



Muskingum Watershed
Conservancy District

The idea holds water

Celebrating 75 Years

1933-2008



Muskingum Watershed
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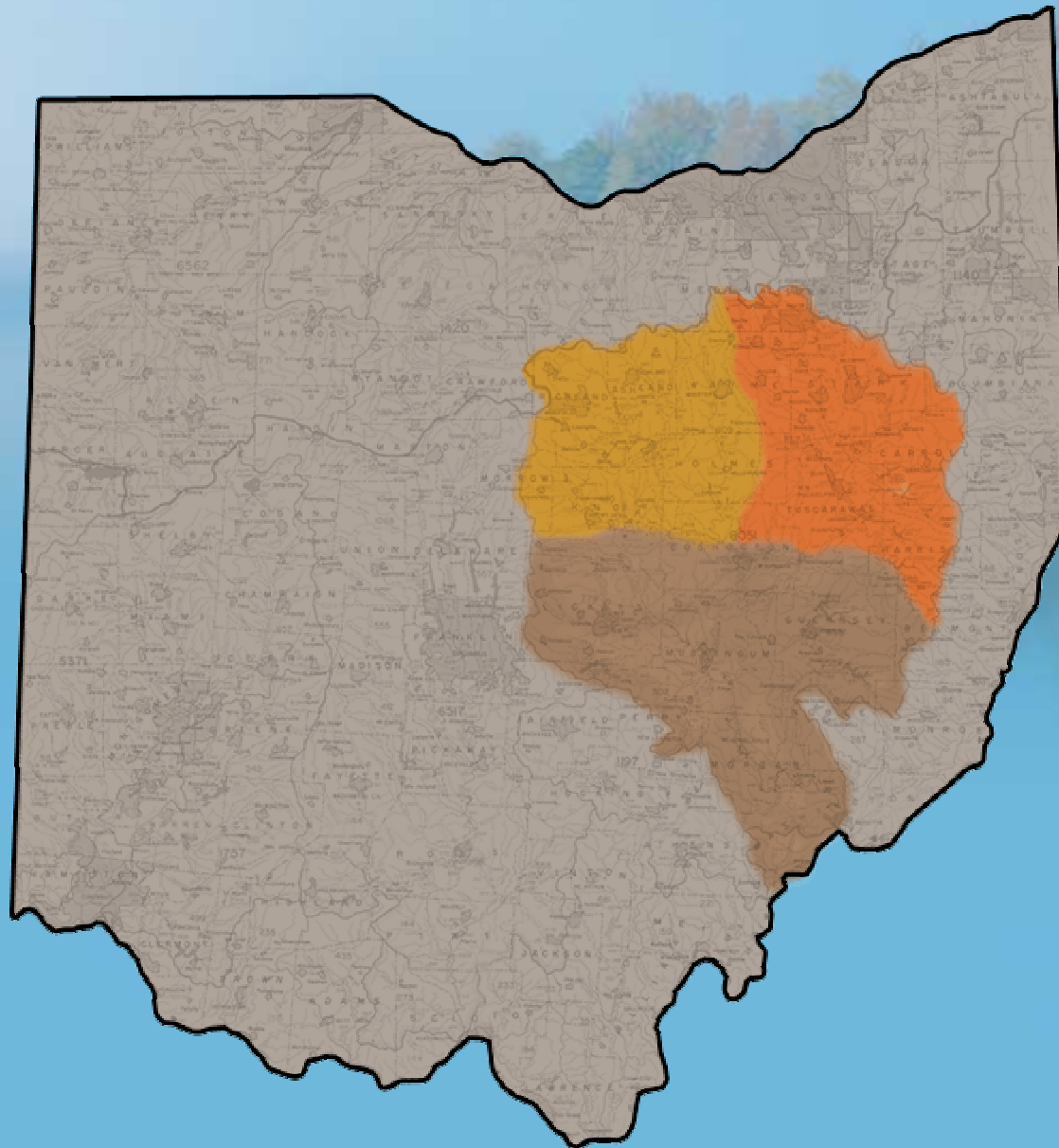
Facts About MWCD

