

V/Lake Views

In This Issue...

Board Approves Half
Million in Grants.....1

Lease Approved for
Buckeye Trail Field
Office at Tappan.....2

US Army Corps
of Engineers Hosts
MWCD Partnering
Meeting.....3

Park
Improvements.....4-5

2016 Annual
Report Available6

MWCD Commercial
Receives State Wide
Marketing Award6

View MWCD
Water Quality Test
Results Online.....7

Calling All MWCD
Fans - Sign up8

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District Board Approves Half Million \$ in Grants

The Board of Directors of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) recently approved \$500,000 in grants to nine local organizations. The grant program, called Partners in Watershed Management (PWM), provides for the use of maintenance assessment funds to assist local communities, groups, and organizations in implementing water quality projects, flood reduction and mitigation programs, and watershed education efforts throughout the 18-county Conservancy District. Since its inception in 2009 this highly successful program has provided over \$6.26 million in grant funding for 93 projects throughout the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. The total project cost for the nine 2017 projects is \$1,314,195 meaning for every \$1 granted by MWCD in 2017 another \$1.62 of funding is leveraged from other sources for the specified water quality project.

~ **GRANTS** continued on page 3



(left to right) Executive Director/Secretary, John Hoopingarner, with MWCD Board members Vice President - Clark Sprang, Rob Moorehead, President - Gordon Maupin, Joanne Limbach and Richard Pryce, review and approve \$500,000 in grants to local communities in early 2017.

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MWCD Approves Lease for Buckeye Trail Field Office at Tappan

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) and the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) have maintained a close partnership dating back to the 1960's. The Buckeye Trail, a 1,444-mile statewide trail, traverses through or near MWCD properties at six of the ten MWCD lakes located along the eastern corridor of I-77. These lakes include Atwood, Leesville, Tappan, Clendening, Piedmont and Seneca.

Since 2003, the BTA has leased, maintained and improved a century barn located on Tappan Lake property which is used as the BTA headquarters. The barn is also made available for community use. The opportunity to augment the MWCD/BTA partnership presented itself earlier this year. As approved by the Board of Directors, the MWCD will lease acreage to the BTA at Tappan Lake which includes a farmhouse, large and small barns, springhouse, cistern, shed and some lake frontage. It is expected volunteers who maintain and improve the Buckeye Trail will use the facilities as a gathering place as they venture through eastern Ohio.

The Buckeye Trail at Tappan currently connects to a wildlife/wetland observation area and hiking trails linked to the Tappan Lake Park system. The increased presence of the BTA presents greater opportunities for both organizations to enhance, build and maintain common trails.



The century barn at Tappan Lake is leased and maintained by the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA). It is used as a field headquarters for BTA volunteers who install and maintain the Buckeye Trail in eastern Ohio.



..... And Speaking of Trails

The Board of Directors also recently approved a five-year agreement with the Ohio Horseman's Council (OHC) which acknowledges the OHC has completed and will maintain a 144-mile system of equestrian/hiking trails at Pleasant Hill Lake. These pathways also connect to trails at Malabar Farm and Mohican State Park. The agreement acknowledges the OHC will also continue to develop new sections of the trails as needed. Pleasant Hill Lake Park has become a regional multi-state destination for equestrians due to the trail system and the overnight horse camp accommodations at the park.

Visit the overnight equestrian camp accommodations and 144 miles of trails at Pleasant Hill Lake Park.



US Army Corps of Engineers Hosts MWCD Partnering Meeting

Officials and managers from both the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Huntington District, and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District meet bi-annually to collaborate and coordinate functions and programs. This close partnership began 84 years ago when the Conservancy District was created. The USACE owns and maintains the 16 dams while MWCD owns and maintains 14 reservoirs in the Muskingum River watershed flood reduction system.

The Federal Government estimates the series of dams, reservoirs and levees has prevented an astounding \$11.9 billion in damages through fiscal year 2015 since the installation of the system dating back to the late 1930's. Close coordination is required to properly manage lake levels, protect the flowage easement at each reservoir, practice emergency preparedness and address a host of many other coordinating issues.

