

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MUSKINGUM WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
Held at Kent State University Tuscarawas
December 15, 2023, 9:00 a.m.**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District was held at Kent State University Tuscarawas, 330 University Drive NE, New Philadelphia, Ohio, on Friday, December 15, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., pursuant to notice duly given all Directors, and the general public in accordance with law.

1. ROLL CALL

Directors present were: Ronald Dziedzicki, James Gresh, Gordon Maupin, Robert Moorehead, and Jennifer Ponchak. Mr. Gresh, President of the Board of Directors, presided.

MWCD staff in attendance were Adria Bergeron, Julie Bickis, Patrick Brockmeier, Mary Burley, Craig Butler, Jamie Carlisle, Hilary Celuch, James Crandall, Brad Janssen, David Lautenschlager, Daniel Louwers, Jonathan Mizer, Aaron Stump, Matt Thomas, Nate Wilson, and Ethan Zucal.

2. INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Also, in attendance for all or portions of this meeting were: Sheila Hurley (*Executive Director of MWCF*); Brad Luckey (*Carroll County SWCD*); Terry Fercana (*Environmental Design Group*); and Peter Novotny (*future MWCD Chief of Recreation*).

Mr. Peter Novotny introduced himself to the Board of Directors. He has accepted the MWCD Chief of Recreation position. His tentative start date is February 1, 2024.

Ms. Hurley gave a year-end update to the Board regarding the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy Foundation. She distributed 2022 Financial Statements to the Board of Directors. She also reiterated that the MWCF Annual Golf Outing will be held on Thursday, August 8, 2024.

Ms. Hurley announced that MWCD Chief Ranger, Patrick Brockmeier, was successful in securing funding for MWCF for two \$1,000 courses that would prepare and present lesson plans in a law enforcement setting. Additionally, she stated that MWCF and EDG have entered into a partnership where EDG will help the Foundation develop its services. Ms. Hurley also stated that EDG had donated \$1,000 to the Pitney Fund which benefits MWCD Rangers.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Ponchak, seconded by Mr. Dziedzicki, the minutes of the November 17, 2023, meeting of the Board of Directors were approved.

4. FINANCIAL

Attached (copies on file) the financial report for the eleven-month period ending November 30, 2023. The total operating income is \$22,611,826 compared to \$35,567,713 in 2022. Without the Utica shale royalties included total operating income is \$3,659,413, an increase of \$802,002 compared to the prior year.

The operational revenue is \$40,740,950, compared to 52,425,820 in 2022, or a 22% decrease, which is driven by the decrease in Utica Shale royalties in 2023.

Operational revenues without the Utica Shale are \$21,788,537, 101% of the budget in 2024, an 11% increase from 2022.

Most of the operational revenue has been collected at this point in the year. Cottage revenue will catch up from the timing of billings in December. Agricultural revenue is the other significant line item that hasn't been collected yet.

Operational expenses are \$18,129,124, an increase of 8% over the prior year and 85% of the budget. Personnel expenses make up \$9,995,957, 55% of the budget. Personnel expenses increased 16% compared to the prior year, however, November contained a three-pay month in 2023 that was recognized in December in 2022. All other expenses are relatively flat compared to the prior year. Conservancy District staff has done a good job of managing expense budgets in 2023.

Projects in the Capital improvement and Park master plan line items continue, however, will fall short of budgeted amounts due to various factors affecting the timing of projects in 2023.

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Mr. Moorehead, the financial report was accepted as presented.

5. PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion by Mr. Moorehead, seconded by Mr. Maupin, the report of the payment of bills for the period ending November 30, 2023, was approved as presented. Mr. Butler requested that it be reflected in the minutes that Ms. Ponchak was able to vote on the passing on the Payment of Bills. There was a payment to the City of McConnelsville and at the time of passing this Item, she was no longer the Village Administrator. *(Copies on file)*

6. BUSINESS

6.01a LEASE TRANSACTIONS

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Mr. Dziedzicki, the assignments, cancellations, new leases, farm leases, mortgage consent and agreement cancellations, and mortgage consent and agreements were approved and execution by the proper officers of the MWCD authorized.

