Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

Lake Views

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Putting plan in motion

MWCD begins projects inside watershed area

Work to protect and maintain the reservoirs and dams, as well as to protect the watershed within the Muskingum River Basin, has begun.

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) began implementation of the watershed plan in 2009. Partnerships with several agencies already have been signed for projects that will aid flood reduction and water conservation.

Highlights of the early action on the plan are spotlighted throughout this issue.

Mohawk Dam, located in Coshocton County just north of where the Walhonding River meets the Tuscarawas River to form the Muskingum River, is considered a priority for major rehabilitation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The logical next step in basin care now under way

Inside The MWCD Plan

By Boris Slogar

Just last year, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) celebrated its 75th anniversary marking three quarters of a century providing flood control, recreation, conservation and stewardship programs in the Muskingum Basin. Looking ahead, we are committed to repairing and upgrading critical components of the flood reduction system and being good stewards of our watershed and its resources. In this article, we'll learn about the past, understand our current needs and set a course for the next 75 years.

In the beginning …

The vision which MWCD's founding fathers Bryce Browning (first MWCD executive director) and Arthur Morgan (first MWCD chief engineer) sought to create continues to define and drive MWCD today. It was the Great Flood of 1913, which drove Browning and Morgan to action.

First and foremost, preventing future destruction and loss of life such as that caused by the devastating 1913 flood was their first priority. This was no small task. The

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Conservancy District
1319 Third St. NW
P.O. Box 349
New Philadelphia, Ohio
44663-0349
Telephone: (330) 343-6647
Toll-free: (877) 363-8500
Internet: www.mwcd.org
e-mail: lakeviews@mwcd.org

Call, write or e-mail for free subscription

Office hours:
Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mission Statement

Responsible stewards dedicated to conservation, recreation and flood control in the Muskingum River Watershed, striving to enhance the quality of life in the region.

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Muskingum Basin, covering more than 8,000 square miles, is nearly the size of New Jersey or the size of Connecticut and Delaware combined. In the end, a system of 14 dams was designed and constructed at key locations controlling and regulating 60 percent of the area comprising the basin.

Using an analogy, this flood control system is similar to a freeway on-ramp equipped with a stop light like those you can see in Columbus metering cars onto the freeway during rush hour. In much the same manner, gates are positioned at each of the dams in response to current weather conditions, lake levels, river levels and future weather forecasts.

The dams and levees were designed and constructed in a partnership between the MWCD and the federal government. After completion, they became the responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to operate and maintain while much of the land and water behind and around them is the responsibility of the MWCD.

Holding back water

During large storms, the unregulated portion of the watershed (the 40 percent not flowing through USACE dams) is closely monitored. As those unregulated streams and rivers rise, gates are lowered on the dams holding back more and more stormwater runoff behind the dams.

As an example, in May 2008 you may have witnessed large inundated areas along I-77 in the Dover and Bolivar areas of northern Tuscarawas County. Though ominous looking, all of that water was being temporarily stored behind Atwood, Dover and Bolivar dams. Had that water been released while the streams and rivers were swollen, floodwaters might have spilled into those cities, villages, homes and farms further downstream. Rather, excess stormwater was stored exactly where it was supposed to be stored, on land where the right to temporarily store water was purchased and flood storage easements were established back when the dams were constructed.

Conservation also means recreation

The design phase of the flood control system occurred not long after the drought and dust bowl era of the 1930s. In response to this, Browning and Morgan decided that most of the dams would store water or have what are called conservation pools. This provided two benefits for the Muskingum region. The first was, of course, conserving and storing water for both residential and commercial consumption. The second benefit – recreation – has been a source of enjoyment and tremendous economic benefit to the region.

Over the years, recreational activities have been so valued and enjoyed that remembering the flood control and conservation aspects of the flood control system has been secondary. One might surmise that this would be quite acceptable to Browning and Morgan.

