEPA for a permit to install a 350-acre landfill in the northwest corner of Tuscarawas County. If approved and constructed, the landfill would be located about one mile west of the MWCD’s northwest property boundary at Beach City Reservoir.

Leaders give tourism award to MWCD

The spotlight for “excellence” in Eastern Ohio shines brightly on the lakes and facilities of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, according to the region’s leaders. The MWCD received an Excellence in Tourism Award during the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance’s (EODA) annual awards meeting held April 25 in the Carlisle Village Inn at Walnut Creek.

The MWCD, headquartered at New Philadelphia, manages 10 lakes and more than 54,000 acres of land and water in an 18-county area in Ohio, while contributing more than an estimated \$270 million annually to the region’s economy.

“We are very humbled and honored to receive such an award,” said John M. Hoopingarner, MWCD executive director/secretary. “When you consider the volume of outstanding destinations and quality attractions that are available to residents and visitors in our part of Ohio, being nominated and receiving this award is a very high honor.”



MWCD Executive Director/Secretary John M. Hoopingarner (second from L) receives the EODA award from James Schoch (second from R) and U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland(R). Looking on is EODA President Donald Myers.

Each year the EODA, a non-profit organization dedicated to economic growth through regional cooperation among business and public leaders in 16 counties in the region, recognizes private firms and public agencies for their contributions. Jim Schoch of National City Bank at New Philadelphia, who presented the MWCD with its award, said the agency’s lakes mean more to the region than serving as an outstanding resource for outdoor recreation that attracts more than 5.5 million people annually. He

said the MWCD originally was formed in the 1930s for flood control in the region. While that job continues to be the primary focus of the Conservancy District, the region's economy also has been helped by the lakes as a study conducted in the late 1990s estimated that several thousand jobs are in some way related to the lakes and facilities, along with a payroll of more than \$90 million per year.

"When you take a look at the numbers here, they're just very impressive," Schoch said. "I don't think very many of us are aware of what the MWCD lakes do for the region."

Hoopingartner told the audience of about 200 that the MWCD was scheduled to celebrate its 70th anniversary later in the summer. Since the formation of the MWCD, more than \$2.1 billion in estimated flood damage has been prevented by the system of dams and lakes, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the dams. "We take our mission of conservation and recreation in harmony with flood control very seriously," Hoopingartner said. "The lakes are excellent sources of fun and recreation for individuals and families in the region and beyond, but they also have a very important job day in and day out."

U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland, the congressman from Ohio's 6th District that encompasses much of the EODA territory, served as the keynote speaker for the meeting and praised the staff of the MWCD when he met with Hoopingartner following his remarks.

The MWCD is a political subdivision of the state of Ohio and is the largest of the state's 22 conservancy districts. It manages 10 lakes and five lake parks inside an 18-county area, and employs a staff of about 450 full-time and part-time workers.

Visitors to the MWCD lakes each year range from those who enjoy a day of fishing, boating or sailing; some who camp overnight or for longer periods of time; families which enjoy a day of swimming and picnicking in a lake park; and even year-round residents who lease land from the MWCD as part of its cottage site lease program. Although they were constructed in the 1930s as flood control reservoirs, the lakes and surrounding areas have become prime outdoor recreation locations.

Seneca ranger carries torch on world stage

Seneca Lake Park ranger Larry Bunting has spent his adult life running to keep in shape. He never dreamed his legs would carry him to Europe. Bunting was selected as Ohio's representative to help carry the torch leading up to the opening of the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games that were held in late June at Dublin, Ireland. The Caldwell resident, who spends his summer months patrolling and camping at Seneca Lake Park, wore his ranger uniform when he participated in the opening ceremonies for the Games on June 21.

"We're going to run through places like Athens, Helsinki, Brussels, London, Belfast and Dublin – and a total of 130 communities in Ireland," Bunting said prior to leaving for the event, noting he will spend nearly three weeks running in Europe. "It's going to be a tremendous experience."

A retired Ohio Highway Patrol officer with 32 years of service, Bunting has participated in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Ohio Special Olympics Summer Games during the past 10 years. Runners – most of whom are police officers – obtain sponsors for the program with all of the proceeds given to the Special Olympics to assist athletes and their families with expenses related to the event.

The biggest fund-raiser related to the Special Olympics program, the Law Enforcement Torch Run generated more than \$20 million nationally in 2002 alone.



Larry Bunting

“We have a team that normally gets together and then runs from Marietta to Columbus as our portion of the event,” Bunting said. “We then meet up with other runners from around the state in Columbus.” Bunting said he had no idea how he was selected as Ohio’s representative for the Special Olympics World Games. The Dublin site will serve as the first time the Games have been held outside the United States. About 7,000 athletes competed in the Games.

“I was notified that I had been nominated to be the Ohioan to run in the Torch Run and I just couldn’t believe it,” Bunting said. “This is a great honor and I know it will be an experience that I will consider very special.”

A photo and background information about Bunting were included in the official media guide for the Torch Run that is being distributed worldwide. Not bad for someone who simply enjoyed running as Bunting said he became involved in the program after overhearing a conversation among other participants.

“I happened to be at a Fraternal Order of Police meeting once and I heard a bunch of the guys talking about it,” he said. “So I found out more, started running in it in 1994 and here I am.” He has met many people and had plenty of thrills associated with the program, but one moment still stands out, he said.

“The first time I went into Ohio Stadium (site of the Ohio Special Olympics Summer Games) it truly was emotional,” he said. “If you can’t get a thrill from running in that stadium with all of those kids cheering for you, then there’s something wrong. I never get tired of doing that and I get excited every time the kids come over and greet us and hug us.”

Staff projects fill busy year

The staff of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District dedicates itself to dozens and even hundreds of projects and activities simultaneously throughout a year’s time. In 2003, it was no different. Besides the numerous items listed on the following pages that were conducted by MWCD work groups, many staffers also volunteer for outreach programs that extend the Conservancy District’s involvement, influence and education. Following is a listing of many noteworthy activities the MWCD participated in during the year, broken down by classification.

Engineering

Routine and specialty maintenance is a major concern, important part of the short-term and long-term planning processes and takes up a noteworthy portion of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District’s budget each year.

The Conservancy District has 10 permanent lakes, more than 54,000 acres of property, five lake parks, a resort and other facilities to be concerned with on a day-to-day and long-term basis.

Staff members in the MWCD's engineering group and at the parks are in charge of the planning and execution of the maintenance and major repair/replacement needs for the facilities and equipment.

Of course, a major project for the Conservancy District during 2003 was the renovation of Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center. While much of the work associated with that project was conducted by contractors after a bidding process, the staffs of the MWCD and the resort participated in various items, too.

And staff members were not limited to projects at one or only a couple of locations, either. During 2003, dozens of routine and specialty projects were conducted by the engineering and park staffs at all MWCD facilities. Work ranged from routine maintenance to scheduled and unscheduled improvements.

The engineering group develops a list of projects each year through the planning process that involves the MWCD administration, group managers, park staffs and others. In most years, more than 100 projects are completed by the end of each calendar year.

Public Information

The public information support arm of the Conservancy District's operation spent most of 2003 focused on two primary objectives – marketing the MWCD recreational opportunities and education of the watershed region's residents about the mission of the MWCD.

Several issues of the MWCD *Lake Views* newsletter had stories, photographs and other information that detailed the Conservancy District's flood protection program, historical data and other related items. The MWCD sends out more than 10,000 free issues of the quarterly newsletter to all users of its facilities and others.

The public information staff also began to investigate the various media and strategies to reach the residents of its 18-county area as part of an information and education campaign about the MWCD. With the Conservancy District celebrating its 70th anniversary during 2003, many who reside within the region are unaware of its mission, historical roots and present operations and the MWCD is challenged to increase awareness.

From the recreational standpoint, the MWCD continued to develop print and electronic advertising to provide information about the lakes and activities to large audiences inside and outside the Conservancy District region.

As in past years, the public information group also coordinated contacts with the state's outdoor writers and others interested in a "hands-on" learning approach to the lakes by offering fishing tours with a renowned area fisherman. Don Weaver of Sugarcreek, an avid fisherman and seasonal camper at Atwood Lake Park, again provided one-on-one fishing advice and information to the writers.

The MWCD's Internet site, www.mwcdlakes.com, continues to be a popular method for dissemination of information about the MWCD, its operations and recreational opportunities at the reservoirs.

More than 20,000 computer users entered the site during 2003 to obtain information and several thousand used the information request form on the website to request more detailed brochures or ask questions of MWCD staff. The public information staff oversees content of the Internet site and works to update its design. The public information staff also updated several related brochures and distributed several thousand throughout the year.

The Conservancy District attends several promotional shows during the year to showcase its facilities to frequent and potential visitors. In 2003, these included the Ohio RV Supershow, the Mid-American Boat Show and American-Canadian Sport and Travel Show, all at Cleveland; the Canton Marine Dealers Boat Show; the Allegheny Sport and Travel Show at Pittsburgh; and several other smaller shows and events in the region. In addition, brochures for the MWCD are distributed at several shows in Ohio and surrounding states through the Ohio Travel Pavilion.

More than 100 press releases also were produced and distributed by the MWCD during 2003 and staffers made a few dozen appearances at school classrooms and meetings of civic groups and organizations to promote the Conservancy District. Several MWCD staff members also lend themselves to participate in promotional campaigns for the area and region, including the Forest Heritage Festival (held each fall at Dover) and the Wills Creek Watershed education project.

Assistance also was offered by the public information staff for continued development and work related to the marketing efforts of Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center.

Human Resources

With a staff of more than 400 employees – including more than 100 full-time staff members – the work to service the needs of both staff and the MWCD organization is a constantly evolving process for Mary Burley, human resources coordinator. Besides routine reviews of the Conservancy District's benefit package, health plan and communication efforts for its employees, Burley also embarked on several other projects in 2003.

Burley, who coordinated the process of a mass layoff of employees at Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center in late 2002 for the upcoming renovation project that began in January 2003, also steered the return of staff as operations resumed.

As the MWCD confirmed its need to implement a safety program for staff to meet the improving standards related to employee safety, Burley developed the job description for the implementation of a safety coordinator position. She also led the effort to attract, interview and eventually hire a qualified applicant to fill the position.

Burley also helped coordinate two MWCD all-employee meetings to identify and discuss issues related to staff concerns. The meetings were held at Atwood Lake Resort.

During 2003, the MWCD also initiated a customer-service recognition program at its lake parks and Atwood Lake Resort. Based on ratings recorded by guests on visitor comment cards, the Conservancy District established the "Excellence In Service Award" with Atwood Lake Resort, Pleasant Hill Lake Park and Tappan Lake Park receiving plaques for display in their offices.

Conservation

The MWCD's Conservation group concentrates its efforts in the areas of agricultural, forestry, mineral, dredging/shoreline stabilization and water quality monitoring operations.

Its stated mission is: "As resource stewards, the Conservation Group strives to promote, maintain and enhance the health and diversity of the Conservancy District's natural resources for the public."

In the area of agricultural operations, rain dominated much of the planting and growing seasons in 2003, yet the MWCD still slightly exceeded its budgeted revenue goals for the year. The sharecrop operations are conducted at Mohawk and Wills Creek reservoirs, where the yields were sufficient and market prices high enough to offset crop losses on 76 acres from flooding.

Forestry operations also were affected by the rainy conditions, as planned harvesting projects routinely were shuffled in an attempt to continue working. However, as with sharecrop operations, by the end of calendar year 2003, revenue projections were slightly exceeded. The Conservation group also reported no significant damage from a declining gypsy moth population, which has been monitored closely over the past decade.

In its mineral operations, the MWCD spent much of 2003 managing existing oil and gas production and fielding inquiries from companies interested in potential development of resources throughout the Conservancy District's holdings.

The Conservation group manages the MWCD's dredging program with the dredge Sedimental Journey at Charles Mill Lake (see detailed report on Page XX). By the end of the year, staff also was coordinating five shoreline stabilization projects to be conducted during the annual "drawdown" of the lakes as part of the flood protection management plan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

From a water quality monitoring standpoint, the MWCD continues a cooperative sampling program with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Sampling was conducted as part of the Tappan Water Quality Feasibility Study in 2003.

Recreation-Leases

The Recreation-Leases group manages 1,200 active leases in its cottage site lease program, along with conducting a host of other projects related to the needs of those lessees.

With the completion of a new water system operated through Consumers Ohio Water Company for lessees in the Sites Lake Cottage Area at Charles Mill Lake, the recreation-leases group helped with the transition for residents to the new system and billing procedures.