6.01b OPERATIONAL POLICY REVISIONS—COTTAGE AREAS, VACANT LOTS

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Ms. Ponchak, proposed revisions to the operational policy, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, were approved.

6.01c LEASE OF FORMER CAMP FIREBIRD

Mr. Butler requested this Item be moved to Other Business and not vote take place. He requested that he be permitted to explain his decision and give more details during Other Business. Please see that section for more information.

6.02a INVOICES PRIOR TO PURCHASE ORDERS

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Mr. Dziedzicki, a “then and now” certificate for invoices received prior to processing of a purchase order, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, was authorized.

6.02b BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

On motion by Ms. Ponchak, seconded by Mr. Dziedzicki, proposed budget adjustments, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, were approved.

6.02c DEEP SHALE ROYALTY REVENUE DISTRIBUTION

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Mr. Dziedzicki, proposed distribution of royalty revenue, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, was approved.

6.02d CAMPGROUND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM--ITINIO

On motion by Mr. Dziedzicki, seconded by Mr. Moorehead, proposed agreement, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, was approved.

6.02e CYPRESS CONSULTING CONTRACT

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Ms. Ponchak, proposed contract, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, was approved.

6.02f RURAL ACTION—OFFICE LEASE AGREEMENT

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Mr. Moorehead, proposed lease, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, was approved.

6.03a HUMAN RESOURCES SUMMARY

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Mr. Dziedzicki, human resources activities, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, were approved.

6.03b RECORDS RETENTION | HUMAN RESOURCES

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Mr. Moorehead, proposed retention schedules, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, were approved.

6.03c SEASONAL AND VARIABLE EMPLOYEE STAFFING PLAN—2024

On motion by Ms. Ponchak, seconded by Mr. Maupin, proposed staffing plan, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, was approved.

6.03d RECREATION BUSINESS MANAGER—ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Ms. Ponchak, proposed organization change, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, was approved.

6.03e TITLE CHANGES—VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

On motion by Mr. Dziedzicki, seconded by Ms. Ponchak, proposed title changes, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, were approved.

6.03f POSITION CHANGE---RECREATION

On motion by Mr. Dziedzicki, seconded by Ms. Ponchak, proposed revision, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, was approved.

6.03g PERSONAL POLICY REVISIONS—COURT LEAVE/JURY DUTY, UNIFORMS, UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT

On motion by Ms. Ponchak, seconded by Mr. Dziedzicki, proposed policy revisions, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, were approved.

**6.04a ATWOOD LAKE PARK AND PIEDMONT LAKE COURT IMPROVEMENTS
FINAL PROJECT ACCOUNTING AND CHANGE ORDER RATIFICATION REQUEST**

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Ms. Ponchak, proposed ratification of all change orders, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, were approved.

**6.04b PLEASANT HILL LAKE PARK AMENITY AND ACTIVITY AREA PROJECT
FINAL PROJECT ACCOUNTING AND CHANGE ORDER RATIFICATION REQUEST**

On motion by Mr. Dziedzicki, seconded by Mr. Maupin, proposed ratification of all change orders, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, were approved.

6.04c PURCHASE OF RENTAL BOATS, MOTORS, AND A TRAILER

On motion by Mr. Dziedzicki, seconded by Mr. Moorehead, proposed request to advertise for bids and award, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, was approved.

6.04d PARTNERS IN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM – 2023/2024 RECOMMENDATIONS

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Ms. Ponchak, proposed PWM grants, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, were approved.

6.05 SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2024

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Mr. Dziedzicki, proposed meeting schedule, as recommended and set forth in the above memorandum, was approved.

6.05 OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Lautenschlager informed the Board of Directors that construction on the Tappan Welcome Center is behind schedule because the building trusses can't be delivered until March. Mr. Lautenschlager told the Board he would give them monthly updates on the progress and is working around the issue to ensure the project is completed in a timely manner.

Mr. Lautenschlager also stated that RFPs (request for proposals) have been sent out to engineering firms to proposal designs for the development of the Atwood Pines, Peninsula, and Area Four at Tappan.

Mr. Moorehead expressed concern about developing more Cottage Sites around Atwood Lake because of increased boater traffic and potential accidents. Mr. Butler responded that in order to prevent boating accidents, the horsepower limit at Atwood is kept lower. He also noted that Atwood Lake is generally very busy during certain times of the year, but overall, the boating traffic isn't significantly high outside of a few holiday weekends.

