

## How We Came To Be & Who We Are Today

Midway through the decade of devastation known as the Dust Bowl years, the office of Soil Conservation Service was established by Congress on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1935 to address the loss of over 850,000,000 tons of topsoil caused by years of drought and overused farming practices.

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1941, the 94<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 646, becoming 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. 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.

With a charter signed in December 1943, Miami County became the 16<sup>th</sup> county in Ohio to form a Soil Conservation office. The first members of the Miami SWCD Board were Emmet Brush, Bert Favorite, Dr. Harry Ronicker, William Thompson and Ernest Weaver. A few decades later, Miami SWCD board member Sam Studebaker, Sr., served as Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation District president and was the first Ohioan to serve as the National Association of Conservation District president from 1966-1970.

Miami SWCD Board of Supervisors is made up of five elected officials who serve without pay. They are responsible for directing and approving programs and practices carried out by Miami SWCD staff which is assisted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a branch of USDA. Beginning January 2016, through a transfer of programs from the Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) was established to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. The Miami SWCD is a member of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission provides administrative assistance.

2018 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> year the Miami Soil & Water Conservation District has worked directly with landowners in soil and water conservation assistance.



# Miami Soil & Water Conservation District STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022



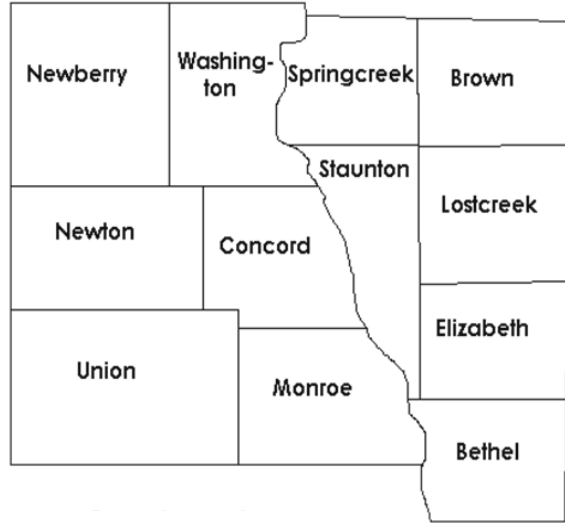
**Strategic Plan**  
**2018-2022**

**Miami Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**1330 N. County Road 25A Troy, Ohio 45373**  
**[www.miamiswcd.org](http://www.miamiswcd.org) [info@miamiswcd.org](mailto:info@miamiswcd.org) 937/335-7645**

All NRCS programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.



## Miami County, Ohio



### *In Brief*

**POPULATION(2015)**

**104,224**

**Total Acres**

**262,230**

**FARMS IN ACRES**

**184,233**

**AVERAGE SIZE IN ACRES**

**173**

**NUMBER OF FARMS**

**1,068**

**WETLANDS ACRES**

**2723**

**WOODLAND ACRES**

**7342**

### *Resolution*

This Strategic Plan was adopted by the Miami SWCD Board of Supervisors on January 9th, 2018

### *Purpose of Strategic Plan*

This plan allows the Miami Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and staff members the ability to focus on the protection and enhancement of natural resources within Miami County over a Five (5) year period

### *Mission Statement*

The Miami Soil & Water Conservation District is committed to providing quality conservation assistance to the people we serve.

### *Vision Statement*

To be responsible leaders in promoting innovative stewardship of natural resources through the development of conservation partnerships to enhance the quality of life.

## *Miami County Stormwater Program*

The Miami Soil & Water Conservation District became responsible for the implementation, management and reporting for the Ohio EPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program as of July 1, 2012. Referred to as the Phase II Stormwater Program within Miami County, the current plan falls within the time frame of September 11, 2014 to September 10, 2019. The overall goal of the stormwater management program (SWMP) is to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP), to protect water quality, and to satisfy requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act and Ohio EPA's Storm Water program. This project was put into place to address and manage stormwater runoff of urbanized areas (unincorporated) within Miami County. The areas within Miami County falling under this regulated Miami County Third Generation Stormwater Management Plan are the Townships of Bethel, Concord, Monroe and Union.

This SWMP addresses six minimum control measures as required by federal and state regulations. This office will encourage and assist with control measures that are expected to result in significant reductions in pollutants discharged within MS4s owned or operated by the Miami County Commissioners and those MS4s owned or operated by the cooperating Townships. Encouraging actual change in behavior is the proposed goal for this program and this office is actively involved in public education and encourages public participation and involvement. The Miami County Engineers and this office have taken an active role in construction and post construction site runoff control measures and assist in pollution prevention and good housekeeping events scheduled by the county.

### Objective

- \* To monitor and oversee the effects of the Miami County Stormwater Program.
- \* Educate and inform all parties within the unincorporated urbanized areas.

### Goals

- \* Reach 75% of the participating areas through ongoing education, outreach and workshops.
- \* Fulfill reporting requirements as stated by the Southwest District Ohio EPA office.

