



**THE LATITUDE / LONGITUDE**  
**41° 21' 09" N. - 82° 08' 55" W.**

**SUMMER/FALL 2024**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve the natural resources and environment in Lorain County.



**LORAIN SWCD 75TH ANNIVERSARY 1948-2023**

**Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District recently celebrated its 75 Anniversary!**

1999-2024 picking up where we left off in 1998 (our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary).

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration took place on 12/5/1998 and approximately 180 attended. The highlight of the evening was Henry Schriver and Bob Laborie reminiscing about the early years of the District, followed by a slide show set to music.

The late 90s ushered in an Urban Stream Program, a filter strip program, among others. Additional office space, storage, and a smaller conference room was added onto the Lorain County Agricultural Center in 2000. The Lake Erie CREP program was started in the spring of 2000 and offered conservation practices such as grass filter strips, riparian wildlife buffers, riparian tree plantings, field windbreaks, and wetland restoration. That same spring the District and the County Commissioners teamed up to help clean ditches in Lorain County. There were two methods that homeowners/landowners could have a ditch cleaned, either a group agreement or a petition project.

The priority in 2001 was the Ditch Cleaning program which had the county commissioners funding \$500,000 to be used to clean ditches in Lorain County.

The year 2002 brought its most successful year of drainage improvements in the county. Over six miles of drainage ditches were improved by the program. Traditional conservation practices such as grass waterways and CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) continued to grow.

Lorain SWCD was awarded the Field Office Group Award in 2004. The District earned this award because of an increase in conservation planning on a wide range of conservation practices through the use of local funds and USDA programs.

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An election of one supervisor to the Lorain County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will begin Wednesday, August 14, 2024 through Thursday, September 12, 2024. There is one candidate running for one seat on the Board. Absentee ballots will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. starting on **August 14, 2024**, and continuing until noon on **September 12, 2024**. You may request your ballot in writing, or by calling the District office at 440-326-5800. See page two for more details.

**Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative**

**Annual Milkweed Pod Collection**  
 September 1<sup>st</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for more information

### Supervisor Election Info

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

One Supervisor will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027.

Nominees are: **Kolin Bendickson**



### Election Procedures

Absentee ballots are available upon request during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, August 14, 2024.

There are three (3) ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1.) At the SWCD office located at 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. during normal business hours.
- 2.) At the Lorain SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at Wellington Eagles, 361 South Main Street, Wellington, OH. Voting takes place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- 3.) Voting absentee starts Wednesday, August 14, 2024 until noon on Thursday, September 12, 2024, by calling 440-326-5800 or emailing [lpars@loraincounty.us](mailto:lpars@loraincounty.us). Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by noon, Thursday, September 12, 2024.

Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) will certify the election and provide results to the ODA-DSWC and SWCD office.

## MEET THE CANDIDATE!



Kolin and his wife Breanna live in Wellington with their two Australian Shepherds, Boomer & Charlie. They spend a lot of their time working but in their spare time they enjoy camping and kayaking. Kolin is a general manager for Abraham Drainage & Excavating. His own personal experience with conservation practices is erosion control through various applications such as erosion matting and seeding of grasses & cover crops, drainage tile installation, wetland construction, stream restoration, rock channel protection and strip tillage.



[www.facebook.com/lorainswcd](http://www.facebook.com/lorainswcd)



## LSWCD - The 90s to now

Lorain County Stormwater Management District was formed in December of 2007 to implement the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System—Phase II (NPDES) so that Lorain County could be in compliance with the Ohio EPA and the U.S. Clean Water Act of 1972. To this day, Lorain SWCD is the administrator for erosion and sediment control rules for soil disturbing activities on land within the unincorporated areas of Lorain County.