Mr. Butler updated the Board on the status of grant applications. He stated that MWCD was working with other regional groups on applications to the One Time Capital Development Fund from the State. MWCD was co-sponsoring a grant with the Tappan Fire Department to develop a law enforcement training facility near Tappan and the building could be utilized by the Tappan Fire Department as well. The second application was to develop an amphitheater at Atwood Lake.

Lastly, Mr. Butler discussed the leasing of Camp Firebird. He stated that MWCD had intended to lease property to an individual who wanted to run a kid's summer camp. However, during negotiations and inspections of the property, MWCD recognized that the property needs many updates that are financially sustainable. Mr. Butler felt that MWCD staff need more time to fully assess the financial costs associated with getting the Camp back up and operating. He also expressed that leasing the property as a kid's camp may not be the best and highest use of the land. At this time, MWCD is continuing to evaluate the upgrades needed and determining a rate of return on the property.

7. REPORTS

7.01 UTICA ROYALTY REVENUE REPORT

Utica royalty revenue is currently generated by **116** producing wells at Tappan, Clendening, Seneca, Dover, Piedmont, Atwood, and Leesville Reservoirs. A breakdown of the monthly royalty revenue can be seen on the attached page.

Utica royalties for **November** totaled **\$2.02M** (\$2,023,687.66) which was an approximate **2% decrease** in month-over-month revenue from October (\$2.06M).

Royalty Report Exhibit *copy is on file*.

7.02 NATURAL RESOURCES AND LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT

Leases Staff held a MWCD Lease Orientation seminar in October. The event was held at the Charles Mill Messerly Center. There were 23 local realtors and 1 local lender in attendance. The topics included the lease transfer process, a discussion of the transfer forms, the "for sale" inspection process and how the leasing department can assist them during a sale. An overview of our leasing program was also presented with discussions on topics such as our rate structure, available lease terms, overview of the docking program, building permit process/requirements, tree permits, and general regulations. The event was a success with positive feedback from attendees, and we plan to conduct additional seminars in the future.



Wendy Derr, MWCD Lease Assistant, leads the seminar discussion.

In early November the 2024 fishing tournament registration took place at the main office. Multiple clubs were able to register and schedule their tournaments. Initially there are over 225 tournament requests for 2024, with the expectation that more will trickle in throughout the year. In addition, we are currently working with ODNR, Division of Wildlife, to integrate our process into their online registration program, which will allow us to move to online registrations for these tournaments moving forward. Letters have been mailed to all cottage site lessees at Atwood for the Tree Removal Assistance Pilot Program (TRAP) in 2024. Upon submitting a successful application, lessees can receive 25% reimbursement up to \$500 for eligible projects.

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC) District 14 grant application scoring meeting was held in November. MWCD, in conjunction with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy (WRLC) submitted the 623-acre Turkey Creek Preserve acquisition project at Wills Creek. Our application was successful for the grant award. Staff will continue to move forward towards closing to acquire the property. The following chart shows our grant acquisition success to date for the contiguous acreage at Wills Creek:

Project	Acres	Total Project Cost	Funding Requested
Coshocton Forest	1,825	\$6,577,000	\$4,000,000
Coshocton Forest Extension	934	\$3,475,784	\$2,539,784
Turkey Ridge Preserve	609	\$2,377,892	\$1,752,867
Turkey Creek Preserve	623	\$2,399,000	\$1,720,500
Totals:	3,991	\$14,829,676	\$10,013,151

Timber stand improvement projects have been on-going. Vine control including wild grapevines and oriental bittersweet, was completed by a contractor within two stands totaling 65 acres in the Beach City and Wills creek regions. Both areas treated for vines were former clear-cuts that are now around 25 years in age. Removing these vines will aid in tree growth, vigor, and development.

A 10-acre mid-story removal was completed at Mohawk. This procedure cuts understory overtopped and intermediate trees to aid in enhancing growing conditions for oak regeneration. The slight increase in light to the forest floor will allow oak seedlings to grow and become more competitive. Over several years the seedlings will be allowed to develop. A shelterwood harvest will be initiated in the stand within 5-10 years.

