

**IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF LICKING COUNTY, OHIO**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**SOUTH LICKING WATERSHED  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT Case No. 68 CV 54569**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**1 DECEMBER 1, 2024 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

**2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Daniel Blatter, President  
Kevin Elder, Vice President  
3 Linda Nicodemus, Director**

Directors Kevin Elder, Linda Nicodemus, and Daniel Blatter served as members of the Board of Directors of the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District (Conservancy District) during the period covered by this report. Britney Miller, employee of the Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWCD), was appointed to be the District's Secretary/Treasurer.

Brian Reed served as legal counsel.

Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWCD) assistance to the Conservancy District includes a Watershed Coordinator who spends a proportionate amount of time supporting the Conservancy District projects and grants. Additionally, the LCSWCD Operations Coordinator serves as the Secretary Treasurer assists us with the financial reporting, meeting minutes, publication of Public Notices and filing state reports as necessary. The Executive Director assists with project administration, preparation of meeting agenda, website management and coordinating records management.

**2 DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

The Conservancy District has identified a number of issues to address, in addition to South Fork flooding, which continues to be a priority.

LCSWCD submitted a MWCD Partners in Watershed Management Grant for a Flood Damage Reduction Study on the Raccoon Creek watershed on behalf of SLWCD Directors toward the end of 2023. SLWCD received the grant, selected and entered into contract with HDR at the March, 2024, Board Meeting. The Project continued into 2025 with updates being provided to the Board by HDR at the regularly scheduled Director's meetings. A public meeting was held on May 1, 2025, to present the results of the study to the public. The Final Report was received and accepted by the Board.

SLWCD continues to work with the Ohio Silver Jackets Program modeling and USACE Raccoon Creek Section 208 Snagging and Clearing for Flood Control. The Silver Jackets inundation and log jam prioritization model and study was completed in November, 2023. The model was shared with the Army Corps to be used by the Section 208 team as they prioritize debris fields for construction.

The Army Corps has continued to work on the Raccoon Creek Section 208 Snagging and Clearing for Flood Control Project. It has completed the Feasibility Report and prepared a Project Management Plan. The Project is anticipated to move forward with a Detailed Project Report and Environmental Assessment in 2026-2027.

The Silver Jackets – Flooding Tabletop for the Southfork Licking River between Kirksville through Heath was a big success with all Municipalities, Townships, County, State and Federal Agencies with Emergency Response Personnel participating. The Disaster simulation help those entities work together to help each during and after a flooding event.

The New Albany business park continues with expansion of large construction projects. Noteworthy additions include, Microsoft, AWS, Amgen, Meta, and Intel. These developments are partially or wholly within the Raccoon Creek portion of the Conservancy District. Other Power Generators and/or Data Center sites are proposed within the South Fork watershed, within Millersport and Kirksville. Future land use changes within the Conservancy District due to

uses such as AI (artificial intelligence), industrial and other commercial centers, retail development, and residential development, will likely increase stormwater runoff. The Board desires all runoff discharges to be effectively controlled and mitigated to alleviate downstream flooding or other adverse effects. Many involved large corporations have expressed an interest to cooperate with SLWCD and Licking County in that regard.

The North Walnut Township Flood Mitigation Project, led by Walnut Township in Fairfield County, has been designed for areas in Fairfield County near the west end of Buckeye Lake. Construction of the first phase of that project is pending funding. The South Licking Watershed Conservancy District (SLWCD) supports this proposal provided flood plain regulations for areas within the Conservancy District in Fairfield County are modified to disallow unmitigated filling of the flood plain.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Kirkersville Feeder Assessment Report, released in late 2020, has resulted in intended planning for Feeder remediation. ODNR's Capital Improvements Budget Request for 2025-2030 includes Feeder embankment armoring and replacement of the Bloody Run Weir. The integrity of the deteriorating Feeder remains of high concern to the District.

The Ohio Department of Transportation hired consulting engineer Gannet Fleming to enhance the HEC-RAS 2D model for the South Fork reaches down stream of Kirkersville, through the Buckeye Lake and I-70 areas, and upstream to Heath. The SLWCD has assisted by providing the results of the South Fork flood studies and cooperating with ODOT as a stakeholder. They have an additional goal of improving the accuracy of the FEMA flood plain in the area of study. The enhanced model was completed in November 2025 and will be used in future flood mitigation efforts.

