

September/October 2020 Newsletter



# Williams Soil & Water Conservation District



## CALENDAR

- Sept. 14** — Williams SWCD Board Meeting 6:00 p.m., Meeting Room, Bryan
- Oct. 13** — Williams SWCD Board Meeting 6:00 p.m., Location to be announced
- Nov. 9** — Williams SWCD Open House & Election
- Nov. 9** — Williams SWCD Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

## Mission Statement

Provide education and services that will improve the stewardship and management of our soil, air, water, plant and animal resources.

### About us

The Williams Soil and Water Conservation District was established in 1947 and is locally led by a volunteer, elected 5-member board who serve three-year terms. The 2020 Board of Supervisor members are Bob Short, Kevin Miller, Jon Hake, Otis Sloan, and Adam Perry. The overall mission of Williams SWCD is to promote the use of local natural resources for economic purposes, including agriculture, in a sustainable manner that also protects the environment. The Williams SWCD helps residents, landowners, businesses, and communities use, conserve, and protect the county’s soil, water, and land resources. The staff includes Chris Dancer, District Administrator; Bert Brown, District Technician; Anne Marie Michaels, Outreach & Education Coordinator; Manuel Lay, District Technician; Mary McCann, Administrative Assistant; Josh Imber, District Technician/H2Ohio Program, and Reba Wicker, WLEB Nutrient Management Technician.

The Williams SWCD each year assists landowners in placing conservation practices onto their land, renting tillage equipment, educating adults and children by holding workshops and teaching in the schools, holding the annual tree seedling and fish sale, hosting a pond clinic and annual Field Technology Day, helping with the Maple Syrup Festival, along with many other services. Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. except for the following: October and November which will be October 13 and November 9 at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to attend a meeting, please call ahead to be placed on the agenda.



## Vision Statement

A leader in the community providing assistance to improve our land and water resources through educational programs, technical services and innovative practices to promote harmony among a diverse population.

## Technical Assistance

We can come out to your farm or property and aid in the development of an engineering plan for practices such as grassed waterways, tile, water control structures, erosion concerns, wetlands, and manure storage. SWCD staff will survey and develop a design to best aid your situation which is free of charge and is available regardless if the project is being done on your own or going through an NRCS or FSA program. Contact Manuel Lay, District Technician.

## WE ARE MOVING!

The Williams Soil & Water Conservation District is excited to announce that we will be moving to a new location sometime in October. Our new address will be 11246 State Route 15 in Montpelier (which was formerly the Enrichment Center). Our new location will be centrally located in the county and has plenty of room to hold workshops and events. Our phone number will stay the same – 419-636-9395. During the month of October, please call ahead to verify we have moved to our new location. An Open House is planned for Monday, November 9, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Red Cross blood drive and Harvest Market will also continue to be held at this location! We look forward to seeing and working with everyone on State Route 15!!

## Help Us Welcome Josh Imber

The Williams SWCD is pleased to announce that Josh Imber has joined our staff as the H2Ohio Coordinator and District Technician. Josh will be handling the H2Ohio program along with helping Manuel Lay with engineering and Bert Brown with moving equipment. He will also oversee the implementation of future programs offered



**Josh Imber**  
H2Ohio Coordinator/  
District Technician

through the Williams SWCD office.

Josh grew up in Defiance County where he continues to help his dad plant food plots and small acreages of beans and corn. Starting at a young age he worked on a dairy farm and excavating crew then transitioned to a grain co-op in Defiance County. Josh stated that he “was able to see both the natural resources side and the farming side and always had a passion of trying to teach people how they can do both on their properties for the long-term benefit”.

Josh attended Hocking College and

has a degree in natural resources and wildlife management. One of his areas of expertise is in plant identification of grasses, trees, weeds and forbs. In his previous position Josh helped manage a 10,000-acre wildlife area where he assisted in managing wetlands, grasslands, and timber. In that position he planted 500 – 700 acres of small grains and wildlife food plots annually.

Josh lives in Stryker with his wife, Abby, and 3-year old daughter Brielle. In his spare time, he enjoys outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, boating, and habitat management.



## Visit & Vote at the SWCD Open House & Election

You are invited to the Williams Soil and Water Conservation District’s (SWCD) Annual Open House and Board of Supervisors Election.

The Williams SWCD Open House and Election will be held Monday, November 9, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Williams SWCD Meeting Room at our new location at 11246 State Route 15, Montpelier.