For the second consecutive year, planned mowing of MWCD property near the cottage site areas was conducted by private contractors through a bid procedure managed by the recreation-leases group. Staff also worked with officials from FFA Camp Muskingum and Camp Aldersgate at Leesville Lake, which were planning improvement projects on the ground they lease from the Conservancy District. At Tappan Lake, the recreation-leases staff fielded interest in two former businesses on leased property across from the launch ramp off State Route 250. A former gas station and a former restaurant both have been closed and issues related to those leases along with future opportunities were discussed.

Two meetings also were held with lessees in the spring to preview the upcoming season and provide a forum for answers to any questions. Meetings were held April 5 at New Philadelphia and April 12 at Charles Mill Lake.

Total Quality Management

The Total Quality Management process the Conservancy District instituted in 1994 has become a natural method of addressing challenges and making improvements at MWCD facilities.

Besides providing training for new employees to learn the TQM process, the MWCD has carried out the teaching of the program through the Quality Improvement Process (QIP) team and Management Advisory team structures.

The Quality Steering Team (QST) guides the process and forms QIP teams consisting of interested and qualified staff members to tackle identified issues. QIP teams that have reached identified goals are reassigned as committees as their need for meetings and work decrease.

The QIP teams and committees include the following:

- Law Enforcement Team
- Atwood Resort Landscaping Team
- Emergency Action/Management Plan Team
- Awards Team
- Comprehensive Resource Management Plan Committee
- Maintenance Committee
- Records Committee
- Geographic Information System Committee
- Safety Committee
- Maintenance Assessment and Planning System Committee
- Docking Committee
- Sign Committee

Several management advisory teams also are established and exist to periodically study specific issues and report their findings and recommendations to the MWCD administration.

Charles Mill Dredge

The dredge Sedimental Journey completed its sixth season of operation in the fall of 2003 at Charles Mill Lake. Purchased by the MWCD through a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' NatureWorks program, the dredge has operated at Charles Mill Lake since June 1998.

The dredge has provided boaters and anglers with increased recreational opportunities on the lake. As long as funding permits, MWCD officials said they hope to establish a maintenance program for the dredge that will address needs at other lakes, too.

For the year, a total of 16,344 cubic yards of material was removed from the lake and a significant area of improved navigational channel was established. After six years, nearly 240,000 cubic yards of material has been removed or relocated from the lake. More than 10 miles of navigational channels have been established.

Ohio Conservancy District Conference

MWCD Executive Director/Secretary John M. Hoopingarner served as president of the multi-district Ohio Conservancy District Conference in 2003. Hoopingarner has been elected president of the organization for several consecutive one-year terms.

The organization of the state's conservancy districts meets at least twice annually to discuss common concerns and issues, and to inform one another about activities in individual conservancy districts.

During 2003, efforts continued by the organization to help educate the state's legislators about conservancy districts, their organizations and functions, as well as other activities designed to increase awareness about their missions and operations.

Marine Patrol

The marine patrol rangers on the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lakes routinely spend a busy boating season filled with basic enforcement activities. An average of 409 hours per week were spent on patrol in 2003 from April 6 through September 21.

One drowning was recorded in a lake-related incident during 2003 on Tappan Lake (see story on Page 44).

For the second consecutive year, the marine patrol also sponsored several boater education courses. All boaters born on or after January 1, 1982, and planning to operate a powerboat of more than 10 horsepower, must complete an approved boater safety course according to Ohio law.

The MWCD marine patrol has two certified boating education instructors who taught classes at various locations around the Conservancy District region.

The MWCD marine patrol logged a total of 8,099 hours in its duties during 2003. A breakdown of activities follows:

Patrol hours	4,014.25 hours
Inspection hours	631.75 hours
Maintenance hours	802.75 hours
Court hours	22.00 hours
Investigation hours	91.00 hours
Training hours	530.50 hours
Search and rescue hours	408.25 hours
Educational hours	116.50 hours
Total officer hours	6,617.00 hours
Assistant safety coordinator hours	1,482.00 hours
Total hours	8,099.00 hours

The 13 part-time rangers of the marine patrol also provided assistance to 280 boaters during the season and issued 61 citations. A total of 610 written warnings were issued, along with 450 documented verbal warnings and more than 500 written boat inspections. A total of 13 accidents were investigated. The lakes also hosted 377 fishing tournaments and 39 regattas during the year.

Park Special Events

With busy campgrounds and plenty of facilities and recreational opportunities available, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lake parks are hopping with activities during the season between the Memorial Day and Labor Day holiday weekends.

Special events planned and conducted by park staff members help add to the atmosphere, and attract other visitors to the parks and lakes.

All parks conduct special weekend activities nearly every Friday and Saturday night during the season, including fireworks, water shows, safety displays, bands and many other specialty events. A complete list of park special activities is finalized each winter and promoted to campers and the general public through advertisements, the MWCD Internet site and other methods.

For the third year in a row, the parks also hosted a “Guest Appreciation Day” to showcase the facilities. Held on June 14, the event featured free admission to all five MWCD lake parks.

Youth and Educational Camps

For several decades, children and adults of all ages have been a part of single-day and overnight visits to camps located on the MWCD lakes. Those youth and educational camps on MWCD reservoirs continue to serve visitors in a variety of ways. Groups of all ages and sizes utilize the facilities for nature retreats or other overnight and day projects. The camps annually attract more than 20,000 visitors to the lakes, many of whom are making return trips to Conservancy District facilities. The camps operate under lease agreements with the MWCD, which are administered by the recreation-leases group.

- Leesville Lake hosts a total of seven camps at its Camp Leesville facility. They include: Christ United Presbyterian Church of Canton (Camp Wakonda); East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church (Camp Aldersgate); Future Farmers of America (Camp Muskingum); Salvation Army of Northeast Ohio Camp (Camp Neosa); Westminster Presbytery of Akron; Camp Falcon; and Camp Firebird.
- Charles Mill Lake is the site of Camp Glen Taylor, operated by the Mansfield YMCA.
- At Clendening Lake, the Ohio River Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America (Fort Steuben) and Canton YMCA (Camp Tippecanoe) operate camps.
- Piedmont Lake hosts the Eastern Ohio 4-H Extension Camp (Camp Piedmont) and Camp Presmont.
- At Pleasant Hill Lake, Camp Nuhop and the Wooster Outdoor Center are located on the shoreline of the lake.
- Seneca Lake is the host for the annual Baptist Church Camp which is located near the park entrance.

In addition, several other day camps and specialty camps are held at the parks and other facilities of the MWCD.

Cooperating agencies enhance MWCD offerings

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District is fortunate to have the support of several state and federal agencies that enable the MWCD to improve its facilities on an annual basis.

From stocking of fish in the MWCD lakes to operation of the dams, the Conservancy District benefits from the expertise and support of trained professionals at these agencies. Officials from the organizations normally meet at least annually with MWCD representatives for planning and discussion of shared issues.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Flood control operations of the 14 MWCD dams were assumed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the 1939 Flood Control Act. The dams continue to be owned by the Corps' Huntington, West Virginia, District Office. The Muskingum Area Office is located off State Route 800 just outside Dover.

During 2003, officials of the Corps and MWCD met twice in accordance with their partnering agreement to discuss common goals and issues. The agencies have assigned various staff members to study assigned areas of interest and make recommendations to the administrations of each.

Reservoir	Normal Pool Elevation	Maximum Elevation	Date Reached	% of Storage
Atwood	928.00	933.31	9/5/03	35.59%
Beach City	948.00	956.03	9/29/03	8.85%
Bolivar	895.00	933.40	8/1/03	22.64%
Charles Mill	997.00	1000.18	5/12/03	5.94%
Clendening	898.00	900.20	5/12/03	15.20%
Dover	874.00	881.61	7/25/03	3.17%
Leesville	963.00	966.17	9/5/03	18.64%
Mohawk	799.20	830.85	5/12/03	5.90%
Mohicanville	932.00	948.00	5/11/03	12.92%
Piedmont	913.00	914.25	5/12/03	9.08%
Pleasant Hill	1020.00	1030.28	5/11/03	13.97%
Seneca	832.20	835.14	9/4/03	24.80%
Tappan	899.30	900.38	5/12/03	9.86%
Wills Creek	742.00	753.63	5/14/03	11.03%

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the MWCD cooperate in a number of aspects. The MWCD annually receives a grant from ODNR's Division of Watercraft for marine patrol operations. Grants also have been obtained from ODNR for numerous other MWCD construction and improvement projects.

The MWCD lakes and most of the surrounding land owned by the Conservancy District are open for public use, including boating, fishing, hunting, hiking and other activities. ODNR's Division of Wildlife annually stocks the fish in the MWCD lakes and conducts other wildlife research and development efforts at the reservoirs.

The Conservancy District lakes are located through three separate districts of jurisdiction of the Division of Wildlife. In District 3 in the northeast portion of the state, the MWCD lakes include Atwood, Beach City, Clendening, Leesville and Tappan. District 4 handles activities at Piedmont, Seneca and Wills Creek lakes, while District 2 encompasses Charles Mill and Pleasant Hill lakes.

2003 Stocking Activities			
Reservoir	Species	Number	Average Length
Atwood	Saugeye	287,800	1.3"
Beach City	Saugeye	10,069	0.9"
Charles Mill	Saugeye	67,848	Fingerling
Charles Mill	Striped Bass	125,075	Fingerling
Clendening	Saugeye	268,807	1.5"
Leesville	Catfish	5,031	11.5"
Leesville	Muskellunge	1,250	10.1"
Leesville	Saugeye	93,459	1.3"
Piedmont	Muskellunge	2,493	Adv. Fingerling
Piedmont	Saugeye	412,828	Fingerling
Pleasant Hill	Saugeye	167,730	Fingerling
Seneca	Saugeye	325,596	Fingerling
Seneca	Saugeye	3,064,300	Fry
Seneca	Striped Bass	167,088	Fingerling
Seneca	Striped Bass	400,000	Fry
Tappan	Saugeye	366,044	1.3"
Wills Creek	Saugeye	21,318	Fingerling

All information provided by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife

Ohio Department of Transportation

The MWCD and the Ohio Department of Transportation have cooperated since the formation of the Conservancy District for highway relocations, bridge construction, rights-of-way and maintenance and repair of roads. As part of this effort, ODOT provides an annual paving program to maintain access roads for the MWCD parks, launch ramps and marinas.

During 2003, crews paved access roads at Tappan Lake Park and other facilities in the Tappan Lake region.

Subdistricts

Black Fork Subdistrict

There is no present activity in the Black Fork Subdistrict. No cost is involved in continuing the subdistrict as a vehicle for its intended purpose. In the future should the need arise, its existence could save considerable time and expense in lieu of forming another subdistrict.

Chippewa Subdistrict

The Chippewa Subdistrict consists of 33 miles of drainage channel along with eight dam structures in the area of the Chippewa Creek and its tributaries in portions of Medina and Wayne counties. In addition to routine maintenance of the channel, the subdistrict also is responsible for the maintenance of fish pools, sediment pools, rock deflectors, riprap section, pipe berm drains, corrugated pipe drop inlets, culverts, miscellaneous bridges, gates and mowing.



A major portion of work in the Chippewa Subdistrict in 2003 focused on improvements to Structure VII-D. Drainage improvements were part of the work as well as improvements along the structure itself.

The primary news in the subdistrict during 2003, however, was collection of a maintenance assessment from property owners within the subdistrict after completion of a readjustment of the appraisal of benefits in 2002. There are an estimated 32,000 parcels of property in the watershed and more than \$350,000 was collected as part of a six-year plan developed to provide satisfactory annual maintenance on the channel and dams and to improve the system to present-day standards.

Seville to serve as the Chippewa Subdistrict watershed specialist. In addition to the firm's previous experience with projects in the subdistrict, area residents also will have a local contact for subdistrict concerns and J&L will assist the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District with coordination of the much-needed maintenance work on the project.

With the onset of collection of the maintenance assessment, the subdistrict employed J&L Engineering of

J&L and MWCD staff met or talked with several property owners who expressed concerns about the maintenance assessment program when property tax statements were mailed by the auditor's offices of Medina and Wayne counties.

During 2003, J&L continued work to bring the dams into compliance with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Water's Ohio Dam Law.

Structure site VII-D, located on the outskirts of Wadsworth, was selected for renovation in 2003. The project primarily consisted of removal of nearly 17,000 cubic yards of sediment, revising the configuration of the sediment pool and the principal spillway riser and replacing a fence. Kent's Excavating was the low bidder on the project at \$172,452 and work started on July 1 with a targeted completion date of August 30. However, due to continued rain and wet ground conditions, the project was not completed until October.

As part of the follow-up to the construction work completed in 2002 on Structure III-A near Seville, a 26-page emergency action plan (including inundation maps) and a 32-page operation and maintenance manual complete with photos and site plans were prepared.

