



# NEORSD 2014 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

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2014

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### BURNING RIVER ANNIVERSARY

The year 2014 marked the 45th anniversary of the burning of the Cuyahoga River. While few know debris on the river actually caught fire at least 13 times before 1969, the event was a turning point for the nation's environmental awareness. Over the last 45 years, the river's ongoing resurrection is a testament to the work and people that brought it back to life, and a reminder of how easily it can be taken for granted.

### PLANTS EARN TOP AWARDS

Southerly and Westerly were presented with NACWA Gold Awards for permit compliance in 2013, and Easterly took home the prestigious Platinum Award for five straight years of excellence.

### WESTERLY HITS FIVE-YEAR MARK FOR NO VIOLATIONS

Thanks to our dedicated Westerly staff and assistance from many other District departments, Westerly operated and maintained the plant without any permit violations for the fifth consecutive year. In addition, the plant had success with Chemically Enhanced High Rate Treatment (CE-HRT) pilot project wet-weather events.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY

Southerly saw significant electrical and natural gas savings at its Renewable Energy Facility. Plant operators were successful at operating the new incinerators autogenously (without fuel), and the turbine generator has been producing up to two megawatts of electricity per day.

### WATER QUALITY & INDUSTRIAL SURVEILLANCE

WQIS aided in the District's Integrated Planning effort by conducting dry-weather and wet-weather sampling and providing data for computer models used to prioritize projects. Other WQIS achievements in 2014 included continued

participation in Operation Medicine Cabinet and the Drug Enforcement Administration's National Take Back Program, collecting unused and expired pharmaceuticals.

### ANALYTICAL SERVICES

In addition to participating in large District initiatives, Analytical Services performed 203,000 analyses (an 8% increase over 2013) and the lab analyzed over 30,000 samples (a 10% increase). Major capital investments included equipment to analyze harmful algal blooms and emerging contaminants, and a new gas chromatograph with a mass spectrometer for the analysis of organic compounds.

### CLEVELAND HOSTS NATIONAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ROUNDTABLE

Forty agencies from across the country came to be a part of the second annual Green Infrastructure Summit, hosted in Cleveland. The District also led guests on a tour of some of our Project Clean Lake "Green Ambassador" projects.

### EASTERLY CONSTRUCTION

Major construction continued at Easterly, to meet Project Clean Lake requirements and expand secondary treatment capacity by 70 million gallons. Easterly also earned OSHA's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) designation for illness and injury prevention and a safety award from Ohio Water Environment Association.

### COURT HEARS STORMWATER ARGUMENTS

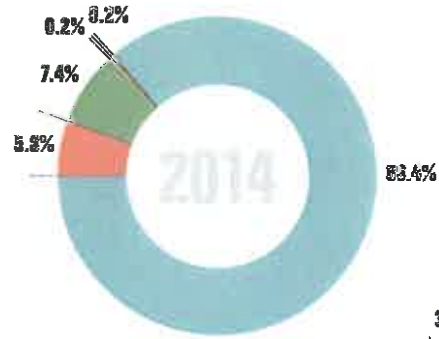
Big storms during the summer brought attention to our Regional Stormwater Management Program, which was suspended in 2013. In 2014, we made oral arguments before the Ohio Supreme Court, making our case that we are authorized to charge a fee and manage problems caused by stormwater runoff across the region. As of the printing of this Annual Report, we await a final decision from the Court.