The management and executive teams met on March 15 at the Huntington District USACE headquarters in West Virginia. Much of the discussion centered on the successful partnership with MWCD and the capability of MWCD to provide the much-needed local cost share for the Muskingum River watershed dam maintenance program. The local cost share is made possible through the MWCD maintenance assessment revenue. MWCD maintenance assessment dollars are also allocated to other programs that maintain the MWCD reservoirs and promote water quality within the watershed.

The team reviewed project close-out of the Dover Dam and Bolivar Dam maintenance projects. Both projects were successfully completed on-time and on-budget. The total cost of construction for these two projects was \$169 million.

Col. Secrist closed out the meeting reiterating his appreciation for the strong partnership with MWCD and the professional manner conducted by staff from both organizations.



Left to Right - USACE District Engineer and Army veteran, Joe Savage, along with Huntington District Commander Col. Phillip M. Secrist, III, lead the partnering meeting discussion with MWCD CFO/Treasurer, James B. Cugliari, and MWCD Chief Engineer, Boris E. Slogar.



The Bolivar Dam maintenance project close out will be celebrated in October 2017. Maintenance included a 4,500 foot long x 3 foot wide concrete barrier installed 130 feet into the ground.

~ GRANTS continued from cover

2017 Approved PWM Projects				
	Applicant	County	Project Title	Grant Approved
1	Holmes County Park District	Holmes	Killbuck Wetlands Acquisition and Conservation	\$122,648 \$25,000
2	Washington Township	Holmes	Twp. Rd. 451 Stream Bank Stabilization	\$77,300 \$65,000
3	City of Mt. Vernon	Knox	Blackberry Alley Restoration using innovative detention and water quality measures	\$370,267 \$135,000
4	Heidelberg University	Morgan	Muskingum River Gage at McConnelsville	\$20,580 \$10,000
5	City of Zanesville	Muskingum	Lock 10 Debris Removal on the Muskingum River	\$176,000 \$55,000
6	City of Massillon	Stark	Tuscarawas River Improvement Corridor Planning	\$30,119 \$22,500
7	Village of Wilmot	Stark	Wilmot Stream Restoration	\$439,094 \$130,000
8	City of Green	Summit	Regional Stormwater Basin Study	\$59,500 \$45,000
9	City of Dover	Tuscarawas	Dover Low Head Dam on the Tuscarawas River - Biological and Water Quality Monitoring Study	\$18,687 \$12,500
TOTAL			\$1,314,195	\$500,000

The MWCD Renaissance Has Begun

The MWCD Board of Directors has committed \$120 million from oil and gas revenue to upgrade the infrastructure serving the MWCD parks and campsites. In addition, in response to customer surveys amenities such as trails, restrooms, shower houses and playgrounds will also be constructed. These badly needed improvements to the 50-year-old parks and campsites will be constructed over the next 5-7 years throughout the five major MWCD parks. It is expected these improvements will leave a 50-year legacy before major upgrades are again needed at the MWCD parks and campgrounds. The renaissance has begun!

Piedmont Marina

Piedmont Marina received a facelift this spring. The new deck, restrooms and interior upgrades are ready for MWCD customers.



Pleasant Hill

At left - Contractors have mobilized to prepare Area 22 at Pleasant Hill Lake Park. The new campsite will have 56 full service RV hookups.



Tappan Restroom

At Left - The interior of the new Tappan restroom is filled with natural lighting and earth tone colors. These interior design standards will be used throughout new structures in the parks.



At left - The new east campground at Tappan Lake park, which will house 74 new full-service RV hookups, is underway. The newly constructed ADA accessible shower house-restroom, seen in the background, is ready for recreation season.

Atwood – Area 20

At Right - Atwood Area 20 is taking shape with utilities installed, concrete pads poured and progress on the new shower house. 75 new campsites are scheduled to be ready by the Alive Festival in July with another 67 campsites scheduled for completion by the end of the year.