- **Created in 1933, in accordance with ORC, Chapter 6101 (Political subdivision of the State of Ohio)**
- **Largest conservancy district in Ohio, covers 1/5 of state and all or portions of 18 counties**
- **Manages 54,000 acres for public use**
 - * **16,000 acres of water surface at 10 lakes**
 - * **38,000 acres of land**
- **Partnership with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**
 - * **USACE owns and operates dams**
 - * **MWCD manages reservoirs behind dams**
- **To date, system has prevented more than \$7 billion in potential property damage and saved countless lives, while providing a water resource for public uses**

MWCD covers about 20% of the state



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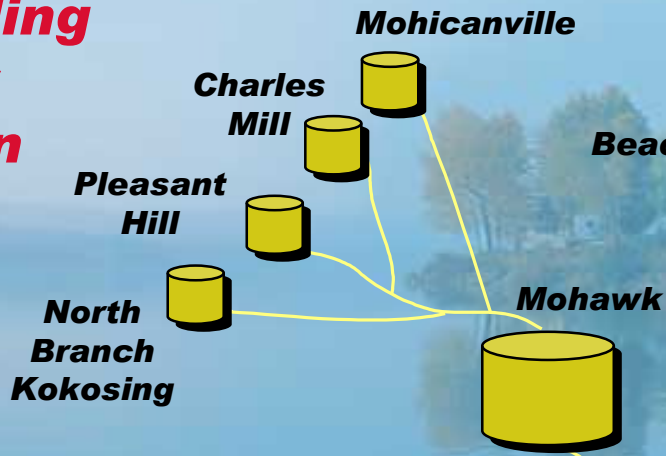


The Muskingum River Basin Reservoir System

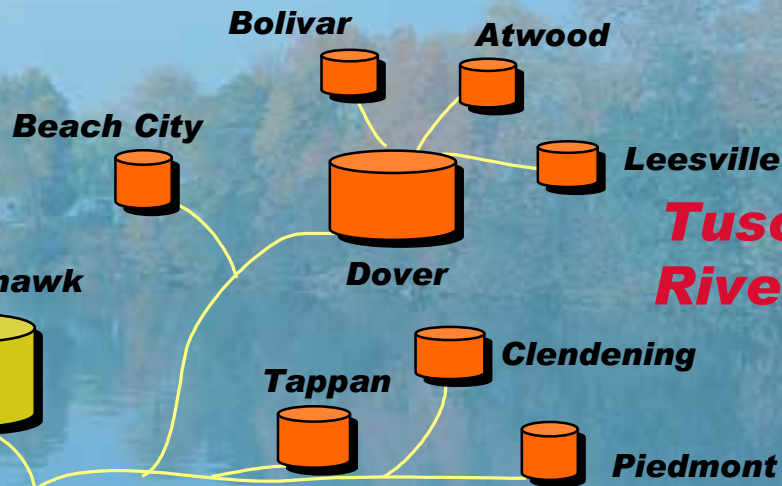


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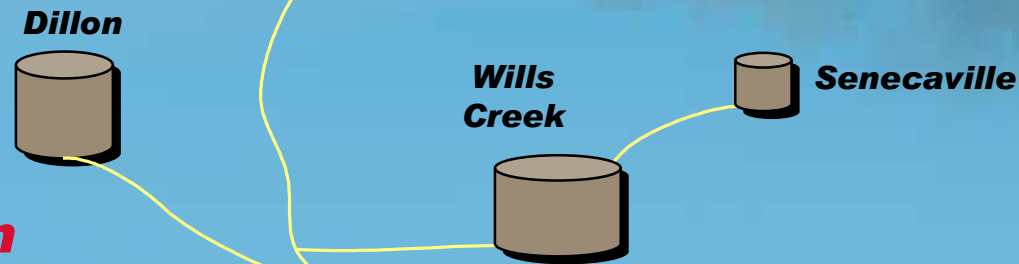
Walhonding River Region



Tuscarawas River Region



Lower Muskingum River Region



Marietta

**Ohio
River**





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Maintenance Needs

- **Age of system and infrastructure**
- **Dam Safety/Dam Safety Assurance**
- **Sedimentation**
- **Erosion**
- **Water quality threats**
- **Conservation pool protection/maintenance**



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Why Assessment Program?

