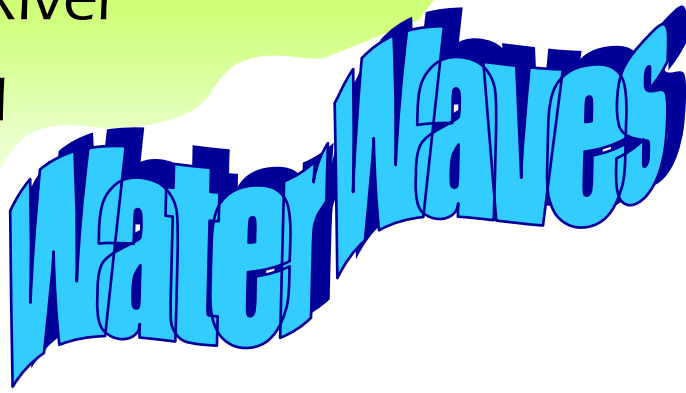


# Sandusky River Watershed



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## Fertilizer Dealerships help us complete First Year as a Self Sustaining Organization!

The Steering Committee of the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition and the Watershed Specialist would like to extend their extreme appreciation to the Fertilizer Dealerships within our watershed that participated in Sandusky River Watershed Coalition 2009 Fundraising efforts to become Self Sustainable.

The 2009—2010 year marks the first year since 1999 that grant funding has not been the primary source of support for the watershed.

Participants in the effort include: Diversified Agri-Services, Eezy Gro, S & D Applications, Tiffin Farmers Co-op, and Heritage Cooperative.

These Dealerships provided monetary support to the organization as well as participated in committees and grant development.

Because of their support, State leaders are looking at the Sandusky River watershed differently. They see a level of concern and cooperation from the agricultural sector working to resolve issues facing water quality and their bottom line.



We hope to continue our relationship with our Ag Businesses while forging ahead to build new partnerships with others as well in the 2010—2011 year which begins on October 1 for the Sandusky River Watershed.

The Coalition looks to the next year to build relationships with our communities to strengthen understanding of the connection

we all have to the watershed.





## Members to Vote on By-Law Changes at Annual Meeting

To ensure that Steering Committee members elected to represent the watershed do just that, some changes to the Coalition's by-laws will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

The changes proposed include: **Article V. Section 2.—Steering Committee Meetings (Change to Last Sentence)** Currently states, "A quorum shall consist of one more than half of the Steering Committee Membership." and is proposed to change to "A quorum shall consist of those Steering Committee Members present at each meeting."

This change is to reduce the need for email votes on action items when a quorum is not met. It will also ensure informed decisions by the mem-

bers as they will be in attendance to hear and participate in discussions regarding the item up for vote.

The second recommended change is also to **Article V. Section 2.—Steering Committee Meetings (Wording to be added)** The wording to be added is as follows: "Any Steering Committee Member can send a proxy on his/her behalf to any Steering Committee Meeting provided the Watershed Specialist is notified 72 hours prior to a meeting. Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the Watershed Specialist."

The third recommendation is to **Article VI. Section 1. adding Item G. to state:** "A Steering Committee

*Member either missing or not providing a proxy for three consecutive meeting will be sent a letter to address the issue. If no response to the letter, the matter will be turned over to the Nominations Committee to make recommendation on how the situation will be addressed."*

The fourth recommendation is to **Article VIII. Section 2 adding item L. to state:** "Respond to requests for letters of support without a Steering Committee vote, if the request does not require time or monetary commitment of the Coalition or its staff and follows the mission statements of the organization."

## Your Voice Is Needed!!!

October 1, 2010 marks the beginning of the new watershed year and the newly elected Steering Committee members start their two year terms.

This year representation in the following positions will be up for election: Hardin/Marion Counties, Sandusky County, Seneca County, At Large #1, and at Large #2. In addition, the membership will vote to accept the three

committee chair-people chosen to represent the Standing Committees of Land Use & Resource Management, Education & Development and Water Supply & Waste Water.

Currently, those identified to be on the ballot include: Dan McElhatten, Tiffin Water Pollution Control Center Superintendent to represent Seneca County, and Joe Perry up for reelection in the Sandusky County seat.

Representatives for the remain-

ing seats are being sought. Anyone who lives, works or owns land within the Sandusky watershed is eligible. Meetings currently occur monthly on the 1st Wednesday of the month. A Steering Committee member job description is available on the Steering Committee page.

If you are interested in sitting on the Coalition's Steering Committee, please contact Cindy Brookes at cabrookes@wsos.org or 419-334-5016.

## What is Causing all the Algae to Bloom? How Do we Stop It??

Many of us that learned about soil nutrition were taught that phosphorus attached to the soil and only moved if soil erosion occurred. Well, like many other things that may have been what you were taught but that is not what actually happens in the real world conditions.

We now have to accept what we learned about phosphorus is not the case. Phosphorus becomes soluble in water if it is not tightly bound by a soil particle. In storm events creating runoff,

phosphorus becomes soluble in water and moves into our streams, rivers, ponds and lakes.

