

THE CORD REPORT

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of CORD



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CORD

1086 N. 4th St., Suite 105
Columbus, Ohio 43201

CORDOHIO.ORG

Contact Our Staff

Larry Long, Director of Membership
Development: larrylong@cordohio.org

Catina Taylor, Executive Assistant:
catina.taylor@alberslaw.com

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN FLUX AS THE 2ND HALF OF THE SESSION BEGINS

Written by Andrew Huffman
Director of Legislative Affairs
Governmental Policy Group

As of the writing of this article the Ohio Supreme Court has overturned – on two separate occasions – a GOP crafted map for the Ohio General Assembly. The Ohio Supreme Court also overturned the legislature’s proposal to redraw Ohio’s Congressional districts. For the Ohio legislative maps the opinion states that the commission violated Article XI, Section 6 of the Ohio Constitution, which requires an attempt to enact maps that do not favor or disfavor one party and that “correspond closely” to statewide voter preferences over the last decade. The GOP proposal would have created a 57-42 majority in the House of Representatives and a 20-14 advantage in the Senate. On the congressional maps, the opinion found that the proposal violated the partisan gerrymandering prohibitions contained in the Ohio Constitution. The Republican plan would have given their party a 15-3 edge in the U.S. House districts. The Ohio Redistricting Commission is made up of Gov. Mike DeWine, Ohio Auditor Keith Faber, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, Ohio House Speaker Bob Cupp (R-Lima), Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman (R-Lima) -- all Republicans and two Democrats, Ohio House Minority Leader Allison Russo (D-Columbus) and Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron). In addition to proposing maps ruled unconstitutional, the commission also missed a February 17th deadline to offer another proposal for Ohio’s House and Senate districts, creating even more uncertainty. The same panel has until mid-March to offer a new proposal for Ohio’s congressional districts.

Despite the uncertainty over the legislative maps, lawmakers returned to session after a brief winter recess to a robust legislative schedule. CORD has been paying particularly close attention to the activity of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, which has numerous water quality-related bills pending before it. One measure is HB 385, which would propose additional fines for municipal waste systems found illegally discharging waste in Lake Erie’s western basin. The bill was introduced in response to the city of Maumee and its violations tied to dumping excess sewage into the Maumee River. The chairman of the committee, Rep. Kyle Koehler has said he believes the issue can be resolved without legislation, pointing to Maumee’s recent work with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). The committee will also consider HB 464, which would modify the assets management program requirements for public water systems. Also pending in the committee is HB 365, which would require the OEPA to establish maximum contaminant levels in drinking water for certain toxic chemicals such as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



CORD has also been engaging members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee. One bill, SB 15, would protect treasurers and fiscal officers of public entities from lost public funds if they performed their required duties “with reasonable care.” Under the bill, fiscal officers and treasurers would only be liable for funds lost due to negligence or a wrongful act. CORD worked closely with the bill’s sponsor, Senate Steve Wilson, the Ohio Auditor’s Office, the County Treasurers Association of Ohio, and members of the committee on an amendment that would expand the protections to fiscal officers of 6119 regional districts. Fortunately, that amendment was accepted during the bill’s second hearing in the committee.

Also pending before the committee is HB 422, which was introduced to restrict municipalities’ ability to certify delinquent charges and place liens on renter-occupied property. While laws are already in the books to prevent this practice by municipalities, the practice continues. During the bill’s 3rd hearing before the committee, it was amended to specify the information that must be submitted to the county auditor before a lien can be placed on a property and to apply the bill’s provisions to county-run systems as well. The bill also creates an appeals process for billing and lien disputes through the Environmental Review Appeals Commission (ERAC). Fortunately, regional 6119 districts have been excluded from the bill.

