**Erie Basin RC&D**

**Overview 2022**

**The Erie Basin RC&D Office is located at 180 Milan Ave., Norwalk, Ohio 44857 with Mail & Storage at 8 Fair Road; Serving Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Wood, and Wyandot Counties.**

**Our Vision – Sustainable today for growth tomorrow.**

**Our Mission – To promote economic and social development in a way that protects natural resources and serves as a catalyst for conservation programs in the Erie Basin RC&D 10 county service area.**

[**www.eriebasinrcd.org**](http://www.eriebasinrcd.org) **and including** [**www.ohwildlife.org**](http://www.ohwildlife.org) **email:** [**eriebasinrcd@yahoo.com**](mailto:eriebasinrcd@yahoo.com)

Erie Basin RC&D is a unique non-profit organization that helps people care for and protect their natural resources in a way that improves North Central Ohio’s economy, environment, and living standards. Working with citizens, local organizations, and county agencies; the Erie Basin Council sets goals and priorities to meet local needs. The Council is committed to empowering people and creating solutions for land conservation, community development, and environmental enhancement.

Projects include:

* Revolving Loan Fund to provide GAP financing for Small Business startups/expansion to create/retain jobs in our service area.
* Downtown Revitalization Loan Program to prepare a building for Small Business occupancy.
* SWCD field days / The Ohio Wildlife Project / Farm Bill programs of the National Association of RC&D on behalf of USDA NRCS.
* S K Worm Animatronics Soil Education / Operation Soil Education / Mini-Grants
* RD RBDG RLF grant opportunities

**RC&D Revolving Loan Fund (established 1994)**

The RC&D Council RLF Committee approved 3 gap financing loans in 2022 totaling $140,000 creating 22 jobs in Seneca & Sandusky County. At least $130,000 of additional financing was involved also. Our outstanding loans currently total $761,586. We have approximately $170,000 on hand to loan. Since 1994 the Council has approved 97 loans totaling $3,059,698 which helped to create / retain 311 jobs. We had 5 borrowers pay off their loans this year and are still in business in Ashland & Huron Co.

**Education Mini-grants:**

Ohio Small Business Basics Seminars at Terra State - $500; Huron SWCD 4th Grade Conservation Day - $250; Ottawa SWCD Annual Meeting - $50; Gary Bauer 4-H Memorial $50; Wood SWCD Ag Venture $200; Wood Co. Fair Foundation $350; Trinity Upward Sports Don Schilling Memorial $100; Kingwood Center Gardens $50; The total amount of assistance provided in 2022 was $1,550..

**S K Worm Animatronics for Children 2022:** S K Worm was “on the road again”. (info and video on our website)

* In 2022 SKW has been operated at The Way Public Library, Perrysburg, Ohio and at an event in Allen County, Indiana.
* There are 50 trained volunteers to operate it. Our SWCD partners and others have done a great job keeping it doing what it does best – teach the importance of soil for every aspect of our daily life.
* After 12 years of service, we have spent a total of $1,750 in labor and parts to keep it looking new and working properly. Our S K W Committee members are Janet Freeman and Carrie Whitaker, PE.
* Sponsors such as The Ohio Farm Bureau, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Ohio Lake Erie Buffer Team and SWCD’s have provided over 65,000 Activity and Coloring Books to children.
* Donations for this cause are always welcome.

**Operation Soil Education 2022: S K Worm books** have been distributed to kindergarteners and third grade students in more than nine counties – Ashland, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Lucas, Marion, Ottawa, and Sandusky. Thanks SWCD’s and Vicky Patterson.

**The Ohio Wildlife Project** has over $3,000 on hand for an ODNR purpose.

**Misc.: Angie Palmer,** Tech. Service Provider maintains our website and updates our information postings. She does other assigned duties.

**Vicky Patterson,** Tech. Service Provider is finding ways to utilize the 2019 EXPO games that we have in storage. She is also helping with disposal of Erie Basin records that exceed 10 years..