

# Union Soil and Water Conservation District

Serving Union County's Conservation needs for 77 years

## 2022 Annual Report

***Our Mission** is to promote, preserve, and enhance the wise use of our natural resources for the people of Union County by providing technical, financial and educational assistance.*

The Union SWCD was formed in 1945, the 47th District in Ohio, for the purpose of planning and carrying out natural resources conservation programs. The District is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio and is governed by a board of five supervisors, elected by the landowners of Union County, who serve staggered three-year terms. The supervisors donate their time to serve Union County landowners.

Monthly board meetings of the Union SWCD Board of Supervisors are held on the second Thursday of each month to conduct business. All meetings are open to the public and held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

### 2022 Board of Supervisors

**Rick Weigand, Chair**

**Andy Clarridge, Vice-Chairman**

**Cheryl Trivisonno, Fiscal Agent/Treasurer**

**Matt Staley, Secretary**

**Randy Trapp, Member**

### 2022 Union SWCD Operating Funds

*The Union Soil and Water Conservation District operates on funding provided by the Union County Commissioners, the Union County Township Trustees and matching funds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil & Water Resources.*

#### **Local Funds:**

*Union County Commissioners	\$487,000.00
*Township Trustees	\$ 1,500.00

#### **Other Sources:**

*State Matching Funds	\$254,684.00
*ODNR Wildlife Specialist Grant	\$ 15,300.00

## **Annual Meeting & Election**

The Union Soil & Water Conservation District held its 76th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 3, 2022, there were 72 people in attendance. The election of Supervisors was held with candidates Andy Clarridge and Cheryl Trivisonno elected to 3-year terms to begin January 1, 2023.

Entertainment: The entertainment for the evening was presented by Rebecca Rose, Conservation Liaison, from the Ohio Wildlife Center, who gave a presentation on "Gimme Shelter: Rescue, Rehabilitation and Why It Matters".

Awards: 2022 Cooperator of the Year went to Gruenbaum Farms, David Gruenbaum and his family have been operating this Century Farm for the last 20 years. Gruenbaum Farms hosts farm tours and field days to provide educational and networking opportunities for the community.

### **Associate Supervisors**

Bill Conklin

Jay Rausch

Jim Mitchell

Joe Wiley

Matt Furer

Steve Drumm

Suzi Clarridge

### **District Staff**

Brent Nickel, District Administrator/Wildlife Specialist

Sherry Maisenbacher, Administrative Assistant

Mark Watkins, District Technician

Stephen Johnson, District Technician

Ross Carter, District Technician

Joseph Grove, Urban Technician

Joe Eads, Drainage Maintenance Supervisor

Matt Archer, Drainage maintenance Technician

### **USDA, NRCS Staff**

Ron Neiman, District Conservationist

LaRae Baker, Resource Conservationist

Adam Slappy, Soil Conservationist

### **Pheasants Forever Staff**

Ashley Dawson, Pheasants Forever Biologist

## **Conservation Products**

- Rentals: No-till drill was rented out (17) times for a total of 853.1 acres  
Straw blower was rented out (0) times.  
Tree Planter was rented out (0) times.  
Tree puller was rented out (0) times.
- Tree Sale: Union SWCD 2022 Tree Sale was held as a drive-thru in April 23, 2022  
With 5,050 seedlings available to 116 customers.
- Fish Sale: Union SWCD 2022 Fish Sale was held in October we sold 3,250 fingerlings  
to 10 customers.

## **Drainage Maintenance**

Maintained (110) projects with 59.6 miles of ditches by spraying (southern ditches) and mowing (northern ditches). Also maintained were 16.58 miles of subsurface drain pipe along agriculture drainage systems, (52) urban subdivision retention basins, and (199) concrete drainage structures which included headwalls, manholes and catch basins.

- Subdivision Plat Reviews:  
(20) subdivision plats were reviewed by 2 staff members.

## **Education**

- School Presentations: The Groundwater Simulator, Enviroscape modules, AR Sand table were made available for union county teacher to use in their classrooms as we were unable to enter the buildings .
- National Hunting & Fishing Day:  
Assisted with – (50) participants
- Hunting & Fishing Education:  
Assisted with - (10) classes for over 400 participants
- Pheasants Forever Youth & Ladies Shoot and Hunt:  
(2) presentations / 75 participants
- Conservation Tillage Club Breakfasts:  
(4) Conservation Tillage Club breakfasts were held in 2022 at the Plaza Inn in Mt. Victory with (274) people attending.