The Ohio House Democratic Caucus will have a new leadership team entering the second half of the 134th Ohio General Assembly. The House Democrat caucus has selected Rep. Allison Russo of Columbus as the new minority leader, succeeding Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron), who stepped down at the end of last year. Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) will serve as the new assistant minority leader, replacing Rep. Kristin Boggs (D-Columbus), who is departing that position in advance of a run for the 10th District Court of Appeals. Rounding out the House minority leadership team is Rep. Jessica Miranda (D-Forest Park), who was elected minority whip, and Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester), who was re-elected assistant minority whip. The new minority leadership team was officially sworn in during the House session on January 26th.

While uncertainty over Ohio’s legislative and congressional maps has disrupted the legislative schedule, we do expect both the Ohio House and Senate to be very active in March. The Statehouse will be relatively quiet in April as lawmakers will return to their districts to focus on the primary election on May 3rd. After the primary election, lawmakers will return to session and are expected to meet until the beginning of June before breaking for summer recess.

CORD members are encouraged to communicate concerns on pending legislation and administrative rules which are regularly sent from the CORD office. We are also always looking for experienced officials to testify at hearings in the General Assembly. CORD not only works in response to legislative proposals pending in the Legislature but regularly develops a Legislative Program to address needed changes in state laws to make the work of Districts more streamlined and effective. We hope to hear from you. CORD will continue to advocate on behalf of Ohio’s regional water and sewer districts before Ohio’s elected officials and will keep its members apprised of any developments that will impact their operations.



VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS RESTORED UNTIL JUNE 30

The Governor has signed Sub. H.B. 51 which included an amendment to allow public bodies, including Regional Water and Sewer Districts to again meet virtually until June 30, 2022. The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Brian Lampton, representing the 73rd House District, which includes the western part of Greene County. The bill became effective on February 17 as the bill included an emergency clause. As a reminder, the following provisions apply to virtual meetings:

- Meetings/hearings can be held by teleconference, video conference, or any similar electronic technology, and actions taken has the same effect as if it occurred at an open meeting/hearing. Board members of the District that so attend meetings are considered to present, as if present in person, are permitted to vote, and maybe counted for the purpose of quorum requirements.
- Notification of such meetings/hearings to the public, media who have requested notification, and parties otherwise required to be notified must be provided at least 24 hours before the meeting/hearing. Reasonable methods notification of the time, location, and manner the meeting/hearing will be conducted must be provided, except in the case of an emergency. In emergencies, immediate notice must be given to news media who have requested notification and all parties to the meeting/hearing.
- Public access must be given consistent with the method the meeting/hearing is to be conducted. Examples include live streaming on the internet; local radio, TV, cable, or public access channels; and, call-in information, if by teleconference. The District must ensure that the public can observe and hear the deliberations of all members of the Board.
- At hearings, the District must establish a method to converse with witnesses or to receive documentary testimony and physical evidence.

FISCAL OFFICER LIABILITY OF REGIONAL DISTRICTS

Recent legislation designed to limit the liability of fiscal officers for the loss of public funds has been amended to include the “fiscal officer, treasurer, compliance officer or another officer of designee” of a Regional Water and Sewer District. S.B. 15, sponsored by Senator Steve Wilson (R-SD-7, Warren and parts of Butler and Hamilton Counties) originally only included county and municipal auditors and treasurers, township fiscal officers, and fiscal officers of certain public libraries and community colleges. At the request of CORD, an amendment was added in the House to include regional water and sewer districts.

In written testimony to the House State and Local Government Committee, CORD Executive Committee Member John Albers explained that the proposed amendment “will extend the negligence standard created in the bill to fiscal officers of regional water and sewer districts.” Albers stressed that the bill “ensures that public fiscal officers are protected when their official duties are performed with reasonable care. Such officials would still be help responsible if the loss of public funding is the result of the officer’s negligence or other wrongful acts.”

The amendment enacts ORC Section 6119.61. The bill as of press time is still in the House State and Local Government Committee. CORD is encouraged that the bill will be favorably reported and will be enacted into law. The bill will become effective 90 days after action by the Governor. Watch CORD alerts on the status of this bill and be sure to share it with your legal counsel.