# REVENUES

## OPERATING REVENUES

2014

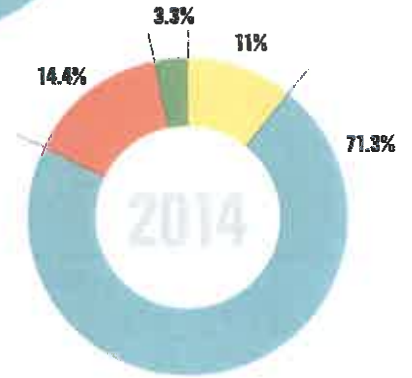
City of Cleveland sewer service fees (NEORS D billing agent)	\$206,720	86.4%
Other Billing Agents Sewer Services Fees	13,901	5.8%
Direct Billed Sewer Service Fees	17,686	7.4%
Septic Tank and Municipal Sludge Fees	452	0.2%
Miscellaneous	426	0.2%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>\$239,185</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## NON-OPERATING REVENUES

2014

Interest Revenue	\$994	11.0%
Federal Subsidy Revenue	6,438	71.3%
Non-Operating Grant Revenue	1,304	14.4%
Decrease in Fair Value of Investments	296	3.3%
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>\$9,032</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

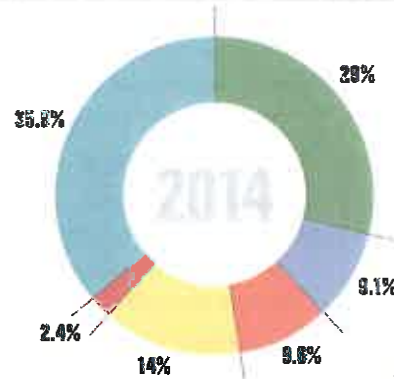


# EXPENSES

## OPERATING EXPENSES

2014

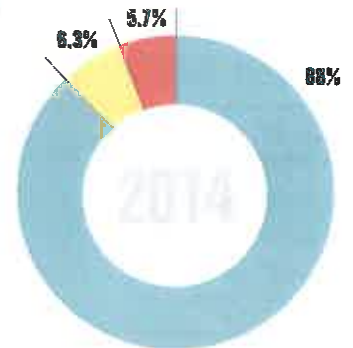
Salaries and Wages	\$46,227	29.0%
Fringe Benefits	14,611	9.1%
Utilities	15,267	9.6%
Professional and Contractual Services	22,286	14.0%
Other	3,807	2.4%
Depreciation	57,172	35.9%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$159,370</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## NON-OPERATING EXPENSES

2014

Interest Expense on Long-Term Debt	\$59,923	88.0%
Non-Operating Grant Expenses	4,259	6.3%
Loss on Disposals of Equipment	3,913	5.7%
<b>TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$68,095</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities by \$1,337,079,842.

Retirements of debt principal were \$116,669,919, of which, \$72,940,000 was for the defeasance of a portion of 2007 bonds.

Operating revenues increased by \$29,395,275. Operating expenses increased by \$9,295,866.



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2014

### Cuyahoga SWCD Mission

To promote conservation of land and aquatic resources in a developed environment through stewardship, education and technical assistance

### Highlights 2014

- An updated logo and new branding
- A new user-friendly website and weekly informational blogs
- 33% increase in construction activities and inspections
- The Conservation Crusader's environmental messages were viewed by 20,980 households in Cuyahoga County
- Preservation of 12 acres on a headwater stream
- 500 tons sediment kept out of the Rocky River
- 23 seasonal high tunnels installed
- Erosion assessments on 21 miles of streams
- Program training assistance to other SWCDs

## CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) marked its 65<sup>th</sup> year as a key promoter of natural resource protection in Cuyahoga County. Established in 1949 as a political subdivision of the state of Ohio and organized in Cuyahoga County, the Cuyahoga SWCD was first on the scene in promoting the importance of the county's soil and water resources. Operating under Ohio Revised Code 1515, with oversight by the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission and governed by five unpaid, locally elected Supervisors, the SWCD continues to serve in its unique role.

With 65 years of history under its belt, the Cuyahoga SWCD board and staff wanted to understand what our "conservation partners" and constituents felt defined the agency. The result was a new brand that highlights Cuyahoga SWCD's uniqueness and its primary focus on the protection of **soil and water** resources. In conjunction with the revised logo, the Cuyahoga SWCD's website was revamped for easier access

and navigation throughout the site. The website includes program calendars, our weekly blog posts and timely information about our unique programs and services.

