

The Ohio Water Table

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\$30 Million Available for Farmers Through Governor DeWine's H2Ohio Plan

Press Release from Governor DeWine, January 15, 2020

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Dorothy Pelanda announced today that \$30 million in H2Ohio funding will be available for Ohio farmers in more than a dozen counties beginning next month. The funds will be awarded as part of Governor DeWine's H2Ohio plan to reduce agricultural phosphorus runoff and prevent algal blooms in Lake Erie.

"Since announcing the details of my H2Ohio plan in November, we've had a great deal of interest from farmers in the Maumee River Watershed who want to do their part to improve the health of Lake Erie," said Governor DeWine. "H2Ohio will provide farm-by-farm support to help farmers minimize phosphorus runoff while increasing profit over the long-run."

Farmers living in the following 14 northwest Ohio counties will be eligible to apply for funds at their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts starting on February 1, 2020: Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood.

H2Ohio will fund investments in 10 scientifically proven interventions to reduce nutrient runoff from agriculture, which is the primary cause for algal blooms in Lake Erie and elsewhere. Algal blooms can threaten drinking water and impact the health of both people and animals.

"Ohio farmers want to be part of the solution to water quality concerns in our state," said Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Dorothy Pelanda. "The Ohio Department of Agriculture is excited to work with our partners to help farmers implement these best practices which is a critical first step toward achieving better water quality through H2Ohio."

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, in partnership with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Ohio Agriculture Conservation Initiative, will host informational meetings next month to outline the application process, explain the H2Ohio certification process, and answer questions. Farmers living in any of the 14 qualifying counties are welcome to attend any of the following meetings.



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President's Column

Eugene Braig, WMAO 2020-2021 President



Ah, overcoming writer's block and general busy-ness to generate my first column as WMAO President... First, a brief introduction because I feel my background is at least a little different than many of our historic officers'; I describe myself professionally as a fisheries biologist and incidental limnologist (I like lakes and similar natural aquatic systems), and I am an avid angler. My day-job title is Program Director of Aquatic Ecosystems Extension for Ohio State University (OSU) based at the School of Environment and Natural Resources (I help Ohio's agencies, jurisdictional entities, and general public manage their surface waters and fisheries). I teach OSU's fisheries management course as well. I also advise TerrAqua (WMAO's Affiliated Student Organization at OSU) and maintain active roles with the North American Lake Management Society; the Mississippi River Basin Panel, a regional advisory to the national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force; the Ohio Chapter of the American Fisheries Society; Ohio Biological Survey; and others.

(I'm also the faculty advisor of OSU's bass fishing club/team, but that's perhaps less relevant here and thus parenthetical.) I was also active with the Ohio Lake Management Society a bit before it became a WMAO division. If any of you ever care to chat on any such stuff—fish, fisheries, generally wet biota, lakes/ponds, aquatic invasive species, whatever aqua-topic du jour—I would love to entertain such conversations.

"...I am excited for the potential to recruit more student participation..."

Of course, we are currently enjoying the afterglow of another successful annual conference November 2019, one that featured record attendance. (See some details in this issue.) Most exciting for me this year, prompted by professors at Ohio Northern University, we created a mechanism to discount registration for faculty who recruit attendance by their students. Record attendance by students as well made for a lively student networking session this year.

In collaboration with the Environmental Professionals Network and with input by TerrAqua, we are hard at work to finalize logistics for our mini-conference on March 17 (hold the date! - details on page 4). The program, "Exploring the Interactions between Water, Climate, and Communication," will feature speakers from around the state and Great Lakes/Midwest region. We are also assisting the newly formed Ohio Scenic Rivers Association and Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Scenic River Program to host an Ohio Rivers Symposium on March 20. Check the WMAO [calendar page](#) for details on these and other events.