HENRY BIGGERT RETIRES AFTER 26 YEARS WITH CARROLL WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

**Written by Larry Long
Director of Membership
Development**



When Henry Biggert walked out the door of the Carroll Water and Sewer District last year on December 1, it would be as his last exit as the Superintendent of the Carroll Water and Sewer District. After 26 years at the district, it was time to slow down and begin a new chapter in retirement. As Henry and his wife Jodi, a Registered Nurse with ProMedica in Toledo working in Home Health and Hospice care, figure out exactly how to write this new chapter, he can look back fondly with pride at his career in environmental management. One thing is sure: Henry will continue to serve on the CORD Board as he has since CORD was organized in 2005, continuing his service to 6119 Districts in Ohio.

Henry is a 1978 graduate of Oak Harbor High School in the Benton-Carroll-Salem Local School District. Oak Harbor, located in Ottawa County, is approximately 25 miles east of Toledo and 10 miles west of Port Clinton, the county seat. Carroll Township has been home for Henry since birth when he got the nickname "Coke" as a toddler when trying to pronounce his father's name Clifford. Henry's Dad, now in his 90's, was a commercial fisherman while that occupation was still viable and managed a corporate hunting lodge for sportsmen and duck hunters, where his mother, Janis cooked for the lodge's guests. Henry and Jodi have three children. Kylie (Trent) Nissen has followed in her dad's footsteps in environmental management.



She graduated from The Ohio State University and then completed a master's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Maryland. She now works for the Ottawa County Soil and Water Conservation District. Kylie and Trent welcomed their son Charlie in January. Another Daughter, Taylor (Tom) Siloy, a graduate from The University of Toledo, has a degree in Early Childhood Education as well as a Master's in Education Technology and is back home teaching first grade students in the Benton-Carroll-Salem Local School District located in Oak Harbor. Taylor and Tom have a one-year old son Crew Henry. Son Clifford, named after his grandfather, has a degree in Marketing and Sales from the University of Toledo and is employed by Plaskolite, as an Account Manager, located in Columbus. Yes, Biggert's roots run deep in Carroll Township. Henry himself was one of the reoriginal Board of Directors of the Carroll Water and Sewer District.

Carroll Township is a full-service township providing police as well as fire and EMS services to its 2,000 residents, in addition to maintaining township roads. The township also maintains three cemeteries. So, it was no surprise when in 1991 the township trustees petitioned the court to establish the Carroll Water & Sewer District pursuant to ORC Chapter 6119. The district first provided water to residents in 1998.

Carroll Township's 2,000 residents all live in the unincorporated area, as there are no cities or villages in the township's 36 square miles. All of the northern boundary of Carroll Township is Lake Erie shoreline and may be best known as the home of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. Davis-Besse was constructed originally as a joint project of Toledo Edison and the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company during the 1970's, coming on-line in 1977. Carroll Township is also home the Ohio Department of Natural Resources 2200 acre Magee Marsh Wildlife Area which has historically been inhabited by large numbers of waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds and songbirds.

And just up the road in Benton Township is the 6,500-acre Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge operated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A haven for birdwatchers, especially in the spring, up to 38 species of warblers have been sighted in the area. Visitors often marvel at the growing population of bald eagles, and the Refuge protects habitat for other migratory waterfowl and songbirds like the dunlin.

Henry knows the story of Davis-Besse in Carroll Township well; he was a Master Chemistry Technician at the Power Station from 1983 until November of 1995 when he took over the reins at the Carroll Water & Sewer District. While at Davis-Besse Henry also was a union steward for Local 245 of the Electrical Workers. After graduating as an Oak Harbor "Rocket", Henry completed a four-year stint with Brush Wellman, an early pioneer in beryllium production in Elmore, a village in western Ottawa and northern Sandusky County. While working at "Brush" Henry completed the U. S. Air Force Environmental Specialist Course, graduating with honors in 1981. With this course under his belt, in 1982, Henry landed his first environmental job with the city of Bowling Green in its water pollution control department where he collected samples and performed water quality analyses. Prior to joining Toledo Edison at Davis-Besse, Henry, in 1983, graduated from the University of Toledo Community and Technical College's Environmental Technology Water Quality Control program. He was on the Dean's list twice and on the National Deans list the year he graduated.