The five elected Supervisors and three Associate Supervisors provided strong support and guidance to assist the Cuyahoga SWCD reaching the 2014 goals, which targeted the strategic priorities outlined in the current Strategic Plan. Those priorities are to:

- Advocate for and provide urban soil and water conservation services and programs
- Work in cooperation with other public/private entities to assist in the achievement of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) targets for impaired local watersheds, as well as providing significant assistance in meeting the bi-national targets to be established for the conservation of Lake Erie
- Establish and maintain strategic alliances to advance soil and water conservation
- Expand the organizational capacity of Cuyahoga SWCD
- Increase community and stakeholder awareness of Cuyahoga SWCD

The overall Cuyahoga SWCD program is county-wide. Currently the SWCD has working agreements with 26 communities (66% of the county's population) who rely on the SWCD's expertise to implement their mandated storm water pollution prevention programs. This year, Cuyahoga SWCD provided technical assistance to two additional communities related to the implementation of their programs. Funding from the 26 communities was augmented by funding from Cuyahoga County and from the State of Ohio. Water quality improvement projects, stream and habitat restoration projects and educational projects were funded through various other grants.

Getting the work completed is a top priority and the ten person staff relied on its strong partnerships with other agencies, including the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), other public and private agencies, volunteers and seasonal interns to accomplish its annual goals. All programs were aimed at broadening the understanding of best

environmental practices and encouraging behavioral changes to help get those practices regularly implemented.

## Conservation Education Program

Cuyahoga SWCD has educated the public about soil and water resources since its inception in 1949. Education is provided through annual events and programs, written materials, social media and direct technical assistance.



In 2014, twenty-six communities worked with the Cuyahoga SWCD to implement comprehensive conservation programs that included assistance in achieving their mandated clean water goals. This year's theme, "Keep Your Yard Green and Our Waters Clean" was chosen to expand knowledge about the fragility of Lake Erie and the importance of taking action to keep the county's local streams, all of which drain to Lake Erie, clean. Community-tailored programs aimed at reducing sediment runoff from construction sites and providing easy at-home pollution prevention best practices were delivered to a myriad of target audiences. Programs and events were also offered to engage the public in activities such as stream monitoring, habitat restoration and stream clean up events to further illustrate the importance of taking action and compelling the public to adopt changes in their behavior for the benefit of a cleaner environment.

Approximately 48,705 households were directly reached the Conservation Education program, with an additional 20,980 households viewing the Conservation Crusader segments. Cuyahoga SWCD's fact sheets, brochures, newsletters and posters were distributed to local libraries, nature centers and local city hall lobbies, as well as at various events that were held throughout the county.

The crux of the Cuyahoga SWCD's Conservation Education Program is the implementation of the annual public involvement and public education program for 26 communities, which helps keep those communities in compliance with their storm water program permits.

Throughout the year, the staff promoted the "Keep Your Yard Green and Our Waters Clean" message that explained how trees and plants, from their rain-intercepting canopies to their soil-stabilizing roots, naturally manage storm water, protect water quality, provide enhanced habitats for birds and pollinators and restore degraded urban and suburban soil systems. Programs, events, our *On the Land* newsletter, plus other educational materials all highlighted the annual theme.

A sample of the articles shared with the public included:

- ◆ *Reimagining Your Lawn: How you can have a healthy lawn that promotes clean water and enhances wildlife habitat*
- ◆ *Green Isn't Always Good: The 4 Rs of Fertilization*
- ◆ *Yard Waste Polluting Our Waterways: Did you know that grass and leaves can harm our creeks and streams?*
- ◆ *Adopt a Low (Road) Salt Habit*

Public involvement programs, such as stream cleanups, storm drain stenciling and the rain barrel and green cleaning "make-it-and-take-it" workshops continue to be popular draws, engage the public and help get conservation practices more widely promoted and implemented. In addition to workshops and environmental events, training was provided to encourage local "green teams" to get more actively involved in local conservation programs and events. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Earth Partnership for Schools, a week-long session for teachers, held in collaboration with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the Cuyahoga Valley Conservancy, "trained the trainers" about how to use the natural environment to meet grade level benchmarks.