Seneca Beach Concession

At Left - The new concession stand at Seneca Lake beach was manufactured offsite. The four modules of the structure were delivered and placed on the foundation the end of May.

MWCD Commercial Receives State Wide Marketing Award



The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) recently received recognition for achievement in marketing and advertising at the Ohio Travel Association's Recognizing Uncommon Brilliance (RUBY) Awards. MWCD received an award for a heartwarming commercial entered in the Television Advertisement category. Accepting the award was Adria Bergeron, Recreation Marketing Coordinator. Ms. Bergeron stated, "The essence of the commercial is that family memories are waiting to be made at one of our parks." The award-winning commercial can be viewed by a web search of "Explore MWCD Commercial."

Competition was strong this year with more than 223 entries in print-based, web-based and marketing campaign, advertisement and video categories. The awards, sponsored by Ohio Magazine, were presented during the Ohio Conference on Travel, the state's largest conference for travel industry professionals. Jp9UfsvMbqrN87SH7.

Left - MWCD Recreation Marketing Coordinator, Adria Bergeron (right), receives the RUBY Award from the President of Great Lakes Publishing, Lute Harmon, Jr. (left) at the Ohio Conference on Travel for achievement in marketing and advertising for MWCD's newly produced TV-commercial. The commercial is currently broadcasting on Cleveland and Steubenville TV stations.

FIREWORKS DATES

Atwood - July 4

Charles Mill - July 1

Pleasant Hill - July 15 & Sept 2

Seneca - July 1

Tappan - July 1

More info at mwcd.org



The 2016 Annual Report is Now Available



The 2016 Annual Report of Operations includes highlights of activities, programs and full financial statements from 2016 and is found at www.mwcd.org. The report was presented and approved by the Conservancy Court which is comprised of one judge from the court of common pleas from each of the 18 counties within the district.

Left - Judge Edward E. O'Farrell (sitting in the foreground) was the presiding judge at the convening of the MWCD Conservancy Court in June of 2016. The Court typically assembles in June of each year.

View MWCD Water Quality Test Results On-line

Several partner agencies along with MWCD conservation staff collect water samples in the 10 lakes owned and managed by the MWCD. This is part of a program in keeping our customers safe and being responsible stewards in managing the precious resource of the 68 billion gallons of water held in the MWCD reservoirs. A multitude of selected physical, chemical and biological characteristics are measured and carefully monitored throughout the year.

Targeted sampling is conducted throughout peak recreation season at the MWCD beaches to test for bacteria and toxins from algal blooms known as cyanotoxins. As a service to our customers, bacteria readings from the beaches at Atwood, Charles Mill, Pleasant Hill, Seneca and Tappan are posted on a website hosted by the Ohio Department of Health, known as Ohio Beach Guard. In addition, Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) monitoring and readings at Atwood and Tappan lakes can also be accessed through the Ohio Beach Guard website.

In the event of elevated readings of bacteria or HABs, appropriate notifications prescribed by the Department of Health and OEPA will be made on the Beach Guard website and will be communicated by other means to MWCD customers. Communication of elevated readings may be through signage at the beaches, MWCD website and Facebook posts, text messaging and other forms of communication.

As a reminder, many forms of bacteria are present in all water types found in nature. The Ohio Health Department recommends that persons and pets should properly wash and sanitize after contact with untreated water such as the MWCD lakes. We want our customers to stay safe and healthy!





mwcd.org



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To receive text messages of park event schedule updates and other important
timely park and lake communications:

- text ATWOODEVENTS to 888777 for Atwood Lake Park updates
- text CMEVENTS to 888777 for Charles Mill Lake Park updates
- text PHEVENTS to 888777 for Pleasant Hill Lake Park updates
- text SENECAEVENTS to 888777 for Seneca Lake Park updates
- text TAPPANEVENTS to 888777 for Tappan Lake Park updates



Check out our many websites -
and don't forget to "like" and
"follow" us on our Facebook
pages accessed through:

www.mwcd.org

PARKS

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