



Conservation Comments

February - March 2008

*LOCAL CONSERVATION
EVENTS AND INFORMATION*

Greene SWCD — 1363 Burnett Drive — Xenia, OH 45385-5681 — Phone (937) 372-4478 — Fax (937) 372-8774

Rockies Express Pipeline (REX) East Crosses Ohio



A 42 inch natural gas pipeline clips the southeastern edge of Greene County as it is planned to cross Ohio later in 2008. In many parts of the country, the pipeline will parallel existing pipelines. The REX East pipeline includes the construction of 639.1 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline from Mexico, Missouri to Clarington; Ohio and 7 new compressor stations in Audrain County, Missouri, Christian County, Illinois, Putnam County, Indiana, Butler County, Ohio, Muskingum County, Ohio, Carbon County, Wyoming, and Phelps County, Nebraska, and 20 meter stations. Another pipeline, REX West, is a 713-mile pipeline from Weld County, Colorado, to Audrain County, Missouri.

The entire Rockies Express Pipeline will span 1,679 miles when finished as it snakes its way from Colorado to Ohio. It will transport natural gas to the northeast part of the United States which is more dependent on natural-gas generated electrical plants. Once operational, the estimated \$4.5 billion pipeline will be able to transport 1.5 billion cubic feet of gas a day. The entire REX West section is to be operational by February 2008. REX – East seeks final Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval in the spring of 2008 and plans to begin construction in late summer 2008, with a targeted partial in-service date of December 2008. REX – East is expected to be completely in-service by June 2009. A drive south on U.S. 68 just south of I 71 will allow you a view of the pipe being stockpiled over a field of several acres in anticipation of final approval for the project.

An Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) was recently reached between REX East and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Some important parts of the agreement are the pipeline will be buried a minimum of five feet where it crosses cropland and pastures and three feet where it crosses woodland. The AIMA also details the construction standards and policies dealing with pipeline depth; soil removal and replacement; repair of damaged drain tile lines; correction of future drainage problems; rock removal; removal of construction debris; compaction, rutting, fertilization and liming of the area disturbed; land leveling; repair of damaged soil conservation practices; and other items. REX East will also employ a minimum of seven agricultural inspectors in Ohio. They will be trained in all aspects of soil and water conservation and familiar with farm operations. They shall maintain contact with the affected landowners and SWCD's and will have work stop authority to avoid noncompliance situations during construction.

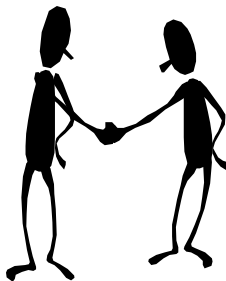
All of the Conservation Districts in Ohio through which the pipeline travels are working with the landowners to help insure present and future conservation practices will not be negatively impacted by this project. Greene SWCD has corresponded with all of the landowners in Greene County affected by this project to offer our assistance and noting points to consider in working with REX. We can also provide copies of the AIMA. Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.



2007 Greene SWCD ANNUAL REPORT

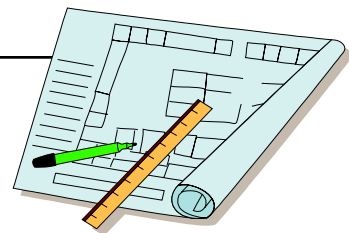
Partner Organizations

- Greene County:
 - Commissioners
 - Engineer
 - Auditor
 - Regional Planning
 - Park District
 - Sanitary Engineering
 - Township Trustees Association
 - Townships and Municipalities
 - Combined Health District
 - Fish & Game Association
 - Master Gardeners
- ODNR Divisions of Wildlife, Forestry, and Soil and Water Conservation
- Ohio State University Extension - Greene Co.
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency



Technical Assistance

- 300 Landowner Contacts
- Conservation Application - 100 practices surveyed and designed
- Urban Erosion Control — 263 development site reviews and lot reviews for landowners
- Ditch Maintenance — see insert



Conservation Promotion

- Monthly/Quarterly Nitrate testing in Caesars Creek Watershed — 7 sites
- Tree Seedling Sales — 180 orders



Public Information

- Displays — Greene County Fair, Farm Tour, Ohio Garden Club Association
- GSWCD Annual Meeting
- County Officials Tour
- 5 Newsletters (1600 circulation)
- Soil & Water Stewardship observance
- Little Miami River Watershed Festival
- Brochures—Before You Buy or Build, Educational Offerings
- Updated Website
- Celebrate the Harvest Teachers Workshop
- OSU Volunteer Naturalist Program
- Project WET Teachers Workshop