Programs held at schools and at events like EarthFest, NASA's Sustainability Fair, Cleveland's Public Works Day and at places, such as the Fairhill Center for Aging, provided additional opportunities to communicate the "Keep Your Yard Green and Our Waters Clean" message to diverse audiences.



The Bay Village Aqua Girls promoted a strong anti-dumping message



*Sixty-three volunteers and Friends of Big Creek pulled trash, debris and other items from four stream sites during the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Big Creek Clean Up.*

## Euclid Creek and Rocky River Watershed Programs

The Euclid Creek and Rocky River watershed programs are aimed at protecting, restoring and perpetuating healthy watersheds through watershed planning, public education and collaboration among the watersheds' many stakeholders. Charged with implementing the state-endorsed watershed action plans, the staff seeks funding and works with partners to address impairments in their watersheds through special projects, ongoing environmental education programs and events.



*Euclid Creek-Greenwood Farm in Richmond Heights*

Thanks to a strong collaborative partnership between Cuyahoga SWCD, Euclid Creek Watershed Council and the Friends of Euclid Creek, many projects have been implemented since the inception of the **Euclid Creek Watershed Program**. The work effort, which includes a comprehensive public involvement and public education (PIPE) program for the watershed communities, also includes efforts aimed at restoring water quality and habitat, which also helps meet delisting targets in the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern of which the watershed is included.

Activities in the Euclid Creek watershed during 2014 included:

**Lacustrine Refuge in Cuyahoga AOC Project, Cleveland**  
Although this \$1.4 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funded project was completed in 2013, fish and habitat monitoring at the project site near the mouth of the creek in Cleveland continues as a requirement of the grant. Fish and macroinvertebrate sampling was done to assess the success of the wetland plant establishment, and site inspections were conducted after large storm events to check for erosion and overall project stability. Invasive plant growth continued to be monitored and two volunteer planting events were coordinated with assistance from the Cleveland Metroparks. An annual monitoring report was submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of the City of Cleveland.



*931 volunteers contributed a total of 2,185 hours of time to the Euclid Creek Watershed program installing trees and native plants, pulling invasive plants, water quality monitoring, attending watershed meetings and tabling events. This was a monetary value of \$49,272 to the program!*

### **Highland Heights Land Acquisition Project**

High quality and environmentally sensitive open space, especially those with wetlands, has been nearly eradicated in Cuyahoga County. Fortunately, with assistance from the West Creek Conservancy, 12 acres of sensitive wetland and stream habitat in Highland Heights was protected with \$252,000 in grant funds from Round 8 Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Program. In October, volunteers from Friends of Euclid Creek, City of Highland Heights and neighbors helped enhance the project site with 430 native understory plants.

### **Redstone Run Highland Preserve Richmond Heights Conserved Property**

Located in Richmond Heights, this beautiful 8 acre headwaters site was protected in 2013 through Clean Ohio funding. This year an Eagle Scout installed four monarch way stations on the site, which provides important habitat to attract these beneficial pollinators.

### **Riparian Tree and Shrub Planting Program**

Streamside (riparian) habitat protection and restoration is important in all watersheds. This program, funded through a \$13,370 Lake Erie Protection Fund grant, will provide native trees and shrubs to property owners along Euclid Creek to plant and help reforest the streamside. Natural riparian buffers help stabilize stream banks, decrease high storm flows, filter

nutrients and sediment from storm water and provide essential habitat for wildlife. The project will begin in 2015.