Students from the Coshocton County Career Center recently participated in a chainsaw safety training program. The program was held at MWCDs Wills Creek property. Students worked to fell undesirable trees in a small forest area. Instruction was provided by a certified instructor through a program with the Ohio Forestry Association.



Chainsaw Training



Chainsaw Training

7.03 ENGINEERING REPORT

MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENT (ONGOING)

Projects in Design

- Charles Mill Beach Area Campground and Amenities Development
- Clendening Marina Building and Site Improvements
- Leesville South Fork Launch Ramp Parking Improvements
- Seneca Chestnut Grove WWTP – Phosphorus Removal Improvements
- Tappan Lake Park Area 1 Bridge Replacement
- Tappan Lake Activity Center Amenities
- Tappan Lake Beach Parking Solar

Projects Under Construction

- **Atwood Activity Center Renovation:** The roof continues to be installed. Interior drywall is installed. The demolition work in the kitchen and store area is mostly complete. Completion is scheduled for July 2024.
- **Atwood Main Launch Ramp Pavement Improvements:** Project is complete.
- **Clendening WWTP and Sewer Improvements:** Construction of the building has started, the block has been installed, waiting for roof installation. Marina pump station has been installed. New force main and waterline are being directionally drilled. Substantial completion is scheduled for April 2024.
- **Clendening Lake Marina Cabin Area Improvements:** The project is being rebid in January 2024. The project will consist of a new building that will contain a water treatment plant in addition to an adjoining laundry facility for use by Clendening staff as well as the public.
- **Leesville North Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Project was awarded to Border Patrol from Hopedale, Ohio. This project will construct a new 8k gpd wastewater treatment facility at Leesville North Fork Marina.

Contractor anticipates mobilizing early November.

- **Leesville North Fork Marina Lift Station Generator:** Notice to Proceed was issued. Substantial competition is scheduled for December 2024.
- **Pleasant Hill Lake Park Area A Lift Station Generator:** Project is ongoing. Substantial Completion is scheduled for September 2024.
- **Pleasant Hill Covert Road Culvert Replacement:** Project was awarded to Stanley Miller Construction. Substantial completion is scheduled for April 2024.
- **Seneca Beach Amenity and Activity Areas:** Demolition has begun.
- **Tappan Marina Building Backup Generator:** Wood Electric has installed new panels in the marina basement and has poured the pad for the new generator. Generator delivery expected in January 2024.
- **Tappan Lake Welcome Center:** The building concrete floors have been poured. Sitework including sanitary sewers and generator pad are in progress. Heavy timbers, trusses, and other major systems are in production/fabrication.
- **Tappan Cabin Hill Water Booster Pump Improvements:** Footings have been poured and foundation walls are being installed for the new booster pump building. Completion is scheduled for March 2024.

DREDGING AND SHORELINE (ongoing)

Dredging Program

- **Pleasant Hill Boat Club Dredging:** Project is currently in design.

Shoreline Program

- **Atwood Lake – Arcadia Drive:** Tree removal is scheduled to begin in December, with the MWCD Heavy Equipment Crew planning to begin construction in January.
- **Charles Mill Lake – South Peninsula:** Bids were received on November 21, 2023, and are currently being reviewed.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECTS/PROGRAMS (ongoing)

Zoar Levee

- Project Complete. Post Implementation Evaluation is underway in addition to the Dam Safety Action Class (DSAC) review. Relief well work being completed but not cost shared with the MWCD since it's maintenance.

Magnolia Levee

- Most up to date project cost estimate is \$14.6M with MWCD's non-federal cost share anticipated to be \$500k. Waiting for approval for supplement to dam safety modification report. The Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) will be sent to MWCD in Spring.

7.04 CONSERVATION

MWCD-ODNR Partnership Meeting

As part of the long-standing MOU agreement between MWCD and ODNR Shawn Tharp, Recreation Operations Manager, coordinated a productive partnership meeting between ODNR-Division of Wildlife and MWCD Parks, Marinas, Recreation, Law Enforcement, Forestry, Conservation and Communications.