Given my roles at OSU and with its student organizations, I am excited for the potential to recruit more student participation during my tenure as president. I would love to facilitate the creation of more Affiliated Student Organizations at Ohio's other colleges and universities. If you happen to know faculty with WMAO-relevant interests, please feel free to contact me to share.

So much aqua-excitement abrew... And thank you for joining me for the ride that 2020 is promising to be.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of Eugene Braig, the author of the column.

February 4 3 p.m. Owens Comm. College Veterans Hall 30335 Oregon Road Perrysburg	February 5 6 p.m. Defiance K of C Hall 111 Elliott Road Defiance	February 18 6 p.m. American Legion Hall 601 N. 2nd St. Coldwater	February 27 6 p.m. Kissell Community Bldg. 509 N. Main Street West Unity
February 5 2 p.m. Delphos Eagles 1600 E. 5th Street Delphos	February 11 6 p.m. Auglaize Co. Jr. Fair Bldg. 1001 Fairview Drive Wapakoneta	February 20 6 p.m. Fogle Center 815 E. Mathias St. Leipsic	February 28 9:30 a.m. Ohio Northern University McIntosh Center 525 S. Main Street Ada

Continued from Page 1

The H2Ohio phosphorus reduction plan will focus first on reducing runoff into the Maumee River Watershed and Lake Erie but will eventually be offered to other parts of the state.

The \$30 million announced today is part of an overall \$85 million provided by the Ohio General Assembly for H2Ohio in the first year of the biennium. The remaining first-year funds will focus on reducing phosphorus runoff through the creation of wetlands, as well as on improving water quality by preventing lead contamination and addressing failing septic systems.

H2Ohio is a partnership between the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Lake Erie Commission, and a broad coalition of agriculture, education, research, conservation, and environmental partners.

For more information on Governor DeWine's H2Ohio plan, visit <http://h2.ohio.gov>.

WMAO \$1,000 Student Scholarship

Application Deadline is April 27, 2020

[Eligibility Criteria](#)

[Online Application](#)

New Options for Dealing with Bank Erosion

By **Kurt Keljo**, Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District and OWPA President

If there is anything that is virtually everywhere on creeks in urbanized areas, it is bank erosion. Truth be told, it is everywhere creeks are. Creeks naturally erode their banks as they flow. They do not stay in one place but move back and forth across the landscape, eroding material on the outside of bends and depositing material on the inside of bends.

When streams are in a state of equilibrium, roughly the same amount of sediment is deposited as is eroded. While the channel does get deeper, it does so slowly. Urban runoff changes this process, as more material is eroded than deposited, and the creek digs a deeper channel much more quickly than it would under natural conditions. This leads to even more erosion and undercut banks. Creek banks erode more quickly and further away from the central channel than they did before, causing problems for home, other buildings and infrastructure built near creeks.

Typically, this erosion has been addressed using rip rap, large angular pieces of rock. If this material is not placed properly, it can make the erosion worse. Depending on the rock used, it can also be expensive. Nonetheless, there are situations where it is the only option. However, there are other options to consider.

Multiple bank erosion techniques have been developed over the years such as tree revetments, live fascines and brush mattresses, but they are often difficult to use in urban settings where there is not much room to work along the streams. Franklin Soil and Water is implementing two projects that demonstrate new methods for dealing with bank erosion.



Water flowing over insert oriented to reduce erosion on right bank.

With support from two Ohio EPA grants which are funded through USEPA's 319 program, Franklin Soil and Water is implementing two projects in eastern Franklin County that use "stream inserts" to resist bank erosion and improve habitat at much lower cost than conventional rock armoring. The first stream project is being implemented in partnership with the City of Reynoldsburg and Columbus Recreation and Parks. It features twenty two inserts and is located in the Creekstone subdivision on headwater streams of Dysart Run. The second includes another eighteen inserts



A stream insert oriented to move water away from the eroding bank on the right.

installed on an unnamed tributary of Blacklick Creek in the Willow Brook Crossing subdivision in partnership with Jefferson Township with support from the Willow Brook Crossing HOA.