### **Public Involvement and Public Education**

#### **Activities included:**

- ◆ Euclid Creek Volunteer Monitoring Program – citizen volunteers monitored five sites monthly in 2014
- ◆ 3 Watershed Program Newsletters written/published
- ◆ Storm Drain Stenciling with Hawken students in Lyndhurst
- ◆ 2 Spring plantings & Fall Cleanup event at Wildwood Park
- ◆ Day in the Life of Euclid Creek – hands-on water quality monitoring day of the watershed.
- ◆ 4 Rain Barrel Workshops
- ◆ 2 Green Cleaning for Inside and Out Workshops.
- ◆ 3 Euclid Creek Watershed Council meetings and 2 PIPE Committee meetings coordinated and held
- ◆ Great Lake Erie Boat Float Event – first time participating - FOEC made boat out of recycled materials with Mayfield High School students and participated in event.
- ◆ Beachwood Rain Garden plantings with students at Middle School and Hilltop Elementary.
- ◆ Euclid Creek display at 5 community events
- ◆ Euclid Creek Watershed Presentation to 3 community groups
- ◆ Website consolidation / makeover and launch for improved communication of all watershed information.



*How healthy is the stream?  
Students used Euclid Creek as their outdoor laboratory.*

#### **Euclid Creek Watershed Council (ECWC)**

The Watershed Coordinator continued to provide technical and organizational/administrative support to the local government-oriented Euclid Creek Watershed Council and the Technical and PIPE Committees. The Watershed Council and POPE Committee have work plans laying out an annual strategy for the outreach program, project planning, and grant development/assistance.

On the other side of the county, the Rocky River Watershed Program is equally robust. Unlike the mostly urban Euclid Creek watershed, the Rocky River watershed encompasses rural, suburban and urban communities, which provides opportunities to implement farm-related pollution prevention

programs, as well as the usual programs that Cuyahoga SWCD administers.

Activities in the Rocky River watershed during 2014 included:

#### **Stopping Sediment at Its Source in the Rocky River Watershed**

This multi-year project was funded through a grant from the Great Lakes Commission. This year, 21 miles of streambank in the Baldwin Creek subwatershed was assessed using the Bank Erosion Hazard Index (BEHI) in order to identify primary source areas of streambank erosion and to prioritize potential streambank restoration areas. The results of the assessment suggest that streambank erosion in Baldwin Creek is generating nearly 5500 tons of sediment each year. Cuyahoga SWCD is providing technical assistance and financial incentives to owners of high priority streambank erosion sites.

Through a partnership with Medina and Lorain SWCDs, sediment loading due to erosion from agricultural lands in the Mallet Creek and Plum Creek subwatersheds was reduced by 500 tons through the implementation of cover crop and conservation tillage practices.

#### **Headwaters Restoration at Hinckley Ranger Stables**

Cuyahoga SWCD was awarded a Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF) grant in the amount of \$41,865 to stabilize a head cut in an ephemeral stream channel upstream of a sensitive, high quality, cold water stream community in the Cleveland Metroparks Hinckley Reservation. The project, scheduled to be constructed in March 2015, will reduce sediment being exported downstream by ~4.5 tons/year (which is a lot for this small headwater stream!), create a forested riparian buffer and enhance on-site storm water treatment.

#### **Coe Creek Streambank Restoration and Princess Ledges Storm Water Wetland**

Technical assistance and grant writing support was provided to the City of Fairview Park for its Coe Creek Streambank Restoration Project, which was awarded \$66,600 from Ohio EPA's Storm Water Improvement Fund (SWIF) grant program.

Technical assistance and grant writing support also was provided to the Medina County Park District for its Princess Ledges Storm Water Wetland Project, which was awarded \$54,879 from Ohio EPA's SWIF grant program. The project will provide wetland habitat and storm water control upstream of a cold water stream community.

#### **Water Quality Monitoring**

The water quality monitoring program was implemented at 34 sites in seven subwatersheds and three sites on the Rocky River's Main Stem. Trends from three years of monitoring indicate generally elevated phosphorus levels throughout the

watershed, with the highest phosphate and nitrate levels occurring in the Main Stem and Baldwin Creek.