Work along the main channel of the Chippewa Creek consisted of replacement of two washed-out drop inlets along with their 100-foot outlet pipes. The structures posed definite hazards for farmers who inadvertently could drop into the hidden washouts while driving tractors.

Many of the corrugated metal pipe structures and culverts installed along the channel between 1974-78 have outlived their life expectancy and must be replaced.

Several meetings also were held with members of the Gloria Glens Village Council, a village bordering Chippewa Lake. To reduce flooding, the village is pursuing a cost-benefit study to be completed by the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service and working with the Medina County Emergency Management Agency for channel construction improvements. If approved, the channel improvements on the Chippewa Creek would be extended to Chippewa Lake, or about 1½ miles from the original project end point. This would represent only a minor addition to the regular Chippewa channel maintenance program, according to J&L.

Other routine maintenance work included removal of trash from Structure VII-C on three occasions and mowing all eight dams and emergency spillways and meeting.

Buffalo Creek Subdistrict

There is no present activity in the Buffalo Creek Subdistrict. No cost is involved in continuing the subdistrict as a vehicle for its intended purpose. In the future should the need arise, its existence could save considerable time and expense in lieu of forming another subdistrict.

Duck Creek Subdistrict

The Duck Creek flows through Noble and Washington counties and the original watershed protection project was started as a subdistrict of the MWCD.

The Soil Conservation Service, now Natural Resources Conservation Service, under Public Law 566, and co-sponsors MWCD and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, had worked on the project since 1963. Due to disinterest by those affected landowners along the channel and adverse benefit-cost ratio, activity in the project dwindled. With reluctance, in 1981 the NRCS requested and received agreement from the subdistrict to close out the remaining activity.

In the past few years, interest has resumed among many public officials and agencies to further develop the flood control plan and revive subdistrict activities. Commissioners from Noble and Washington counties have passed resolutions supporting the reactivation of the subdistrict and said they believe the support has increased for a flood control project in recent years.

The Washington and Noble Soil and Water Conservation Districts have received funding to develop a watershed management plan for the Duck Creek Watershed. A watershed coordinator also has been hired to facilitate the process.

During 2003, a few public meetings for residents and public officials to learn about the project's status and provide input also were held. The management plan being developed will assist the SWCDs in the two counties in setting priorities and securing funds to assist landowners and residents in improving the overall health of the watershed.

Summary of MWCD Owned Land by Reservoir

as of December 31, 2003

Reservoir	County	Acres	Total	
			Acres	Lots
Atwood	Carroll	3407.8690	4550.1190	19.0
	Tuscarawas	1142.2500		
Beach City	Stark	64.0200	1350.3980	2.0
	Tuscarawas	1286.3780		
Bolivar	Stark	815.2115	835.1715	23.5
	Tuscarawas	19.9600		
Charles Mill	Ashland	1811.9564	3351.7964	199.0
	Richland	1539.8400		
Clendening	Harrison	6601.6080	6601.6080	
Dover	Tuscarawas	484.5194	484.5194	52.0
Leesville	Carroll	3709.2330	3709.2330	1.0
Mohawk	Coshocton	3374.7738	3740.1538	
	Holmes	8.5900		
	Knox	356.7900		
Mohicanville	Ashland	40.7540	40.7540	
Piedmont	Belmont	5859.9680	6686.0490	
	Guernsey	130.3010		
	Harrison	695.7800		
Pleasant Hill	Ashland	724.6200	2193.7590	63.0
	Richland	1469.1390		
Senecaville	Guernsey	1461.3291	7615.7691	1.0
	Noble	6154.4400		
Tappan	Harrison	7594.2490	7594.2490	58.0
Wills Creek	Coshocton	3887.7110	5794.8570	14.0
	Guernsey	121.2460		
	Muskingum	1785.9000		
TOTALS		54548.4362	54548.4362	432.5

Summary of MWCD Owned Land by County

as of December 31, 2003

County	Reservoir	Acres	Total	
			Acres	Lots
Ashland	Charles Mill	1811.9564	2577.3304	199
	Mohicanville	40.7540		
	Pleasant Hill	724.6200		
Belmont	Piedmont	5859.9680	5859.9680	
Carroll	Atwood	3407.8690	7117.1020	20
	Leesville	3709.2330		
Coshocton	Mohawk	3374.7738	7262.4848	3
	Wills Creek	3887.7110		
Guernsey	Piedmont	130.3010	1712.8761	11
	Senecaville	1461.3291		
	Wills Creek	121.2460		
Harrison	Clendening	6601.6080	14891.6370	58
	Piedmont	695.7800		
	Tappan	7594.2490		
Holmes	Mohawk	8.5900	8.5900	
Knox	Mohawk	356.7900	356.7900	
Muskingum	Wills Creek	1785.9000	1785.9000	
Noble	Senecaville	6154.4400	6154.4400	1
Richland	Charles Mill	1539.8400	3008.9790	63
	Pleasant Hill	1469.1390		
Stark	Beach City	64.0200	879.2315	2
	Bolivar	815.2115		
Tuscarawas	Atwood	1142.2500	2933.1074	75.5
	Beach City	1286.3780		
	Bolivar	19.9600		
	Dover	484.5194		
TOTALS		54548.4362	54548.4362	432.5

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Accounting of Receipts and Disbursements

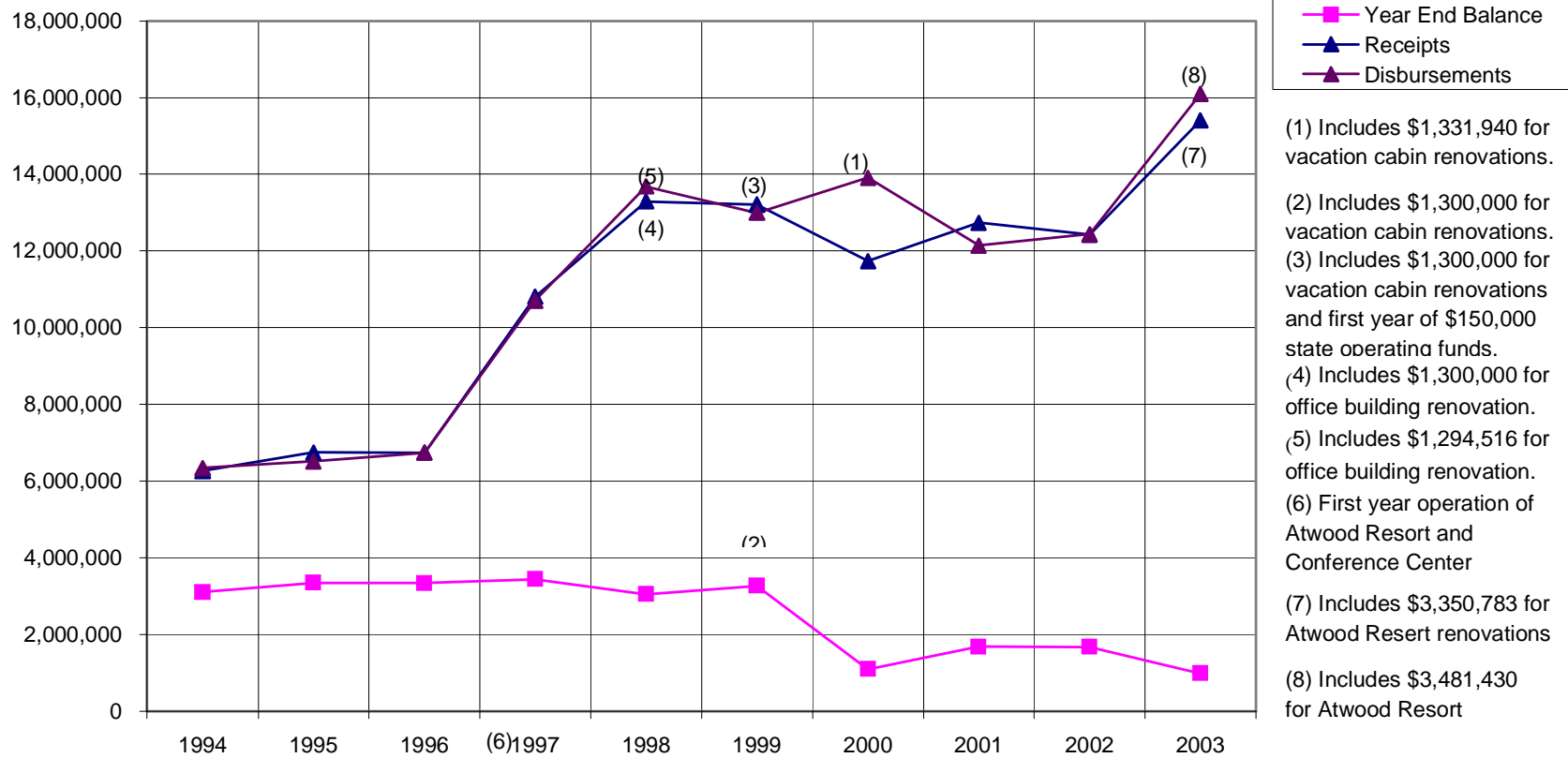
The funds of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District shall be administered through funds established, maintained and disbursed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6101 of the Ohio Revised Code. When not specifically provided by law, receipts shall be deposited in such funds and disbursements made from such funds as the Board of Directors has heretofore or may hereafter direct.

All earnings from the operation of the works of the Conservancy District and uses of its lands and water (except derived from recreational properties, improvements and facilities), together with all receipts not otherwise assigned by law or by order of the Board, shall be deposited in the general maintenance fund of the Conservancy District.

Financial Overview

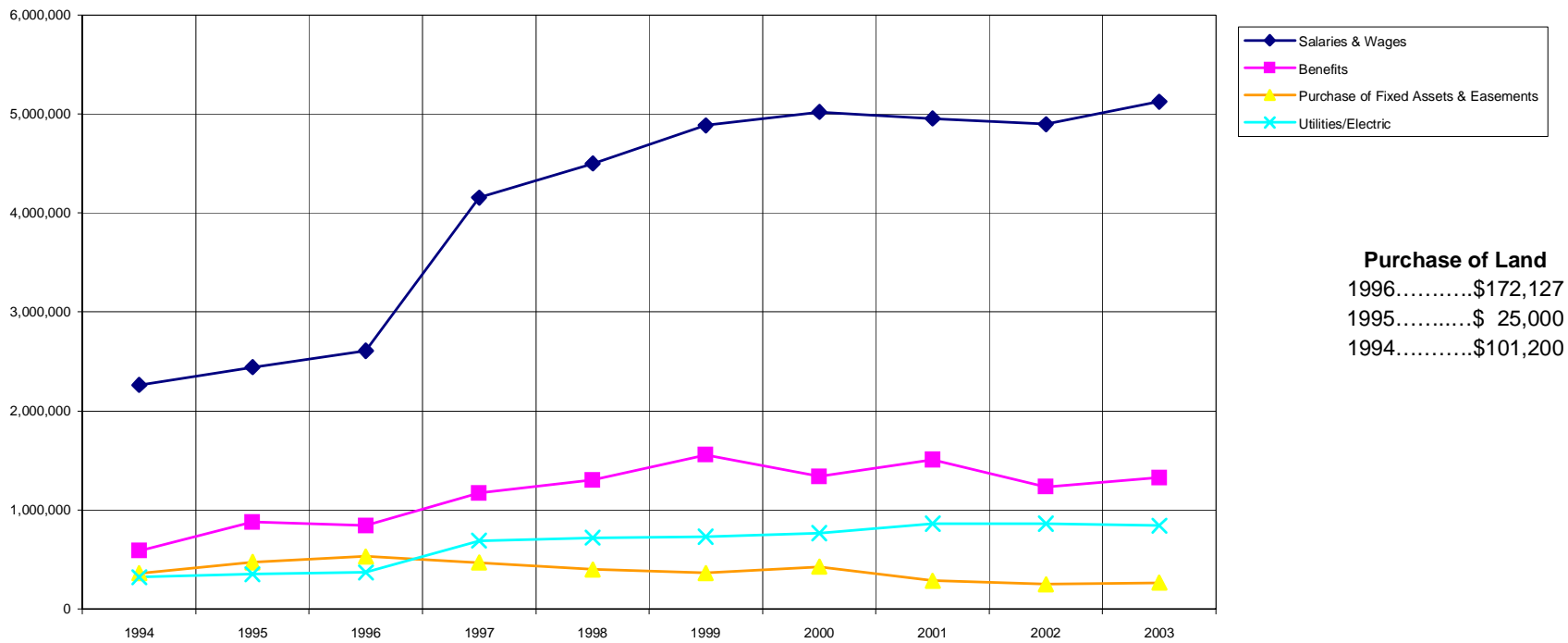
The following charts represent the financial history of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District over the past ten years (*information source: 1994-2002 Annual Reports of Operations*).