Time for a tune-up

The flood control system, being man-made and more than 70 years old, is in need of attention. It has held up well over the years; however, the effects of aging as well as advances in dam safety engineering and geotechnical (soils and foundations) engineering have brought deficiencies to the attention of the USACE. Four dams and one levee have been nationally identified by the USACE as needing significant upgrades and modifications to address deficiencies that have become apparent over the years.

The four dams are Dover Dam, Bolivar Dam, Mohawk Dam and Beach City Dam with Zoar Levee rounding out the group. Overall, the structures have held up extremely well over the years. This, in part, is due to excellent maintenance and care, but is also a tribute to solid construction being performed decades ago. Dover Dam is the only concrete structure in the group with the rest being earthen embankments.

The earthen embankments are in need of upgrades mainly because of seepage problems through the lower parts of the embankments as well as through embankment foundations. Seepage is where water from the lake area impounded upstream of the dam/levee works its way through the dam and/or foundation and surfaces either on the dam itself or just downstream along natural ground.

All dams leak. As a matter of fact, dam safety engineers incorporate sophisticated seepage collection systems to safely collect and discharge the seepage. Problems can occur when seepage worsens and ultimately begins to transport embankment fill. When this happens, seepage paths begin to form through the embankment much like small tunnels. If not corrected, the embankment could erode to where failure occurs.

In the case of the USACE earthen dams and levee noted above, seepage is occurring mainly through the foundation (underneath the dam). The good news is that understanding how these problems occur and how to address them has significantly advanced since the time the flood control system was constructed. Repairs and modifications to the earthen embankments will consist of improved seepage collection systems as well

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as in some cases installing barriers to prevent water from flowing beneath and through the embankments.

In the case of Dover Dam, seepage is not the problem. Being the only concrete dam, you might be interested to know that it has a seepage and drainage control system built right into it that is working just fine. In this case, the USACE is concerned with movement of the dam. This may be difficult to imagine given the size of Dover Dam, but keep in mind two things. First, the dam is actually hollow and is not a solid concrete structure. Second, though Dover Dam looks like a long solid mass of concrete, it is actually constructed of sections that are keyed together (locked into place vertically much like tongue-and-groove flooring that you might have in your home).

USACE engineers have calculated that if enough water backs up behind Dover Dam, one or more of the concrete sections might break free and slide along the riverbed. The fix for this is essentially to tie the dam down to foundation bedrock so that it doesn't slide. To do that, massive stainless steel cables will be drilled and grouted into place through the dam.

What about MWCD's other dams?

The USACE constantly monitors all of the dams in the Muskingum system. Based upon their investigations and analyses, the other dams in the system – many of which have reservoirs that provide fishing, boating, swimming and other such recreational activities – are in good condition and have not developed serious maintenance problems.

Partners in watershed management

Though keeping the dams that make up the flood control system in excellent working order is our first priority, we also recognize that the condition of the reservoirs and the watershed around them is just as important to the overall health and well being of our region.

In an effort to support the work of agencies and groups involved in conservation programs, water quality issues, and flood reduction and mitigation projects, MWCD has developed the "Partners in Watershed Management" Project Assistance Program. This program provides assistance to local communities, agencies and groups involved in projects and programs that support the conservation and flood control aspects of the mission of the MWCD. In 2009, the following projects have been approved and are under way:

1. Lick Run Pond Dam No. 1 Repair, Belmont County. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management, has requested financial assistance in the amount of $34,468 as a cost-share for the design and repair of Lick Run Pond No. 1 Dam. The project is designed to reduce sediment loading into Piedmont Lake. A significant component of the sediment is aluminum precipitate, which is a by-product of the coal mining process and is a major contributor to acid mine drainage.

ODNR's estimate for this reclamation project is $74,468 while they have $40,000 available for this project. Outflow from the project will of higher quality as sediment and pollutant loading into Piedmont Lake will be greatly reduced.

