

ALL OHIO CHAPTER NEWS

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2004

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FARM BILL PROGRAMS RECEIVE FULL FUNDING FOR 2004

By Sean Browning, Editor

In late January 2004, the Senate passed the 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (H. Rpt. 108-401). The bill (which is expected to be signed by the President) will provide the allocation of almost \$1.5 billion for NRCS conservation programs in fiscal year 2004 (FY04).

The bill provided an increase of \$280 million (from FY03) for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) saw a decrease of ap-

proximately 56,000 acres. The bill also provided \$41 million for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) in FY04 and restored full funding (nearly \$8 billion) to the Conservation Security Program beginning in fiscal year 2005.

The allocation of funds means that NRCS state offices can start the process of program enrollment and contract development. Ohio NRCS will receive approximately \$18.5 million for conserva-

tion program financial assistance in FY04.

PROGRAM	FY 2004 Omnibus
Conservation Operations	\$ 853,004,000
AMA	\$ 14,000,000
CSP	\$ 41,443,000
EQIP	\$ 975,000,000
FRPP	\$ 112,044,000
GRP	No Restrictions
GSWC	\$ 51,000,000
RC&D	\$ 51,947,000
WHIP	\$ 42,000,000
WRP	189,144 Ac.
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	\$ 87,000,000
Watershed Rehabilitation	\$ 29,805,000
Watershed Surveys and Planning	\$ 10,562,000

Source: NRCS Legislative Summary - January 26, 2004
(www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/legislative)

1 - The Omnibus Bill did not limit funding on GRP. The President's FY 2004 Budget requested \$85 million.

DECISION 2004-2005

The election results have been counted for the 2004-05 Candidates for Officers and Members of the AOC Executive Council.

Dennis Deweese won this year's President-Elect. Steve Hall will serve as Secretary and Robert McCall as Treasurer. Duane Wood won the race for Member-at-Large.

Congratulations to this year's winners on behalf of the AOC Executive Council and our membership. The AOC thanks you in advance for your service and looks forward to leadership you will provide. These new Officers will be sworn in at the 2004 winter meeting.

VOTE'S UP

Thanks to all members who made the time to vote. Voting totals continue to improve. This year approximately 42 percent of all members voted. The total number of ballots received was 76; an increase from the 69 received in 2002. Previous counts include 45 in 1998, 49 in 1999, and 41 in 2001. Voting is the most fundamental form of chapter participation. Please vote.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

2004 Ohio Conservation Partnership Conference - March 3 & 4, 2004 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Columbus, Ohio

AOC-SWCS Annual Business Meeting - March 3, 2004 from 4:30 to 5:15 pm at the Adams Mark Hotel in Columbus, Ohio

Ohio Water Quality and Waste Management Conference - February 5 & 6, 2004 at the Holiday Inn on Lane Avenue in Columbus, Ohio

2004 SWCS International Conference - July 24-28, 2004 at the Radison Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota

ALL OHIO CHAPTER OFFICERS

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PAST

PRESIDENT

Lloyd Owens

PRESIDENT

ELECT

Mark Wilson

SECRETARY

Brent Sohngen

TREASURER

Jim Bennett

MEMBERS AT

LARGE

Dave Libben

Doug Zehner

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR

Sean Browning

MEETINGS

Executive Council meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of the month (June 2003 – Feb. 2004)

VISIT US ON THE WEB!

[Http://www.ohiochapterswcs.org](http://www.ohiochapterswcs.org)

ALL OHIO CHAPTER NEWS

is published quarterly for AOC SWCS members. Submissions can be made to Sean Browning at sean.browning@oh.usda.gov.

OHIO NRCS - FY04 ALLOCATIONS

By Sean Browning, Editor

Ohio NRCS has just received approximately \$18.5 million for conservation program financial assistance in fiscal year 2004. This allocation is an increase of \$1.8 million from FY 2003 (FY03). The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding increased about \$1.2 million, Farm and Rangeland Protection Program (FRPP) increased by approximately \$240,000, Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) increased nearly \$470,000, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) increased \$105,000. The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) was the only program that saw a decrease in funding (about \$200,000). As of publish date, Ohio has not received any Conservation Security Program (CSP) funds for FY04.