## Community Education, Outreach and Assistance

The Miami SWCD provides free educational programs and materials ranging on a variety of topics to a variety of audiences. These audiences include conventional and home-schooled children, youth groups, agriculture operators, civic and private groups, specific professions and government agencies. Through our own resources and through partnerships with local, state and federal organizations and agencies, we deliver information on soils formation, soil erosion, water resources, wildlife habitat, pond construction and management, resource conservation, recycling, geology, tree and ground cover planting, watersheds and wetlands. This office has published a Cooperator Newsletter since 1952, the first begun by an SWCD in Ohio and, as of 2017, sends out a bi-monthly Cooperator Newsletter. We also create and send via email two educators newsletter, maintain a presence on the social media forum of Facebook, a website, plus periodic programming on local television and radio programming to relay news and information on programs and practices encouraged and supported by this office.

Tree seedling sales, fish fingerling sales, rain barrel sales and proceeds from other product sales help offset costs and materials used in education and outreach programs. Alternative funding through grants and support from other agencies has also been and will continue to be utilized.

### Objective

Continue to provide conservation and environmental education on the wide range of topics covered under the soil and water conservation function in the form of in-school programs, workshops, clinics or meetings to an audience ranging in age from pre-school and school age students to adults.

### Goals

- \* Continue presence in Miami County Schools through conservation and natural resources education programs
- \* Continue with education clinics and workshops
- \* Continue Workshops that promote conservation cost-share programs
- \* Public outreach through publications such as general correspondence, newsletter, brochures, and through meetings.
- \* Maintain open communication with elected officials.
- \* Public outreach through District sales (i.e. tree sale, fish sale, rain barrel sales)
- \* General assistance to walk-in and phone-in customers.
- \* Organize periodic tours and workshops promoting practices, programs and easements purchase programs.

## Miami Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors



Dan Batdorf



Don Heigel



Jeff Shoup



Andy Shuman



Diane Yingst

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## Miami SWCD Staff

**Kreig Smail-** District Administrator

**Gavin Alexander-** Drainage Technician

**Jennifer Korte-** District Technician

**Kristin Lewber-** Administrative Assistant

**Linda Raterman-** Information/Public Relations Specialist

## Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Erika Kemper--** District Conservationist

**Justin Wagner--** Resource Conservationist

**Renee Buck-** Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

## Past Successes

From 2013-2017, the Miami SWCD has assisted over 30,000 Miami County students or residents through educational programs, walk in service or through participation in workshops, programs or practices encouraged by our office and the NRCS. Also, 180 acres of field borders and over 40 acres of trees and shrubs have been established. Also, nearly 50,000 trees have been sold through our Annual Tree Seedling Sale and nearly 23,000 fish fingerlings have been sold during our Annual Fish Stocking Sale.

### Successful Miami SWCD/NRCS Programs (2013-2017)

- \* 765 acres of land accepted through the ODA-Local Ag Easement Purchase Program (LAEP)
- \* 148 Rural Drainage Sites reviewed.
- \* 100+ Adult & Professional Seminars & Workshops *servicing*
- \* 33,000 Students/Adults visited through in-class or outreach education programs
- \* 9416+ tires collected through Annual Tire Recycling Events
- \* 46,625 trees and ground cover sold through Annual Tree Seedling Sales
- \* 34+ acres of trees plantings
- \* 22,693 Fish sold through Annual Fish Fingerling Sales
- \* 111 grassed waterways completed (50+ acres)
- \* 84.6+ tons (cumulative) of trash removed from efforts of Clean Sweep of the Great Miami River
- \* 11 Canoe Clean ups & Educational Canoe Floats
- \* 20,000+ lineal feet of Windbreaks
- \* 56+ residents served with Pond Management Assistance
- \* 322.7 acres Conservation Cover
- \* 9416+ tires collected through ODNR Tire Recycling Event (4 events)
- \* 179.75 acres of Field Borders established.
- \* Cover Crop Field Day hosts/assisted in Cover Crop Field Days
- \* 2 Completed Group Drainage Projects (Drake and McVity)

## Conservation Cost-share Program

The Miami SWCD works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in promoting the use of state and federal cost share programs to implement farming practices that protect soil and water quality. And through technical support, we assist other recognized programs that implement best management practices.

### Objectives

To continue a relationship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and other accepted agencies and programs in the allocation of funds toward the implementation of cost share programs that will protect soil and water quality.

### Goals

- \* Promote awareness of the opportunities associated with the 2018 Farm Bill Program
- \* Increase land owner enrollment within Farm Bill programs.

### Partnerships

The Miami SWCD is proud of the relationships formed with like-minded agencies and offices united in the continuous mission of maintaining and conserving Miami County's natural resources.

### Objectives

Preserve and foster current partnerships with like-minded agencies in order to sustain/conserves/ improve soil and water quality in Miami County.

