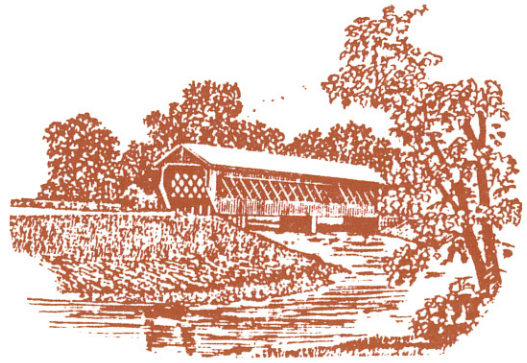


Ashtabula County Soil and Water Conservation District

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January 5, 2015

Natural Resources Assistance Council (NRAC)—District 7
c/o Geauga Soil and Water Conservation District
PO Box 410
14269 Claridon Troy Road
Burton, Ohio 44021

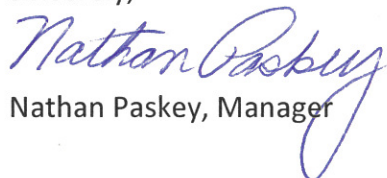
To the Members of the District 7 Natural Resources Assistance Council:

The Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District wishes to express its support for the Bloomfield Swamp project. This project, for which Western Reserve Land Conservancy is now seeking Clean Ohio funds, seeks to protect approximately 491 acres within the Grand River watershed in Orwell Township, Ashtabula County. With 440 acres of Category 3 wetlands and 23,000 linear feet of Rock Creek tributaries, Bloomfield Swamp is a land protection project with the potential to impact soil and water resources throughout the region our conservation efforts serve.

The Ashtabula Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD) has and will continue to work with landowners/groups/NGO's to restore, enhance and protect the soil and water resources in the Grand River Watershed. We view the Bloomfield Swamp project as a major step in restoring/protecting the headwater region of the Rock Creek Tributary within the Grand River Watershed. Moreover, the project's size and scope are certain to generate important new awareness of conservation's significance for our region, offering residents and visitors alike the opportunity to experience an environment in which natural assets like water, soil, plants, and wildlife are resources worthy of investment and long-term preservation.

We welcome the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's commitment to the Bloomfield Swamp project and this project's potential to amplify the ASWCD's vital public education efforts in Ashtabula County. And we urge the members of NRAC 7 to award the Land Conservancy the Clean Ohio grant funds needed to protect Bloomfield Swamp in perpetuity.

Sincerely,



Nathan Paskey, Manager