Karl Schneider wrote a 2011 Chronicle-Telegram column describing many of the conservation highlights since the 90s. Some of those highlights were approval of a low-interest loan program with the Ohio EPA for agricultural conservation practices, grants for wetland construction, grass and filter strips, low-impact ditch improvements, and urban stream programs. The resurgence in restoring water quality in the Black River through a variety of groups and agencies, including Lorain SWCD, brings awareness of the history of degradation & what is being done to restore it with the ultimate goal of delisting the Black River as an Area of Concern. More than 5,000 acres of cropland have been converted into wildlife habitat through the Conservation Reserve Program. The District hit a huge milestone with one million trees sold through the annual Seedling Sale. Karl Schneider retired from NRCS in June of 2011 after serving Lorain County for 26 years but was hired by Lorain SWCD as a part-time Natural Resources Coordinator to assist farmers and landowners with a variety of conservation related issues. Pond design support from the District was halted due to lack of funds.

The 20-teens were a time of uncertainty, as services & staff were at a minimum. Lynne Parsh was hired as Office Manager in 2015, a position to which she still holds today. She has been the only consistent staff since then. However, 2023 saw an increase in permanent staff as Jack Fisher was hired as Stormwater Technician & Patti Donnellan as District Administrator, a role that had not been filled in over a decade. Lorain SWCD became the facilitator for the Black River Area of Concern (AOC) Advisory Committee. Lorain SWCD celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Annual Meeting in September at the Wellington Eagles Club with the Lorain County Farm Bureau. A new logo (that you can see on the front page of this newsletter) was created as a reflection of the beginning of a new era for the District.

In February 2024, Hayden Matus was hired as Conservation Technician to assist local producers with the H2Ohio program & provide assistance to resident calls. As 2024 continues on, Lorain SWCD will be hiring a Drainage Engineer so that the District can help fill gaps in service. We often hear about “the good old days” of this office and it is our hope that years from now, this era will be considered one of the best in its history. We’re proud to be a part of the rich history of Lorain County and we look forward to our next 75 years.



The 2023 Lorain County Plat Book is now available at the Lorain SWCD office, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria.

**\$25.00 each**  
Plus sales tax



### DID YOU KNOW?

Fall is the perfect time to plant trees; however, proper planting is essential for the survival of your new “family member”. If your tree came wrapped in burlap, remember to cut off as much burlap, wire, and rope as possible to allow the roots to expand and stabilize into the soil. The tree pictured on the left has already died within one year due to improper planting.

**Come see us at the 2024 Lorain County Fair!**

Stop by and see our booth located in the Soil & Water Conservation Red Barn #28. August 18-25, 2024

**NEW FACE AT LORAIN SWCD!**



Hayden Matus

Please welcome our newest staff member, Hayden Matus! Hayden joined LC Conservation District as Conservation Technician in February. Prior to joining us he worked for Bettcher Industries for six years. Hayden has had a passion for agriculture his whole life having grown up on his family’s farm. In 2021, his family was chosen as Cooperator of the Year. His father, Bob Matus, owns Matus Winery in Wakeman. Hayden will be assisting producers with H2Ohio, drainage issues and other types of conservation practices. In his spare time, he enjoys working on the family farm and spending time with his girlfriend.

**BLACK RIVER**



You can learn more at [www.blackriveraoc.com](http://www.blackriveraoc.com) or [www.epa.gov/great-lakes-aocs/black-river-aoc](http://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-aocs/black-river-aoc)

**JOEL MCROBERTS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

We would like to extend our congratulations to Jillian Stannard! She is the recipient of the 2024 Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship. Jillian plans to attend The Ohio State ATI in the fall and major in Agronomy & Agribusiness. She has been involved with Wellington FFA and 4-H for many years. Best of luck to you Jillian!



Pictured here: Will Schlechter, Board Chair and Jillian Stannard



Special thanks to Michelle Hung, David Moore and Jeff Riddell, Lorain County Commissioners, for their continued support to Lorain SWCD!

Our office is the Facilitating Organization for the Black River Area of Concern (AOC) Advisory Committee. Back in 1987, the US EPA deemed the Black River (as well as the Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, & Maumee Rivers) as an Area of Concern due to historic pollution. A list of 14 items that designate a river as an AOC was established, called Beneficial Use Impairments. Of the 14, the Black River had nine impairments. Much work has gone into improving & restoring the Black River & we are proud to say that six of the nine have been removed – meaning our “River of Fish Tumors” no longer holds that awful title. The remaining three will likely be removed & the Black River will officially be DELISTED as an Area of Concern within the next two years! We are proud to be a part of this critical point in the history of Lorain County & our local Black River.

