

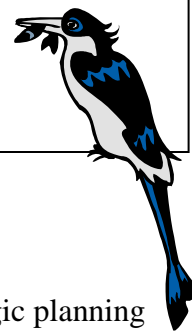
# WATERSHED NEWS

SANDUSKY RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

February 2005

V. 3, I. 1.1

Issue 1 Supplement



## Membership Dues are Due

«First», last year you made a donation of «M\_2004» to the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition. Your past contributions helped us to complete many projects— see page two for more information on some of our successes from the past year. This year you have made a total of «M\_2005» in contributions.

We have raised a total of \$5,220 so far this year, with a 2005 goal of \$17,000. With 100% renewals, we could reach as much as \$12,500 this year.

«Text»

Another great way to help us grow as an organization is to tell a friend about the great work we are doing, and ask them to become a member. Word of mouth is the best way to get people excited about what we are doing. The Coalition survives and thrives by the dedication and strength of its members. The more watershed stakeholders who take part, the better off we will all be! You may be asking yourself why local fundraising is so important to us. At the end of 2006 the Coalition will be one of several first year recipients of the state's watershed coordinator grant to take the step out on our own. Losing this source of income will require us to make ends meet on our own. Local support and increased grant activity will have to help cover the gap in our budget if we are to become a viable organization into the future. With over 10 years of work put into developing the Coalition, now is the time for us to show our strength and the commitment of our members. Renewing your membership is an important step in helping secure our future!

## Strategic Planning

The SRWC will host a strategic planning session on March 16 from 1:30-5:30pm at 219 S Front St. in Fremont. For directions, visit the website calendar, or contact Chris Riddle directly. A form for input has been provided in this mailing to help people provide input prior to the meeting. Even those who cannot attend may complete and submit the form, which is due March 9<sup>th</sup>. The form is also available on the Coalition's website for completion, and can be emailed or printed and sent through postal mail. A follow-up meeting will be held on April 7, around the usual Steering Committee meeting. At that time, a 90-day work plan will be devised to help fulfill the objectives of the 2005-06 strategic plan.

## Watershed Action Plan – Honey Creek

The Honey Creek WAP was available online through February 25 for public comment. Although the comment period is over, the plan is still accessible online. Please continue to check the website for more information on plan as we move towards requesting state endorsement.

The WAP is available online at [www.sanduskyriver.org](http://www.sanduskyriver.org).

## HSTS Program Update

The five county, EPA Section 319 HSTS Program is in full swing this spring. Meetings for homeowners and installers are being scheduled – check the web calendar for more details, or contact your local Health

Department. Alternative system workshops will be scheduled for this fall for installers as well. Information on those will be included in this newsletter, on our website, and through HD contacts. Visit [www.sandsukyriver.org](http://www.sandsukyriver.org) and click on Grant Programs for more information on this program.

### **Karst Meeting**

The SRWC, The University of Akron, and Ohio EPA will be hosting a meeting in Bellevue on March 7 to discuss the Karst region and how homeowners can help protect the quality of their well water. Akron researchers will be on hand to share the results of their recent 319 funded research in the area as well. The meeting will take place at York Elementary School on Rt. 20, in the cafeteria. It will run from 7:00-8:30 pm.

### **Core 4 – River Friendly Farmer**

The Core 4 Conservation River Friendly Farmer Program will accept open nominations from March 1 through March 31. To view the rules, eligibility, and to complete a form, visit your county SWCD or go online and click on the Committees link. Producers in Sandusky, Seneca, Crawford, and Wyandot counties are eligible this year.

### **The SRWC – A Look Back**

**2005** – Its only February and already quite a few things are in play. Each of our six committees are again up and running, each with its own direction and its own tasks – there is no slowing them down now – believe me, I've tried. Keeping up with the work they hope to accomplish this year will be quite a task, I hope the newsletter has room to fit it all in. If you want to take part in any of the committees – even just a

meeting here or there, contact Chris or the Committee Chair for information.

**2004** – In case anyone missed our Year In Review in the last newsletter, here are perhaps the biggest highlights: The first WAP's were begun, and the Honey Creek plan, as previously mentioned, is out for public comment. The Development Committee produced a waterproof and nearly indestructible recreational resources map that is now available at over 40 local locations, get yours while they are still available! The Wastewater Committee has begun the process of accepting applications for the sewage treatment system replacement program. We hope to get 169 systems in over the next 3 years. More great details on all our projects will be included in the next newsletter!

February 16, 2005

Dear Sandusky River Stakeholder:

The Sandusky River Watershed Coalition (SRWC) has gathered together to protect the Sandusky River. The group desires to meet the current needs of the community, plus plan for how the organization can be adapted to meet future needs. Therefore, I will be assisting them through a strategic planning process.

In order for SRWC to continue with a productive strategic planning, your help is needed. Your careful thought about and completion of the enclosed S.W.O.T. profile will provide valuable information for SRWC as they establish future goals. Please list the following to the best of your ability on the enclosed form:

- a) Strengths – things SRWC does best
- b) Weaknesses – things SRWC is currently doing but could be doing better
- c) Opportunities – things SRWC should be doing that they currently are not
- d) Threats – things that could threaten the continued existence of SRWC

I look forward to helping to strengthen this organization as I facilitate planning for the group. However, I acknowledge that the leaders, members, and volunteers of the organization – Sandusky River stakeholders - hold the key to success. A response from those of you with a stake in the future of Sandusky River is important! Your cooperation in completing the enclosed S.W.O.T. profile is much appreciated.

