



# The Clermont Conservation Quarterly

Autumn 2022



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joe Glassmeyer  
David Anspach  
Connie O'Connor  
Tim Rose  
Todd Winemiller

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Christina Gates  
Brittany Feichtner

## DISTRICT STAFF

John McManus  
Connie Miller  
Becky McClatchey  
Jacob Hahn  
Kat Zelak  
Camron Smyczek

### **Its raining- Who do I call?**

In Ohio there is not a specific agency that oversees and manages all of the water resources in Ohio. Water is typically abundant and often times taken for granted. The laws and managing agencies can be very confusing and oftentimes non-existent because drainage laws are often left as civil issues to be decided by the courts.

Here are some of the most common calls we handle in our office.

#### **Drainage**

Our staff assists landowners with advice on their water issues. This includes excess standing water, stream bank erosion, and improving water flow through the property. Any building permits, questions or complaints should be directed first to our county building department. Our office can help with solutions to problems that landowners are willing to fix on their own or with their neighbors. Our office is not regulatory.

#### **Agriculture**

Our office works closely with federal and state programs to help agriculture operations address environmental concerns including cropland drainage, farm lot water management, stream protection, among other projects and programs.

#### **Ponds**

We provide educational services to help maintain existing ponds and storm water basins, as well as

guidance in placement of new ponds.

#### **Storm Water**

Storm structures throughout the county are maintained by many different agencies and private landowners. Typically the municipality who owns the road, maintains the right-of way (ROW) structures (not including driveway culverts). Those structures outside the ROW and on private property are mostly the responsibility of individual landowners or home owner associations. If you have a problem on your street, call your township or municipality for service. Our office maintains the GIS maps for the public storm water structures.

Our office **does not** address the following water issues you may have.

- Public water pipes and leaks- call your local provider on water bill.
- Landowner dispute resolutions, however, we can provide guidance and recommendations.
- Water testing for cisterns and ponds. If for home drinking water contact the General Health District.





## Supervisor Candidates

1 Board Positions to be Filled



**Connie O'Connor**, an SWCD Board Supervisor for three years, is Director of Education for the Cincinnati Nature Center, where she has worked for the past 27 years. Some of her more recent projects include leading Clermont County's Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist program through Ohio State University, leading a new teen conservation program, and designing new ways to plan and assess nature center programs. Earlier in her career she wrote the business plan for the Nature Center's Nature Preschool and was integral in the creation of its Nature PlayScape.

Connie is a strong believer in the power of collaborations, and she co-leads the "Leave No Child Inside Collaboration of Greater Cincinnati" which was created 14 years ago to "increase access to nature for all children where they live, learn, and play". She is a member of the Green Umbrella "Meet Me Outdoors" Committee, the Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators group, and she leads the Southern Ohio Conservation Collaborative's education group.

Connie received her bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Macalester College in St Paul and her masters in natural resources from University of Wisconsin. She is a Certified Interpretive Planner with the National Association for Interpretation.

Connie has lived in Clermont County for 23 years and enjoys her home in Batavia near the Clermont County airport, where she and her husband hangar their gyroplane (Connie holds a sport pilot certificate). She and her husband Tim enjoy flying, motorcycling, camping, lindy hop dancing, and spending time with their pets and volunteering at the League for Animal Welfare. Connie is seeking her second term on the Board.



**Lacy Walker** is a classroom teacher who enjoys teaching middle school math and science. She is going into her 8th year of teaching, with the last 4 years being spent at West Clermont Middle School. She has been the math leader and science leader at both buildings she has worked in. She first worked at a school where the focus was environmental science. She helped to develop outdoor classrooms, a garden, greenhouse, and an outdoor playscape. She was an advocate for what these should look like and how they could be utilized to best help students learn about nature in our different content areas Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Most recently, Lacy has worked with students, teachers, and partners to find ways for our students to do different projects to benefit our community. This past year, her students helped the community with a litter clean-up initiative, started a community garden to provide produce for the school's food pantry, and initiated a food waste reduction program by doing their first food waste audit.

Lacy is an active part of her church, volunteers at the Clermont County Shelter, and does some additional work with Nest, a non-profit in Owensville and Loveland that provides food and tutoring to our most at risk children. Nest turns older RVs and small buses into mobile classrooms and takes them to low income neighborhoods where they provide students with snacks, lunch, tutoring, while building relationships with all the students.

Lacy received Bachelor of Science degrees in 2010 from Cincinnati Christian University in Psychology and Biblical Studies. She then received her Master of Education degree from Xavier University in 2015. Lacy continues to go back to school because of her love and passion for learning and growing as a teacher, a community member, and a leader.

Lacy lives in Milford with her husband, Tim, and their two goldendoodles. Lacy has lived in Clermont County for the past four years and has truly enjoyed her time here. Tim and Lacy enjoy walking their dogs at the local parks, gardening, volunteering with Clermont County Shelter and playing volleyball.



