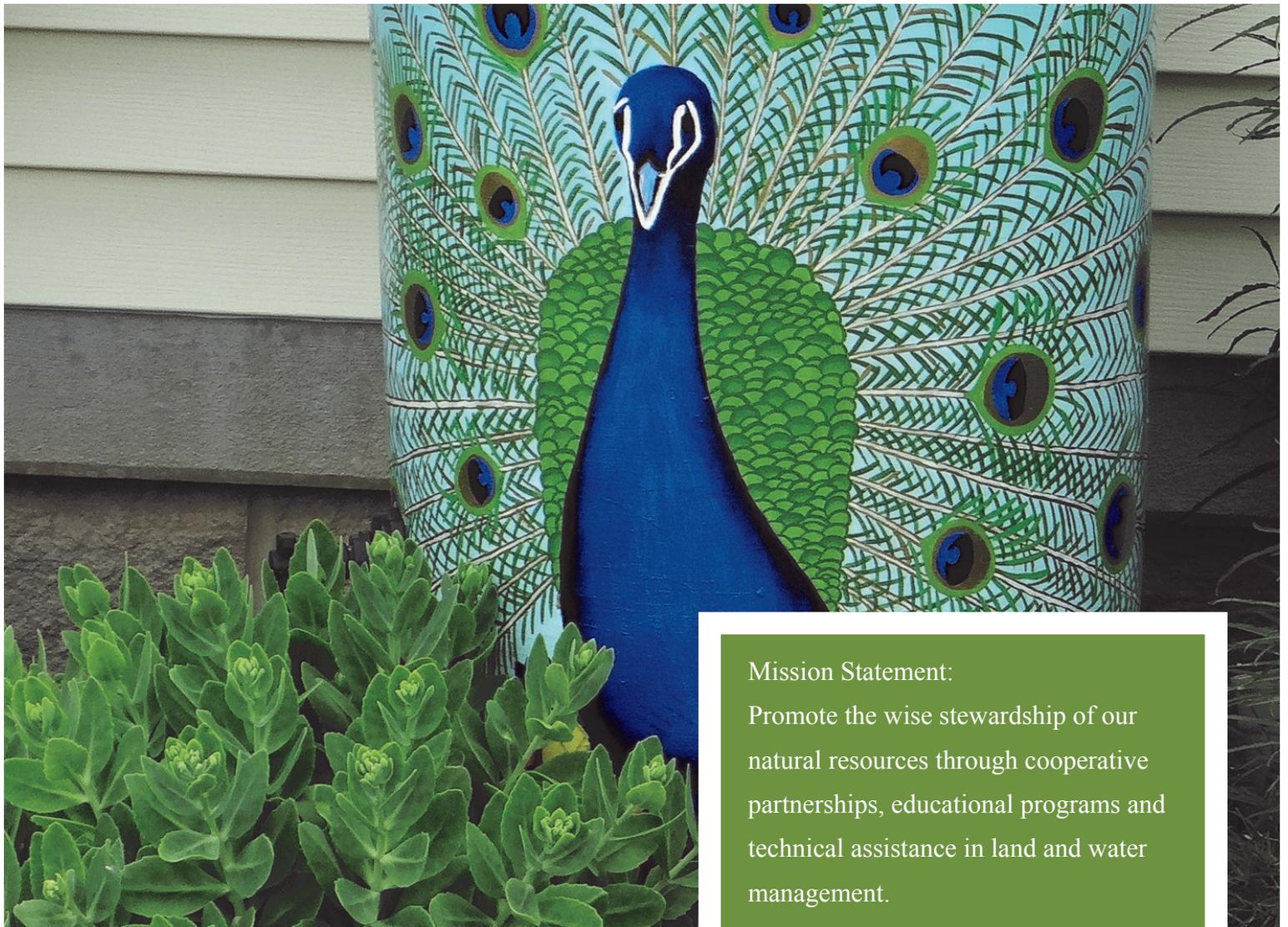




2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Mission Statement:

Promote the wise stewardship of our natural resources through cooperative partnerships, educational programs and technical assistance in land and water management.



Conservation and education go hand in hand as the District strives to inform the community about how it plays a role in the future of our natural resources. Reaching youth and local residents with a vision for clean water is one way we achieve this goal.

Conservation & Education

SAVING RAIN FOR A SUNNY DAY

The rain barrels on the front cover and below demonstrate a collaboration between the arts and conservation in an effort to make everyday conservation more beautiful. The District partners with Save Local Waters to commission the creation of decorated rain barrels that collect runoff from rooftops. These barrels are then auctioned off at the Cincinnati Zoo's Party for the Planet and the proceeds go toward outreach activities.



Photo: Rain Barrel, Lebanon Train Station

EDUCATION *The District is in high demand for its creative and specialized water quality and soil health education programming.*



2015 was a year of celebration for the District as we commemorated past board member Thomas C. Spellmire by dedicating the Water Conservation Education Exhibit in his name at a **ribbon cutting event** (left). Since then the mobile exhibit has already visited the Ohio Farm Science Review, Warren County Fair, and various schools and other community events.

Throughout the year our staff reached **20,000 students** with educational programs. We also hosted educator trainings, rain barrel workshops and promoted conservation messages through social media, our website, and at a regional scale through Save Local Waters by way of billboards, radio ads, and television spots.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE *Helping landowners solve problems is a big part of sharing the conservation message with the public.*



The District assisted **275 landowners** with drainage calls, went out to **21 stream visits**, worked to resolve a number of illicit discharges, and tagged **700 storm drains** with no dumping messages. Our staff also inspected **305 stormwater basins** for functionality.

Technology is an area where the District is making great strides in offering technical assistance. We purchased new survey equipment (left), and continue to press forward by developing new ways of tracking information using web based applications and mobile devices in the field for increased accuracy and efficiency.