Both projects demonstrate the use of stream inserts/ bioreactors to reduce erosion on the outside bends of streams. The inserts are like leaky beaver dams, one foot high, made from a recycled, fibrous, plastic material. They reduce erosion by taking power out of the stream and redirecting flow. They can be installed in such a way as to move the primary flow away for eroding banks. They can also be used to protect banks from erosion. The Creekstone project in particular has also made use of small trees and tree branches to slow the water along banks, reducing the scouring effect of the water.

Both of these methods are best suited to small streams and installation techniques are still being refined. Even so, Franklin Soil and Water is heartened by our experience thus far and encourage you to consider these practices if you are dealing with bank erosion on a relatively small stream and do not have property or infrastructure at immediate risk. The materials can be installed by hand, are relatively inexpensive or free and can be removed if they are not functioning well or creating a problem. Contact [Franklin Soil and Water](#) for more information and/or a tour of these projects.



Wood placed to reduce bank erosion at a bend.



Insert material placed to reduce erosion at a bend.



Insert moving water away from eroding bank.



Moving water from eroding bank with wood structure.

WMAO / EPN Spring Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center
Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio

***Exploring the Interactions between Water,
Climate and Communication***

Special Keynote:

Dr. Bryan Mark, OSU Department of Geography
and
Dr. Michael Durand, OSU School of Earth Sciences

Presenters:

Kim Channell, Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments
Dr. Robyn Wilson, OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources

\$40 includes EPN Breakfast (student registration is free)

\$300 Exhibit Booth + 1 registration

\$100 Sponsor

*Hosted by the Water Management Association of Ohio in collaboration with the
Environmental Professionals Network, Ohio Water Resources Center, and TerraAqua*

[Agenda and Registration](#)

Other Upcoming Events

[Environmental Science & Design Symposium](#) - Kent State University - March 17 & 19, 2020

[Ohio 2020 River Symposium](#) - ODOT Central Auditorium - March 20, 2020

[Sustainability & EHS Symposium](#) - Sharonville Convention Center - March 24 & 25, 2020

[Planning Effective Projects](#) - Ritter Public Library, Vermilion - April 1 & 2, 2020

[Ohio Stormwater Conference](#) - Kalahari Waterpark, Sandusky - May 6-8, 2020



Water Weirding Conference was a Huge Success

By **Melissa Menerey**, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and WMAO Conference Chair

WMAO hosted the 48th Annual Conference and Symposium “Water Weirding” November 13th and 14th at the Crowne Plaza North Worthington. The theme was inspired by the climatologist Dr. Katharine Hayhoe’s YouTube Series “Global Weirding.” Aaron Wilson of OSU’s Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center and OSU Extension was the keynote speaker.

During the keynote, Aaron compared climate to a person walking a dog. Where the dog represented the weather variability. Both walker and dog are heading in the same direction but the dog (weather) takes a less direct path. This was a helpful visual aid for any professional attempting to explain data and trend lines. The presentation went on to highlight the trends we are observing in Ohio, longer growing season, warmer temperatures, higher humidity, more rainfall, more intense rainfall events, and more autumn preinitiation. A copy of the keynote presentation is linked on the WMAO [website](#).



Ashlee Balcerzak from Ohio State University was the winner of the Best Student Paper.



Water resource professionals from the private sector, NGOs, government, and academia provided valuable career insights to students during the networking session.

In partnership with OFMA, we were able to offer four tracks of content this year. Divisions and interest area groups had at least one presentation at the conference. Topics ranged from Recreation to Mineral Resource Management. OLMS offered a full day of presentations. There were over 65 presentations, not to mention meeting space for partner groups and the Careers in Water Resources: Professional and Student Networking Event. The winner of the Best Student Paper went to Ashlee Balcerzak from Ohio State University, including a \$250 cash award, for her project entitled “Long-term Effectiveness of Grass Filter Strips in Nutrient Reduction within Agricultural Headwaters”.