2. Pleasant Hill Reservoir Shoreline Stabilization, Ashland/ Richland counties. Severe erosion and slope stability concerns at MWCD's Pleasant Hill Lake were identified to be a high priority reservoir maintenance project. Surface erosion coupled with rising and falling reservoir levels have created severe shoreline erosion along the south shore Pine Hill area. Just above this area along a 30-foot high near-vertical bluff are homes and cottages that are dangerously close to the eroding bluff.

MWCD is investigating the cause of the shoreline erosion and instabilities. The project's first priority is to review the safety of the shoreline and determine whether the homes located above it are at serious risk. A contract was awarded for $275,000 to complete an investigation and to identify potential solutions.

3. Malwayne Flood Mitigation Project, Brown Twp., Carroll County. The Brown Township Board of Trustees, through U.S. Rep. Zack Space's office, requested emergency assistance in providing a cost-share match obligation for a flood mitigation project primarily funded through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant. The project involves the purchase and removal of 30 homes. Overall, this area has had two federally-declared disasters in 2004 and 2005, with the most recent flooding occurring March 5, 2008.

A FEMA grant in the amount of $890,913 was awarded in January 2008 with Brown Township being responsible for a local cost share in the amount of $222,728. Brown Township is using $72,728 of in-kind services as well as an additional $10,000, leaving $140,000 needed to meet cost-share requirements. In order to implement the FEMA grant, Brown Township must provide the entire match obligation by the end of 2009 or the grant will expire.

This project will restore floodplain area that previously was encroached upon, allowing additional floodwater to temporarily store itself in this floodplain area, thus reducing the rate and quality of inflow into Bolivar Dam.

4. Fairhope Nature Preserve, City of Canton, Stark County. The City of Canton requested financial assistance in the amount of $43,000 for a flood control/water quality project. Specifically, the Fairhope Nature Preserve initially was conceived as a regional trunk storm sewer project. This original project concept was modified to become a 57-acre nature preserve consisting of a retention basin and forebay that would capture incoming storm water, create a viable habitat, and provide for fishing activities.

Project costs for creation of the retention basin and forebay are $560,000. The Ohio Public Works Commission has provided a grant covering 78 percent of the cost. Of the remaining $123,200, the City of Canton has $80,000 available and is requesting financial assistance to cover the remaining $43,200 amount.

This project will reduce storm flows by detaining stormwater in both a forebay and detention basin. In addition, the outflow from the project will be of higher quality as sediments and pollutants will settle primarily in the forebay with additional settling occurring in the detention basin. Ultimately, this project will hold back sediment and pollutants while reducing the amount of stormwater that will reach Dover Dam.

Disappearing shoreline

If you've boated or walked along the shoreline at any of our reservoirs, you've probably noticed areas where the shoreline is actively eroding and washing into the lake. We are currently in the planning stages of a six-month project to identify problem areas along the shoreline at all of our lakes. When completed, a prioritized list of projects along with a construction schedule will be made available. Look for more information on our Shoreline Rehabilitation Program (SRP) in the spring of 2010.

Committed to the Muskingum Watershed

From Akron in the north to Marietta in the south and from Delaware in the west to Cadiz in the east, the Muskingum Watershed defines our region and its natural resources. We are committed to the system of reservoirs, the areas upstream that flow into them as well as the areas that are protected below.

If you would like more information about the projects we are working on or would like to learn more about MWCD, please visit us at www.mwcd.org or call me toll-free at (877) 363-8500.

Boris Slogar is chief engineer for the MWCD.

Work to begin at Dover in 2010

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have confirmed their commitment for a $103.5 million rehabilitation project to stabilize Dover Dam and continue to provide flood risk reduction for residents and property in the watershed.

Members of the MWCD Board of Directors approved a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the USACE for the work, which is scheduled to get under way during the fall of 2010. As the required non-federal local cost-share sponsor for the project, the MWCD will contribute an estimated $3.57 million for the maintenance work - or 3.45 percent of the total cost - over the length of the project.