Figure 1
Year End Cash Balance/Receipts and Disbursements



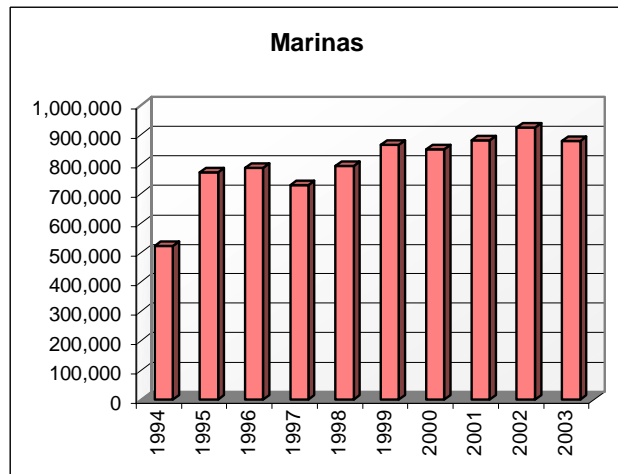
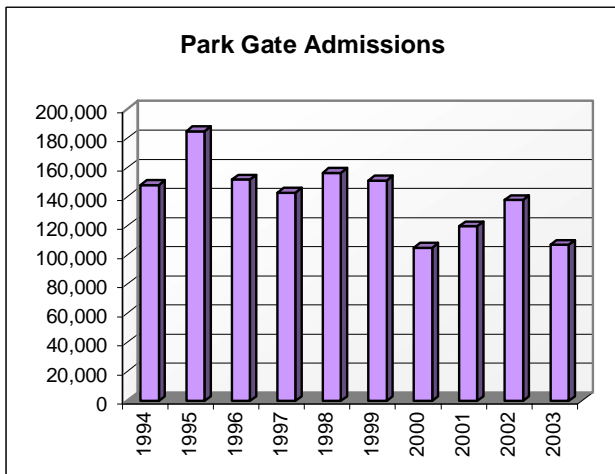
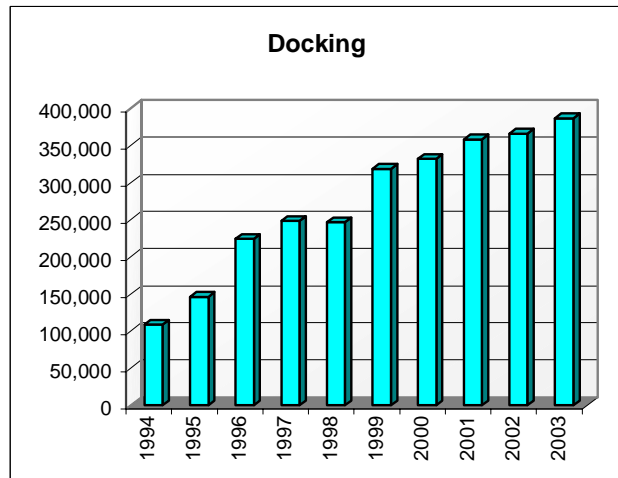
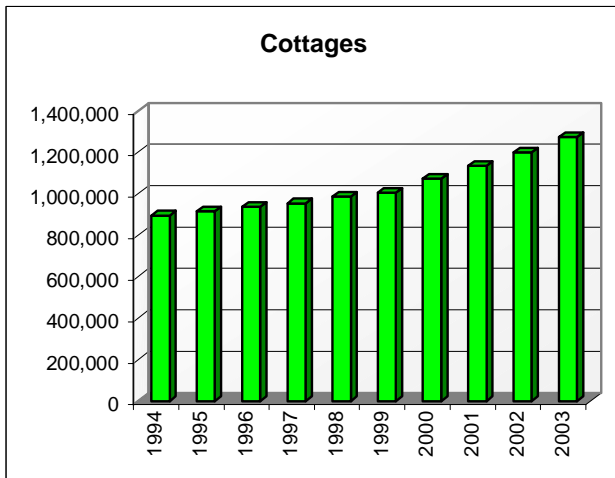
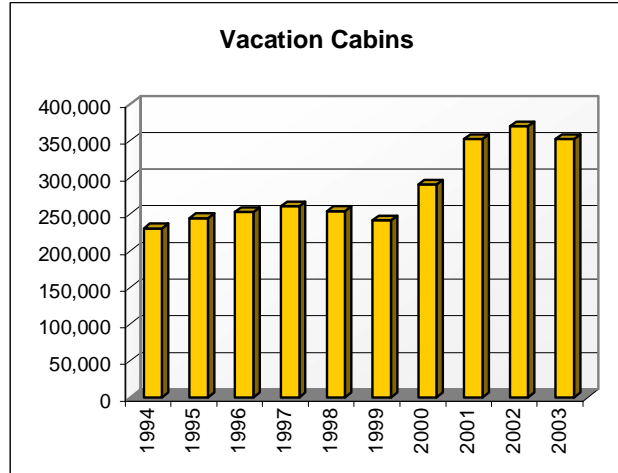
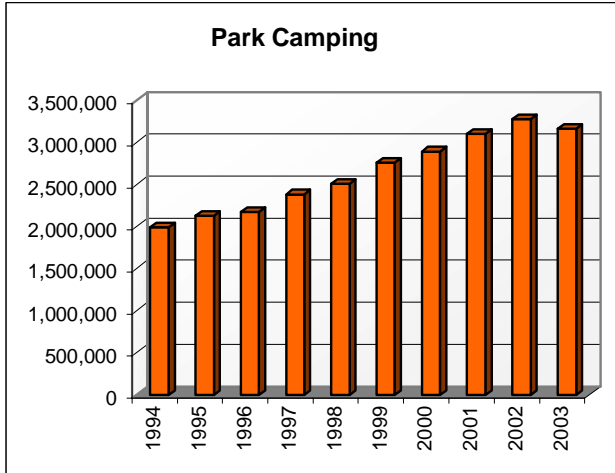
- Year End Balance
 - ▲ Receipts
 - ▲ Disbursements
- (1) Includes \$1,331,940 for vacation cabin renovations.
 (2) Includes \$1,300,000 for vacation cabin renovations.
 (3) Includes \$1,300,000 for vacation cabin renovations and first year of \$150,000 state operating funds.
 (4) Includes \$1,300,000 for office building renovation.
 (5) Includes \$1,294,516 for office building renovation.
 (6) First year operation of Atwood Resort and Conference Center
 (7) Includes \$3,350,783 for Atwood Resort renovations
 (8) Includes \$3,481,430 for Atwood Resort

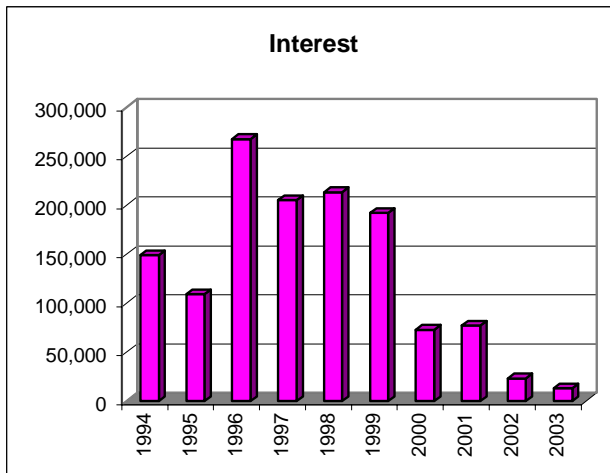
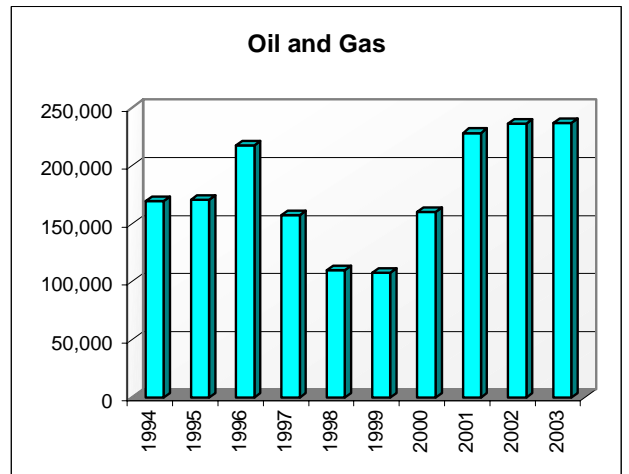
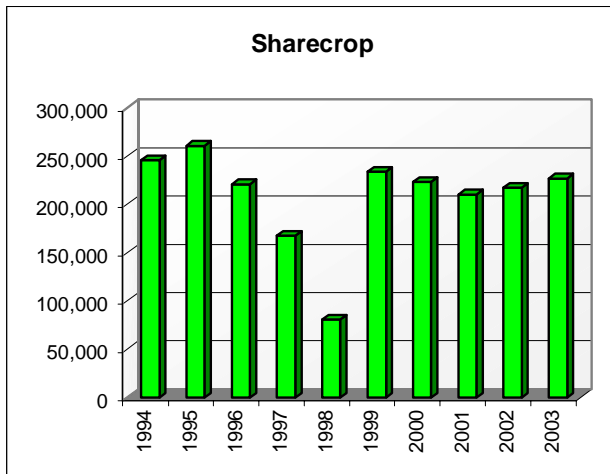
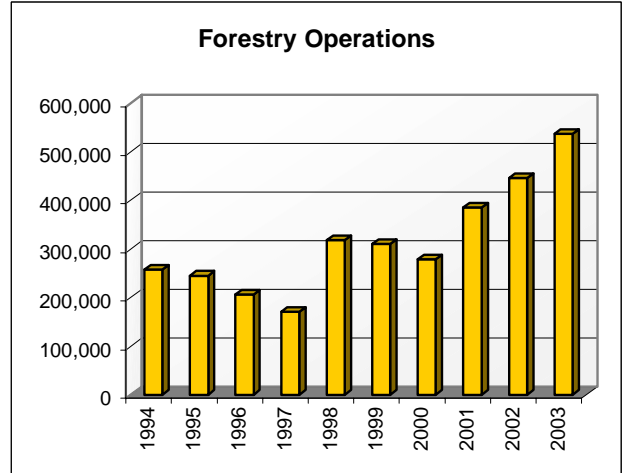
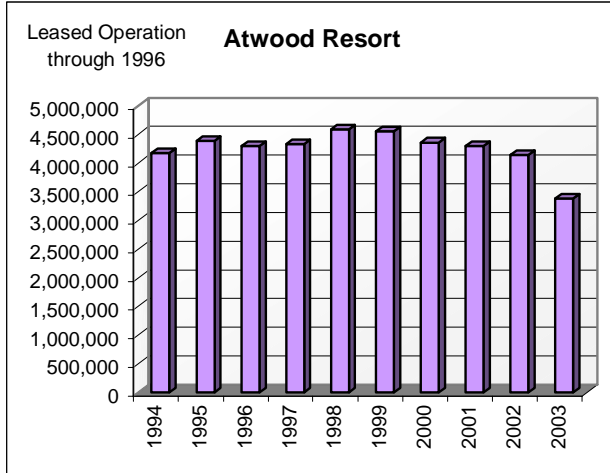
Figure 2 Major Expenses by Category



Purchase of Land
 1996.....\$172,127
 1995.....\$ 25,000
 1994.....\$101,200

Figure 3
Major Revenue Sources





Analysis of Fund Balances

as of December 31, 2003

Fund Balances		
Total Improvement Fund	117,295.34	
Maintenance Fund		
General Land and Miscellaneous	10,930.55	
Forestry	137,580.53	
Recreation	334,171.80	
Contingent	39,857.73	
Total Maintenance Fund		522,540.61
Recreation Improvement Fund		
Regular	280,295.09	
Construction	52,037.73	
Contingent	8,406.24	
Total Recreation Improvement Fund		340,739.06
Bond Fund No. 2	100.00	
Total Cash Balances - All Funds		980,675.01
Depositories		
Funds with Banks - Checking and Collection Accounts	973,375.01	
Funds with Banks - Investments	0.00	
Inactive Funds with State Treasurer	100.00	
Petty Cash and Change Funds	7,200.00	
Total Depositories - All Funds		980,675.01

