

BUCKEYE LAKE WATERSHED COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Posts: August 9, 2018

Closes: August 27, 2018, 4:30 PM

HISTORY & OVERVIEW

Buckeye Lake, in east central Ohio was natural swamp that was enhanced to serve as a reservoir for the canal system in the 1820's. As improvements continued, canal storage needs gave way to recreational activities and by 1894 the state legislature renamed the reservoir Buckeye Lake and made it Ohio's first state park. Access from Columbus and Newark made it an ideal destination for day excursion and weekends. An amusement park and yacht club were in place by 1910. Today the permanent pool is about 5.0 square miles and the watershed is about 41 square miles. It remains a tourist, boater, angler and hunter's destination even as weekend cottages have given way to thriving permanent communities with all of their inherent challenges and opportunities. About 20,000 people call the watershed home and many more thousands visit annually.

The Buckeye Lake Watershed Coordinator position is funded through a joint venture of the Fairfield, Licking and Perry County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Fairfield, Licking and Perry County Boards of Commissioners, Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow, the Buckeye Lake Foundation and the Buckeye Lake Chamber of Commerce. Technical partners, besides those listed above, include the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Ohio State University Extension Service. Implementation funding sources may include but are not limited to NRCS, FSA, Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, United States Department of the Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service, Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), among others.

The Watershed Coordinator position will be a full-time position (32-40 hours per week) involving both office and field work and the primary duty station will be located at the Perry SWCD offices at 109 East Gay Street in Somerset. The position is ultimately responsible to the Perry SWCD board, who works in cooperation with the Fairfield and Licking SWCD boards on job performance and expectations and will report to the Perry SWCD District Program Administrator, who will also serve as the daily supervisor.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Watershed Coordinator will plan, secure funding and oversee implementation of priority management measures within the watershed to include, but not limited to, precision nutrient application, incorporation and management, streambank stabilization and restoration, watershed restoration and creation, critical area cover crops plantings and assessing and mapping household sewage treatment systems to improve water quality and reduce nutrient and sediment loading within the system. Additional focus will include coordination, planning and education among the various stakeholders of the watershed to develop a long-term sustainable institution that can be a technical advisor, project implementor and funding conduit well into the future. Work will be supplemented by personnel from the three SWCDs, NRCS, OSU Extension, Ohio Department of Agriculture and the County Health Departments among others. Initial funding is available from the principal sponsors of the project for a three-year period, with the understanding that the program may be continued for a second three-year period, if measurable progress and consensus develops among the principals.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environmental or Biological sciences preferred.
- Excellent writing, presentation, verbal and interpersonal skills.
- Strong familiarity with watershed issues including, but not limited to agricultural, forestry and urban BMPs, water quality, erosion and drainage, wetlands and agricultural production.
- Strong skills in public relations, organizational development and team dynamics and ability to work effectively with Boards of Supervisors, partnering agencies, stakeholders and the general public.
- Ability to coordinate human resources and natural resources to achieve major management measures.
- Proven proficiency in all Microsoft Office Professional software. GIS and GPS skills desirable.
- Experience in grant writing and proven funding history preferred.
- Water, soil and plant tissue testing skills and interpretation preferred.
- Must be able to pass a criminal background check, pre-employment and random drug tests.
- Be able to navigate all types of terrain in all types of weather and can lift and carry loads up to 50 pounds.
- Must have a valid Ohio driver's license, automobile insurance and reliable transportation.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Prepare and submit all necessary grant reports and meet all the other requirements to best ensure continued funding.
- Help promote and implement agricultural and urban conservation practices that support the major management measures.
- Provide leadership in the implementation of conservation practices through collection and analysis of land use and resource information, identification of stakeholder concerns, establishment of goals and supporting the locally initiated strategies.
- Prepare grant and program applications to secure funding for watershed projects, including project implementation and oversight, record keeping and reporting.
- Develop a locally supported, long-term watershed coordinator position.
- Form, develop, assist and/or enlarge a sustainable local watershed partnership able to support a watershed coordinator.
- Serve as a primary liaison with the board agencies, landowners, stakeholders and the scientific community.
- Assist with database management and GIS development and attend and participate in relevant watershed training opportunities.
- Field test and interpret water, soil and plant tissue materials. Develop processes and protocols using best methodology available. historic and current trends and make informed, strategic recommendations.
- Identify connections between soil\agricultural\geographical data and water quality issues and incorporate those connections in the strategies.

SALARY & BENEFITS

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Hours of work may range from 32 to 40 hours per week. Periodically, some evening and weekend hours may be required. Final tour of duty configuration will be determined. Additional hours may result in the accumulation of compensatory time at a rate of 1.5 hours earned to 1 hour worked.

As a county employee, additional benefits include access to health insurance with dental and vision electives with an employee contribution, Public Employees Retirement System, Medicare, Worker's Compensation, life insurance, paid holidays, annual leave, sick leave and compensatory time.

Principal sponsors are committed to a three-year period of financial commitment, with an optional three-year extension at the sole discretion of the sponsors.

RESUMES

Cover letters, resumes, transcripts and references may be sent to:

Perry Soil & Water Conservation District

David Snider

POB 337, 109 East Gay Street

Somerset, OH 43783

740-743-1325

All SWCD and all partner programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, gender or handicap.