Youth Activities

- Montgomery-Greene Local Envirothon and Area IV Southwest Ohio Envirothon — 6 teams
- 5th Grade Conservation Poster Contest — 8 presentations, 300 entries
- 129 Classroom Presentations to 3,900 K - 12th graders in Greene County
- Assist with Dayton Children's Water Festival
- Water Quality Awareness Committee - High School Water Testing Projects
- FFA Land Judging Contest
- Incredible Journey Activity at 7 Greene Co. Public Library branches
- FFA Agriculture 5th Grade Field Day
- Stream Table rotated to all 7 Xenia elementaries



Committee Representation

- OSU Extension Advisory
- Little Miami River Partnership
- Agronomy Board
- Ohio Stormwater Task Force
- Solid Waste Management Technical Advisory Committee
- Miami Valley Regional Planning
- Well Field Protection - Xenia, Greene Co., Y.S.
- Farmland Preservation Task Force
- Tecumseh Land Trust
- Miami Valley Resource Conservation & Development (MVRC&D)
- Upper Little Miami / Caesars Creek 319 Project
- Paint Creek TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load)
- OEPA Phase II Storm water
- Greene County Career Center Advisory Comm.
- Greene Co. Water Quality Awareness Comm.
- S.W. Regional Drinking Water Protection Plan
- Little Miami CREP - application team
- Massies Creek Water Resource Restoration Project
- Hebble Creek Watershed Group



Ditch Maintenance Annual Report for 2007

December 31, 2007

The Greene Soil and Water Conservation District has completed another year of ditch maintenance. Under the authority of the County Engineer, District personnel inspect, recommend work needed, perform the work approved to be done or arrange a contractor for it, keep track of expenses and balances for each ditch and recommend assessment rates.

We welcome three new members to the Ditch Maintenance Advisory Committee. They are Roger Kirk, Larry Mangan, and John Trimmer. They join the other members of Bob Geyer, County Engineer; Gary Clemans, Greene SWCD Supervisor; Don Leeds, Drainage Coordinator/DPA Greene SWCD, Mike Bentley, Roger Dobbins, Mark Guess, Gary Hines, Chas Leach, and Tom Baudendistel. Our appreciation goes to Barb Johnston, Jerry Erwin, and the late Ralph Schafer for their time of service on the committee. The committee met in December to review 2007's activities and expenses. We also reviewed plans for future ditch projects and made recommendations if those projects happen.

We continue replacement of corrugated metal tile outlets that have rusted out and partial to complete dip out of the older ditches. 2007 also saw the need to apply for permits and then trap beavers that had built a dam on the Hartman Ditch. We are continuing with our original plan of annually mowing the ditch berm, spraying the ditch bank for broadleaf and brush control as needed, and ditch bottom spraying as needed. Other repairs are completed as needed. This sort of program has lowered the costs, helped the stream bank stabilize and is environmentally friendly. We remind landowners/operators along these open ditches to leave a minimum of 10 feet along the ditch bank for maintenance operations. We continue to be concerned about farming practices that are too close to the ditches or water ways which could result in excessive erosion. As farm tracts along the open ditches are split into small development lots, we continue to inform the new owners of the ditch maintenance program.

Each ditch under maintenance pays only for the work done to the ditch through a maintenance assessment. The following tables show each open and tile ditch currently under maintenance in Greene County, work performed as of December 31, 2007, assessments received in 2007, expenses for 2007, ending balance and work planned for 2008.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Greene County Ditch Maintenance Program, please contact our office at 372-4478 or any member of the advisory committee.

Tile Ditches Under Maintenance

Name	Work performed In 2007	Assessments Paid 2007	Expenses for 2007	Ending Balance	Proposed Work 2008
Burchenal	1	\$0	\$0	\$ 38.65	1
Chitty Group	1	\$0	\$0	\$ 20.92	1
Guess-Darding-Bales	1	\$0	\$0	\$ 559.62	1
Hargrave	1	\$0	\$0	\$ 436.39	1
Hussey-Hargrave	1	\$0	\$0	\$1305.53	1
Middleton	1	\$0	\$0	\$ 271.22	1
North Branch Breakfield	1	\$0	\$0	\$ 143.38	1
North Branch Liming	1	\$0	\$0	\$ 176.64	1
Stingley	1	\$0	\$0	\$ 157.48	1