Summary of Funds

as of December 31, 2003

	Balance Jan. 1, 2003	Receipts	Expenses	Transfers In	Transfers Out	Balance Dec. 31, 2003
Improvement Fund	141,682.63	1,250.00	637.29	0.00	25,000.00 ⁽¹⁾	117,295.34
Maintenance Fund						
General	39,817.03	869,771.45	2,168,657.93	1,270,000.00 ⁽²⁾	0.00	10,930.55
Contingent	39,857.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	39,857.73
Forestry	229,710.28	536,931.57	309,061.32	0.00	320,000.00 ⁽³⁾	137,580.53
Recreation	1,034,297.79	13,528,875.11	13,290,840.95	0.00	938,160.15 ⁽⁴⁾	334,171.80
Total Maintenance Fund	1,343,682.83	14,935,578.13	15,768,560.20	1,270,000.00	1,258,160.15	522,540.61
Recreation Improvement Fund						
Regular	117,575.00	466,870.07	299,688.76	95,538.78 ⁽⁵⁾	100,000.00 ⁽⁶⁾	280,295.09
Construction	57,384.61	0.00	22,968.25	17,621.37 ⁽⁷⁾	0.00	52,037.73
Contingent	8,406.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,406.24
Total Recreation Maintenance Fund	183,365.85	466,870.07	322,657.01	113,160.15	100,000.00	340,739.06
Bond Fund No. 2	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Total Funds	1,668,831.31	15,403,698.20	16,091,854.50	1,383,160.15	1,383,160.15	980,675.01

- (1) Transfer of \$25,000 to General Maintenance Fund
- (2) Transfer of \$320,000.00 from Maintenance Fund - Forestry
 Transfer of \$825,000.00 from Maintenance Fund - Recreation
 Transfer of \$25,000.00 from Improvement Fund
 Transfer of \$100,000.00 from Recreation Improvement Fund - Regular
- (3) Transfer of \$320,000.00 to Maintenance Fund - General
- (4) Transfer of \$825,000.00 to Maintenance Fund - General
 Transfer of \$17,621.37 to Recreation Improvement Fund - Construction
 Transfer of \$95,538.78 to Recreation Improvement Fund - Regular
- (5) Transfer of \$95,538.78 from Maintenance Fund - Recreation
- (6) Transfer of \$100,000.00 to Maintenance Fund - General
- (7) Transfer of \$17,621.37 from Maintenance Fund - Recreation

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

for the year ending December 31, 2003, Section 6101.66

Cash and Investment Balance, January 1, 2003		1,668,831.31
Receipts		
Atwood Lake Resort	3,383,791.33	
Atwood Resort Renovation (Bond and Capital Grants)	3,350,783.21	
Park Camping	3,158,830.57	
Cottage Site Leases	1,273,797.49	
Grants	199,440.89	
Marina Operations	812,200.32	
Sale of Timber and Pulpwood	536,931.57	
Sale of Land/Easements and Rights-of-Way	1,250.00	
Park Vacation Cabins	352,427.43	
Private and Multiple Docks	386,877.00	
Interest on Investments, Deposits and Notes	13,141.48	
Sale of Assets	7,376.50	
Park Admissions and Shelters	115,359.50	
Camper Trailer Storage and Pump-Out	191,883.44	
Mineral Rights and Royalties	236,812.04	
Water and Sewer Systems	16,608.81	
Marina - Camping	82,283.69	
Lake Patrol Operations	34,355.00	
Share Crop Operations	226,732.27	
Park Activity Centers	71,911.57	
ODNR Division of Watercraft	62,646.74	
Organized Groups and Club Sites	53,776.19	
Rental of Lands and Buildings	27,154.50	
Special Events	24,347.70	
Miscellaneous Income and Reimbursements	101,813.88	
Park Firewood Operations	22,017.10	
Refreshment Stand Sales and Dispensers	8,936.01	
Beach Operations and Water Activities	19,020.58	
Road Improvements - Lessees	17,426.11	
Sale of Water	18,000.00	
Accounts Receivable Adjustment	345,523.71	
State of Ohio - Operating Funds	150,000.00	
Bond Financing - Campground Restroom	100,241.57	
Total Receipts		15,403,698.20
Total Receipts and Balance		17,072,529.51

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements continued

for the year ending December 31, 2003, Section 6101.66

Disbursements		
Atwood Resort Facilities	4,136,291.00	
Atwood Resort Renovation	3,481,428.84	
Salaries, Wages and Fees	3,793,895.37	
Purchase of Fixed Assets and Equipment	268,290.23	
Employee Insurance - Retirement, Health and Industrial	1,021,793.67	
Contracts	915,725.01	
Materials and Supplies	649,232.30	
Service	179,946.64	
Utility Expense	493,783.41	
Real Estate Taxes	181,714.17	
State Sales Tax	45,022.10	
Share Crop Expense	125,219.88	
Legal Expenses	107,514.96	
Debt Retirement-Principal	157,697.63	
Insurance - Property and Liability	248,964.00	
Park Supplies for Resale	98,819.82	
Gas and Oil	89,533.26	
Repairs	106,559.66	
Advertising Expense	102,703.49	
Interest Expense	130,577.11	
Training and Education	9,130.18	
Telephone	49,714.00	
Adjustments to Current Liabilities	(370,323.99)	
Postage	22,252.05	
Travel Expense	46,369.69	
Total Disbursements		16,091,854.50
Cash and Investment Balance December 31, 2003		980,675.01

Land and Forestry Operations Total Cash Receipts by Reservoir

as of December 31, 2003

	Agricultural, Building, and Lot- Acres Leased	Land and Building Rentals	Gas, Oil, and Coal	Cash Rent and Sharecrops	Timber	Pulpwood	Totals
Atwood		1,139.00	100,632.45		7,524.14	10,559.16	119,854.75
Beach City	71.00		19,402.97	5,520.00	80,505.39		105,428.36
Bolivar			16,156.35				16,156.35
Charles Mill	25.00	2,935.00	10,848.50	1,125.00			14,908.50
Clendening			737.09		225.90		962.99
Dover			51,108.38		303,504.75		354,613.13
Leesville						1,884.09	1,884.09
Mohawk	889.70		11,914.80	125,406.87			137,321.67
Mohicanville			56.00				56.00
Piedmont							0.00
Pleasant Hill	150.00	250.00	10,587.80	10,938.00	199.00	781.33	22,756.13
Seneca	7.00	8,050.00	2,096.68				10,146.68
Tappan	132.00	8,116.00	3,836.17	2,640.00	17,384.86	113,457.05	145,434.08
Wills Creek	506.75	6,664.50	9,434.85	81,102.40		905.90	98,107.65
Totals	1,781.45	27,154.50	236,812.04	226,732.27	409,344.04	127,587.53	1,027,630.38

Recreation Operations Total Cash Receipts by Reservoir

as of December 31, 2003

	ODNR Division of Watercraft	Lake Patrol	Cottages, Clubs, and Dock Sites	Road, Water and Sewer Maintenance	Marina Operations	Park Operations	Total Recreation
Atwood	8,733.14	5,385.00	500,728.34		210,502.84	985,138.87	1,710,488.19
Beach City	1,102.68						1,102.68
Bolivar			1,648.00				1,648.00
Charles Mill	4,313.12	3,960.00	243,930.41	27,244.54	87,233.61	464,747.56	831,429.24
Clendening	4,195.08	4,335.00	3,084.00		71,994.99		83,609.07
Dover							0.00
Leesville	10,202.58	3,960.00	201,753.75		68,505.65	91,328.45	375,750.43
Mohawk & Kokosing						45,217.98	45,217.98
Mohicanville							0.00
Piedmont	6,134.62	3,960.00	158,722.14		67,103.75		235,920.51
Pleasant Hill	10,735.80	4,110.00	116,827.00		272,105.08	443,968.39	847,746.27
Seneca	7,033.64	4,035.00	289,368.29	6,790.38	45,855.68	1,026,012.80	1,379,095.79
Tappan	9,133.02	4,610.00	183,226.00		55,029.63	908,319.85	1,160,318.50
Wills Creek	1,063.06		15,162.75				16,225.81
Totals	62,646.74	34,355.00	1,714,450.68	34,034.92	878,331.23	3,964,733.90	6,688,552.47

Note: Pleasant Hill Marina is owned and operated by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Grant Applications and Awards

as of December 31, 2003

Funding Source and Project Name	Total Project Cost	Grant Award	MWCD Match
Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Division of Safety and Hygiene, Safety Grant Program			
Atwood Resort Anti-Slip Floor Treatment	2,587.50	2070.00	517.50
Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Real Estate and Land Management			
NatureWorks Grant Program			
Atwood Park Playground	39,100.00	9,075.00	3,025.00
Charles Mill Park Ball Field	17,000.00	12,750.00	4,250.00
Leesville Campground Playground	18,000.00	13,500.00	4,500.00
Pleasant Hill Lake Fishing Pier	38,000.00	28,500.00	9,500.00
Seneca Park Playground	21,400.00	16,056.00	5,344.00
Tappan Park Courtesy Dock and Playground	28,000.00	21,000.00	7,000.00
Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft			
Clean Vessel Act Grant Program			
Pleasant Hill Marina Pump Out Facility	25,000.00	25,000.00	in-kind administration
Cooperative Boating Facilities Grant Program			
Atwood Lake Beach Courtesy Dock	86,500.00	60,500.00	(in-kind) 26,000.00
Marine Patrol Grant Program			
MWCD Lake Patrol	215,638.00	* 34,355.00	181,283.00
Ohio Public Works Commission, Clean Ohio Conservation Fund			
Atwood Land Acquisition - Dellroy	40,000.00	to be announced	10,000.00
Tappan Water Intake Structure Riparian Corridor	50,000.00	to be announced	12,500.00
State Operating Budget			
Flood Control Program	150,000.00	150,000.00	in-kind administration
Wills Creek Reservoir Improvements	5,000.00	3,800.00	(in-kind) 1,200.00
* <i>maximum annual grant award available</i>			

Analysis of Funds Improvement Fund

	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Balance, January 1, 2003			141,682.63
Sale of Land and Buildings	1,250.00	637.29	
Easements and Rights-of-Way	0.00	0.00	
Subtotals	1,250.00	637.29	
Transfer to General Maintenance Fund	0.00	25,000.00	
Totals	1,250.00	25,637.29	
Excess of Expenses/Transfer over Revenues			24,387.29
Balance, December 31, 2003			117,295.34

General Maintenance Fund

	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Balance, January 1, 2003			39,817.03
Water Resources and Flood Control	18,000.00	10,038.96	
Improvement to District Properties	0.00	44,322.04	
Office Remodeling and Equipment		59,305.71	
Lake Access Improvements		4,797.62	
Land and Building Rentals	27,154.50	27,402.20	
Share Crop Operations	226,732.27	133,336.19	
Mineral Operation - Gas, Oil, Coal	236,812.04	20,633.68	
Watershed Management	92,013.71	188,771.84	
State of Ohio - Operating Funds	150,000.00	0.00	
Auto and Truck		130,015.98	
Office Building		96,290.85	
Administrative and Finance		1,150,570.35	
Engineering		250,983.13	
Subtotals	750,712.52	2,116,468.55	
Miscellaneous Sales and Services (See Itemized Supplement Next Page)	119,058.93	(69,152.34)	
Total General Maintenance Fund (Including Miscellaneous)	869,771.45	2,047,316.21	
Transfer from Improvement Fund	25,000.00		
Transfer from Recreation Maintenance Fund	825,000.00		
Transfer from General Maintenance Forestry	320,000.00		
Transfer from Recreation Improvement Fund	100,000.00		
Debt Retirement - Office Building		121,341.72	
Totals	2,139,771.45	2,168,657.93	
Excess of Expenses over Income			28,886.48
Balance, December 31, 2003			10,930.55

Itemized Supplement Analysis of Miscellaneous Sales and Services

Reimbursible Items	Income	Expense
Chippewa Subdistrict Reimbursement	70,447.74	1,639.56
Miscellaneous Income		
Plans and Maps	1,119.20	
Pay Phone Receipts	213.92	
Bad Check Fees	625.55	
Impounded Boat Fees	506.50	
Cottage Construction Permits	7,200.00	
Capital Credit Refunds	15,352.29	
Recycle Materials	659.99	
Reimbursements	3,653.32	
Incidental Income	865.08	
Subtotals	30,195.85	
Various Other Items		
Sale of Assets	7,376.50	
Interest on Investments (Maintenance Fund-General)	11,038.84	
Depreciation, Write-offs and Adjustments		(70,791.90)
Total Maintenance Fund-Miscellaneous	119,058.93	(69,152.34)