The Carroll Water and Sewer District is governed by a three-member board appointed by the Carroll Township Trustees. The district has close to 1,400 customers, 126 miles of water line over 26 square miles of territory, and on average pumps around 350,000 gallons of water per day. Davis-Besse, its largest customer, uses approximately one-third of the supply. The district receives its drinking water from an intake in Lake Erie, which is located 1100 feet off the shore of Locust Point. An auxiliary or backup water source is installed at Turtle Creek Marina. In addition, the district's distribution system is interconnected with Ottawa County's, if needed. Four full-time employees operate the district, three of which hold Class III Water Treatment licenses, one has a Class I Water Treatment license, one has a Backflow Prevention Certificate, and two also have Wastewater Operator I or II licenses. The water treatment facility utilizes conventional treatment techniques including coagulation, filtration, and disinfection practices. The facility's finished water storage includes 640,000 gallons of treated water and a 500,000-gallon elevated water storage tank in the distribution system.

The Carroll District is unique for a couple of reasons. The Carroll District is one of the few to pass a voter-approved bond issue. The voters approved the \$14 Million issue along with a 3.2 mill property tax levy to fund the system. Few districts have used this approach, and some may not know that the authority exists for Regional Water and Sewer Districts. Another article in the next issue of this newsletter will discuss this in greater detail. The Carroll District also is known as probably the first system that was forced to close for a brief period because of problems from a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) in the fall of 2013, even though the closure in Toledo is better known.

On September 4, 2013, Henry got the first clue that he could have a public health problem. An analysis of water samples taken from Lake Erie showed that levels of a toxin produced by the microcystis algae had spiked. It was unlike anything he and his staff had seen during the preceding five years when the Carroll District was voluntarily testing for the toxin. The protocol was followed and the water was retested the next morning. Around 3 pm that day the results were back, and they were alarming. Levels of the toxin in Carroll Township's treated drinking water were 3.8 parts per billion—nearly four times the safety limit recommended by the World Health Organization—there were no Ohio EPA standards at this time.

By 5 pm Henry decided to shut down the treatment system and simultaneously alerted the users not to drink the water. If they did, they might get extremely sick—become nauseous, vomit, and suffer liver damage. According to Henry, "I had major concerns with [the decision], but I really didn't feel I had a choice." While there was no evidence the contaminated water had left the treatment plant, Henry "couldn't live with the idea that it may be in our distribution system," while he proceeded to purge the system. Henry and his staff rushed to get the word out to area residents, notifying TV stations in Toledo as well as local newspapers and radio stations. They activated Ottawa County's reverse emergency system, calling all the households that signed up to be warned of public dangers.

County employees opened an emergency connection with the Ottawa County Regional Water Plant, which began pumping safe water to residents that evening. Biggert and his staff stayed at the Carroll water plant until midnight, flushing the system, and returned at 4 a.m. the next day to test for the toxin. "We didn't really know what we were dealing with," Biggert said. "We wanted to be very safe and conservative."

So, as Henry adjusts to retirement, Adam Lohman has been appointed as the district's new Superintendent. Another article in this edition of the newsletter introduces you to Adam. Meanwhile, CORD looks forward to collaborating with Henry as he eases into retirement.

CUSTOMER CARE

Written by Theresa Pollick
Public Information Director
Northwestern Water and Sewer District

Keeping customers in the know about their water and sewer emergencies, usage, and rates can be a challenge, but there are many ways districts can keep people informed using technology that can help reach people.