### Goals

Continue working/collaborating on workshops, publications and relaying information with partners named here:

- \* *Miami County Farm Bureau*
- \* *Miami Conservancy District*
- \* *Miami County Park District*
- \* *Miami County Health District*
- \* *Other Conservation Districts*
- \* *OSU Ext. -Miami County*

- \* *Miami County Engineers*
- \* *Miami County Sanitary Engineers*
- \* *Pheasants Forever-Miami County*
- \* *Miami County Ag Society*
- \* *NRCS/FSA*
- \* *SW District Office Ohio EPA*

## *Pond Permit Process and Development*

**Miami County Recreational Pond Permit:** During the summer of 2014, Miami County Zoning Commission passed a resolution requiring a permit to construct a recreational pond in Miami County, Ohio. The purpose of the permit/regulation is to guide the development and structural integrity of a recreational pond while preventing potential damage that may occur due to pond construction.

A “Certificate of Zoning Compliance” must first be obtained through the Miami County Department of Development. Once the application is completed and the fee of \$50.00 is collected, the application is sent to the Miami Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). Once received, the SWCD contacts the property owner for a site visit to inspect the area for a proposed pond. The SWCD will assess such issues as location, overflow and existing field tile that may be present. The property owner will be required to conduct a tile search around the proposed site to see if any is present. This prevents future drainage problems that could arise from field tile being damaged while the pond is being constructed. After the initial site visit and the tile search have been completed, the SWCD will return the application to the Miami County Department of Development for an approved permit.

### *Pond Development*

Pond development is popular within Miami County and yearly pond clinics outlining construction, maintenance, stocking and wildlife continue to attract audiences at the yearly Tri-County Pond Clinic shared with the Darke and Shelby SWCD offices. Also, Miami County provided several additional pond clinics within the county that were well received. While no programs offer monetary assistance to the potential pond builder, this office will assist with soil suitability, survey and pond design.

### Objectives

Continue assistance for the recreational, natural resources or agricultural use of Miami County ponds.

### Goals

- \* Establish guidelines for pond installation
- \* Educate landowners on pond maintenance
- \* Educate landowners on appropriate site and soil types for ponds
- \* Hold one multi county pond clinic

## *Continuing Long Range Plans*

In an effort to promote conservation, this office has provides technical and informational assistance to Miami County residents. In order to sustain and maintain the quality of assistance and resources, opportunities to improve, update and train are made the most of.

### *Rural and Urban Drainage*

Drainage issues arise for land used for agricultural, residential, commercial or business and this office is available to offer suggestions or solutions through resources and technical assistance. This office has been active over the last five years in assisting petition tile projects and volunteer group drainage projects.

### Objectives

Derive practical and economical solutions for drainage problems with rural and urban environments.

### Goals

- \* Assist with individual and group drainage projects (i.e. Ditch projects)
- \* Assist with rural and urban residential site reviews
- \* Assist rural and urban landowners with drainage concerns

### *ODA Local Ag Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)*

Since ODA allowed Soil and Water Conservation District to become Local Sponsors for easements approved through their office, the Miami SWCD has applied and been granted Local Sponsor status and has assisted landowners in applying for the Local Ag Easement Purchase Program. Furthermore, they fulfill all duties attached to the local sponsorship responsibilities. To more clearly outline the chances of entering into the program, this office has also created a pre-screening form to assess the likelihood of acceptance into the program.

### Objectives

If applicable, continue assistance with ODA Agriculture Easement Purchase Program application and Federal Farm and Ranch Program Assistance.

### Goals

- \* Hold and enforce Ag Easements
- \* Educate Community Leaders about LAEPP and FFRP

Annual Tree Seedling Sale



Bob Holfinger Former Supervisor 1924-2014



Barb Francis Former Supervisor 1930-2016



Vic Battorf Former Supervisor 1925-2016



John Gillfillan-past employee & Former Supervisor 1928-2016



CRP Wetland-5 acres



Educators Workshop



Annual Tire Recycling Day



Annual Fish Fingerling Sale



River Canoe Clean-up



Cooperator of the Year Program



Replanted Rain Garden



Cover Crops Oil Seed Radishes



**KEEPING A GOOD SOIL**

Any kind of ground cover like Trees, Shrubs, Rain Gardens, Flower Beds, Cover Crops & More helps in KEEPING A GOOD SOIL DOWN!  
Contact your Township or Miami SWCD to learn more!

<p><b>Natural Ground Cover</b> 40% Evaporation</p> <p>10% Runoff</p> <p>25% shallow infiltration 25% deep infiltration</p>	<p><b>75%-100% Impervious Cover</b> 30% Evaporation</p> <p>55% Runoff</p> <p>10% shallow infiltration 5% deep infiltration</p>
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This STORMWATER message is sponsored by Bethel, Concord, Monroe & Union Townships.

Photo Highlights of Programs & Practices