Flood Events in 2024: The "Minor Flooding Stage" was reached only once at the USGS gauge on Raccoon Creek immediately upstream of Granville during an April 4 event. Several gauges on the South Fork also showed the "Action Stage" level was reached three times, during February to

early May. No major damage is known to have been reported. No flooding stages were record in Newark on the Raccoon, or Heath, on the South Fork.

### **BOARD ASSESSMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board continues to evaluate the overall mission of the District and the Board's role in providing effective leadership, stewardship and positive contributions to the communities it serves. The Board continues to operates without a dedicated funding source, has a 1980's Watershed Plan, and no enforceable regulations. The Board has concluded that to move from an entity that primarily serves as a sounding board for issues within the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District to a Board with the ability to accomplish specific initiatives within the district, it is necessary to address these areas.

### **1RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS**

Official minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors have been documented and are posted on the [www.slwcd.org](http://www.slwcd.org) website.

The Directors' Secretary/Treasurer prepares monthly financial reports for approval at the meetings and recorded with hard copy minutes at the Conservancy District's official mailing address. The 2024 SLWCD Cash Basis was filed with the Auditor of State in February 2025. The funds of the Conservancy District are currently on deposit with the Park National Bank.

The Auditor of State reviewed the financial records for the years ending December 31, 2022 and 2023, and provided a Basic Audit Report for those records. The District has addressed issues identified by the report to comply with Ohio Revised Code.

At the July 2025 Directors' meeting a Public Records Policy was adopted. The records and accounts remain open for public inspection by appointment.

Conservancy District records are held in the offices of the LCSWCD, 771 E. Main St., Suite 100, Newark, OH, 43055, which is also the official mailing address for Conservancy District.

A financial report covering January 1 – October 31, 2025:

South Licking Watershed Conservancy District  
 Financials~ October 2025

<b>Checking Account</b>			
<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
<b>Assets</b>			
District Checking	\$198,712.54		
<b>Capital</b>			
Beginning Equity	\$132,452.36		
Net Income	\$66,260.18		
<b>Total Capital</b>		<b>\$198,712.54</b>	
<b>Revenue Statement</b>			
	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>
Grants & Contributions- local	\$0.00	\$118,943.68	\$194,822.46
Grants & Contributions- cost share	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Grant Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$69,822.46	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$188,766.14</b>	<b>\$194,822.46</b>
<b>Expense Statement</b>			
	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>
Contract Services- Consultants	\$0.00	\$119,822.46	\$214,822.46
Contract Services- Attorney Fees	\$0.00	\$1,144.50	\$5,000.00
Contract Services- Legal Ads	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Contract Services- Website	\$144.00	\$1,539.00	\$3,000.00
Contract Services- Audit Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Cost Share	\$0.00	\$0.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$144.00</b>	<b>\$122,505.96</b>	<b>\$222,822.46</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$144.00</b>	<b>\$66,260.18</b>	
<b>Outstanding District Checks</b>			
<b>Payee</b>	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
All checks cashed!			
<b>Total Outstanding Checks</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Cash Disbursement Report</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Check Number</b>	<b>Payee &amp; Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
10/1/2025	ACH	Firespring- Website Services	\$144.00
11/25/2025	608	Phoenix Graphix- website services	\$450.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$594.00</b>

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservancy District was the fourth Tuesday

of every odd numbered month. Meetings were usually held at Licking County Ag Center, 771 E. Main St., Newark, Ohio 43055. The Directors met in person. In-person and Zoom attendance was available for the public for all regular and special meetings. The Directors held one annual meeting, and six regular business meetings during the period covered by this report.

At the July 2025 Directors' meeting, an official logo was approved and incorporated into the website. The website was also upgraded to enable the public to sign up for email notifications for the public meetings.

Analytics of the [www.SLWCD.org](http://www.SLWCD.org) website from January 1- November 31, 2025- include 563 visitors with 1,684 actions. Visitors found the page by searches (271), direct (262); links (25) and social media (5).

This Annual Report is respectfully submitted by:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
SOUTH LICKING WATERSHED  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

DATED: December 19, 2025

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Kevin Elder

Linda Nicodemus

Daniel Blatter

This report was prepared by:

Kevin Elder, Linda Nicodemus, and Daniel Blatter, Directors

Contact:

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