Emergency Notification Systems

Whether it's a small-scale service outage due to construction, or a larger outage due to a catastrophic weather event, it is our duty as providers to keep customers informed of water or sewer outages or other issues. Public water systems are required to notify customers during service outages and boil notices. While door tagging is effective, sometimes in large outages, it's not realistic. Media notification is helpful, but not everyone watches the nightly news or reads the paper. Adding an Emergency Notification System (ENS) lets you reach your customers on their phones. ENS is software that provides a simple interface used to send messages voice, email, text, and social media, messages to any size audience, on any device, over any communication channel, all over the world. "We recently partnered with our local county EMA agency, who managed to team up with local municipalities, townships, and county organizations. The result was a partnership that benefited many communities and was a large cost saving to all organizations," said Northwestern Water and Sewer District President Jerry Greiner. Some notification systems can also be programmed to contact customers of non-emergency issues, such as notifying customers of a service shut-off due to non-payment.

Water Use Notifications

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is an integrated system of smart meters, communications networks, and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and customers. For water utilities, benefits include remote meter reading and leak detection. The benefits for customers include the ability to monitor their daily water use, which can allow them to detect possible leaks, control expenses, and receive alerts. The Northwestern Water and Sewer District uses a program called AquaHawk Alerting! As part of their AMI. According to The District's Customer Service Manager, Beth Vannett, "Many of our customers have benefited from signing up. It's a great tool for us, especially if a customer has a high bill and we can visually show them graphs of their usage and explain the problem." The District's customer service staff can also alert our customers of major water use that may be caused by a leak.



WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO LOW INCOME OHIOANS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30

Ohio Department of Development



Department of
Development



The Ohio Household Water Assistance Program is available to low-income Ohioans to help with water and sewer bills. The program provides emergency assistance to low-income households who pay a high portion of their income for water and wastewater services. The program provides a once-yearly benefit of up to \$650.

Ohioans who are at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines based on the size of family and are disconnected, have a disconnection notice, need to establish a new service, or need to pay to transfer service are eligible for the program. A household is also eligible for assistance if they receive assistance from the Home Energy Assistance Program, Percentage of Income Payment Program, Means-tested Veterans Programs, SSI, SNAP, or TANF benefits.

Ohioans can visit energyhelp.ohio.gov to start their online application, download a copy of the application or find contact information for a local Energy Assistance Provider. Applicants will need to contact their local Energy Assistance Provider, often a local community action agency, to complete their application. Also known as the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program, program funding was made available through the Consolidated Appropriations Act and the American Rescue Plan Act. The program is administered through the Ohio Department of Development and runs through September 30, 2022.

Additional information can be found on the program website at Development.ohio.gov/WaterHelp.

\$23.8 MILLION IN OHIO BUILDS GRANTS AWARDED TO REGIONAL DISTRICTS FOR 16 PROJECTS

Ohio has now completed three rounds of funding for the Ohio BUILDS Water Infrastructure Program. The \$250 Million program was enacted as a part of H. B. 168, sponsored by State Representatives Mark Fraizer (R-Newark) and Mike Loychik (R-Bazetta), with funding that was appropriated through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The Ohio BUILDS Water Infrastructure Grant Program was developed to reduce or eliminate the local financial burden associated with critical infrastructure needs including the construction of new water systems, the replacement of aging water lines, and the installation new water mains. Grants will also fund projects to prevent sewer system backups and replace failing household sewage treatment systems with new sewers.

The Ohio Department of Development, with support from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, administered the program and County Engineers participated in submitting a prioritized list of projects for Development's consideration. The following table lists awards made directly to Regional Districts. In other cases, Regional Districts may have assisted other communities in the application or project administration.



Name of District	County	Amount (\$)	Type of Award
Buckeye Water District	Columbiana	250,000	Water
Burr Oak Regional Water District	Morgan	1,900,000	Water
Burr Oak Regional Water District	Athens	4,910,000	Water
Le-Ax Water District	Athens	345,000	Water
Lorain County Rural Wastewater District	Lorain	2,600,000	Sewer
Morgan-Meigsville Rural Water District	Morgan	70,000	Water
Northwest Regional Water District	Adams	55,360	Water
Northwestern Water & Sewer District	Wood	2,095,000	Water
Northwestern Water & Sewer District	Wood	462,916	Sewer
Ohio & Lee Water and Sewer Authority	Monroe	3,200,000	Sewer
Ridgeville Township Sewer & Water District	Henry	293,620	Water
Scioto County Regional Water District #1 (Water!)	Scioto	1,020,000	Water
Southwest Licking Community Water & Sewer District	Licking	4,100,000	Sewer
Swanacreek Water District	Fulton	1,000,000	Water
Syracuse Racine Regional Sewer District	Meigs	1,400,000	Sewer
Tuppers Plains-Chester Water District	Athens	90,000	Water

