

The New World at ODA



- Transition
- Assistance
- Opportunities

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TRANSITION

Webster's Dictionary defines as:

passage from one place to another

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Passage

*Amended Substitute House Bill No. 64 of the 131st General Assembly became effective on June 30, 2015. A highlight of the bill was the transfer of the Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Program from Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). This transfer occurred on January 1, 2016.

Not our first transfer

* May 16, 1941 passed House Bill 646, which became the Ohio Soil Conservation District Enabling Act when it was signed by Governor John W. Bricker on June 5, 1941. This act created the Ohio Soil Conservation Committee (OSCC) as an agency of the State of Ohio with offices at The Ohio State University. The Act also established procedures for the formation of local Soil Conservation Districts, and the election of local District Boards of Supervisors in addition to defining the authorities and responsibilities of these local District Boards and OSCC. The roots of the Division of Soil and Water Districts trace directly to this legislation.

* Major legislation, Senate bill 160, was passed by the General Assembly in 1969. It replaced the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Committee by creating the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) and the Division of Soil and Water Districts in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Districts and OSCC, with support of other farm organizations, ODA and ODNR, provided the major thrust in enactment of Senate Bill 160. Autumn of 1969 saw the physical move and organizational move into ODNR accomplished.

Not the only transition

In 1982, legislation was approved merging the Division of Lands and Soils with the Resources Analysis section of the Division of Water forming the new Division of Soil and Water Conservation

A rose by any other name is still a rose

When the dust settled...

The outcome of the HB 64 passage:

- The Department of Natural Resources maintained the Division of Water Resources
- The Division of Soil & Water Conservation moved from the ODNR Fountain Square complex in Columbus to the ODA campus located at Reynoldsburg, Ohio
- 30 Positions were moved from ODNR
 - ◆ 3 positions were transferred to OEPA
 - ◆ 1 position stayed at ODNR but transferred to - Division of Forestry
 - ◆ 27 positions were transferred to ODA (5 are part-time)

ASSISTANCE

Webster's Dictionary defines as:

AID OR HELP

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation will continue to **AID** conservation partners by:

- ✓ Providing administrative guidance, training, program development support and financial assistance to Ohio's 88 SWCDs, their 440 elected board members and over 430 staff.
 - Facilitate board member special elections
 - Process state match funding to districts
 - Offer grants to expand district outreach
 - Conduct internal financial/program reviews
 - Offer development training programs for all SWCD staff positions

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation will continue to **AID** conservation partners by:

- ✓ Implementing agricultural and non-point source water pollution control programs and a regulatory component enforces agricultural sediment and livestock manure.
 - Conduct pollution complaint investigations
 - Provide guidance to districts in pollution complaint investigations
 - Provide technical solutions for pollution issues to districts and to landowners
 - Document and process valid pollution complaints through regulatory component if necessary
 - Provide cost-share programs

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation will continue to **AID** conservation partners by:

- ✓ Assist SWCDs with planning and implementation of watershed action plans
 - Provide guidance and resources to watershed coordinators
 - Work with districts to secure possible 319 funds, MRBI funding, etc.
 - Help with development of watershed action plans, implementation, etc.

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation will continue to **AID** conservation partners by:

- ✓ Provide statewide soils information; assisting private and public sectors in using soils and natural resource information
 - Work with partnering agencies on soils interpretations, capabilities, limitations, etc.
 - How to utilize soil information to maximum capability
 - Continued training of staffs

Upon settling into the new digs, 2016 brings the following priorities:

- ✓ Improved Communication with districts and all conservation partners
- ✓ Staff Development - Division and District (expansion and expertise) (in 2001 Division had 59 employees)
- ✓ Improve Delivery of Services
- ✓ Water Quality

The New World at ODA

OPPORTUNITIES

Webster's Dictionary defines as:

**FAVORABLE COMBINATION
OF CIRCUMSTANCES**

Agriculture - Ohio's #1 Industry

- ✓ 98 Billion Dollar Industry
- ✓ Employs 1 in 7 Ohioans
- ✓ 13.9 million acres in farmland
- ✓ 75,000 farms

OPPORTUNITY

Upcoming 2018 Farm Bill

- ✓ Farm Conservation Program to major topic
- ✓ Last Farm Bill was \$490 Billion

Opportunity

Water Quality Issues....

- ✓ Pollution Abatement
- ✓ Nutrient Load Reduction
- ✓ Education

OPPORTUNITY

Expertise from ODA Divisions and Programs

- Division of Plant Health
- Division of Animal Health/Dairy
- Livestock Environmental Permitting
- Farmland Preservation
- Pesticide and Fertilizer -- Licensing/Certification

OPPORTUNITY

Technology

- ✓ Drones
- ✓ Precision Farming
- ✓ Best Management Practices

OPPORTUNITY

Enhanced Partnership with OEPA

- ✓ Working with OEPA Surface Water Chief, Tiffani Kavalec and 401 Stormwater Manager Harry Kallipolitis
- Working with internal workgroups to define SWCD opportunities
- Sharing ideas where SWCDs may be more involved with water quality networks and committees
- Building MS4 and stormwater capacity through MOUs

OPPORTUNITY

Positive Aspects of CHANGE

Definition - Alter in Condition

- New, Fresh Ideas/Thinking
- Motion - Less Stagnation
- Setting Priorities/Basic Philosophy

OPPORTUNITY

- Ohio will be the only state in the nation to know the best fit for the Division and the Districts after serving under both ODNR and ODA
- Things go in cycles and this too shall pass with a new or recycled path down the road
- Change is constant
- You can either grow where you are planted or wither and die.....Let's choose Growth!

What I Know For Sure

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Thank You!!