- **Flood reduction and water conservation needs in Muskingum River Watershed led to construction of 14 dams and reservoirs**
- **MWCD assessment established to maintain aging infrastructure, enhance works of district and support conservation efforts in the watershed**



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Assessment Methodology

- **Impervious area used as an indicator of runoff**
 - **Need for reservoirs based upon control of runoff**
 - **Water quality issues are directly tied to runoff**
 - **Erosion and sedimentation are the results of runoff**
 - **Reasonable to apportion benefits based upon estimated runoff**
 - **Methodology recognizes contribution of runoff from all properties in Muskingum River Watershed**

Assessment Update



- **Assessment and work originally scheduled to begin in 2008**
- **Ohio General Assembly approves moratorium on MWCD assessment for 2008 (December 2007)**
- **Ohio Senate forms work group to review MWCD, assessment and methodology – several meetings held**
- **Ohio General Assembly approves legislation to lift moratorium in summer 2008**
- **MWCD Board of Directors votes to levy assessment in 2009 – (September 26, 2008)**
- **Data delivered to auditors' offices in 18-county region**
- **Collection to begin – First quarter of 2009 with real estate tax collection statements**
- **"Credits" program for assessment to begin in 2009**

Assessment Profile



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Assessment Value Categories	Assessed Parcels	Percent of Total Assessed Parcels
> \$0 and <= \$12	456,746	93.8939%
> \$12 and <= \$100	17,909	3.6816%
> \$100 and <= \$500	9,552	1.9636%
> \$500 and <= \$1,000	2,003	0.4118%
> \$1,000 and <= \$5,000	229	0.0471%
> \$5,000 and <= \$10,000	6	0.0012%
> \$10,000 and <= \$40,008	4	0.0008%

Why Credits Program?



- **In support of mission and assessment goals, credits program encourages and recognizes individual efforts to:**
 - **Raise awareness of runoff and water quality issues**
 - **Produce environmental benefits**
 - **Encourage Best Management Practices (BMPs)**
 - **Share significant BMPs with watershed community through newsletters and media**

*** Financial incentive to encourage participation by individual parcel owners for water quality improvements**

Credits Program Partners



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**Any parcel with annual assessment greater than \$12
(1 ERU)**

- **Commercial**
- **Industrial**
- **Municipal, Townships, State and Federal**
- **Metropolitan Housing Authorities**
- **Charitable Organizations**
- **Churches**
- **Board of Education**
- **Park Districts**
- **Education**
- **Other**

Program Guidelines



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- **Regulatory and technical basis**
- **Participation based on parcel, not property owner**
- **Must provide a benefit to MWCD greater than the cost to administer**
- **Must not harm financial integrity of assessment program and MWCD's ability to address needs of aging infrastructure**
- **Reasonable to administer and implement**
- **Receive public support and involvement**

Program Overview



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- **Application/Review process**
 - **Contact information**
 - **Property information**
 - **Description of project for credit**
 - **Available categories for credit**
 - **Applicant certification**
 - **Application available online or U.S. Mail**
 - **Credit application approved, denied or further information required**
 - **In first year (2009), check issued by MWCD**
 - **Subsequent years property assessment reduced in real estate tax statement (parcel owner receives credit notification directly from MWCD)**



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Program Overview

- **MWCD reserves right to verify projects**
- **Appeals process**
 - **Administrative review**
 - **Board of Appraisers**
 - **Board of Directors**
- **Credits program not codified in ORC or OAC**

Program Timeline



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- **January-March 2009 – Applications accepted on existing parcel projects**
- **April 2009 – Applications reviewed**
- **May 2009 – Notification to parcel owners**
- **June 2009 – Credit payments by MWCD to parcel owners for entire year**
- **January-March 2010 (and yearly thereafter) – New applications accepted**

Financial Snapshot



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- **Annual assessment budget - \$10.3 million**
- **Major commitments to federal government as local cost-share sponsor for dam safety projects**
- **Collection potential reduced significantly by parcel adjacency (750,000 parcels to less than 500,000)**
- **Project budget reduced in response to Ohio General Assembly input**
- **Federal local cost-share amounts increase significantly**

Financial Snapshot



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- **Potential impact of credits program on overall budget**
- **Estimated at \$250,000 to \$1.25 million**
- **MWCD cost-share obligation - \$93.2 million to \$123.1 million according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**



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