"It was an historic time when the MWCD partnered with the federal government to construct the 14 dams an reservoirs in the Muskingum River Watershed that have protected people and property for more than 70 years," said John M. Hoopingarner, MWCD executive director/secretary. "This agreement represents another historic time and confirms the dedication of both the MWCD and the USACE to the continued safe and effective operation of the system of dams and reservoirs."

Dover Dam, which is operated by the Huntington (W.Va.) District of the USACE, is in need of several upgrades to be able to withstand a probable maximum flood and assure reliable performance. The only concrete dam in the Muskingum River Watershed, located in northern Tuscarawas County off Rt. 800, cannot be operated to its design capacities because of stability concerns, which potentially could put the public at risk, according to the USACE.

"The Corps is committed to public safety and the signing of this Project Partnership Agreement is the first step in rehabilitating Dover Dam and reducing risks associated with the dam," said Col. Dana R. Hurst, former commander of the Huntington District of the USACE. "Since construction of Dover Dam was completed in November 1937, it has prevented $1.1 billion in flood damage. The total project cost estimate for the rehabilitation project is $103.5 million and will quickly yield returns on the investment since the average annual benefits of the project are $15.9 million.

"The flood damage reduction projects in the Muskingum Basin have improved the overall quality of life for the region by reducing flood damage. The Corps commends the leadership of the MWCD in taking the appropriate planning steps in being able to financially serve as the non-federal partner."

Attending the signing ceremony for the Project Partnership Agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District for rehabilitation work at Dover Dam were: Rich Milleson (left), assistant director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; Richard J. Pryce, president of the MWCD Board of Directors; Lisa Duvall, regional director for the office of Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland; State Rep. Allan Sayre, D-Dover; Col. Dana R. Hurst, commander of the Huntington District of the USACE; and John M. Hoopingarner, MWCD executive director/secretary.

The signing ceremony also was attended by Lisa Duvall, regional director for the office of Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland; Rich Milleson, assistant director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources; State Rep. Allan Sayre (D-Dover); and members of the MWCD Board of Directors.

Dover Dam is one of four dams and one levee in the Muskingum River Watershed that have been identified by the USACE for rehabilitation and upgrades, and is the first that the federal government has targeted for work in the watershed. The total estimated cost of all of the projects could reach $685 million, according to the USACE, with the MWCD committing from as much as $137.1 million as the cost-share sponsor.

Hoopingarner said that the Dover Dam project is the first partnering agreement with the federal government for a dam that the MWCD has committed to as part of the implementation of the Amendment to the Official Plan of the MWCD to protect the benefits of flood reduction and water conservation in the watershed.

"We have promised the residents in the watershed through the past several years that we are committed to the safe operation of the system of dams and reservoirs, and that the MWCD will be a partner with the federal government for this important work," Hoopingarner said. "That time has arrived and our staff is busy preparing for the important years ahead as the system is secured for future generations."

The MWCD, a political subdivision of the state of Ohio, was organized in 1933 to develop and implement a plan to reduce flooding and conserve water for public uses in the Muskingum River Watershed, leading to the construction of 14 reservoirs and dams several years later. The MWCD is a partner with the USACE in the operation of the system of dams and reservoirs and in the watershed, as the USACE operates the dams and the MWCD manages most the reservoir areas behind the dams.

Relief on way to 30 Carroll County homeowners

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) and Brown Township trustees in Carroll County have signed a project assistance agreement to help relocate 30 homeowners from a flood-prone area near Malvern.

The MWCD will serve as a local cost-share partner with Brown Township trustees to assist the homeowners in the Malwayne Acres development. The MWCD will provide $140,000 in funding for the program, which will help the township receive a federal grant to pay for the bulk of the costs.