This soluble phosphorus is often referred to as dissolved reactive phosphorus or bio-reactive phosphorus, is 100% available for algae to feed.

So how do we reduce dissolved reactive phosphorus from entering our waters? First, use fertilizer responsibly only apply what is needed. Soil tests are used for this reason, They test the soil and allow us to determine the amount of

nutrient to raise whatever plant we will be growing in the area tested, whether you are a farmer growing row crops or specialty crops to homeowners with gardens and yards this is a safe method to follow for responsible use of fertilizers.

While phosphorus was removed from laundry and household detergents there are still a few on the market that contain phosphorus, be a responsible shopper and read the label before purchasing detergents especially automatic dishwasher detergents.

## Farm Ponds Used for Drinking Water Could be at Risk of HABs Too!!

Just like our streams, rivers and lakes, farm ponds are prone to the same risks of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) which produce toxins that can cause a whole array of problems. The issues of HABs are even more severe to rural residents using this water for themselves or their animals because it does not receive treatment to remove the toxins.

Animals especially dogs have been affected by infected waters.

Don't think you can boil your water as a form of removal as boiling does not kill the toxins. Boiling suspected infected waters will not safe guard humans or animals from the impacts of the toxins.

Fact sheets are available

to learn more about harmful Algal Blooms at [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/inland\\_lakes/HABBrochure.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/portals/35/inland_lakes/HABBrochure.pdf) Or <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/ASSETS/633E9DD7E8634538B37A81C1F28765E3/HABs%20Water%20Treatment%20for%20Ponds.pdf>

For more information regarding Harmful Algal Blooms, contact you local Health Department regarding this issue.

## Sandusky River-Tiffin Watershed Receives a Grant focused on Reducing Soil Erosion

Word was received in mid August that the grant application to the Great Lakes Basin Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Grant was awarded to the Sandusky River—Tiffin watershed. This grant will offer a new method of incentives based on the tons of soil saved by a best management practice implementation not flat rate cost share. This is to increase the understanding of the value of top-soil loss and not just the benefit of practice.

Practices providing soil loss incen-

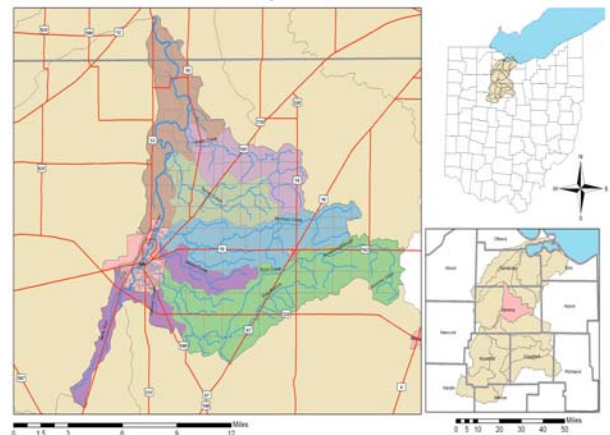
tives include: Cropping rotations, cover crop plantings, redlined waterway repairs, streambank stabilization and tile main repairs.

Additional information about the grant can be obtained by contacting the watershed office or the Seneca County SWCD office.

Funding for this grant is provided through USDA NRCS as part of

the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding through the office of the Great Lakes Commission.

1. Location of Sandusky River - Tiffin Watershed



## BE PART OF A GROWING ORGANIZATION KNOWN THROUGHOUT OHIO!

October 1, 2010 begins a new year for the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition which brings with it the drive for new members.

Consider joining for as little as \$25.00 to be part of the

organization known throughout Ohio as a proactive, cooperative organization working towards improving not only water quality but the region in which we live, work and play.

Included in this newsletter is

2009-2010 Year in Review which outlines the efforts accomplished by the Coalition. On the back cover of the Year in Review is a membership form to join or renew your membership in this growing organization.



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## **Come Join Us to Celebrate 13 Years at Our Annual Meeting on Sept. 23th, 2010**

On September 23, 2010, the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition will celebrate 13 years since its beginnings in August of 1997. To do this the Annual Meeting will be held at the Community Civic Center in Tiffin, Ohio starting at 6:00 PM with a Social Hour (cash bar). A meal of Hot Shredded Chicken and Beef Sandwiches, Scalloped Potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Green Beans, Cheese Platter, and Apple Cake with Cream Cheese Icing will be served at 6:30 PM.

Following the meal we will have a short business

meeting and Year in Review. The Review is intended to educate our watershed members and Political Candidates from within and around our watershed what we have been accomplishing as well as the major issues we face. At the conclusion of the Business Meeting, a Meet and Greet our Political Candidates will be held as well as door prizes and drawings will be held.

Reservations for the event are required by September 17, 2010. The cost of the event will be \$15.00 per person. To make reservations con-

tact Watershed Specialist, Cindy Brookes at 419-334-5016 or cabrookes@wsos.org.



Last Year's Annual Meeting featured a Fish Shocking Demonstration by Ohio EPA. Fish Shocking was being conducted on the Lower Sandusky as part of the Total Maximum Daily Load Study (TMDL).