

Pickaway County Local Work Group  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes - April 27, 2009

The Pickaway County Local Work Group (LWG) met on April 27, 2009, at 9:00 to 11:00 AM for a regular group meeting at the Pickaway County Service Center Meeting Room at 110 Island Road in Circleville, Ohio 43113.

Members present: Dan E. Garver, NRCS DC, Chairperson ; T. J. Oliver, Natural Resource Specialist for Area 5; Delbert Remy, Jr., Perry Township Trustee; Jennifer Byrnes Foster, USDA-FSA CED; David Murray, Service Forester; Phil Roe, ACES Employee and Mike Estadt, OSU Extension, County Agent.

Members not present: Rebecca Writsel, Muhlenberg Township Trustee; Jay Wippel-Pickaway County Commissioner; Cooke Metzger, FSA County Committee; Edwin Taylor, FSA County Committee; David Rittinger, Pickaway Township Trustee; and Brad Zwayer, Pickaway SWCD Chairperson.

Minute's Recorder: Tawn Seimer, Pickaway SWCD Administrative Assistant

Dan E. Garver called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Dan E. Garver reviewed the purpose of the Local Work Group and why it was established and the attendees that represent the group. They have to be an elected official or an agency representative from FSA, Ohio State Extension, and NRCS/USDA. Dan reviewed the priority areas, and practice ranking for the USDA programs. Programs include: CRP, CREP, WRP, EWPP, WHIP, EQIP and Forestry EQIP.

The minutes from the last meeting on October 11, 2007 were read by Tawn Seimer

Delbert Remy, Jr. moved to approve the Minutes from October 11, 2007. Jennifer Byrnes Foster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

T. J. Oliver went over the funding pools available to EQIP participants this year. \$12 million dollars will be available for the 5 Areas of Ohio; this would be approximately \$65,000 for Pickaway County. Conventional applications will be funded at the local county level. Forestry EQIP applications will be funded from a separate pool of funds. Limited Resource Farmers, Beginning Farmers applications will be funded at approximately 90% cost share and will be funded at the state level. Socially Disadvantaged and Organic Farmers will have funding also through the state. WHIP funding will also be from a separate funding pool. Pickaway County is high priority for WHIP practices.

Dan E. Garver went over the County Conservation Practice Priorities for 2008 with requests for changes for the 2009 funding.

Delbert Remy, Jr. moved to approve that their will not be prioritized watersheds in Pickaway County for funding or ranking. Jennifer Byrnes Foster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

T. J. Oliver went over the requirement of a pre-screening process for all applications based on a 14 question survey. This will categorize the applications into the funding group ratings of high, medium and low.

David Murray went over the requirements for the Forestry EQIP participants. Pickaway County is a special interest area for the Invasive Species Control of Bush Honeysuckle and Tree of Heaven. Participants must have forestry plan in place, preferably less than 10 years old. If the plan is older than that it can be updated. "Pickaway County has a high population of the bush honeysuckle along creeks and riparian buffers and should be dealt with", said David.

T. J. Oliver then discussed the new tier level being introduced this year for certain practices. This tier level package will prepare land operators for the Conservation Security Program. Participants can still do the practices separately.

Dan E. Garver then discussed the changes needed to the County Conservation Practice Priorities list.

Under the Headquarter section:

Move the Water Well to the Pastureland section

Delbert Remy, Jr. moved to change the Ag Secondary Storage Facility and the Composting Facility to 50 points. Mike Estadt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agronomic soil & water quality section:

Delbert Remy, Jr. moved to reduce the Residue Management, mulch tillage, using Phillips, Airway or Phoenix type tools; Residue Management, strip-till; Residue Management, No-Till- corn only; Drainage Water Management; and Cover Crop to 60 points. Mike Estadt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

No changes to the Erosion Control section.

Pastureland section:

Dan E. Garver moved to introduce the practice of a Sacrificed Area or Heavy Use Area (all season) at 90 points and to add Water Well at 12 points to this section. Delbert Remy, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Miscellaneous section is for all other practices at 5 points per practice, no change.

These recommended updates and changes will be sent to the Area 5 Office Chillicothe Ohio to be updated to a web site. **(Attachment A)**

At 10:43 AM Jennifer Byrnes Foster moved to adjourn the LWG meeting. Delbert Remy, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

\*Minutes will be sent out to each member of the Local Work Group.

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Chairperson

Date

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Minutes Recorder

Date