U.S. Rep. Zack Space, D-Dover, and trustees from Brown Township requested assistance from the MWCD to help fund the local match required for award of a federal grant of nearly $900,000 for the purchase and removal of 30 homes in the development. The area has suffered significant flooding in 2004, 2005 and 2008.

Brown Township will contribute nearly $73,000 toward the required $222,728 match amount, with the MWCD providing the remaining $140,000. The removal of the homes will restore floodplain storage and reduce the rate of inflow into Bolivar Reservoir, according to MWCD officials.

"This request for assistance squarely fits within the intended purpose of the Amendment to the Official Plan of the MWCD," said John M. Hoopingarner, MWCD executive director/secretary. "The MWCD's plan includes providing local matching funds to assist homeowners who have repeatedly dealt with flooding, such as what has occurred in recent years in Carroll County's Brown Township."

"This effort also will permit the homeowners in this area to relocate and provide them with the peace of mind to be leaving the concerns and stresses of flooding behind," Hoopingarner said.

The Malwayne Acres development near Malvern in Carroll County's Brown Township has been the site of frequent flooding, leading to damage for many homeowners in the allotment.

Vera Gatchell, project manager for the relocation project, said that all of the homeowners who are relocating volunteered to leave the area and repeatedly have been calling her office for status updates on the program.

"We are talking about people who are living in their homes with mold today that is left over from the flooding," Gatchell said. "This is a very positive avenue for the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District."

MWCD partners with Canton for project

A retention basin and forebay planned at the Fairhope Nature Preserve in Stark County will reduce pollution loads in the watershed.

The state has awarded the city of Canton nearly 80 percent of the total $560,000 cost for construction of the project located on the northeast side of the city. A local match of $123,200 is required, with the city providing $80,000 and the MWCD to contribute the remaining $43,200.

The project will reduce pollution loads in the watershed by improving water and wastewater treatment and sewers, will reduce storm flows by retaining stormwater and will permit outflow from the area to be of a higher quality as sediments and pollutants will settle primarily in the forebay and retention basin.

The site is being converted from a detention basin to a retention basin, said Daniel J. Moeglin, Canton city engineer, and over time it will be developed as a nature preserve for education on water conservation programs and practices.

The project will reduce pollution loads in the watershed by improving water and wastewater treatment and sewers, will reduce storm flows by retaining stormwater and will permit outflow from the area to be of a higher quality.

The Fairhope Nature Preserve originally was considered as a regional trunk storm sewer project, but later modified to become a 57-acre nature preserve consisting of a retention basin and forebay that would capture incoming storm water, create a viable habitat and provide for fishing activities.

Boris E. Slogar, MWCD chief engineer, said the proposal has immediate impacts upstream from Dover Dam.

The project will reduce storm flows by detaining stormwater in both a forebay and detention basin. In addition, the outflow from the project will be of higher quality as sediments and pollutants will settle primarily in the forebay with additional settling occurring in the detention basin.

Ultimately, this project will hold back sediment and pollutants while reducing the amount of stormwater that will reach Dover Dam.

MWCD to prioritize shoreline issues

A five-year plan to repair and maintain the most severely eroded shorelines around the reservoirs managed by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) is being prepared at the direction of the MWCD Board of Directors.

The manmade reservoirs, constructed more than 70 years ago as part of the system of dams and reservoirs for flood reduction and water conservation in the Muskingum River Watershed, have been showing the effects of eroding shorelines for several decades, said Boris E. Slogar, MWCD chief engineer.

"It is obvious to anyone who has boated or even drove past the reservoirs that the shorelines at many locations need to be repaired to protect the critical function of storing floodwaters," said Slogar. "Our staff will identify the shorelines where work is needed and prioritize them for consideration in upcoming budget years."

Shoreline work at its reservoirs is a part of the more comprehensive MWCD plan for maintenance and rehabilitation in the watershed.