Both organizations had the opportunity to showcase their current activities and to highlight what they will be focused on in the near future. The Streetside Center in Dennison Ohio provided a great venue for developing these new agency-level collaborations on many fronts; media communications, inland fisheries management, water quality monitoring and research, nature-based recreation, law enforcement coordination,

support for wildlife diversity, and targeted nuisance animal control.

MWCD Tire Amnesty Day

Conservation and park staff at Pleasant Hill Lake Park held the first annual Tire Amnesty Day on October 21, 2023. This event was created as a way to help residents properly dispose of their scrap tires for free. This event was also in response to concerns of illegally dumped tires ending up in MWCD lakes or along roadways. In total, 25,000 pounds (about the weight of a school bus) of scrap tires were collected at this 6-hour event.

The scrap tires collected were transported by Willig Tire Recycling LLC in Galion, Ohio to their state-of-the-art facility to be reused and recycled. The scrap tires get a second life as they transform into new products such as rubber mulch, curbs, ballistic rubber, acoustic tiles, gym mats, and tire derived fuel (TDF) to generate heat and electricity. MWCD will be hosting other tire amnesty events in 2024.

Conservation Highlights

In an effort to better highlight the growing conservation activities and assistance programs MWCD offers across the watershed, Marketing and Communications is working with the Conservation team to produce a series of short videos highlighting water quality, healthy habitats, and sustainability. These videos also show how this work is done in coordination with many outside partners to help support the cross-cutting initiatives of nature-based recreation, a cleaner environment, and sustainability. Conservation and Communications will be sharing some of these featured vignettes at future Board meetings throughout 2024.

Conservation Outreach & Engagement Activities (Sept – Nov)

9-11 ODA Area 5 meeting, New Lexington Ohio
9-11 Mohican and Kokosing confluence paddle access, Walhonding Ohio
9-18 Kent State University, Tuscarwas Campus, New Philadelphia Ohio
9/19-20 ODNR Wildlife Partners Meeting, Mohican State Park, Perrysville Ohio
9/19-21 Farm Science Review, London Ohio
9-25 Muskellunge fish release, Leesville Lake, Bowerston Ohio**
9-26 London Fish Hatchery tour, London Ohio**

10/5-6 ORBA Summit, Cincinnati Ohio
10-8 Atwood Fall Festival, Mineral City Ohio
10-10 ODNR-DOW Partnering Meeting, Dennison Ohio
10-11 Shrink wrap tour, Atwood Lake Marina, Mineral City Ohio**
10-11 Holmes Co. SWCD workgroup meeting, Millersburg Ohio
10-12 CLAM annual review meeting, Senecaville Ohio
10-14 H2Ohio wetland project dedication, Wooster Ohio
10-16 Mohican Scenic River Advisory Council meeting, Perrysville Ohio
10-17 PWM TRAG meeting, Worthington Ohio
10-21 Tire Amnesty Day, MWCD Pleasant Hill Park, Perrysville Ohio**
10-24 USACE biannual partner meeting, Huntington West Virginia
10-26 Encino Rig tour, Carrollton Ohio
10-27 OIPC annual conference, Lewis Center Ohio
10-29 Kokosing Scenic River Advisory Council meeting, Mt. Vernon Ohio

- 10-30 Akron Zoo, Sustainability tour, Akron Ohio
- 10-31 ODNR electrofishing, Tappan Lake, Deersville Ohio**

- 11-1 Trout Unlimited, Ohio Chapter, Wooster Ohio
- 11-2 MWCD – Encino Sustainable Luncheon, Scio Ohio
- 11-3 Stark Stewardship Symposium, Massillon Ohio
- 11-3 DAC quarterly meeting, Dennison Ohio
- 11-4 Prescribed burn training course, Woodcock Nature Preserve, Marshfield Ohio
- 11/7-8 WMAO Conference, Worthington Ohio
- 11-10 “Help the Herps” cleanup event, Dillon Falls, Zanesville Ohio
- 11-16 The Wilderness Center meeting, New Philadelphia Ohio
- 11-30 Tire recycling tour, Willig Tire, Gallion Ohio**