This year brought a new record of attendees; WMAO had more than 330 people participate at the conference over the two days, of which there were over 50 student registrants. There were even two van loads of students from Ohio Northern University, as they took advantage of a new discount registration to educators for those who attend with five or more students. This annual conference also features an award ceremonial luncheon (see page 10). TerrAqua, WMAO’s student affiliate group at OSU, put together a mini climate film festival we could watch while eating ice cream at the close of the two day event. This was a lovely way to end another informative and fun WMAO Conference. Please save the date for the 49th Annual WMAO Conference: November 4 & 5, 2020 - just one more year to the big 50th!



Aaron Wilson, Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at Ohio State University.



Sarah Jamison, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



Jerry Iles, Ohio State University Extension.



Ohio Northern University students were accompanied by their professors: Katherine Krynak, Robert Verb, Leslie Riley, and Kenneth Oswald.



Boris Slogar; 2019 President's Award.



Guy Riefler and Michelle Shively; Distinguished Service Award.



Scott Jerrome; Ohio Water Hall of Fame.



Emily Kruze; State Science Day Winner.



Dennis Clement; Wayne S. Nichols Award.



Jay Mosley; Voices for Water Award.



Jessica Glowczewski; OLMS Innovation in Lake Management Award and Eugene Braig; OLMS President's Award.



Outgoing WMAO President, Craig Smith, addresses the luncheon audience.



Tim Wolfe; E. Livingston Ireland Award.



Krystal Lacy; WMAO Technician of the Year.



Teresa Caldwell; Project WET - Ohio Facilitator of the Year.

WMAO 2019 Scholarship Winners

By **Dennis Clement**, Ohio EPA and Chair WMAO Education Committee

The Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) selected 2 undergraduates for the 2019 scholarship winners and both winners received \$1000 for their successful applications. Benjamin Phillips of Nashport, Ohio is attending The Ohio State University majoring in Environmental Science. Benjamin decided upon Environmental Science as the major that would fulfill all his needs. Benjamin said, “This major will allow me to create beneficial change and combine all the things I have an interest in.”



Scholarship recipient, Benjamin Phillips, is a student at The Ohio State University majoring in Environmental Science.

Kaiden Murphy of Delaware, Ohio is attending Heidelberg University and is taking on a double major in Biology and Environmental Science. Kaiden said, “I have a passion for the environment and wanting to save it. I have the knowledge that all life is sustained from water and air. I believe that by improving these resources and their sustainability we can improve life for people around the globe.” By double majoring in these fields Kaiden will be able to work in research to better understand and test how we can improve our environment. She wants to focus on water quality research while in college. This will be possible at

Heidelberg University because they are one of very few colleges in the United States to have a water quality research lab on campus.

WMAO offers it's annual \$1,000 scholarship available to Ohio students. Deadline to apply is March 1. Successful applicants must be an Ohio resident planning to attend an accredited Ohio college or university on a full-time basis and pursuing a degree in a water-resources-related field. Student applications are evaluated on:

- Academic achievement and potential
- Financial need
- Character
- Extracurricular activities and community service
- A commitment to their academic program



Kaiden Murphy attends Heidelberg University with a double major in Biology and Environmental Science.

To obtain more information and/or to submit an application, visit the [online application](#) hosted through The Columbus Foundation. For additional information on scholarship criteria and the application, please contact Dennis Clement (dennis.clement@epa.ohio.gov) . If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund or putting the fund into your will, please contact Dana Oleskiewicz (admin@wmao.org).

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The Water Management Association of Ohio (WMAO) is the one organization dedicated to all of Ohio's water resources.

VISION: To be recognized statewide as the go-to community for people who manage and safeguard Ohio's water resources.

MISSION: To support Ohio's water resource professionals with essential information, education, and networking opportunities

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