

OKI-Regional Conservation Council Business Meeting Minutes

1:00pm - May 17, 2022

Boone County Extension Enrichment Center

Call to Order: Jim Benton, OKI-RCC Chair

Financial Statement: John Kruse, OKI-RCC Treasurer

- As of 5/17 the US Bank account had \$3,268.63 with about \$140 in checks still to be deposited.
- Outstanding expenditures still waiting to be paid are \$902.06 for catering of today's lunch and \$198.84 check to Jungle Jim's for snack and beverage supplies.

RCC Directory Updates: David Rutter, OKI

- Please review the draft directory and submit any revisions to David Rutter drutter@oki.org.
- The updated directory will be posted to the RCC website.

Designation of RCC:

- There have been changes to the tax reporting process in the recent infrastructure bill.
- David Rutter is currently the "owner" of the RCC as his name is on the tax documents.
- He proposes that a group needs to be formed to meet and discuss how the RCC should be designated (501c3, 501c4, etc.) to avoid only one member's name on the tax forms.

RCC Annual Tour:

- The annual tour will be sponsored by Clermont County SWCD this year. The date of the event is TBD at this time.

Announcements and Updates from Conservation Districts:

- Butler County
 - Currently employs 5 full time staff, 1 part time seasonal position, and an AmeriCorps member will join soon.
 - The annual meeting will be held on August 23rd.
 - Continue to offer adult education workshops on a variety of natural resources topics.
- Campbell County
 - The annual Backroads Farm Tour will be on July 16th 9:00am-3:00pm and will feature 10 local farms. Some farm produce will be for sale.
 - The Farm to Fork dinner will be in September.

- Farm Preservation Seminar to discuss the farm succession planning was in March.
- Recent projects include removal of invasives, re-building bridges, and trail building.
- Campbell also offers multiple adult education grants.
- **Clermont County**
 - Recent projects include stream daylighting, off channel wetlands, treatment during high flows, and implementation of log structures at Shor Park.
 - Clermont will host the OKI-RCC conservation tour. It will be held in the fall, but the exact date is TBD.
 - A new agricultural specialist will be welcomed on board in July and an AmeriCorps member will join the team soon.
- **Dearborn County**
 - Raised \$500 for a local food pantry.
 - Staff changes include a new stormwater coordinator.
 - 2022 Backyard Conservation Class Series is ongoing.
- **Hamilton County**
 - Staff changes include welcoming 3 AmeriCorps members this summer.
 - Caring for Watersheds is expanding.
 - There have been a record number of permits this year.
 - The annual tree sale will be this summer and fall. Pick up will be September 10th.
 - The Master Rain Gardener program, a 6-week training program, will have its 2nd session in August.
 - Regional Watershed Network meets the first Friday of every month. Contact Sarah Meadows to be added to the email list—anyone is welcome to join. The structure of the meetings will be changing slightly. There will still be presentations, but there will also be field visits and shorter presentations/updates.
 - Hamilton SWCD will be providing technical guidance for the H2Ohio implementation project with Gorman Heritage Farm.
 - Working on a software program to identify litter and trash.
 - A new plastic reduction program in collaboration with the Wave Foundation and Newport Aquarium will encourage people sign a pledge to reduce single use plastic.
 - The rain barrel art project went well. 40 barrels were painted by 200 artists, and all were sold.
 - There is also a recent stormwater collaborative effort with the University of Cincinnati using a survey to gather general knowledge of stormwater programs in the area.
- **Kenton County**
 - Currently working on a final draft of a resource management plan for a 200-acre natural area with Licking River frontage. Invasive species management and stream restoration are the goals.
 - Finishing restoration behind Banklick creek.

- The county has been gifted a one-acre piece of land called Martin Woods. The plan is to involve high school students with elementary school students working on habitat restoration.
- Conservation Kids Camp in collaboration with Boone County will take place at Potter's Ranch June 7-10 from 9am-4pm each day.
- A pond scum study, in collaboration with Boone and Hamilton counties will allow soil and water districts to learn how to recognize harmful algal blooms.
- Boone County
 - Jasper Olsen is the newest employee working as a Soil Conservation Technician.
 - Working with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife to identify stream mitigation projects. Twelve projects have been identified and \$30 million has been obligated in the county for use over the next 10 years.
 - Working with Boone Conservancy on the Boone County Ohio River Initiative. Through the National Park Service, Boone County has received a technical assistance grant to create a plan for better riverfront access and protect and conserve those areas.
 - Middle Creek is the most undeveloped watershed in the county. Boone County is collaborating with NRCS on stream mitigation focus project in Middle Creek and has allocated \$800,000 to watershed.
 - Conservation Kids Camp and 2 Leaf Academy Camp will be held this summer.
 - Boone County is currently finishing its first round with the junior board. Four members will be working with parks for the summer.

Elections:

During the February 21st planning meeting, the following names were nominated for RCC officer positions:

- Joe Glassmeyer for Chair
- John Kruse for Vice-Chair
- Jane Wittke for Secretary/Treasurer

The positions were voted on and passed.

Adjournment: Jim Benton, OKI-RCC Chair