- 12-1 Porteus farm tour, Plainfield Ohio**

** Filming for Conservation highlights videos

7.05 RECREATION REPORT

SUBJECT: Recreation Report

Marinas Report

- Marina Managers and staff have done an outstanding job working together and efficiently relocating docks and removing buoys lakes.
- Tappan Marina – met with potential Restaurant Lessee
- Marinas have worked together to winterize the entire rental fleet.
- For those marinas who have campgrounds, staff have winterized their campground facilities.
- In addition:
 - Piedmont Lake:
 - New courtesy dock has been installed at Reynolds Road.
 - Marina Road was paved.
 - Replacing furniture on rental boat.
 - Clendening Lake:
 - Numerous trees are being cut/trimmed.
 - Leaf Cleanup.
 - Dock Repair.
 - Seneca Lake:
 - Re-decking Workboat.
 - Complete Store Inventory count.
 - Winterized Shower House.
 - Tappan Lake:
 - Stripped old workboat.
 - Preparing new workboat for use in 2024.
 - Completed store inventory.

Parks Report

- 2024 Seasonal Camping Packets will go to the current seasonal campers on December 15th of this month. Our lotteries will take place on the first and second weekend of the month of March. We will begin seasonal camping April 1, 2024.

- Park Managers and their staff have been busy winterizing the park facilities. We still have areas and bathrooms that are open available for campers throughout the winter months. Bathrooms, showers, cabins, and recreational facilities all needed winterizing.
 - We do have rental cabins available throughout the winter months at Atwood and Pleasant Hill.
- Staff is involved with numerous Maste Park Projects planning – details of these projects can be found in Engineering report.
- Park Staff is prepared for snowplow duties once we have snow.
- In addition:
 - Atwood Lake Park:
 - Improvements are being made to several buildings at the park including the Maintenance Shop, Cabins, and Welcome Center.
 - Trimmed all trees and bushes in campground areas.
 - Leaf Cleanup.
 - Tappan Lake Park:
 - Replacement of furniture in cabins.
 - Replacement of flooring in cabins.
 - Replacing the decking of cabin docks with Titan decking.
 - Seneca Lake Park:
 - Completed interior painting and rehab to the Welcome Center
 - Replaced siding on Activity Building.
 - Repairing/rehabbing park shop.
 - Charles Mills Lake Park:
 - Built Lean-to at shop.
 - Removed trees.
 - Leaf cleanup
 - Pleasant Hill Lake Park:
 - Trimmed shrubs in campground.
 - Made several repairs to dump truck for snow removal.
 - Several hot tub repairs.

Trails Report

- Partnering with the Buckeye Career Center to rehab some old docks and create a floating walkway for Clendening Lake. This exciting pilot program allows us to take old docks to the vocational school, provide the students with titan decking, and the students work to remove the old lumber/hardware and replace it with new composite titan decking.
- Continue to work on maintenance and mapping of trails throughout the District.
- Recently completed 4 weeks of trail building.

7.06 MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

ONGOING/ UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Updates to website/ social media
- Marketing/ advertising for 2024
- Brochures/ rack cards for 2024
- Website redesign
- Solar Eclipse
- Conservation videos

OUTREACH COORDINATOR PROJECTS

- Development Advisory Committee – 7 new members (21 total)
 - 4 full DAC quarterly meetings (latest meeting – November 3 – Atwood Yacht Club)
 - 4 subcommittees (Marketing, Conservation, Trails, Revenue and Development)
 - 12 subcommittee meetings in total
 - 13 subcommittee meetings thus far
- Appalachian Community Grant
 - Carroll, Coshocton, Harrison, Muskingum, Tuscarawas Counties
 - Development Grant Round 2 Application Closes December 2023
- Legislative Events:
 - Legislative Day – Thursday, October 26, 2023, in Carrollton, Ohio
 - Encino Hosted Rig/Pad Tour
 - State Rep. Don Jones and ODNR Director Mary Mertz Tappan Visit – September 7, 2023
 - State Rep. Brett Hillyer Kayak Event – September 29, 2023
 - OPRA Leadership Summit – November 2023
- Camp Firebird Safety Planning
- 2023 Annual Report process will begin in December
- LakeViews
 - Winter Edition Distribution – mid-December
- 90th Anniversary
 - 4 Open Houses (May 26, June 3, and June 24 – 404 attendees)
 - Eastern OH Development Alliance Open House Friday, August 25, 2023 (41 attendees)
 - MWCD Health Fair & All Employee Mtg – Museum Access for all MWCD Employees – October 18, 2023
 - Continued media coverage – Ohio History Connection September & October 2023 Echoes Magazine
 - Museum Display will be extended through 2025
- Ohio River Basin Alliance
 - Legislative Day – Washington D.C.
 - Ohio River Basin Hill Day – Washington D.C.
 - Congressman Bill Johnson District Tour – Marietta
 - Ohio River Basin Alliance Summit 2023 – Cincinnati

PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

- 2024 Event and Program Planning is well underway. We held a meeting at each park location for brainstorming and are now working on scheduling vendors and dates. An event list rack card will be developed and printed for each location.
- Hunter Education Courses were held at Atwood, Pleasant Hill, and Seneca in November with 40 participants becoming certified.
- Events:
 - Christmas Craft – Atwood on December 2
 - Christmas Craft – Pleasant Hill on December 9
 - Winter Solstice Hike – Atwood on December 21
 - First Day Hike – Atwood on January 1
 - Sweetheart Hike – Pleasant Hill on February 10
 - Souper Bowl Hike – Tappan on February 10

- Full Moon Winter Hike – Atwood on February 24
- Pi(e) Day Hike – Atwood and Pleasant Hill on March 14

PRESS RELEASES IN NOVEMBER

- November 1: New Trail Segment Expansion Unites Organization.
- November 14: MWCD Makes Historic Economic Impact Across the Region

INTERVIEWS IN NOVEMBER

- Tuesday, November 14: WTOV-9 Steubenville/ Wheeling – Buckeye Trail expansion/ Economic Impact

E-BLASTS IN NOVEMBER

- November 20: Black Friday Sale (Pleasant Hill Cabins)

Social Media Analytics

Nov. 2023	Facebook (followers)	Instagram
MWCD	6954	613
Atwood	15,332	1393
Charles Mill	5,241	1001
Clendeney	2,023	131
Piedmont	5,674	221
Pleasant Hill	17,940	1,606
Seneca Marina	1,322	723
Seneca Park	13,515	723
Tappan	13,824	1,054

2023 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

- January 17: Columbus, OH – The Ohio State University Conservation Capstone Course: MWCD Conservation Efforts (Thomas)
- February 7: Akron, OH – University of Akron Career Fair (Mahaffey/Lautenschleger)
- February 14: New Philadelphia, OH – New Philadelphia Rotary: MWCD Overview (Bergeron)
- February 22: Mansfield, OH – Mansfield/Richland County CVB: Upcoming projects/events (Andres)
- February 22: Mansfield, OH – College of Wooster: MWCD Overview/Black Vultures (Andres)
- February 23: Zoar, OH – Zoar Rotary: MWCD Overview/Atwood Update (Zucal)
- March 2: New Concord, OH – Muskingum University: MWCD Overview/PWM and Internship Opportunities (Thomas)
- March 15: Canton, OH – KSU – Stark: MWCD Overview and a day on the job for GIS (Sponaugle-Schrock)
- March 29: Millersburg, OH – Millersburg Rotary: MWCD Overview and Ranger (Brockmeier)
- April 17: New Philadelphia, OH – New Philadelphia Lions Club: MWCD Overview (Zucal)
- April 21: Dellroy, OH – Atwood Marina West: Conservation Presentation re: Aquatic Invasives, Zebra Mussel Control, and Recreational Boat BMPs (Suggs)
- April 27: Dennison, OH – Twin City Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet: MWCD 90th Anniversary (Zucal)
- May 9: Cambridge, OH – Cambridge Kiwanis: MWCD Maintenance Assessment/Seneca/Wills Creek Overview and Updates (Bergeron)
- May 10: Columbus, OH – Ohio Tourism Day: Statehouse Lawn Booth (Bergron/ Miller)