You can also vote by absentee ballot starting September 27. Please see related article in this newsletter.

The Open House will feature the election of two Williams SWCD Supervisors. Candidates in this year’s special election are: Jon Hake, Logan Reese, and Berdon ‘Bob’ Short.

During the Open House, the recipient of the Outstanding Cooperator Award will be announced. Sandwiches and refreshments will also be served.

The Williams SWCD Board and Staff invite you to come together to cast your vote with people who have the mutual interest of conserving our land and water for those who live beyond us! We hope to see you at this year’s Williams SWCD Open House AT OUR NEW LOCATION as we commemorate 73 years of conservation. For more information, please call the Williams SWCD at 419-636-9395. The office is located at 11246 State Route 15, Montpelier.

All Williams SWCD, ODA, USDA & OSU programs, services, and assistance are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, age, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, disability, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, handicap, or veteran status.

## Williams SWCD Election Rules & Supervisor Nominees

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Williams Soil and & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Williams Soil and Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for Supervisor.

This year two Supervisors will be elected to the Williams SWCD Board for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2021. The nominees are: Jon Hake, Logan Reese, and Berdon ‘Bob’ Short. Please call the office if you would like to receive the biographies for the candidates.

An eligible voter is a resident of Williams County or an applicant who owns or occupies land within Williams County



**John Hake**  
Nominee



**Logan Reese**  
Nominee



**Berdon ‘Bob’ Short**  
Nominee

representing a corporation, partnership, association, or other entity registered with the Ohio Secretary of State or owner, firm, lessee, renter, or tenant of Williams County but can only vote once regardless of the number of parcels owned, leases, or properties rented and shall be 18 years of age and own or occupy land within the boundaries of Williams County.

There are three ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1.) Voting absentee from September 27 until November 9, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from

the Williams SWCD office at 1120 West High Street, Bryan (until we move), by calling 419-636-9395, or email at [contact@williamsswcd.org](mailto:contact@williamsswcd.org). Absentee ballot applications and election ballots must be received by the Williams SWCD office by 6:30 p.m. on November 9, 2020.

- 2.) At the Williams SWCD new office location at 11246 State Route 15, Montpelier, from October 27 until November 9 during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); or

- 3.) At the Williams SWCD Open House, which will take place at the Williams SWCD office at our new location of 11246 State Route 15, Montpelier, on November 9 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

If you would like more information about the rules governing the election process, please contact the Williams SWCD office at 419-636-9395 or stop in to vote at 1120 West High Street, Bryan, or after we move to our new location or beginning October 27 at 11246 State Route 15, Montpelier.

## EQUIPMENT TO RENT

The Williams SWCD has available to rent for seeding cover crops or winter wheat: a Salford RTS vertical tillage tool equipped with a Gandy air seeder, tractor, and Williams SWCD operator, two 15’ John Deere 1590 no-till drills (7.5” & 10” row spacing), and a Krause Landsaver chisel plow. Call Bert Brown at 419-636-9395 for rental information, questions, and to get your name on the fall schedule.

It’s that time again! Due to the decline in monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) populations, the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative (OPHI) and local Soil & Water Conservation Districts are again seeking public involvement to collect common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seed pods from established plants September 1 through October 30. Milkweed is the only host plant for the Monarch butterfly for egg laying and caterpillar rearing. It also serves as a food source for monarchs as well as many other pollinator species.



### Tips for collecting pods:

- Become familiar with the common milkweed to avoid harvesting pods from similar plants such as hemp dogbane and swamp milkweed.
- Wear disposable gloves when picking and handling pods and wash your hands afterwards – the ‘milk’ from the

milkweed can cause irritation to your skin and do not rub your eyes.

- It is best to collect the pods when they are dry, grey, or brown. If the center seam pops with gentle pressure, they can be picked. The seeds in green pods will not be viable and won’t be able to be used. Place a small rubber band around the green pod until it dries to protect it from bugs. Be patient and don’t collect too soon!

- Store the pods in paper bags; plastic bags collect unwanted moisture causing mold

to develop; keep the pods in a cool, dry area until you can deliver them to the Williams County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at 1120 West High Street in Bryan until we move. After we move to our new location sometime in October, the pods can be taken to 11246 State Route 15, Montpelier. Please call ahead to see where we will be.

For more information on OPHI visit the OPHI website at [www.ophi.info](http://www.ophi.info) or contact the Williams SWCD office at 419-636-9395. Thank you!

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