Please return the completed S.W.O.T. profile by March 9<sup>th</sup> to: Dana Oleskiewicz, OSU Extension, 1680 Madison Avenue, OARDC Administration Building, Wooster, Ohio 44691. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 330-466-5631.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Oleskiewicz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'y' at the end.

Dana Oleskiewicz  
OSU Extension Educator  
Watershed Management

**S.W.O.T. Profile**  
**Sandusky River Watershed Coalition**

Please take a few moments to think about the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition. What are 1) the things we do best (i.e. our strengths), 2) the things we are currently doing that we could be doing better (i.e. our weaknesses), 3) the things we should be doing that we currently are not (i.e. our opportunities), and 4) the things that could endanger our continued existence (i.e. our threats)? Then, list below those things you believe to be our most important strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>1) Strengths</b>  | <b>3) Opportunities</b> |
| <b>2) Weaknesses</b> | <b>4) Threats</b>       |

Please return by March 9th to: Dana Oleskiewicz, OSU Extension, 1680 Madison Avenue, OARDC Administration Building, Wooster, Ohio 44691. **Thank you!**

# Sandusky River Watershed Coalition

## Membership Form ~ 2005

Name(s): «First» «Last»

- Please choose one:
- Individual Membership (\$10+)
  - Organizational Membership (\$25+)
  - Cooperating Partner (donation not permitted)

Organization: «Organization»

Address: «Address»

City: «City»

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

State: «State»

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: «Zip»

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Amount: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

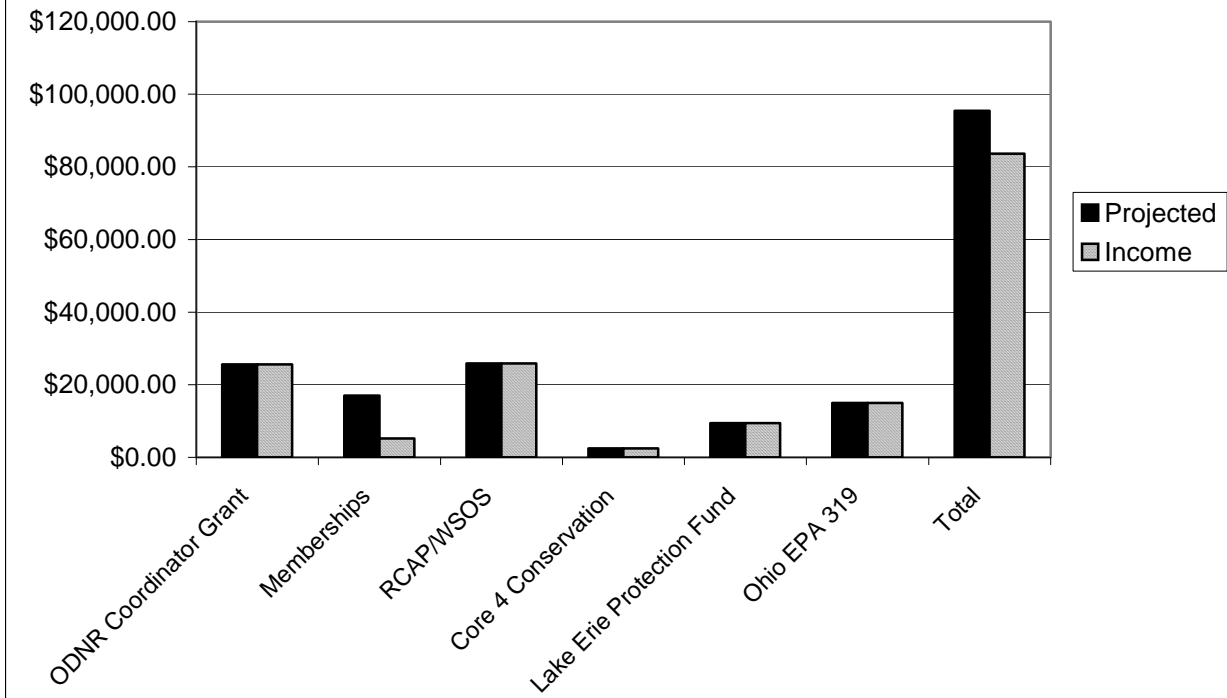
| Level                                      | Range                  |
|--|------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Sycamore             | \$10-24                |
| <input type="radio"/> Damselfly            | \$25-99                |
| <input type="radio"/> Walleye              | \$100-499              |
| <input type="radio"/> Small Mouth Bass     | \$500-999              |
| <input type="radio"/> Mink                 | \$1,000-2,499          |
| <input type="radio"/> Great Blue Heron     | \$2,500-4,999          |
| <input type="radio"/> Bald Eagle           | \$5,000+               |
| <input type="radio"/> Volunteer Only       | 10 hrs. minimum        |
| <input type="radio"/> Youth Volunteer      | No minimum             |
| <input type="radio"/> Partner Organization | Donation not permitted |

Make checks payable to: SRWC, c/o WSOS CAC Inc.

Please mail checks to:  
 Sandusky River Watershed Coalition  
 219 S. Front St PO Box 590  
 Fremont, OH 43420

Please feel free to copy and distribute this form to anyone you feel may be interested in the coalition.

## 2005 SRWC Budget



Sandusky River Watershed Coalition  
 PO Box 590  
 Fremont, OH 43420

«Organization»  
 «First» «Last»  
 «Address»  
 «City», «State» «Zip»