KNOWING THE CORD BOARD: MEET ERIC LUCKAGE

Chief Legal Officer, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District

As the Chief Legal Officer of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District in Cleveland, Mr. Luckage manages the District's in-house legal team and the engagement of outside special counsel. He joined the District in April 2016 after 25 years of federal, state, and local government experience. He spent 16 years with a private law firm representing local governments with water, sewer, and stormwater legal issues. Eric engaged in the formation or representation of dozens of regional districts in Ohio, and also assisted municipalities, counties, and townships. He has been on the Board of the Coalition of Ohio Regional Districts since its formation, and frequently provides testimony on legislation affecting regional districts.



Eric attended The Ohio State University for his undergraduate studies graduating in 1992 with a degree in Political Science and History. He then received his law degree from Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio in 1997. While attending law school in the evenings, Eric worked as a Legislative Aide in the Ohio Senate. His experience also includes five years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development office, one of the major funding agencies for rural water and sewer projects.

SOME OTHER THINGS ABOUT ERIC . . . FOR THE FUN OF IT!!

Biggest Challenge in your job: Balancing multiple diverse issues at the same time, many of which have time sensitivity.

The greatest satisfaction in your job: Helping our staff of over 750 people improve water quality in Northeast Ohio and Lake Erie on behalf of 1 million customers.

Biggest pet peeve: Being interrupted (close second is not using paragraph justification in Work documents).

Something about me you would be surprised to know: I really enjoy trees and have a few cool bonsai trees!

If you could have dinner with one person (living or dead) who would it be?: My Dad.

If you were elected Governor what new law would you pass?: Election Day as a recognized holiday.

Your favorite movie: Excalibur.

Your favorite vocalist, music group, or type of music: Bruce Springsteen (close second is Tony Bennett).

Your favorite football teams: College: The Ohio State University Professional: Um, I can't say.

Your favorite book: Don Quixote.

The last book you read: History of the Templar Knights.

Your favorite vacation spot: Puerto Rico.

Hobbies: Working.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

Spending time with my family.

CHECK OUT THE NEXT EDITION FOR MORE DIRECTOR FEATURES!





KNOWING THE CORD BOARD: MEET SCOTT SANDS, P.E.,

Principal, Sands Decker Engineers & Surveyors

Meet Scott...Principal and Professional Engineer at Sands Decker, with its main office in Upper Arlington and two additional offices in Logan and Zanesville. Mr. Sands has over 35 years' experience in the consulting engineering field. Early in his career, Scott gained valuable on-site experience by serving in the capacity of Field Technician and Survey Crew member. From there, he transitioned to Draftsman and Design Technician, then to Project Engineer and Production Manager. Following that, he held the positions of Project Manager, Client Representative, and Chief Engineer. Scott has professional affiliations with Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) where he was past chapter president and past state president, as well as the Engineer's

Foundation of Ohio where he was past president, secretary, and treasurer, and has served on the CORD Board since 2010.

Scott formed Sands Decker Ltd. with partner Glenn E. Decker, P.E. in 1998. In 2007, in order to provide a greater resource to clients, Mark Cameron merged his firm (CPS Consulting Group, LLC) with Sands Decker Ltd., which became Sands Decker CPS, LLC. Today, the firm is known as Sands Decker and still maintains a small firm hands-on approach.

Sands Decker provides a broad array of services for projects involving water treatment, storage, and distribution; wastewater collection and treatment; stormwater management; land development; air quality permitting, commercial and industrial site development; single-family and multi-family residential development; primary and secondary school sites; road design and reconstruction; contract administration; and, traffic engineering. The firm also provides boundary, topographic, utility, and construction surveying services.