Open Ditches Under Maintenance

Name	Work performed in 2007	Assessments Paid in 2007	Expenses for 2007	Ending Balance	Proposed Work 2008
Andrews	1,2,3,5	\$ 1042.97	\$ 166.41	(\$1603.74)	1,2,3,5
Beal	1,2,3,5	698.02	338.47	(24.77)	1,2,3,5,8
Birch creek	1,2,5	701.55	115.74	(400.41)	1,2,5
Bloom-Henry	1,2,3,5,6,8	1256.66	1500.42	34.97	1,2,3,5,6
Dean-Cosgray	1,2,3,5	560.02	401.26	1893.77	1,2,3,5
Earl Atley	1,2,3,5,8	518.82	3671.15	(1106.46)	1,2,3,5,6
Evans-Trelawny	1,2,3,5,6	3934.72	1234.93	(197.20)	1,2,3,5,6,8
Galliger	1,2,3,5,6	325.00	345.73	(.52)	1,2,3,5
Gordin-Sheeley	1,2,3,5,6	2897.81	1626.52	476.86	1,2,3,5
Gordin-Spahr	1,2,3,5	912.22	689.31	3844.07	1,2,3,5,6,8
Grassy Branch	1,2,3,5	1336.62	1326.04	642.47	1,2,3,5,8
Hartman	1,2,3,5,8	2581.72	2355.04	2701.54	1,2,3,5,8
Johnston-Kirk-Lucas	1,2,3,5	2012.40	1187.31	(1140.12)	1,2,3,5,8
Liming	1,2,3,5	518.42	432.28	1918.86	1,2,3,5
Meredith-Artley	1,2	149.94	112.17	70.90	1,2,5
Mott-Spahr	1,2,3,5,8	726.97	3810.13	(2225.98)	1,2,3,5
North Fork of Grassy Branch	1,2,3,5	568.20	514.62	4357.57	1,2,3,5,8
Paullin	1,2,3,5,6	1220.98	369.30	(987.03)	1,2,3,5
Sterrett-Lackey	1,2,3,5,6	1423.94	717.69	100.01	1,2,3,5
West Branch Rattlesnake	1,2,3,5,6	2275.96	1707.80	217.88	1,2,3,5,8
West Fork Grassy Branch	1,2,3,5,6	648.50	832.09	(483.17)	1,2,3,5,8
Wildman-Paullin-Andrews	1,2,3,5	2564.94	1215.65	448.72	1,2,3,5,8
Yellow Springs-Whitehall	1,2,3,5	1432.46	431.45	(474.55)	1,2,3,5

All herbicides used are labeled for ditch maintenance application and were applied by licensed personnel.

Table Legend for work performed:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Inspect | 2 Mow berm |
| 3 Spray ditch bank for broadleaf control | 4 Spray entire ditch bank for brush control |
| 5 Spot spray for brush control | 6 Spot spray ditch bottom |
| 7 Rip Rap placement | 8 Other work such as tile outlet repair, minor dip out, headwall repair, etc |

There are three open ditches in which part of their watershed lies in Greene County. They are under joint maintenance with services completed by neighboring counties. They are:

Ehlerding-Ellis (with Clinton County)
 Maple Grove (with Fayette County)
 Upper Wilson (with Fayette County)

Beaver Dam on Hartman

Mott-Spahr Dip out



2007 GSWCD Financial Report

**Contact the SWCD
for a copy of the
2007 Financial Rort**

Greene SWCD receives its funding through local and state sources. Each year the Greene SWCD Board of Supervisors presents a budget request to the Greene County Commissioners for the next fiscal year. Based on the amount of local appropriations, state matching funds are received from the Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission via the State Legislature.



Gary Clemans, left, and Dave Linkhart, right, are sworn in to their three year terms as Greene SWCD Supervisor by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Maureen O'Conner at the Ohio Federation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, January 29-31 in Columbus, Ohio.



Glenn's Weather Corner

Month	Rainfall	Avg. Temp
October	5.09"	62.0 degrees F
November	2.44"	44.6 degrees F
December	4.94"	35.3 degrees F
January	2.01"	31.3 degrees F

Cumulative Rainfall	2007	36.69"
January - December	2006	40.10"
	2005	39.11"
	2004	46.64"

Our Internet Site:
www.co.greene.oh.us/soils

Office Hours
 Monday - Friday
 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

All services of the Greene SWCD and NRCS are free to the public. Our office is located in the Xenia Industrial Park.

Conservation Comments

Funding to the Greene SWCD is provided by the Greene County Commissioners and Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Soil and Water Conservation provide assistance. Programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

- Look Inside For >>>**
- 2007 Annual Report
 - Ditch Maintenance Report
 - REX East Crosses Ohio

Or Current Resident

Non-Profit
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 188
 Xenia, OH

Greene Soil & Water Conservation District
 1363 Burnett Dr., Xenia, OH 45385-5681
 Phone: (937) 372-4478 Fax: (937) 372-8774