*Program assistants, Elizabeth Hiser and Megan Smith conducted stream assessments in the Euclid Creek and Rocky River watersheds that provided baseline data that will be applied to support future projects.*

### Public Involvement and Public Education

- ◆ 2 volunteer tree planting events, with 50 volunteers planting 250 trees and shrubs in 3-gallon pots along 1000 feet of Baldwin Creek and Coe Creek.
- ◆ 3 volunteer river/creek cleanups in which 95 volunteers cleaned trash from over 10 miles of Baldwin Creek, Abram Creek and the Rocky River.
- ◆ 5 rain barrel workshops, where participants constructed 93 rain barrels to install at home.
- ◆ Presentation on *Watershed-friendly Stream Maintenance* at the Ohio Stormwater Conference and to the Eastgate Council of Governments.



*Volunteers plant trees along Baldwin Creek in Berea, Ohio.*

The Rocky River Watershed Program leveraged 676 volunteers who contributed 1845.5 volunteer hours to the program in 2014 – a value of \$41,616!

### Rocky River Watershed Council

The Rocky River Watershed Coordinator continued to provide technical and organizational/administrative support to the Rocky River Watershed Council, including program planning, coordinating the development and management of the NEORS operating support grant, and work plan

development. A 2014 highlight is the creation of Stream Teams in Abram Creek, Baldwin Creek and Plum Creek subwatersheds.

Through the Rocky River Watershed Council, the Lake Erie Protection Fund awarded \$15,000 to implement a pilot Riparian Reforestation Reverse Auction project in Stream Team subwatersheds.

## Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

As a non-regulatory public service, the Cuyahoga SWCD Storm Water Program is focused on developing and implementing better methods to help guide planning, design, construction and maintenance of water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs). The SWCD's specialized technical education and assistance in the areas of soil quality, soil survey techniques, drastically-disturbed land rehabilitation, and repurposing distressed, urban lands for agriculture, urban forestry, and storm water management continue to play an important role in the county.

Judging by the increased work performed by Cuyahoga SWCD staff, development and redevelopment projects are picking up. This year staff provided the following:

- ◆ Review of preliminary plans, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans, best management practice plans, farm and soil quality management plans - a record of 208 reviewed.
- ◆ 1,689 Comprehensive Field Reviews of active construction sites were conducted throughout the year.
- ◆ Staff assistance has also increased efforts in reviewing 435 water quality and water quantity basins throughout the county to help elucidate long term operations and maintenance (O&M) needs.
- ◆ One Lunch and Learn session was held which featured a presentation by Contech.
- ◆ Rapid Field Assessments, which help identify soil conditions and soil quality rehabilitation needs, were conducted by request.



*The retention basin at the CMHA Miles Pointe Senior Living apartments in Cleveland provides treats storm water and is a beautiful feature on the property.*

- Storm Water Program staff also provided additional training related to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit with the Northeast Ohio Storm Water Training Council workshops.

## Landowner Assistance

Rainy weather results in numerous calls to our office. In 2014 Cuyahoga SWCD staff provided more than 72 hours of guidance to landowners on issues related to drainage, soils, erosion, flooding, and land protection of sensitive areas, including on-site assistance. Stream bank erosion on private property generated a number of calls. Our staff also provided technical assistance related to long term maintenance of water quantity and water quality basins.

## Conservation Crusader

Cuyahoga SWCD staff continued to contribute to the Conservation Crusader campaign and had fun doing so! This Northeast Ohio campaign helped inform and educate the general public on how their daily lifestyle and habit choices can influence the quality of the natural resources where they live and work. This campaign involved 3-4 minute live segments on the *Live on Lakeside* show on Channel 3 – WKYC. It also involved a monthly 1-2 minute segment on the WKYC Weather webpage promoted by a local weather personality. The WKYC website also provided links to other resources to help enhance the messaging. Thousands of television viewers had the opportunity to learn more about good environmental practices.