Scott likes to build things...beginning with the initial idea, to the conceptual stage, then to a fully thought-out plan, and finally through construction to a finished project. This explains why he excels at his job as a professional engineer. It's also worth mentioning that Scott has restored two old tractors: a 1943 Farmall H tractor that his grandfather bought a brand new in Newark and a 1952 Ford 8N that was his father's.

Scott hails from a family of six kids raised on a 300-acre beef cattle farm in northeast Licking County, Ohio. He graduated from River View High School in Coshocton County and is a college graduate from The Ohio State University, BS Engineering, 1986. The farm was purchased by his grandfather in 1906 and Scott still actively farms it with his brother Jim who acts as the farm manager.

Scott has been married to Miranda for over 22 years and has lived in Hilliard since 1992. He and Miranda have two sons Jake and Nick who attended Hilliard Davidson High School. Jake has a degree in construction management from Bowling Green State University and Nick is enrolled at the University of Cincinnati for electrical engineering. The "real" children are the family's two dogs Jedd and Ella (a Pit-Lab mix and Chihuahua/Dachshund mix). In his free time, Scott hones his skills at sporting clay shooting and golf. He enjoys both activities and says his sporting clay shooting skills are mediocre but improving!



Continued from page 11

SOME OTHER THINGS ABOUT SCOTT... FOR THE FUN OF IT!!

Biggest Challenge in your job: Right now, the biggest challenge is to obtain enough qualified engineers and surveyors, design technicians, and other staff.

The greatest satisfaction in your job: Listening, and then working with clients to solve problems.

Biggest pet peeve: The ever-increasing trend by society that expects the government to take care of them, while handing-out free money.

Something about me you would be surprised to know: I am a farm boy at heart. I grew up on a family farm in Licking County and we still operate the farm today. The farm has been in the family since 1906.

If you could have dinner with one person (living or dead) who would it be?: Wayne Woodrow Hayes.

Your favorite movie: It has to be well written; while it's hard to pick just one, Grand Torino with Clint Eastwood comes to mind. It was so well written, and the cast was outstanding.

Your favorite vocalist, music group, or type of music: Cody Johnson is my current favorite, but lately I've been listening to Morgan Wallen and have found him to be extremely talented.

Your favorite football teams: College: Ohio State Professional: None

Your favorite book: Most books by Michael Crichton.

Your favorite vacation spot: Not one to visit the same place repetitively; like to explore places we haven't been, so planning a trip to Yellowstone National Park for this Summer.

Hobbies: I like to golf and play in a league once a week. On the weekends, we spend a lot of time on the family farm; I can usually be found on a tractor or on our Zero-turn mower with the world tuned out.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not working? Driving and tinkering with sports cars; having recently sold our Porsche we are looking for the right Mustang GT premium package to purchase.



LOHMAN TAKES OVER THE REINS AT CARROLL WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Superintendent, Carroll Water & Sewer District

With the retirement of Henry Biggert last December, the Board of the Carroll Water and Sewer District in Ottawa County has appointed Adam Lohman as the District's new Superintendent. Adam grew up in Fulton County and is a 2002 graduate of Delta High School. Adam's parents, Gary and Diane, and brother, Jeremy, who is married and has two children, still live in Delta.

While still in high school, Adam worked during four summers in the Village Parks Department and after high school attended Owens Community College. In the fall of 2004, Adam took a position in the Delta Public Utilities Department, took the OTCO water operator class, and started his career in water and wastewater management.

During his three years at Delta, he met his wife to be, Lindsay, who lived in Oak Harbor. They were married in 2009 and are the proud parents of Payne, 12, and Carter, 8.