Members of the MWCD Board of Directors approved the first phase of a plan to repair a large eroded section of shoreline at Pleasant Hill Reservoir in Ashland and Richland counties. This phase will involve engineering work to perform an analysis and provide solutions for the section of southern shoreline that could threaten nearby structures. This project is the top priority for stabilization work by the MWCD, according to Slogar.

This section of shoreline at Pleasant Hill Reservoir has been identified as the top priority for stabilization by the MWCD in 2009. The MWCD staff also is reviewing the shorelines at all of its reservoirs for development of a plan to address erosion and stabilization issues.

However, Board members said they will not approve any other shoreline projects funded through the MWCD maintenance and rehabilitation plan until the shoreline priority list is developed, including cost estimates for repairs.

Slogar said the shoreline work list should be completed within six months.

Project at Piedmont to reduce levels of metals

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) will participate with the state government for repairs to a reclamation pond located in the headwaters above Piedmont Lake that will reduce the level of heavy metals that flow into the lake.

The MWCD will enter into a cooperative agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Mineral Resource Management Acid Mine Drainage Unit for the work to be done near the Lick Run Bay portion of Piedmont Lake.

Aluminum sulfate, a leachate byproduct of mining activities that occurred in the past in the region, will be reduced.

The MWCD will fund nearly $35,000 for the project, which is estimated to cost nearly $75,000.

ODNR officials said that the Piedmont Lake region has been a source of concern for many years due to the acid mine drainage present and the negative effects it can have on the biota in and around the lake.

"This project is a perfect partnership to continue the planned work to improve the water quality in this area, including the lake," said Scot Hindall, P.E., acid mine drainage engineering staff manager for the Division of Mineral Resource Management Acid Mine Drainage Unit. "The work will provide retention of aluminum and other sulfates that could otherwise enter the lake."

Hindall added that the state actively seeks cooperative funding partners with shared interests to stretch its available funds for acid mine drainage remediation projects.

"We work to leverage our dollars which allows us to do several more projects in a year's time than we normally could do if we were in the position of funding the entire amount," Hindall said. "We've been doing partnerships for many years with many agencies and it's a perfect fit to be working with the MWCD on this project at Piedmont."

Work is expected to be completed on the project before the end of 2009.

'Partners' can receive assistance for projects

Efforts by agencies and groups to improve the Muskingum River Watershed can receive a boost from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD).

"The Partners in Watershed Management Project Assistance Program" is a part of the MWCD's plan for overall maintenance and rehabilitation in the Muskingum River Watershed, including the system of flood-reduction and water conservation dams and reservoirs.

The MWCD program encourages funding requests from political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, non-profit IRS Section 501 groups and other organizations involved in programs or projects related to watershed management and water quality improvements in the Muskingum River Watershed.

"The MWCD's Amendment to the Official Plan is clear in that it is committed to the overall maintenance needs in the watershed to ensure the continued effective and acceptable levels of flood reduction and water conservation," said Boris E. Slogar, MWCD's chief engineer. "We also enthusiastically recognize that other agencies and groups are performing projects that assist in these efforts, and by forming strong partnerships all of the participants can maximize their financial resources.

"The MWCD project assistance program is a direct method of recognition of the many worthy projects planned," Slogar said. "The projects that will be considered will have a positive impact on the operation of the system of reservoirs and dams, as well as water quality, when they are finished."

Slogar said the process will consist of three basic steps: an open application period (which presently is under way for projects to be funded in 2011), a review period that will include prioritization of submitted applications, and a notification period where projects selected by the MWCD are included in the upcoming year's budget.

Slogar said proposals will be reviewed and selected based on the following criteria:

- The extent to which the proposal promotes or supports the conservation and flood reduction aspects of the mission of the MWCD
- The need for, and benefits of, the proposed project or program
- Project or program design
- Level of partnership development
- Demonstrated local support
- Past project or program experience
- Sustainability of the project or program
- Planning process
- Level of matching funds or in-kind services

Additional information and a complete application package are available by contacting John Olivier at the MWCD main office at New Philadelphia toll-free at (877) 363-8500 Ext. 2255, via e-mail at jolivier@mwcd.org, or by visiting the MWCD website at www.mwcd.org/grant_program.