## Summer Supervisor School

In July, 350 board members and staff from the 88 Ohio SWCD's attended Summer Supervisor School in Cleveland. Participants raved about the tours, which included site visits to see recently-installed green infrastructure/storm water practices, urban agriculture and seasonal high tunnels, traditional farm and vineyard tours and timely educational programs. The picture-perfect weather and educational dinner cruise on the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie, plus Cleveland hospitality added up to a great event.

## Conservation Easements

Cuyahoga SWCD holds conservation easements on 266 acres of land in 13 communities. These easements protect sensitive

wetland and streamside areas. Staff conducted field inspections to ensure that the easements remain protected and in their natural state, and if not, the staff worked with property owners to restore the areas affected by unapproved changes. Field inspections also provided opportunities to meet with landowners to explain the purpose of the conservation easements and the importance of protecting the land.



## Conservation Partners

The spirit of collaboration is extremely strong and our many partners strengthen the staff's ability to provide a stronger and more effective conservation program. Those partners include: Alliance for the Great Lakes, Army Corps of Engineers, Big Creek Connects, Cleveland Metroparks, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Contech, Cuyahoga County agencies—Board of Health, Board of Mental Disabilities, Department of Public Works and Planning Commission, EnviroScience, GDP Group, Farm Bureau, County Land Bank, Cuyahoga Solid Waste District, Cuyahoga Community College East, Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization, Cuyahoga Valley Conservancy, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Euclid Beach Adopt-a-Beach, Euclid Creek and Rocky River Watershed Councils, Friends of Euclid Creek and Friends of Big Creek, Lake Erie Central Basin Work Group, Lorain, Mahoning and Medina SWCDs, National Wildlife Federation, NRCS, Northeast Ohio PIPE, Northeast Ohio SWTC, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Northeast Ohio Watershed Council, Notre Dame College, ODNR-Division of Soil & Water Resources, Ohio Environmental Council, Ohio EPA, US EPA (GLRI), OSU Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Walnut Creek Seeds LLC, West Creek Conservancy, Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Western Reserve RC & D and our great volunteers!

## Funders

The Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District board and staff acknowledge the following organizations that provided financial support for District programs and projects: Cuyahoga County, 26 municipalities, Cuyahoga County Engineers, ODNR-Division of Soil and Water Resources, Friends of Euclid Creek, Euclid Creek Watershed Council, Rocky River Watershed Council, Great Lakes Commission, Ohio Environmental Education Fund, Ohio EPA, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, S.K. Wellman Foundation and the Cuyahoga Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC).



## USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

The Cuyahoga SWCD office is also home to a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office. NRCS staff is working to bring federal dollars to Cuyahoga County to assist in conservation and urban agricultural efforts. The NRCS Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative also provides incentive funds for drip irrigation in the county. The initiative provided incentive payments to qualified recipients for high tunnels (hoop houses) which extend the growing season. The initiative focused on Cleveland to help promote and provide fresh local produce in areas defined as "food deserts." In 2013, 26 contracts were awarded and 23 high tunnels have been installed.



*Seasonal high tunnels are popping up in Cleveland, thanks to cost incentive funds through the USDA-NRCS. The high tunnels help extend the growing season.*

## 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

On beautiful September 23, the 2014 Annual Meeting was held at the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center in Brecksville. The program, held in collaboration with the Career Center and the Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau, featured seasonal produce provided by the Farm Bureau that was transformed into sublime and tasty hors d'oeuvres.

Staff created a montage of 2014 activities, Ohio Century Farms recognized Foote Valley Farms and Maple Crest Farm for their long time commitment to farming in Cuyahoga County, and Ted Esborn, Jr. and Jeremiah Swetel were elected to serve on the Board of Supervisors for the 2015-2017 term.



*Supervisors-elect: Jeremiah Swetel and Ted Esborn*

## 2014 Conservation Heroes

Each year at the Annual Meeting, the Cuyahoga SWCD board and staff honors individuals who voluntarily work to promote conservation. This year's conservation awards were presented to Elva Edger as the Conservationist of the Year; Carl Skalak, Jr., owner of Blue Pike Farm, as the Cooperator of the Year; and Robert Kestranek as the volunteer of the year. Congratulations to all!