When a water operator position became available with the Ottawa County Sanitary Engineer in Port Clinton, Adam was selected for the position. After two years of working at the water plant, he transferred to a water and wastewater maintenance position where he remained for five years. While employed by Ottawa County he received his Class 3 water treatment license and his Class 2 wastewater treatment license. Then in 2014 he was selected to fill a Utility Technician/Water Operator position with the Carroll District. Please join in helping us welcome Adam to the CORD family!



BITS AND PIECES FROM CORD



Things you may have missed and may want to know
Written by Larry Long, Director of Membership and Development

Nutrient Management Plans Due March 31

Under Ohio's H2Ohio program voluntary nutrient management plans (VNMP) must be submitted to the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) by March 31 to apply for the next phase of incentives. This applies to producers in the 10-county expansion area, which includes Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Shelby, and Wyandot counties. Last fall approximately 800 producers enrolled over 600,000 acres of cropland in the program, representing more than 38% of the cropland in the 10-county area. [JA1]

Track Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB's) on the Web

The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) has launched a new website to track the region's progress on reducing harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie and stopping aquatic invasive species. The new site, www.blueaccounting.org, tracks efforts under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to reduce the runoff of phosphorus from priority watersheds to Lake Erie, as well as programs and policies that stop species introduction.

Regional Watershed Managers on Board

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) now employs seven regional watershed coordinators as required by H.B. 7 of the 133rd General Assembly which became effective last April. The coordinators perform certain duties in the watershed, including aiding each Soil and Water Conservation District to identify sources and areas of water quality impairment. Each of the Watershed Managers and the area they serve are shown below.

Region Number	Watershed Manager	Email Address
1	Boden Fisher	boden.fishereagri.ohio.gov
2	John Timmons	john.timmonseagri.ohio.gov
3	Benjamin Eaton	benjamin.eatoneagri.ohio.gov
4	Chris Pancake	christopher.pancakeagri.ohio.gov
5	Erica White	erica.whiteagri.ohio.gov
6	Josh Emanuelson	joshua.emaluelsoneagri.ohio.gov
7	Levi Arnold	levi.arnoldeagri.ohio.gov



Workers' Compensation Premiums Cut 10%

The Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) announced a 10% cut in premiums for public employers beginning January 1. This will save public employers \$17 million. BWC has lowered rates for public employers 13 times since 2009; 11 times for private employers since 2008.



State Minimum Wages Increase January 1

Ohio's Minimum Wage rose to \$9.30 per hour for non-tipped employees and \$4.65 per hour for tipped employees. Employees under 16 years old, and any employees who work for companies grossing under \$314,000 per year, maybe paid \$7.25 per hour (the Federal Minimum Wage) instead of the higher Ohio Minimum Wage. Employers electing to use the tip credit provision must be able to show that tipped employees receive at least the minimum wage when direct or cash wages and the tip credit amount are combined. The increase is because of a 2006 state constitutional amendment providing for annual increases based on the increased Consumer Price index.

IRS Mileage Rates for 2022

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently issued the 2022 standard mileage rates for business, charitable, medical, or moving purposes. The rate for business use is 58.5 cents per mile, an increase of 2.5 cents from the 2021 rate. Other rates include 18 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes and 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.



STAR Investment Pool Receives Highest Rating

The State Treasury Asset Reserve (STAR) of Ohio has once again received Standard & Poor's (S&P) highest rating of AAAM, according to Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague. STAR Ohio is an investment pool that allows government subdivisions to invest in high-grade, short-term securities while offering safety, penalty-free liquidity, and comparatively higher yields. More than 1,700 local governments currently take part in the program, and there are nearly 2,800 accounts across the state.

U.S. Supreme Court Decisions—Driven by Politics?

A significant majority of Americans -- regardless of political affiliation -- believe the U.S. Supreme Court's decisions are primarily driven by politics and not legal reasoning, according to a national poll from Quinnipiac University. Sixty-one percent of the poll's respondents said the U.S. Supreme Court is mainly motivated by politics, while 32% said it's mainly motivated by the law. Democrats said 67% to 27%, Independents 62% to 31%, and Republicans 56% to 39% that the U.S. Supreme Court is mainly motivated by politics.