

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

CLERK COMMON
PLEAS COURT
LICKING CO. OHIO

2025 JAN -6 PM 3: 15

OLIVIA C. PARKINSON
CLERK

IN THE MATTER OF:

**SOUTH LICKING WATERSHED
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

Case No. 68 CV 54569

ORDER

This matter came on before this Conservancy Court for the Annual Meeting of the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District, on Friday, December 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the basement of the Licking County Administration Building as the West Courtroom is currently under renovation.

The Directors of the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District (Dan Blatter, Linda Nicodemus and Kevin Elder) were all in attendance. Legal counsel for the District, Brian C. Reed, was also in attendance.

The Directors presented for approval by the Court their written Annual Report for the time period December 1, 2023 to November 30, 2024. The Report's principle author, Kevin Elder discussed the Report at length. Additional comments were made by Linda Nicodemus about the meetings and developments of the SLWCD. The Court also heard updates and comments from those in attendance including Jonathan Ferbrache of Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District, David Moore of HDR and Kyle Seitz of the Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Attached hereto as Attachment "A" is a sheet signed by those in attendance at the Annual Meeting. The Court solicited comments from the Directors and those in attendance. A record of the meeting was made by the Court. The topics discussed at the meeting included: The grant

received by the LCSWCD on behalf of the SLWCD for a flood damage reduction study on the Raccoon Creek watershed. The SLWCD entered into a contract with HDR in March to conduct the study. At the meeting David Moore of HDR discussed various issues pertaining to the Raccoon Creek watershed including the high debris load, flood risks, various models relative to watershed alternative analysis. There was additional discussion about the future impacts to the watershed from the New Albany business park and the expansion of large construction projects such as Microsoft, AWS, Amgen, Meta and Intel.

The Court was informed of the status of the Ohio Silver Jackets Program modeling and USACE Raccoon Creek Section 208 snagging and clearing. A study was completed in November 2023 and the information was shared with the Army Corps to be used by the Section 208 team. The Army Corp is in the feasibility study phase of the Section 208 process. The Court was informed that there is an anticipated completion date in fall of 2025 and possible removal in 2026.

Kyle Seitz of the Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District informed the Court about a grant for strategic plans to reduce sediment pollution and nutrient loading. He indicated that he is working with the USGS regarding water quality monitoring equipment and access to data from the USGS. Mr. Seitz discussed a \$1.2 million dollar wetland project in the Kirkersville area that is in the funding phase. The anticipation is that this wetland would be built in 18 months and would encompass approximately 14 acres.

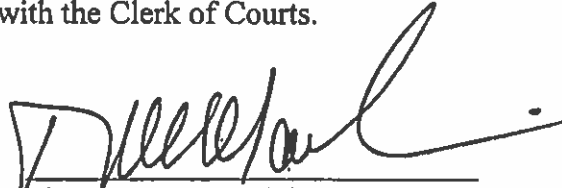
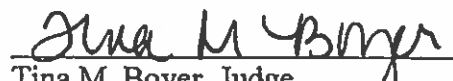

Jonathan Ferbrache of Fairfield Soil and Water Conservation District discussed drainage plans for nuisance flooding reduction. There was discussion about the goal of reducing stagnant and standing water in the watershed. Specific discussion was had concerning the Walnut Township flood mitigation project.

An accounting of the District's financials was attached to the report. The Directors

maintain the records for the District. There appearing to be no further matters for consideration before the Court and District, the Annual Meeting was then concluded and adjourned.

Being satisfied with the contents of the Annual Report, the Court hereby approves the same and has directed counsel to file the Report with the Clerk of Courts.

It is so **ORDERED**.


Thomas M. Marcelain, Judge
Tina M. Boyer, Judge
Richard E. Berens, Judge

cc: Directors of the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District
Brian C. Reed, Esq.

South Licking Watershed Conservancy District
Annual Meeting, Friday, December 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.
Licking County Common Pleas Court

Attendance Sheet for the Annual Meeting. Please provide name and address below:

1. Brian C. Reed 36 N. 2nd St., Newark, OH 43058-0919
2. David Moore 8890 Lynn Dr HDR Cdc.
3. Henry Stephenson (HDR) 8890 Lynn Dr, Suite 100, Columbus OH
4. Daniel Blatter 141 Reserve Dr Granville OH 43023
5. Britney Stuller LCSWD 771 E. Main St. Ste 100 Newark, OH 43055
6. Linda Nicodemus 3535 Blacks Rd SW Hebron, OH 4302
7. Taret Boettcher AmeriCorps 771 E Main St., Ste 100, Newark, OH 43055
8. David Lewary 20 E Main Lancaster OH 43130
9. Gene Elder 6800 Battimore - Sawatch Rd NE Pleasantville OH 43084
10. Lindsey Brighton 345 5th St. Newark, City of Newark.
11. Kyle Sert 771 E Main St Ste 100 Newark OH 43055
12. Jonathan Ferbrache 831 College Ave Suite B Lancaster OH 43130
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____



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

DECEMBER 1, 2023 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Kevin Elder, President
Daniel Blatter, Vice President
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 Stuller, 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 District Program Administrator assists with preparation of meeting agenda, website management and coordinating records management.

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.

The SLWCD Directors provided data and photos for the project. A link to the story map can be found on the SLWCD website.

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. Future land use changes within the Conservancy District due to Intel and others, supporting manufacturers, data centers, other commercial and 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 of these 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 developed for areas in Fairfield County north of Buckeye Lake. Construction of the first phase of that project is pending funding. A Public Meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2024, by the Township Trustees. Project concepts, grant funding received, engineering status and scheduling will be discussed. The South Licking Watershed Conservancy District (SLWCD) supports this proposal.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Kirkersville Feeder Assessment Report, released in late 2020, recommended Feeder inspection protocols, identified current critical issues, proposed actions to be taken and indicated a need to develop priorities to address longer-term issues. The Directors met with ODNR leadership to understand the plan of action as the integrity of the deteriorating Feeder remains of high concern to the District.

The Ohio Department of Transportation hired Gannett Fleming, who has enhanced the HEC-RAS 2D model received from the Licking County Commissioners to develop a plan to alleviate I-70 corridor flooding while causing no additional flooding damage upstream or downstream of the interstate corridor, generally in the Buckeye Lake/State Route 79 area and to the west. The SLWCD

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 records and accounts remain open for public inspection by appointment. The 2023 SLWCD Cash Basis was filed with the Auditor of State in February 2024. The funds of the Conservancy District are currently on deposit with the Park National Bank.

The Auditor of State audited the financial records for the years ending December 31, 2022 and 2023, and provided a Basic Audit Report. The District is in the process of addressing issues identified by the report to comply with Ohio Revised Code.

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, 2024:

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, six regular business, and two special meetings during the period covered by this report.

Analytics of the www.SLWCD.org website from January 1- Oct. 31, 2024- include 660 visitors with 1,953 actions. Visitors found the page by searches (263), direct (350); links (46) and email (1).

This Annual Report is respectfully submitted by:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
SOUTH LICKING WATERSHED
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

DATED: December __, 2024

Kevin Elder

Linda Nicodemus

Daniel Blatter

This report was prepared by:

Kevin Elder, Linda Nicodemus, and Daniel Blatter, Directors

Contact:

Kevin Elder, Director
SLWCD c/o LCSWCD
771 E. Main St Ste 100
Newark OH 43055