- May 22: New Cumberland, OH – Ladies Homemakers Group: MWCD Overview and Atwood Lake Update (Zucal)
- June 3: Dennison, OH – MWCD 90th Anniversary Featured Exhibit Public Open House (Zucal)
- June 15: Cadiz, OH – Harrison County Chamber of Commerce Coffee Connection: Tappan Lake Overview and Updates (Zucal)
- June 24: Dennison, OH – Dennison Railroad Depot Museum: MWCD 90th Anniversary Featured Exhibition Public Open House (Zucal)
- July 20: Cadiz, OH – Harrison County Chamber of Commerce Coffee Connection: Tappan Lake Overview and Updates (Zucal)
- August 31: Perrysville, OH – Richland County Convention and Visitors Bureau: Pleasant Hill Lake Overview (Andres)
- September 21: Harrison County Chamber of Commerce Coffee Connection: Tappan Lake Overview and Updates (Zucal)
- September 23-24: Lucas, OH – Ohio Heritage Days @ Malibar Farm State Park info booth (Andres)
- September 28: Ashland, OH – Ashland Noon Lions Club MWCD General History (Andres)
- September 28: New Philadelphia, OH – Buckeye Career Center Natural Resources and Landscaping Programs: MWCD Overview, MWCD Natural Resources Professions, MWCD Trail Development (Sayre)
- October 3: Charles Mill Lake Park, Ashland Co. – Next Home Next Step and Haring Realty brokerages: MWCD Leasing Program and Sales (Janssen/Derr)
- October 12: Ashland, OH – Ashland Leadership Class: MWCD General and history of P. Hill (Andres)
- October TBD: Uhrichsville, OH – Claymont HS FFA Class: Conservation Overview (Thomas)
- October TBD: New Philadelphia, OH – Tuscarawas Co. Board of Development Disabilities: Conservation Overview (Thomas)
- November TBD: Location TBD – Claymont HS FFA Class Field Trip: Conservation Overview and Hands on Education (Thomas)

7.07 IMMEDIATE OR PENDING LITIGATION

None.

8. SUBDISTRICTS

8.01 PAYMENT OF BILLS – CHIPPEWA SUBDISTRICT

Attached is the Payment of Bills report for the Chippewa Subdistrict for the period November 1, 2023, through November 30, 2023.

The November report is for check numbers 3019 through 3031 totaling \$121,707.65.

All payments have been reviewed and found to be in order. It is recommended that the Board approve the November 2023 payment of bills for the Chippewa Subdistrict.

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District			
Chippewa Subdistrict			
Payment of Bills			
November 1, 2023 through November 30, 2023			
CHECK NUMBER	PAYMENT DATE	PAY TO NAME	PAYMENT AMOUNT
0000003019	11/2/2023	COMDOC	46.76
0000003020	11/2/2023	WEX BANK	324.28
0000003021		VOID	
0000003022	11/9/2023	FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS	510.00
0000003023	11/9/2023	LARIA CHEVORLET BUICK	387.19
0000003024	11/9/2023	MWCD	78,182.15
0000003025	11/9/2023	USDA-APHIS, GENERAL	1,606.85
0000003026	11/9/2023	WINNSUPPLY CLEVELAND OH CO	245.28
0000003027	11/21/2023	Adam Liston	695.68
0000003028	11/21/2023	ONE RAIN INC	3,635.00
0000003029	11/21/2023	WAYNE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE	35,346.00
0000003030	11/29/2023	ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT	560.59
0000003031	11/29/2023	WEX BANK	167.87
			\$121,707.65

On motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Mr. Dziedzicki, the report of the payment of bills for the period ending November 30, 2023, for the Chippewa Subdistrict, was approved as presented.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

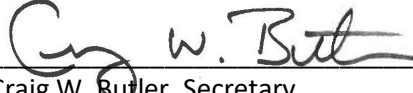
On motion by Ms. Ponchak, seconded by Mr. Dziedzicki, the Board of Directors entered into executive session at 11:33 am to discuss matters related to ORC §121.23 (G) (1) matters of employment. On roll call: Mr. Dziedzicki-yes; Mr. Gresh-yes; Mr. Maupin-yes; Mr. Moorehead-yes; and Ms. Ponchak-yes. The executive session ended at 12:26 pm.

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Maupin, seconded by Ms. Ponchak, the meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting is Friday, January 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at Kent State University Tuscarawas.


James M. Gresh, President

ATTEST:


Craig W. Butler, Secretary

1.7.2024, jlc
Approved 1.26.2024