## Board of Supervisors Election Procedures

County residents and property owners attending our annual meeting this year will find the voting procedures for SWCD Supervisors to be very similar to voting in the general election. Upon arrival at the annual meeting, attendees will be directed to the election registration table where election officials will have them sign their name in the registry. Voters will then be given a ballot and directed to a voting booth where they will mark their ballot and deposit it in the ballot box. Meeting attendance is not required to vote.

If unable to attend the annual meeting & banquet, county residents and landowners may request an absentee ballot by sending an email to [cmiller@clermontcountyohio.gov](mailto:cmiller@clermontcountyohio.gov), by calling (513) 732-7075 ext. 2., or by mailing a request to Clermont SWCD at P.O. Box 549, Owensville, OH 45160. There are special requirements for non-resident landowners and corporations. A notarized affidavit must be presented or on file prior to absentee ballot request. For more election and affidavit information call us at 513-732-7075. Absentee ballots must be received in the District Office by 4:00 p.m. on September 14, 2022.

### Calendar

Holiday (Office Closed)	Sep. 5
Monthly Board Meeting	Sep. 14 8am
Annual Meeting	Sep. 15 5pm
HUB-toberfest*	Sep. 18 11am-2pm
Pond Clinic	Sep. 20 5:30 pm
Great Outdoor Weekend	Sep. 24 9:30am
Holiday (Office Closed)	Oct. 10
Monthly Board Meeting	Oct. 12 8am
Make a Difference Day**	Oct. 22
Monthly Board Meeting	Nov. 9 8am

\* For more information visit <https://www.cincinnati-cyclingandreusehub.org>

\*\* For more information visit <https://www.clermont-parks.org/>

*If your address is incorrect or you would like to be added / removed from our mailing list, please contact us at (513) 732-7075.*

## FALL POND CLINIC



We will be holding a pond clinic at Pattison Park just outside Owensville on September 20th at 5:30 pm. This is the first event in a few years. We will be returning to our normal April event in 2023. This year's event will meet at the shelter house and you will be rotating to speakers in small groups around the pond. Please bring your own chairs if you like. Topics to include: Ponds 101, Aeration, Pond weed control, and a naturalist talk. Discussions will be based on questions you bring. If inclement weather is predicted, we will be indoors at lodge across from shelter house. Parking will be on both sides of US 50. Jones Fish Hatchery and Clermont County Parks will also be presenting.

Clermont Co. Park District- Pattison Park  
2228 US Highway 50, Batavia OH

There is no cost, but registration is recommended for event setup. To register or additional information call Connie Miller at (513) 732-7075 ext 2.

## Annual Banquet Slated for Thursday, September 15

Join the Clermont Soil & Water Conservation District as it celebrates its 79th year of conservation activities in the county. This year, the District's Annual Banquet is being held at Shor Park at 4659 Tealtown Road, beginning at 5 p.m. Prior to the meeting, District staff will give a tour of a project that eliminated a concrete storm sewer and replaced it with a natural stream channel and pocket wetlands. Dinner will be provided by 32Q from Batavia. At the meeting, one member of the Board of Supervisors will be elected to serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2023. The two candidates for Supervisor are Connie O'Connor and Lacy Walker. Beginning August 17, county residents and landowners can vote in person at the District office in the County Fairgrounds, request an absentee ballot by contacting Connie Miller by email, phone or mail, or in person during the annual meeting. For more information on the election and supervisor candidates, visit [www.clermontswcd.org](http://www.clermontswcd.org). Tickets (\$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under) must be purchased in advance by Monday, September 12. There is no cost to attend the meeting or to vote in the supervisor election.

All NRCS / SWCD programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.

Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District  
P.O. Box 549  
1000 Locust Street, Owensville, Ohio 45160  
Phone: 513-732-7075  
www.clermontswcd.org  
<http://www.facebook.com/clermontswcd>  
<http://www.twitter.com/clermontswcd>

<<First>> <<Last>>  
<<Address>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>



## Annual Meeting 2022

**Shor Park**  
Thursday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> from  
5:00 to 8:00 PM.

## Camron Smyczek Joins Clermont SWCD As Agriculture Specialist

I am Camron Smyczek, and I am the new Agricultural Specialist for the Clermont County Soil and Water Conservation District. I am currently in my last semester at Wilmington College studying Agronomy with a concentration in Soil Science and plan to join the team full time at the first of the year following graduation. The aspect that excites me most about this position is that I will be able to work with newer and smaller farmers that may not know the opportunities out there for them through the SWCD and use those opportunities to maximize the success of their operation. I am very excited to be a part of the district and am eager to work with the agricultural community of Clermont County.