# FALL FISH SALE



**Tuesday, September 24, 2024 from 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
at the Agricultural Center, 42110 Russia Rd, Elyria**

The truck from Fender's Fish Hatchery of Baltic, Ohio will be here at 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to distribute orders. Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Redear Shellcracker, Fathead Minnows, Triploid White Amur, and Japanese Koi are available. We will also have pond conditioner - a once-a-year treatment that adds a natural green color, while lowering fertility levels in your pond and fish food.

**On pick-up day, you will need to bring a container filled with your pond water to pick up your order**— approximately 5 gallons of water for each 100 fingerling size fish. We suggest using a trash can with a **new, unscented plastic liner**—then adding the pond water to the container. Ensure there is enough room for the liner to be tied shut for transportation. Remember, the Amur are 8-10" long and need a suitable container.

General stocking recommendations are 100 Largemouth Bass and 500 Bluegill per surface acre of pond area. Channel Catfish can also be stocked in ponds that are a 1/2 acre or larger; though they will not reproduce in a pond, they do provide excellent fishing. A 4-6" long Catfish stocked this fall will double in size by next spring.

If you have pond stocking questions, please contact the experts at Fender's Fish Hatchery at (740) 622-0681.

**FISH SALE ORDER FORM**  
**ALL FISH PRICES ARE LISTED, YOU MUST INCLUDE SALES TAX AT 6.5%.**  
**IF YOU ARE TAX EXEMPT, PLEASE INCLUDE A FULLY**  
**COMPLETED TAX EXEMPT CERTIFICATE WITH YOUR ORDER.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone # (required): \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail and return with checks  
made out to:**

Lorain SWCD  
42110 Russia Rd.  
Elyria, OH 44035

**Order deadline date:**

Wed., September 18, 2024

**Order pick-up date:**

10:00—11:30 a.m., Tuesday,  
September 24, 2024

<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u># Ordered</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
Largemouth Bass	2-3"	\$1.35	_____	_____
Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.05	_____	_____
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.05	_____	_____
Channel Catfish	4-5"	\$0.90	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	2-3"	\$1.10	_____	_____
Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker)	2-4"	\$1.05	_____	_____
Fathead Minnow	per 100	\$9.00	_____	_____
Japanese Koi	6-8"	\$14.00	_____	_____
Triploid White Amur	8-10"	\$16.00	_____	_____
Nature's Pond Conditioner 1 bottle per 1/4 acre		\$95.00	_____	_____
Pond Management Book-2018 Edition/Steve Fender		\$20.00	_____	_____
Optimal Fish food, 40# bag (40% protein) no sales tax		\$51.00	_____	_____

**SUB TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TAX 6.50%** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



# YOU'RE INVITED! Lorain SWCD Annual Meeting:

In cooperation with Lorain County Farm Bureau

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Wellington Eagles

631 South Main Street, Wellington

Supervisor Election: 5:30-6:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**For reservations:** Please return this form to Lorain SWCD, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH 44035 or call the SWCD office at 440-326-5800. The deadline is **Friday, September 6, 2024.**

“ AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER ”



## LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

42110 Russia Road, Elyria OH 44035 Phone: 440-326-5800

[www.lorainswcd.com](http://www.lorainswcd.com)

### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Will Schlechter, Chairman  
Ian Wilkshire, Vice-Chairman  
Roger Nikiforow, Treasurer  
Carl Wesemeyer Secretary  
Peggy Vasu, Member

### ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Lawry Babitt  
John Born  
Dave Manning  
Robert "Bob" Pandy

### DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Patti Donnellan, District Administrator  
Jack Fisher, Stormwater Specialist  
Hayden Matus, Conservation Technician  
Lynne Parsh, Office Manager

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeremy Liechty, District Conservationist  
Annie Wolodzko, Resource Conservationist



### LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Michelle Hung  
David Moore  
Jeff Riddell