*From the left: Bob Kestranek, Elva Edger, Jan Rybka and Carl Skalak, Jr.*

## Forestry Camp



*Bradley Sprau attended the 2015 Forestry Camp through a scholarship from the Cuyahoga SWCD. He is a student at Rocky River High School.*

## Board of Supervisors

The Cuyahoga SWCD Board of Supervisors are volunteers elected to three year terms. Members share their time and talents to set policy and assist staff in program implementation. Board members supported and assisted with the 2014 community outreach efforts, including the Speaker's Bureau, outreach to local legislators, data review and developing position statements.

Ruth Skuly.....Chair  
 Howard Maier.....Vice Chair  
 Patricia Carey.....Secretary  
 Tom Marsalis.....Fiscal Agent/Treasurer  
 Keith Linn .....Lake Erie Central Basin Liaison

## Associate Supervisors

Each year the Board appoints associate supervisors. These volunteers provided expanded our capacity and better enabled Cuyahoga SWCD board and staff to meet and exceed the 2014 goals. Their time and service was extremely important to increasing our ability to get conservation on the ground.

Kathleen Bradley  
 Dorothy Hazel  
 Kevin Kubovcik

## Cuyahoga SWCD Staff

Cuyahoga SWCD staff had a successful year. The work program expanded, staff expertise increased and efficiencies were made for better delivery of our services. The staff's passion for the environment and commitment to Cuyahoga SWCD's mission supported ongoing conservation efforts that protected land and aquatic resources.

Janine Rybka.....District Administrator  
 Jared Bartley.....Rocky River Watershed Coordinator  
 Brent Eysenbach.....Storm Water Program Coordinator  
 Gloria Kestranek .....Administrative Assistant  
 Eric Lance.....Storm Water Specialist  
 Claire Posius.....Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator  
 Carla Regener .....Storm Water Specialist  
 Amy Roskily.....Conservation Education Specialist  
 Brian White.....Urban Conservationist  
 Lynette Harmon.....District Conservationist, NRCS  
 Al Norwood.....Urban Conservationist, NRCS

## Program Assistants 2014

The 2014 Program Assistants provided assistance with research, stream monitoring and conservation education efforts, which succeeded in helping the staff meet the annual program goals.

Elizabeth Hiser, Watershed Assistant  
 Ashley Harper  
 Megan Smith  
 Kelly Parker

## Cash Basis Report 2014

RECEIPTS	DISTRICT FUND	SPECIAL FUND
Taxes		
Grants:		
Local Government		\$365,750.00
State Government		\$345,750.00
Federal Government		
Sale of Products/Materials	\$14,437.00	
All Other Revenue	\$487,115.00	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$501,552.00</b>	<b>\$711,500.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Salaries		\$422,624.00
Supplies	\$1,553.00	\$2,778.00
Equipment	\$7,445.00	\$3,276.00
Contract Services/Cost Share Payments	\$167,676.00	\$27,341.00
Office Rent		\$16,500.00
Travel & Expenses	\$475.00	\$2,282.00
Advertising /printing	\$3,291.00	\$2,166.00
PERS		\$57,257.00
Worker's Compensation		\$365.00
Unemployment Compensation		\$0.00
Hospitalization		\$84,598.00
Medicare		\$6,024.00
Product/Materials for Resale	\$13,885.00	
Other (postage, printing, county indirect fees, insurance & bonds, phone, fax, internet, dues)	\$50,594.00	\$77,413.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$244,919.00</b>	<b>\$702,624.00</b>
Total Receipts Over/(Under)	\$256,633.00	\$8,876.00

Check out our new website at  
[www.cuyahogaswcd.org](http://www.cuyahogaswcd.org)

*Cuyahoga SWCD is an equal opportunity employer and provider*