Forestry Maintenance Fund

	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Balance, January 1, 2003			229,710.28
Reforestation	0.00	4,136.24	
Woods Improvement	0.00	10,403.09	
Timber Harvesting	409,344.04	161,908.82	
Forest Protection	0.00	7,985.17	
Continuous Forest Inventory	0.00	130.99	
Pine Pulpwood Operations	127,587.53	10,902.86	
Conservation Administrative Expense	0.00	113,594.15	
Subtotals	536,931.57	309,061.32	
Transfer to General Maintenance Fund	0.00	320,000.00	
Totals	536,931.57	629,061.32	
Excess of Expenses over Revenues			92,129.75
Balance, December 31, 2003			137,580.53

Recreation Maintenance Fund

	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Balance, January 1, 2003			1,034,297.79
Atwood Resort Facilities	3,383,791.33	4,271,363.84	
Atwood Resort Renovation	3,350,783.21	3,481,428.84	
Manager and Employee Residences		6,090.53	
Watercraft Agreement	62,646.74	0.00	
Lake Patrol Operations	34,355.00	215,637.61	
Marina Operations	812,200.32	292,837.71	
Marinas-Camping	82,283.69	39,631.54	
Public Launching Facilities		18,783.36	
Cottage Sites	1,273,797.49	415,462.16	
Club Sites	53,776.19	13,160.13	
Private Docks	386,877.00	10,246.34	
Road Maintenance and Improvements - Cottage Areas	17,426.11	107,609.59	
Water and Sewer Systems	16,608.81	113,522.38	
Park Vacation Cabins	352,427.43	107,356.63	
Beach Facilities		74,943.77	
Park Refreshment Stands	8,936.01	6,161.34	
Rental Boats	19,020.58	15,270.39	
Activity Centers	71,911.57	103,310.29	
Park Camping	3,158,830.57	1,952,301.38	
Trailer Pump-Out	22,584.00	19,951.88	
Camper Trailer Storage	169,299.44	11,603.49	
Firewood Operations	22,017.10	12,184.90	
General Park Facilities (includes shelters)	115,359.50	1,007,613.49	
Program Services		14,658.92	
Special Events and Festivals	24,347.70	91,830.11	
General Planning and Development		143,550.61	
Training and Education	30.00	32,439.44	
Public Information	972.00	205,053.82	
Purchase of Equipment and Vehicles		138,660.07	
Grants	88,593.32		
Recreation Administrative Expense		430,780.96	
Adjustment to Current Liabilities and Receivables		(229,537.59)	
Debt Retirement-Vacation Cabins		125,897.64	
Debt Retirement-Tappan Water Plant		41,035.38	
Subtotals	13,528,875.11	13,290,840.95	
Transfer to Maintenance Fund-General		825,000.00	
Transfer to Recreation Improvement Fund-Regular		95,538.78	
Transfer to Recreation Improvement Fund-Construction		17,621.37	
Totals	13,528,875.11	14,229,001.10	
Excess of Expenses over Revenue			700,125.99
Balance, December 31, 2003			334,171.80

Maintenance Fund (Contingent)

	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Balance, January 1, 2003			39,857.73
Transfer to Maintenance Fund - General	0.00	0.00	
Totals	0.00	0.00	
Excess of Income over Expenses			0.00
Balance, December 31, 2003			39,857.73

Recreation Improvement Fund (Regular)

	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Balance, January 1, 2003			117,575.00
Marina Operations			
Lake Dredging	0.00	113,682.19	
Public Launching Facilities	18,833.86	3,721.88	
Water and Sewer Systems	197,941.15	102,558.49	
Vacation Cabins			
Park Camping		79,726.20	
General Park Facilities			
Interest Income	2,102.64		
Subtotals	218,877.65	299,688.76	
Transfer from Recreation Maintenance Fund	95,538.78		
Transfer to General Maintenance Fund		100,000.00	
Accounts receivable adjustment from Water and Sewer Systems	147,750.85		
Loan Amount	100,241.57		
Totals	562,408.85	399,688.76	
Excess of Income over Expenses			162,720.09
Balance, December 31, 2003			280,295.09

Recreation Improvement Fund (Construction)

	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Balance, January 1, 2003			57,384.61
Vacation Cabin - Refurbishing	0.00	22,968.25	
Transfer From Maintenance Fund - Recreation	17,621.37	0.00	
Totals	17,621.37	22,968.25	
Excess of Expenses Over Income			5,346.88
Balance, December 31, 2003			52,037.73

Recreation Improvement Fund (Contingent)

Balance, January 1, 2003			8,406.24
Totals	0.00	0.00	
Excess of Income over Expenses			0.00
Balance, December 31, 2003			8,406.24

Bond Fund No. 2

	Income	Expense	Fund Balance
Balance, January 1, 2003			100.00
Interest on Deposits and Investments	0.00	0.00	
Bonds Retired	0.00	0.00	
Interest on Bonds	0.00	0.00	
Totals	0.00	0.00	
Excess of Expenses over Income			0.00
Balance, December 31, 2003			100.00

Subdistricts of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Black Fork Subdistrict of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2003

Cash on Hand, January 1, 2003	0.00
Receipts	
None	0.00
Disbursements	
None	0.00
Cash on Hand, December 31, 2003	0.00

Black Fork Subdistrict of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

*from January 1, 2003, to December 31, 2003, in accordance with
Section 6101.66 of the Ohio Revised Code*

Assets	
Cash	0.00
Expenses	
Preliminary Expense (expense includes legal and engineering costs, court costs, and overhead charges)	1,822.26
Total Assets and Expenses	1,822.26
Liabilities	
Account Payable (to Main District)	1,822.26
Receipts and Advances	0.00
Total Liabilities and Receipts	1,822.26

Buffalo Creek Subdistrict of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2003

Assets		
Cash		0.00
Expenses		
Preliminary Expense (expense includes legal and engineering costs, court costs and overhead charges)	27,592.88	
Total Assets and Expenses		27,592.88
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable (to Main District)	12,464.98	
Loan from Local Committee	15,000.00	
Total Liabilities		27,464.98
Receipts and Advances		
Interest on Deposits and Investments	127.90	
Total Liabilities and Receipts		27,592.88

Buffalo Creek Subdistrict of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

*from January 1, 2003, to December 31, 2003, in accordance with
Section 6101.66 of the Ohio Revised Code*

Cash on Hand, January 1, 2003		0.00
Receipts		
None		0.00
Disbursements		
None		0.00
Cash on Hand, December 31, 2003		0.00

Chippewa Subdistrict of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2003

Assets		
Cash and Investments	250,065.14	
Amount available to be provided	345,000.00	
Total Assets		595,065.14
Expenses		
Preliminary (legal, engineering, appraisal, etc) less preliminary expenses paid	232,317.25	
Various improvement expenses (legal, engineering)	169,096.37	
Purchase of Land and Easement	542,878.41	
Construction Payments to Contractor	210,388.07	
Repayment of Contributors		
(a) Chippewa Watershed Association	33,630.00	
(b) Packaging Corporation of America	0.00	
Interest on Notes	169,590.70	
Funds Advanced to Improvement Fund	54,178.01	
Funds Advanced to Maintenance Fund	145,000.00	
Various Maintenance Expenses	1,462,515.07	
Real Estate Taxes	4,521.61	
Various Bond Fund Expenses	110.91	
Total Expenses		3,024,226.40
Total Assets and Expenses		3,619,291.54

Chippewa Subdistrict of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2003, continued

Liabilities		
Current Notes Payable - FHA	0.00	
Accounts Payable (to Main District)	0.00	
Total Liabilities		0.00
Receipts		
Chippewa Watershed Association	19,630.00	
Packaging Corporation of America	33,544.00	
Revenue from Sales of Notes - FHA	345,000.00	
Interest on Deposits and Investments	318,816.85	
Wayne County Commissioners	17,500.00	
Department of Natural Resources	37,000.00	
Department of Natural Resources - Purchase of Lands	100,000.00	
Construction Payments from NRCS	189,195.26	
Revenue from Benefit Assessments - Paid in Full	173,574.32	
Interest on Assessments - Paid in Full	105.60	
Revenue from Sale of Lands	170,309.33	
Funds Advanced from Preliminary Funds	74,178.01	
Funds Advanced from Bond Fund	145,000.00	
Miscellaneous Receipts and Refunds	2,556.94	
Collection of Assessments from Counties	1,405,011.49	
Revenue from Land Rent/Miscellaneous	577,734.56	
Interest on Notes	10,135.18	
Total Receipts		3,619,291.54
Total Liabilities and Receipts		3,619,291.54

Chippewa Subdistrict of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

*from January 1, 2003, to December 31, 2003, in accordance with
Section 6101.66 of the Ohio Revised Code*

Cash on Hand, January 1, 2003		79,025.47
Receipts		
Collection of Assessments	349,254.27	
Interest on Deposits and Investments	1,860.46	
Revenue from Land Rental and Miscellaneous	240.00	
Hubbard Valley Funding	220,011.93	
Total Receipts		571,366.66
Total Receipts and Balance		650,392.13
Disbursements		
Contract Services	147,757.22	
Repairs and Maintenance	11,958.25	
Hubbard Valley Project	240,611.52	
Total Disbursements		400,326.99
Cash on Hand, December 31, 2003		250,065.14

Duck Creek Subdistrict of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2003

Assets		
Cash		8,079.57
Expenses		
Preliminary expense (includes legal and engineering costs, court costs and overhead charges)		5,400.32
Total Assets and Expenses		13,479.89
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	36.55	
Ohio Water Commission	20,000.00	
Less Partial Repayment	(14,000.00)	
Total Liabilities		6,036.55
Receipts and Advances		
Interest on Deposits and Receipts		7,443.34
Total Liabilities and Receipts		13,479.89

Duck Creek Subdistrict of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

*from January 1, 2003, to December 31, 2003, in accordance with
Section 6101.66 of the Ohio Revised Code*

Cash on Hand, January 1, 2003	8,044.42
Receipts	
Interest on Deposits and Investments	35.15
Total Receipts and Balance	8,079.57
Disbursements	
None	0.00
Cash on Hand, December 31, 2003	8,079.57

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Contact Information

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

1319 Third Street NW • P.O. Box 349
New Philadelphia, OH 44663-0349
Phone (330) 343-6647 • Toll-free (877) 363-8500
Fax (330) 364-4161
www.mwcdlakes.com • email: mwcd@raex.com
Executive Director: John M. Hoopingarner

Atwood Lake Park

4956 Shop Road NE
Mineral City, OH 44656
Phone (330) 343-6780
Park Superintendent: Tony Luther

Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center

2650 Lodge Road
Sherrodsville, OH 44675
Phone (800) 362-6406 or (330) 735-2211
www.atwoodlakeresort.com
Resort Manager: John Huls

Atwood Lake Boats (West)

9298 Atwood Lake Road NE
Mineral City, OH 44656
Phone (330) 364-4703

Atwood Sail and Power Marina (East)

State Route 542
P. O. Box 57
Dellroy, OH 44620
Phone (330) 735-2323

Charles Mill Lake Park

1271 State Route 430
Mansfield, OH 44903
Phone (419) 368-6885
Park Superintendent: Dan Mager

Charles Mill Marina

1277 State Route 430
Mansfield, OH 44903
Phone (419) 368-5951

Clendening Marina

79100 Bose Road
Freeport, OH 43973
Phone (740) 658-3961

(Leesville) Petersburg Marina

2126 Azalea Road SW
Carrollton, OH 44615
Phone (330) 627-4270

(Leesville) Clow's Marina

4131 Deer Road SW
Bowerston, OH 44695
Phone (740) 269-5371

Piedmont Marina

32281 Marina Road
Freeport, OH 43973
Phone (740) 658-3735

Pleasant Hill Lake Park

3431 State Route 95
Perrysville, OH 44864
Phone (419) 938-7884
Park Superintendent: Dan Mager

Pleasant Hill Marina

3431 State Route 95
Perrysville, OH 44864
Phone (419) 938-6488 (or call park office)

Seneca Lake Park

22172 Park Road
Senecaville, OH 43780
Phone (740) 685-6013
Park Superintendent: Gary Parrish

Seneca Marina

P. O. Box 128
Senecaville, OH 43780
Phone (740) 685-5831

Tappan Lake Park

P.O. Box 29
Deersville, OH 44693
Phone (740) 922-3649
Park Superintendent: Scott Barnhart