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>FY 2004 Allowance</u>
CSP	\$ 0
EQIP	\$ 10,662,800
FRPP	\$ 2,601,300
GRP	\$ 1,301,500
WHIP	\$ 415,000
WRP	\$ 3,500,000

<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>FY 2003 Expenditures</u>
CSP	\$ 0
EQIP	\$ 9,442,753
FRPP	\$ 2,362,000
GRP	\$ 831,201
WHIP	\$ 310,000
WRP	\$ 3,700,000

IN MEMORY OF DAN KUSH

It is with great sadness that we observe passing of our dear friend and colleague, Dan Kush. Dan passed away on late Friday, December 19 at Riverside Hospital in Columbus, where he had been in intensive care since a car accident Sunday, December 14. Many friends, colleagues and family gathered for his memorial services on Monday, December 22 to celebrate his generous and caring spirit.



Dan Kush was an active AOC - SWCS member and was a strong advocate of the Chapter's Outstanding Publication Awards. He served on Publication Awards Committee for nearly two decades and chaired the committee for many years. Dan was also a strong and vibrant supporter of environmental education in Ohio.

In memory of Dan Kush and in accordance with his family's wishes, the Executive Council has made a contribution on behalf of the AOC to Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed. Dan's family resides in the watershed and have been supporters of this education-oriented non-profit.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Help support the AOC and its mission. Please consider making a voluntary contribution to our chapter. Contributions help to support a variety of AOC-SWCS functions including Envirothon sponsorship, scholarships and general operation.

Contribution levels include "AOC Conservation Stewards" (\$20-49) and "AOC Conservation Champions" (\$50 and up). Contributions may be directed to any of the three previously funds.

Your contributions help provide scholarships, funds to obtain guest speakers for meetings, strengthen member services, sponsor publication/distribution of conservation education materials and provide sponsorship to conservation related seminars and workshops.

Contributions can be mailed to Jim Bennett (Treasurer) at 8061 Taylor Rd., Houston, OH 45333-8601, or donated at the annual meeting. Please make checks payable to AOC-SWCS and include this voluntary contribution form.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING AOC CHAPTER EFFORTS BY PROVIDING A TAX EXEMPT CONTRIBUTION AT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LEVELS:

_____ **\$20 - \$49 CONSERVATION STEWARD**

_____ **\$50 + CONSERVATION CHAMPION**

FUNDS MAY BE DIRECTED TO ONE OF THREE CHAPTER FUNDS

_____ **ENVIROTHON**

_____ **GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNT**

_____ **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AOC-SWCS

MAIL TO: Jim Bennett (Treasurer)
8061 Taylor Rd.
Houston, OH 45333

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The preliminary program for this year's annual conference will soon be posted on the Society's website (www.swcs.org). The conference will be held July 24-28, 2004 at the Radison Riverfront Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota

This year's theme is "Headwaters of Conservation" and will focus on four areas 1) Soil and Environmental Quality, 2) Agricultural Management and Environmental Quality, 3) Assessing the Effectiveness of Conservation Programs, and 4) Geo-spatial Technology for Conservation – Soil, Water, and Land.

For more information contact Nancy Herselius at nancy.herselius@swcs.org or (515) 289-2331, ext. 17.

PUBLICATION AWARDS

The AOC Executive Council has made two changes to AOC's Outstanding Publication Awards Program. The first change was the distribution of this year's nomination form and information via email. The second change was to name the Outstanding Education Publication Award to the "The Dan Kush Award for Excellence in an Educational Publication". This change was made to honor the contributions Dan made to the Outstanding Publication Awards Program.

Consider nominating a colleague for an outstanding publication award. Deadline for nominations is February 13. For more information contact Brent Sohngen at 614-292-0078 or sohngen.1@osu.edu.

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING AOC MEMBER

The AOC Outstanding Member Award is the highest honor awarded by the chapter. There are many AOC members who deserve recognition for their outstanding efforts in conservation. Those interested in submitting a nominee for this award should contact Norm Fausey, Chair of the Nominating Committee at 614-292-9806 fausey.1@osu.edu.

FEEDBACK

AOC Executive Council would like feedback on our use of email to notify the membership of upcoming awards, nominations, and meeting registration. See page two for contact information.



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