LONG RANGE PLAN

After embarking on a long range planning process and a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis our Board of Supervisors adopted a new Long Range Plan in 2015 to guide and shape the future of our District.

Looking Forward

FARMLAND

Farmland is one of our County's most valuable resources. Its economic impact is significant. It contributes greatly to the scenic and rural feel of our county. It is a way of life for many and a source of bountiful food for the community. Protecting local farmland for future generations is a privilege.



Photo: Utrecht Family Farm on a foggy morning

PRESERVATION *The District advances the protection of prime farmland and other valuable land areas.*



The Ohio Department of Agriculture's Farmland Preservation program was well received in the County having five applications submitted for the 2015 application round. The District was awarded a total of \$319,077 for the protection of two Warren County farms totaling 244 acres. With the support from the County Commissioners and local Trustees, the District is excited to continue to work together to preserve our farmland. The District also holds or co-holds 11 conservation easements for local landowners and inspects a handful of easements for compliance with easement agreements.

The District also promoted healthy soil management in 2015 by coordinating the aerial seeding of 920 acres of cover crops on farms throughout the County. We also hosted a national speaker on this beneficial practice that keeps soil in place, utilizes excess nutrients, and prepares the soil for next year's crops.

CONSERVATION *Making wise decisions about resource use today promotes clean water and healthy land for the future.*



The District administers the County's erosion and sediment control program to protect the water and soil in urbanizing areas. The District reviews plans, facilitates fees, provides earth disturbing permits and inspects all new construction disturbing over an acre of land. This program currently promotes wise development practices on 107 active construction sites.

One of the District's longest standing conservation programs is the tree seedling sale which offers over 25 species of trees to local residents each year. In 2015 12,000 seedlings were sold to 328 customers.

Additionally, the District is honored to administer the Miami River Watershed Joint Board as it seeks to implement projects at the watershed level to restore and protect streams. This endeavor brings with it great opportunities to acquire funding for projects that cross traditional jurisdictional boundaries.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015

Receipts

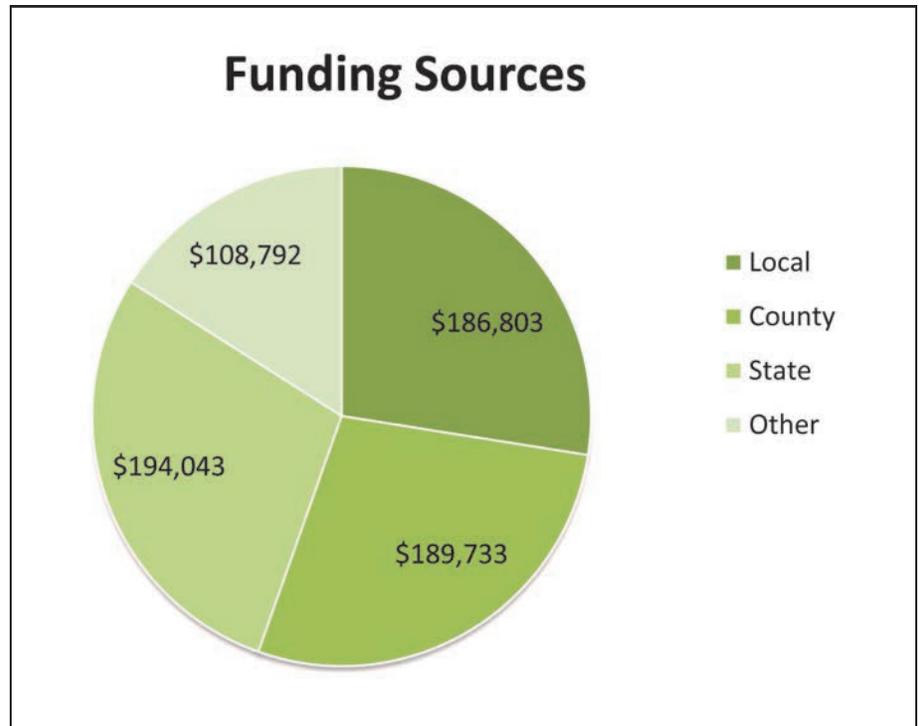
Carryover	\$307,800.68
Local	\$186,803.00
County	\$189,733.00
State	\$194,043.00
Other	\$108,792.44
	\$987,172.12

Expenditures

Salaries	\$431,635.92
Benefits	\$127,343.88
Equipment and Supplies	\$17,912.22
Rentals and Service Fees	\$73,376.21
Education and Outreach	\$38,540.12
Products/Materials for Resale	\$11,391.88
Other	\$26,041.35
Water Education Trailer	\$39,163.23
	\$765,404.81

Balance

\$221,767.31



Grants & Contributions

- \$70,400 Thomas C. Spellmire Water Conservation Education Exhibit Grants and Contributions

Awards

- \$319,077 Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program

Contracts

- \$31,000 Miami River Watershed Joint Board funds payable for services

*Numbers based on unaudited financial statements.

DISTRICT STAFF

Caitlin Botschner
Amy Cameron
Molly Conley
Marta Farrell
Don Norman
Shaun Stephens
Dawn Stiles
Jeff Thomas

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bruce Goodwin
Roy Miller
Samantha Steiner
John Tkatschenko
Dan Uetrecht

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Marian Chace
Robert Chace
Mark Steiner
Vince Uetrecht



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USDA/SWCD are Equal
Opportunity Providers and Employers.

PARTNERSHIPS

City of Lebanon
City of Mason
Deerfield Regional Storm Water District
Deerfield Township
Miami River Watershed Joint Board
Ohio Department of Agriculture
Regional Storm Water Collaborative
Warren County Engineer's Office
USDA/NRCS