Tappan Marina

33315 Dennison/Cadiz Road
Scio, OH 43988
Phone (740) 269-2031

Governing Bodies

Conservancy Court

Honorable Damian J. Vercillo	Ashland County
Honorable John M. Solovan II	Belmont County
Honorable William J. Martin	Carroll County
Honorable Richard I. Evans	Coshocton County
Honorable David A. Ellwood	Guernsey County
Honorable Michael K. Nunner	Harrison County
Honorable Thomas C. Lee	Holmes County
Honorable James Ronk	Knox County
Honorable Jon R. Spahr	Licking County
Honorable D. W. Favreau	Morgan County
Honorable Mark Fleegle	Muskingum County
Honorable John W. Nau	Noble County
Honorable James DeWeese	Richland County
Honorable Jim James	Stark County
Honorable Jane Bond	Summit County
Honorable Edward E. O'Farrell	Tuscarawas County
Honorable Timothy A. Williams	Washington County
Honorable Mark K. Wiest	Wayne County

Board of Directors

David E. Brightbill, President (Lower Salem)	Term expires July 18, 2007
Thomas A. Depler (Shelby)	Term expires July 18, 2004
Harry C. Horstman (Scio)	Term expires June 3, 2005
Steve Kokovich (New Concord)	Term expires June 3, 2008
Joanne Limbach, Vice President (New Philadelphia)	Term expires June 8, 2006

Board of Appraisers

Thomas A. Roe, Chairman (Wooster)	Term expires June 3, 2005
James Navratil (Medina)	Term expires June 13, 2006
Mark J. Waltz (Dover)	Term expires June 3, 2005

Cooperating Agencies

- 1 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
- 1 Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- 1 Natural Resources Conservation Service
- 1 Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center
- 1 Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- 1 U. S. Forest Service
- 1 U. S. Geological Survey
- 1 Ohio Department of Transportation
- 1 Ohio Department of Aviation
- 1 Ohio Department of Agriculture

Conservancy District Staff

(as of December 31, 2003)

Administration

John M. Hoopingarner Executive Director/Secretary
Richard A. Bible Manager of Operations/Chief Engineer
Mary Burley Human Resources Coordinator
Cindi Coutts Development Coordinator
Diana Dodds Receptionist
Karen Miller Executive Assistant
Darrin Lautenschleger Public Information Officer
Tina Price Public Information Administrative Assistant
Scott Tritt Safety Coordinator

Engineering

Shirley Dinger Clerical Assistant
Bruce Horsfall Equipment Supervisor
Robert Jones Equipment Operator
Jack Kibble CAD Operator
Randy Canfield Equipment Operator
Jon L. Clark Construction Technician
Andrew J. Milarcik Jr. Construction Technician
Michael Weber Utilities Coordinator
Alan Edwards Assistant Utilities Coordinator
Phil Wolfe Utilities Operator
Eric Maurer Utilities Operator
Dave Olsafsky Construction Supervisor
Jeffrey Lacheta Project Coordinator
Mark Shultz Engineering Technician
Harvey Wilhelm Building and Grounds Technician
Darrell Larkin Equipment Operator
Kyle Smith Maintenance Assistant

Finance

James B. Cugliari Treasurer
Colby Byrom Accountant
Stephen Demuth Systems Coordinator
Jayne Ann Fankhauser Accounting Clerk
Jeannie Mangon Purchasing Agent
Linda Treacle Accounting Specialist

Conservation

Mark A. Jukich Manager of Conservation
Chuck Baltic Forest Resources Specialist
James Bishop Resource Management Specialist
Tricia Miller Clerical Assistant
Mark Swiger Mineral and Agricultural Coordinator

James Smeltzer Dredge Specialist
Eric Oswald Dredge Operator

Recreation-Leases

Roger A. Devorace Manager of Recreation-Leases
Donnie Borland Lease Coordinator
Peggy May Administrative Assistant
Bernie Schreiner Shoreline and Boundary Specialist
Tom Stanley Lease Technician
John Traxler Lease Technician

Recreation-Parks

John R. Grasselli Manager of Recreation-Parks
Gwen Floyd Administrative Assistant
J. Greg Popham Assistant Safety Coordinator

Atwood Lake Park

Tony Luther Park Superintendent
Jeremy G. Hoffer Assistant Park Superintendent
Edward L. Davy Assistant Park Superintendent
Ralph H. Long Park Ranger
Richard Anderson Park Patrol
Anthony Amicone Park Patrol
Richard Vickers, Jr. Park Patrol
Shane Elrod Park Patrol
Joe Swaton Park Technician
Greg Russell Park Technician
Terry Genet Park Technician
Chester W. Peoples Park Services Technician
Joan Wilson Park Administrative Assistant
Dennis Jones Campground Supervisor
Della Long Gate Attendant
Christopher Lawless Gate Attendant
Erin Schalk Activities Leader

Charles Mill Lake Park

Dan Mager Regional Park Superintendent
Steven Rice Assistant Park Superintendent
Dave Filipak Park Technician
Candace Zeger Park Administrative Assistant
Daniel Atterholt Park Technician
Corey Tedrow Park Technician
Wendy Carey Park Patrol
Chris Niswander Park Patrol
Michael Hillier Park Patrol
Kurt Schneider Park Patrol
Andrew Dick Park Patrol
Dennis Evans Park Patrol
Andrew Kuscsik Park Patrol
Lisa Easterling Park Patrol

James OBrien Park Patrol
Stacy Karsmizki..... Gate Attendant Supervisor
Donna Messerly Activities Leader

Pleasant Hill Lake Park

Dan Mager Regional Park Superintendent
Andy Seib Assistant Park Superintendent
William Martin, Jr Assistant Park Superintendent
Tom Stortz Marina Coordinator
James Braeunig Ranger Technician
Craig Williams Park Technician
Shawn Mahoney Park Technician
Sue Williams Park Administrative Assistant
Matthew Smith Park Ranger
Thomas Jump, Jr..... Park Ranger
Barbara Moore Park Patrol
Stacy Seib Park Patrol
Robert Ball Park Patrol
Joseph Kindt Park Patrol
Pandora Parker Park Patrol
Rocky Carpenter Park Patrol
Angela Terry Park Patrol

Seneca Lake Park

Gary L. Parrish Park Superintendent
Lynn E. Lyons Assistant Park Superintendent
Lucas Pace Assistant Park Superintendent
William D. Mallett Park Ranger
Troy Hannahs Park Technician
Mark Lashley Park Technician
Linda Leach Park Administrative Assistant
Larry Bunting Park Patrol
Timothy Cunningham Park Patrol
Mark Delancey Park Patrol
Jason May Park Patrol
Kathryn Andrews Activities Leader

Tappan Lake Park

Scott Barnhart Park Superintendent
John Birney Assistant Park Superintendent
Jon Little Assistant Park Superintendent
Paul Banks Park Technician
David Schuler Park Technician
Gina Ferri Park Administrative Assistant
Rose DeLong Clerical Assistant
Micheal McGlothlin Park Ranger
Robert Albert Park Patrol
James McGraw Park Patrol
Kevin Morrison Park Patrol
Oscar Woit Park Patrol

Scott Beckley	Park Patrol
Cheryl Keifer	Park Patrol
Sarah Law	Facilities Attendant
Andrea Crook	Facilities Attendant
Rose McConnell	Facilities Attendant
Cheryl Paskowitz	Activities Leader

Lake Rangers

James Heakin	Lake Ranger
W. David Peters	Lake Ranger
Juanita Russell	Lake Ranger
Francis Wehr, Jr.	Lake Ranger
Matthew Henry	Lake Ranger
Michael Henry	Lake Ranger
Larry Goon	Lake Ranger
Michael Deaton	Lake Ranger
Michael Govanello	Lake Ranger
Karl Grandison	Lake Ranger
Troy Noice	Lake Ranger
William Stoney	Lake Ranger

Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center

Administration

John Huls	Resort Manager
-----------------	----------------

Sales

Melissa Stotzer	Senior Sales Manager
Megan English	Sales Manager
Stacey Young	Sales Coordinator
Kim Johnson	Administrative Assistant

Accounting

Gary Sigrist	Assistant Resort Manager/Controller
Marc Alexander	Night Auditor
Ronata Keim	Night Auditor
Heidi Mabie	Payroll Clerk
Anne Rutledge	A/C Payables/Receivables Clerk

Activities

Jodi Goettemoeller	Activities Coordinator
Rachel Burson	Activities
John MacAdam	Activities
Jessica Rennicker	Activities

Front Desk

Della Sharp	Front Desk Manager
Brenda Menapace	Front Desk Supervisor
Jessica Cline	Front Desk Clerk
Shelly Rennicker	Front Desk Clerk
Kristine Widder	Front Desk Clerk
Betty Solomon	Front Desk Clerk
Nicole Teeter	Front Desk Clerk
David Ellenberger	Limo Driver

Golf

James Murphy	Golf Superintendent/Golf Pro
Matthew Miller	Assistant Golf Superintendent
Douglas Grindstaff	Golf Maintenance
John Veigel	Golf Maintenance
William Reed	Golf Maintenance
Rosanna George	Pro Shop Clerk
Tisha Rainsberg	Pro Shop Clerk
Debra Beighle	Pro Shop Clerk
Vicki Miley	Pro Shop Clerk
Paula Mullen	Pro Shop Clerk
Donald Parker	Pro Shop Clerk
Jessica Suma	Pro Shop Clerk
Denise Davala	Chalet Attendant
Mary Lou DeNicola	Chalet Attendant
Rose Reed	Chalet Attendant
Marlene Yosick	Chalet Attendant

Food and Beverage

John Froman	Executive Chef
Loren Winans	Sous Chef
Kay Onstott	AM Kitchen Supervisor
Jonathan Gorbey	PM Kitchen Supervisor
Tammy Ness	Line Cook
Todd Walker	Line Cook
Deborah Ruehs	Line Cook
Michael Mittas	Line Cook
Bryan Miller	Line Cook
Perry Seevers	Line Cook
Thomas Shanaberger	Line Cook
Connie Brakeman	Chalet Cook
Michael Litten	Receiver
Kaylan Smith	Pantry
Vicki Onstott	Pantry
Daniel Jones	Pantry
Zachary Miller	Pantry
Nicholas Yingling	Pantry
Susan Hunt	Dishwasher
Marlene Morgan	Dishwasher
Martha Tucker	Dishwasher
Arthur Fischer	Dishwasher
Mildred Thompson	Dishwasher
Robin Inman	Dishwasher

Dining Room

Rhonda Schraft	Food & Beverage Service Manager
Pamela Sweasey	Assistant Dining Room Manager
Kimberly Greene	Hostess
Stacey Brunk	Hostess
Tina Phillips	Hostess

Dawn Shroyer	Hostess
Beth Reed	Server
Trudi Edwards	Server
Pamela Morris	Server
Jennifer Rininger	Server
Melinda Lutton.....	Server
Joy Gorbey	Server
Aisha Barton	Server
Florence Coole	Server
Brenda Miller	Server
Ashley Wilson	Server
Jason Hubbard	Busser
Timothy Burkhart.....	Busser
Michael McCully	Busser
Joseph Michel	Busser
Andrew Rieck	Busser
Aaron Sprang	Busser

Lounge

Suzanne Dilley	Lead Bartender
Christina Civiello	Bartender
Shanna Mick	Bartender
Renee Veselenak	Bartender
Damian Maloy	Bartender

Banquets

Michael Cornelison	Banquet Co-Manager
Brian Younkin	Banquet Co-Manager
Teri Moreland	Lead Banquet Server
Terri Hauenstein	Banquet Server
Catherine Nign	Banquet Server
Tina Tuckosh	Banquet Server
Zetta Suma	Banquet Server
Tanya Hinkle	Banquet Server
Marissa Miller	Banquet Server
Jason Yeager	Setups
Matthew Long.....	Setups
John Fontana	Setups
Scott Yingling.....	Setups

Housekeeping

Elaine Eneix	Executive Housekeeper
Judy Cornelison	Assistant Executive Housekeeper
Nadine Bentley	Housekeeper
Edna Stavano	Housekeeper
Edna Anderson	Housekeeper
Beverly Roudebush	Housekeeper
Brenda Smith	Housekeeper
Angela Cross	Housekeeper
Cynthia Hykes	Housekeeper
Betty Cross.....	Housekeeper

Beverly Kale Housekeeper
Heather Weir Housekeeper
Donneda Anderson Housekeeper
Lee Smith Linen Porter
Elizabeth DeLancey Laundry
Barbara Harper Laundry
Mary Doll Laundry

Maintenance

Robert Jennings Sr. Maintenance Manager
John Burlison Assistant Maintenance Manager
James Horn Maintenance
Jerry Bonamico Maintenance
John Peoples Maintenance
John Cordier Maintenance
Donald Johnson Maintenance Custodian

MWCD Facilities

Description	Atwood	Beach City	Charles Mill	Clendening	Leesville	Piedmont	Pleasant Hill	Seneca	Tappan	Wills Creek
Horsepower Limit	25	10	10	10	10	10	Unlimited	299	299	10
Acres of Water	1540	420	1350	1800	1000	2270	850	3550	2350	900
Acres of Land	3000	930	2000	4750	2600	4372	1345	4060	5000	4846
Conservation Pool Elevation*	928	948	997	898	963	913	1020	832.2	899.3	742.0
Spillway Elevation**	941	976.5	1020	910.5	977.5	924.6	1065	842.5	909	779
Maximum Depth (in feet)	38	13	12	38	43	33	50	27.2	29.3	22
Average Depth (in feet)	15.3	4.1	5.5	15.5	19.5	14.8	15.9	12.3	14.9	6.7
Park										
Year Round Camping										
Seasonal Camping Rates										
Group Camping										
Hot Showers										
Modern Restrooms										
Electric Hookups										
Full Hookups										
Swimming Beach										
Hiking Trails										
Activity Center										
Nature Center										
Group Shelters										
18-Hole Golf Course										
Full Service Marina	2				2					
Overnight Lodging										
Resort										
Park Vacation Cabins										
Marina Motel/Cabins										
Camper Cabins										
Fish Species ***										
Muskellunge										
Northern Pike										
Channel Catfish										
Flathead Catfish										
Bullheads										
White Bass										
Striped Bass										
Largemouth Bass										
Smallmouth Bass										
Crappie										
Bluegill										
Yellow Perch										
Walleye										
Saugeye										
Hunting ***										
Trapping ***										
* Conservation pool is a lake surface elevation which is maintained during the boating season, unless affected by the operation of the dam for flood control, or by drought. Conservation pool is measured in feet above sea level.										
** Spillway (the channel near the dam for surplus water) is measured in feet above sea level.										
*** Through an agreement, hunting, trapping, and fishing are regulated by the Ohio Division of Wildlife.										

