

**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, 2016 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2017**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Daniel Blatter, President  
Linda Nicodemus, Secretary/Treasurer  
(Position Vacant)**

1. Directors Daniel Blatter and Linda Nicodemus served as members of the Board of Directors of the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District (Conservancy District) throughout the period covered by this report. The third director's position remained vacant.
2. Brian Reed and Christopher Meyer served as legal counsel.
3. The Directors held one annual and ten regular business meetings during the period covered by this report.
4. Denise Brooks, Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District, provides assistance to the Conservancy District.
5. The regularly scheduled meeting night of the Conservancy District was the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM. The meetings are held at the Village of Hebron Municipal Complex, 943 West Main St., Hebron, Ohio 43025.
6. Conservancy District records are held by Directors Blatter and Nicodemus.

### **DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

The Conservancy District has contacted all cities, villages, and townships within the watershed to advise them of our renewed existence and invite them to the District's meetings.

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

- A log jam in the South Fork Licking River, located east of The Newark Ohio Industrial Park, has existed for a long time and is getting progressively worse. It restricts flow and backs up water from the Hebron and Buckeye Lake areas, particularly during higher-than-normal flows. The Conservancy District is supporting efforts by the Licking County Soil and Water Conservation District and Licking County Commissioners to develop a plan for appropriate obstruction removal, and apply for funding from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. We have hosted site viewings and coordinated drone reconnaissance with the assistance of The Licking County Planning Department.
- The Conservancy District was contacted by Licking County Planning staff and Buckeye Lake community representatives about problems with the Kirkersville Feeder (aka Buckeye Lake Feeder) in its ability to deliver runoff to Buckeye Lake, the primary intended outcome being water quality improvement. Presently, about a fourth of its drainage basin flows directly to the South Fork due to flow restrictions and structural failure. The Feeder may also have the potential to divert water to from the South Fork to Buckeye Lake during low-water times. A portion of the Feeder, from the county line to the Bloody Run weir, was drone-videoed with assistance from Licking County Planning.
- The City of Heath contacted the Conservancy District about severe streambank erosion of the South Fork by their well field and potential future impacts as they report a loss of five to ten feet per year from the bank. Initial Army Corps of Engineers' estimates to mitigate are over \$400,000.

There was one significant flood event in mid-July of 2017 that had an impact on the South Licking Watershed by flooding communities of Pataskala, Millersport, Buckeye Lake and Hebron along with other local flooding. Columbus news media covered the event including video by at least Channels 4 and 10. It is not known how many structures were damaged as the Licking County Emergency Management Agency stated that known damages were too few to qualify for a Federal Disaster determination. It is known that a few homes in flood-prone areas were significantly damaged. Floodwaters also caused the closing of I-70 for periods of time over a few days resulting in much inconvenience for local residents and travelers and the rerouting of all truck traffic as waters deepened. It was also observed that the flood event resulted in stream bank erosion and fallen trees into streams.

The Conservancy District Board's vacancy can be filled as a well-qualified individual from Fairfield County, Robert Cumbow, has agreed to become the third Director.

### **RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS**

Pursuant to statute, minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors have been reduced to writing and are recorded in a three ring binder marked as the official minutes of the South Licking Watershed Conservancy District. The Directors prepare monthly financial reports for approval. The records and accounts remain open for public inspection by appointment. A financial report covering the reporting period is a part of this report. The funds of the Conservancy District are currently on deposit with the Park National Bank. A representative of the Auditor of State reviewed our records for 2005 and decided not to do an audit because of the limited account activity. No other auditing activity has occurred since then.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The regular monthly meetings that were held in 2017 by the Board of Directors were open to the public. During the reporting period, members of the public attended these regular monthly meetings.

This Annual Report is respectfully submitted by:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
SOUTH LICKING WATERSHED  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

DATED: December 15, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Blatter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Nicodemus

This report was prepared by:

Daniel Blatter, Director  
141 Reserve Dr.  
Granville, OH 43023

**Financial Report**  
***South Licking Watershed Conservancy District***

January 17, 2017 – November 30, 2017

**ASSETS**

**Checking Account**

Balance as of October 31, 2016	\$2,055.53
Interest Receipts:	
November - November	.22
Deposits:	
November – November	0
Disbursements:	
Media Network of Central Ohio – Monthly meeting Advertisement	\$ 131.72
Bank Balance – November 30, 2017	<u>\$1,924.03</u>
Encumbrances- unpaid	
Annual Meeting notice and 2018 meeting notice Media Network of Central Ohio:	
Newark Advocate	\$ 73.60
Lancaster Eagle Gazette	\$ 59.20
APG Media of Ohio	
Perry County Tribune	<u>\$ 49.60</u>
Total	<u>\$172.80</u>
Total Posted Assets	<u>\$1,751.23</u>