Credits program drawing praise

A total of 16 property owners received reductions this year in the annual assessments they pay to the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) in recognition of conservation efforts on their land holdings.

In an effort to recognize the efforts of individuals in conservation, watershed stewardship, education and implementation of best management practices, an assessment credits program was developed by the MWCD. The credits program provides eligible property owners with the opportunity to reduce their annual assessment.

Any property owner with an assessment of greater than $12 per year can apply for potential financial credits by completing a basic application and submitting it to the MWCD for review. Information about the program and an application can be found at www.mwcd.org, or questions can by answered by calling the MWCD toll-free at (866) 755-6923 or by sending an e-mail to assessment@mwcd.org.

The Akron-Canton Airport received a credit for retention and detention facilities on its properties in the northern portion of the Muskingum River Basin.

"We want to be good stewards of our natural resources for our community and believe it is important to handle our part seriously," said Richard B. McQueen, president and chief executive officer for the airport. "It is for the better good of the community that (reservoirs and dams in the MWCD region) remain in good condition. But we want to be sure to get credit for what we have done on our property to improve retention and detention."

Property owners can receive up to a 30-percent reduction in their annual assessment through the program.

Some examples of eligible property programs for credit include retention and detention facilities, forebays, riparian corridors, stream restoration, wetlands, pervious pavement, rain gardens, vegetative roof covers, rain barrels and grass swales.

Applications presently are being accepted for credits consideration to be applied in 2010. Properties selected for credit by the MWCD will have a reduction in their assessment(s) applied directly to their assessment collected in their county real estate statements.

Approved credits are good for a five-year period with an application renewal required each five years.

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

1319 Third St. NW
P.O. Box 349
New Philadelphia, OH 44663-0349
Toll-free: (877) 363-8500

No changes

Horsepower limit still 10 hp at Clendening, Piedmont

No changes will be made to the current horsepower limits for boat motors operating on Clendening and Piedmont lakes.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) announced this summer that the horsepower limit of 10 hp on both of the MWCD lakes will remain in effect.

A petition presented last year to ODNR's Division of Watercraft and the MWCD requested that the horsepower limits on both lakes be increased to 25 hp. Clendening and Piedmont lakes are MWCD lakes managed in partnership with the Division of Watercraft.

Public meetings were held at each lake in May to accept comments about the petition request, and a powerboat demonstration using several different boat motors was conducted at Clendening Lake by the Division of Watercraft. Written comments also were accepted by the Division of Watercraft.

The Division of Watercraft holds jurisdiction for horsepower limits on the state's waterways, including the MWCD lakes.

Retired Smucker executive appointed to MWCD Board

William P. Boyle Jr. has been appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD).

Boyle, who owns a home located on land leased from the MWCD at Charles Mill Reservoir near Mansfield, is retired from the J.M. Smucker Co. at Orrville, where he served as president international, senior vice president-director of marketing and as a member of the company's Board of Directors. He was appointed to the seat on the MWCD Board of Directors by the member judges of the Conservancy Court.

BOYLE

Boyle replaces Thomas L. Tribbie of Cambridge, who has retired from the five-member Board of Directors. Members of the Board, who oversee the operations of the MWCD, are appointed to staggered five-year terms by the 18-judge Conservancy Court.

Boyle, who owns two Ohio farms with formal soil conservation and forestry plans in place, also has traveled throughout South America with the Farm Bureau to study soil conservation practices. A graduate of Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and a master's degree in marketing, Boyle spent more than 30 years with Smucker after previous positions with the Flint Ink Corp. and the Pillsbury Co. He also served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army.