MWCD Drainage Area



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Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation

Foundation continues to grow

It was another busy year for the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation.

Three new component funds were created in 2003. The James R. Pitney Law Enforcement Fund was established to provide funding for education and training of MWCD rangers and practicing and prospective peace officers from Ashland and Richland counties. Charles Mill Lake Park hosted a chicken barbecue and auction that raised more than \$4,000 for the Pitney Fund.



Flower garden in Seneca Lake Park planted in memory of Regis Wissler.

Pitney was a ranger at Charles Mill Lake Park who died after an accident in the park in December 2002.

The Regis Wissler Charitable Endowment Fund was established to fund improvements to Seneca Lake Park. Many generous contributions in memory of Wissler were used to purchase automated external defibrillator equipment for the park. Benches located along the hiking trails in the park also were purchased and a flower garden was planted in memory of Wissler, who was a longtime Seneca Lake Park camper and member of the Development Advisory Committee of the MWCD.

The Atwood Fall Festival Fund was created to fund improvements to Atwood Lake Park. An agreement has been established that directs from 10 percent to 12.5 percent of gate admission fees during the annual Atwood Area Fall Festival over the next five years into this fund. In 2003, more than \$4,000 was raised for the fund.

Record year for golf outing

The 5th Annual MWCF Golf Outing raised more than \$9,000 to support the operating costs of the foundation. Held September 5 at Atwood Lake Resort and Conference Center's championship golf course, a total of 31 four-player teams participated in the scramble format tournament. The event also generated 50 hole sponsors and donations of products and prizes from various organizations and businesses.

The winning team, with a score of 13-under par, was the foursome of Jim Cugliari of Dover, who also is the MWCD



Winning the 5th Annual MWCF Golf Outing was the team of Jim Cugliari (L), John Anich, Mark Blauch and Bruce Polce.

treasurer; John Anich of Mansfield; Mark Blauch of Sugarcreek; and Bruce Polce of Mt. Vernon.

The outing is held annually on the Friday following Labor Day. Mark your calendar and plan to join us on September 10, 2004.

It also was a record year for the Atwood Cup Regatta hosted by the Sailing Buckeyes Yacht Club. More than \$3,000 was raised for the Thomas W. Hudson Charitable Endowment Fund that was established in 1996 to provide financial support for preservation and conservation projects for Atwood Lake.

Thanks to the generous support of many loyal contributors, the Hudson Fund has grown to almost \$100,000 in just eight years. Most recently, the Hudson Fund provided cooperative funding for a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund project near Atwood Marina West.

Employees give through payroll deduction

MWCD employees continued to play an important role in the growth of all endowment and direct pass-through funds of the foundation.

Payroll deduction is the most common method among employees to make a contribution to the foundation. More than \$2,500 was received through the payroll deduction plan in 2003.

The MWCF Charitable Endowment Fund, a general fund established to benefit all MWCD lakes, received many contributions in 2003. The balance of this fund has grown to more than \$50,000.

The Foundation made a direct contribution to the Conservancy District from this general fund to help accomplish shoreline stabilization projects at Clendening, Pleasant Hill and Seneca lakes. Fiscal year 2003 was a year in which any additional revenue source was critical to the MWCD operating budget.

Trustees continue commitment as membership grows

All five members of the MWCF Board of Trustees made a commitment to continue their service to the foundation in 2003.

Retaining positions on the Board were John M. Hoopingarner, executive director/secretary of the MWCD; David E. Brightbill of Lower Salem and Harry C. Horstman of Scio, members of the MWCD Board of Directors; Joseph J. Sommer of North Canton, former member of the MWCD Board of Directors; and John E. Hildreth of Mansfield, program administrator for the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District and a member of the MWCD's Development Advisory Committee.

Hoopingarner served as chairman during 2003 and Horstman served as vice chairman. Cindi Coutts, MWCD development coordinator, served as secretary and treasurer.

New and renewed memberships in the foundation have continued to grow. The membership renewal rate was above 80 percent for 2003.



Members of the Foundation Board of Trustees: Joseph J. Sommer (L), Harry C. Horstman, John M. Hoopingarner, David E. Brightbill and John E. Hildreth.

vancy District, but also to help donors meet their charitable goals. If we can be of assistance to you in your gift-making decision, please contact Cindi Coutts at (330) 343-6647 or ccouts@muskingumfoundation.org.

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution today. All donors are recognized each year in the MWCD Annual Report of Operations.

Memberships are available in the following categories: \$25 individual, \$50 family, \$100 patron, \$250 business/corporate and \$500 benefactor. Patron, business/corporate and benefactor memberships offer a season pass to the five MWCD parks.

Memberships are available anytime throughout the year. If you are looking for a unique gift or a way to acknowledge a special occasion, please consider a foundation membership.

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation was created not only to help support the mission of the Conser-

Contributors to the MWCF Charitable Endowment Fund

Allyn R. Adams (Deloitte and Touche, LLP)¹
James W. Bates¹
Richard A. Bible²
Robert G. and Susan F. Blanke¹
Lance and Paula Blankenship¹
David P. Bolanz¹
Donnie J. Borland²
David E. Brightbill¹
Mary C. Burley²
Colby Byrom²
Chris Copeland¹
James, Cindi and Alexander Coutts^{1 2}
John Cordier²
James R. and Molly B. Demuth¹
Stephen² and Jennifer Demuth
Thomas A. Depler¹
Diana F. Dodds²
Raymond E. and Donna Eichel
James W. Everson
Jayne Ann Fankhauser²
Mark E. Flowers²
Kelly Gowins²
John R. Grasselli²
Faye A. Heston¹
John E. Hildreth¹
John M. Hoopingarner^{1 2}
Harry C. Horstman¹
Orville and Martha Jones¹
Mark A. Jukich²
Steve Kokovich³
Stephen J. Kovatch¹
Raymond and Laverne Kuczkowski¹
Darrin Lautenschleger²
Joanne Limbach³
Jon Little²
Judge John Madden
Dan Mager²
Jeannie Mangon²
Alvin C. Marsh, Jr.¹

Peggy May²
Judge Michael R. McKinley
Robert P. Meyer (Work in Northeast Ohio Council)¹
Karen S. Miller²
Tricia Miller²
Charles A. and Mary P. Morgan¹
James Murphy²
Dr. Ted L. Napier¹
Kevin T. and Susan G. Power¹
James J. Pringle¹
David R. Quicksall
William E. and Marjorie Quicksall¹
Bernie Schreiner²
Gary Sigrist²
Joseph J. Sommer¹
J. M. (Jack) and Melissa Sowle
Gary and Marty Spahr¹
Tom Stanley²
Mark Swiger²
Larry and Jane Symons¹
Paul W. and Phyllis Taylor¹
Robert W. Teater
Harvey Wilhelm²
David Williams
Bonnie Wissler¹
Rick and Lucinda Zeiher¹
Donald W. and Mary L. Zimmerman¹

In Honor of Frederic J. Grant III

David E. Brightbill³
Thomas A. Depler³
Harry C. Horstman³
Joanne Limbach³

In Memory of Walter L. Cotterman

Gwen Floyd²

¹ Denotes membership in the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation

² Denotes employee of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

³ Denotes member of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Board of Directors

Contributors to the Thomas W. Hudson Charitable Endowment Fund

Allyn R. Adams ¹
Dr. Thomas and Pamela Altland
James and Christine Bednar
Dave Bolanz (3D's Engineering) ¹
Tom and Mary Alice Bolanz ¹
Jack S. Deleo (Hitchcock Fleming & Associates)
Karol Burkhart Lindow ¹
Rex and Leslie Carper
Gary and Bonne Crigger
David and Janet Dale
Fred and Aggie Denning
Don and Phyllis Dickes
Rick and Marcia Enslin
William and Beatrice Farber
Dr. Bao Qi Feng
Frank and Sharon Fitch
Philip and Linda Harper
John and Susan Hoopingarner ^{1 2}
Linda Hope-Wells
Harry and Dee Horstman ¹
Robert and Christina Hudson
Mike Humphries (Humphries Auto City)
Jessie L. Kaufholz
Michael and Sandra Keefer
Fritz Kolterman
Stephen J. Kovatch
Robert and Linda Kuchner
Gary and Judy Lenhart ¹

E. Jason McCoy
James and Jolene McWhorter
Harper and Darlene Mellott
Jean Miller ¹
Jeff and Jennifer Morgan
Glenn and Marjorie Patterson
William E. and Marjorie Quicksall
Brian Redmond
Ralph Redmond
James and Patricia Ripple
Nicholas J. Rocchi
Larry Rodek
Sailing Buckeyes Yacht Club, Inc.
Joe and Virginia Sirgo
Gary and Marty Spahr ¹
Dan and Joni Stahura
Philip Stern ¹
Cyril Surington
Larry and Jane Symons ¹
Marv Touse ¹
Ric and Judy Underwood
Randy and Pam Wells ¹
Shirley A. Wigginton ¹
Robert and Mary Ellen Williams

In Memory of Karen Surington

Cyril Surington ²

¹ Denotes membership in the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation

² Denotes employee of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Members of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation

Allyn and Susan Adams

James W. Bates ³

Robert G. Blanke ³

Lance and Paula Blankenship

David Bolanz

Thomas A. Bolanz

David E. Brightbill ³

Curtis B. Copeland ³

James, Cindi and Alexander Coutts ²

George J. and Bessie Demis

James R. and Molly B. Demuth

Thomas A. Depler ³

Larry and Kathy Dill

Dr. Bao Qi Feng

Mark E. Flowers

Richard and Joan Formanek

Bruce and Rickie Greer

Faye A. Heston ³

John E. Hildreth ³

Dale Hileman

John M. Hoopingarner ²

Harry and Dee Horstman ³

Shirley A. Johnson

Orville and Martha Jones

Jessie L. Kaufholz

Stephen J. Kovatch

Raymond and Laverne Kuczkowski ³

Craig B. Laughlin

Corey and Jaime Lenhart

Gary and Judy Lenhart

Karol Burkhart Lindow

Alvin C. Marsh, Jr.

Jeff and Tammy Mathias

E. Jason McCoy

Robert Meyer

Jean Miller

Charles and Mary Morgan

Dr. Ted L. Napier

James Navratil

Scott and Ann O'Donnell ³

David and Nancy Parham ³

Kevin T. and Susan G. Power ³

James J. Pringle

William E. Quicksall, Jr.

Joseph J. Sommer

J.M. and Melissa Sowle

Mark McKeeth Sowle

Gary and Marty Spahr

Philip Stern

Larry and Jane Symons

Paul and Phyllis Taylor

Marv Touse

C. Brian Valot

Randy and Pam Wells

James L. Wagner

Shirley A. Wigginton

Bonnie Wissler ³

Rick and Lucinda Zeiher ³

Donald W. and Mary L. Zimmerman

Mark and Michelle Zollinger

² Denotes employee of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

³ Denotes member of Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Board of Directors or Development Advisory Committee