## **Outreach**

- Don Cook Memorial Scholarship Fund: 4-H Camp was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Provide subscription of the Ohio Woodland Journal to Fairbanks, Marysville and North Union High Schools
- Participated in the Richwood Independent Fair by provided educational displays
- Union SWCD Website: Provided announcements, events, quarterly newsletters, conservation and drainage information to the public.  
<https://www.co.union.oh.us/union-soil-water-conservation-district>
- District Facebook Page: Provided announcements, events, conservation and drainage information to the public

## **Technical**

The following are some of our technical accomplishments of the past year:

- Agricultural Easement Inspections: (4) Inspections completed
- CRP-MCM Assessment/Review & Landowner Meetings: (19) Field visits & (19) landowner meetings
- Grassed Waterways: (9) installed and (16) others designed
- Pollution Abatement Complaints: (1)
- Pond Management Assistance: Provided assistance for (14) pond owners
- Pond Site Evaluations and Planning Assistance for (3) residents
- Provided assistance for erosion, sediment, stormwater control and management for (66) residents.
- Surface Drain: designed for (1) landowner
- Subsurface Drainage Systematic: designed for (3) landowners
- Petition ditches: Cattail Swamp, Farrington, Lincoln, Long Open, Millcreek Logjam, Morris-Beery, and Wenrick
- Solar Projects: Acciona/Union Solar; Samsun, Richwood Solar; Light source BP/Acomar Solar; and Engie Solar
- WASCOB: designed for (1) landowner

## **Urban Conservation**

Memorandums of Understanding with Townships: Currently we have agreements with Darby, Dover, Leesburg, Liberty, Millcreek, Paris and York Township Trustees to provide technical assistance on soils and drainage for all new home sites. In addition to home site inspections, Darby, Dover, Leesburg, Liberty, Millcreek, Paris and York Townships are requiring a zoning permit for ponds as well.

- Home Site Reviews:  
(28) Home site visits to determine proper lot drainage for new homes were performed and (1) construction site for sediment and erosion control BMPs.
- Be the Change for Clean Water Partner:  
Be the Change exists to keep you informed about programs and services in Central Ohio & how they can benefit you! When it comes to protecting our water resources we all need to be part of the solution. Be The Change for Clean Water is bringing together ten counties and a multitude of partners to provide education, resources, and opportunities to make it easier for all Central Ohio residents to Be the Change for Clean Water.  
<http://www.bethechangeforcleanwater.org>
- Drainage Complaints/Investigations/Information:  
(45) incidents were addressed

## **Wildlife Assistance**

- (20) Wildlife Conflict/Damage Investigations  
Bagworms, Bats, Beaver, Bees, Caterpillars, Coyote, Fox, Feral Cats, Geese, Hawks, Muskrats, Raccoons, Groundhogs, Woodpeckers, Blackbirds/ Starlings, Squirrels/ chipmunks, Rabbits, Swans, and Turtles .
- (17) Wildlife Assistance:  
Provided assistance to variety of individuals concerning pheasant rearing, wildlife rescue information, “orphaned wildlife”, wildlife exclusion methods, habitat, musk rat/dike damage, wildlife conflict/nuisance investigations, Nuisance Trapper Lists, plant ID, etc.
- (19) Wildlife Habitat Assistance:  
Landowner discussions for field management/contract requirements. Assist landowners with Native Plant ID’s.

***Union SWCD Board of Supervisors would like to thank all  
the Partners, Funders, Sponsors and Supporters***

**2022 Supporters**

Union County Commissioners

Union County Engineer

Union County Auditor

Union County Treasurer

Union County Health Dept.

OSU Extension

Union County Farm Bureau

USDA Farm Service Agency

Darby Twp. Trustee

Union County Ag Assoc.

Division of Forestry

ODNR Division of Wildlife

UC Pheasants Forever Chapter #535ODNR

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

ODA Division of Soil & Water Conservation (ODA-DSWC)

Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission (OSWCDE)

Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD)



## **2022 Affiliate Members**

<b>Cook Real Estate</b> (Gold Member)	<b>58 years</b>
<b>Ohigro Inc.</b> (Silver Member)	<b>49 years</b>
<b>MJS Oil, Inc.</b> , dba Smith Distributing (Gold Member)	<b>36 years</b>
<b>Dean Cook Nationwide Insurance</b> (Gold Member)	<b>30 years</b>
<b>Select Sires, Inc</b> (Platinum Member)	<b>28 years</b>
<b>Union County Farm Bureau</b> (Gold Member)	<b>25 years</b>
<b>Smart Oil, LLC</b> (Silver Member)	<b>9 years</b>
<b>Millcreek Gardens LLC</b> (Silver Member)	<b>3 years</b>
<b>Seed Consultants</b> (Silver Member)	<b>3 years</b>
<b>Vititoe Construction, Inc.</b> (Platinum Member)	<b>3 years</b>
<b>Connolly Construction Co.</b> (Silver Member)	<b>2 years</b>
<b>MitchellAgri</b> (Silver Member)	<b>2 years</b>
<b>The Seed Center</b> (Gold Member)	<b>2 years</b>
<b>Benny's Pizza</b> (Gold Member)	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Bluescreek Farm LLC</b> (Gold Member)	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Bokes Creek Hot Shots</b> (Platinum Member)	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Bokes Creek Orchard</b> (Gold Member)	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Mitchell's Berries &amp; Blooms</b> (Bronze Member)	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Plain City Druggist</b> (Gold Member)	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Richwood Tire Center</b> (Silver Member)	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Rooster's Wings Marysville</b> (Platinum Member)	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Steve Stolte</b> (Gold Member)	<b>1 year</b>
<b>Stir Fresh Asian Canteen</b> (Silver Member)	<b>1 year</b>
<b>The MAiZE at Little Darby Creek</b> (Silver Member)	<b>1 year</b>