



Summit Soil & Water Conservation District

2525 State Road , Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223

phone: 330.929.2871 fax: 330.929.2872

email: staff@summitswcd.org web: summitswcd.org

January 10, 2014

Alan Brubaker, P.E., P.S.
Summit County Engineers Office
538 East South Street
Akron, OH 44311

RE: Chapter 942: Surface Water Management Utility

Dear Mr. Brubaker,

The Summit Soil and Water Conservation District's supervisors and staff would like to applaud you and your office for taking the initiative to address the ongoing flooding issues in Summit County. It is obvious that you are looking out for the best interest of Summit County and the residents. It is difficult, if not impossible, to solve current flooding issues without a realistic budget. The Ohio Drainage laws are very limiting and do not provide a cooperative environment to get this job done. The Summit SWCD staff has received similar calls from frustrated landowners and often don't have an easy or inexpensive solution.

The Surface Water Management Utility your office is proposing will have a positive impact to reduce flooding and hydrologic impacts in Summit County. This current proposal will provide funds to the local community to address localized surface water management issues as well as achieve the same goals on a larger scale. As we all know, a study cannot be conducted until funds are available and this proposed legislation provides that avenue. Finally, this proposal provides checks and balances, the responsibility to answer to the public and reduce the misuse of funds or inflating rates.

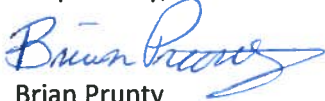
I have reviewed the proposed Surface Water Management Utility and have a few comments to offer:

- Section 942.09 CREDITS: This section is crucial to the utility to provide a reduction to one's bill for proactive lot owners. Although this section does provide an avenue to greatly reduce one's bill and will assist The Boards efforts to minimize hydrologic impacts to surface water, it is very limited. I appreciate the credits for physical and structural improvements but I would recommend providing limited credits towards social awareness (education) programs for certain institutions such as schools, churches and governmental facilities.
- Section 942.09 CREDITS: I recommend providing a credit for zoned lot owners who have a storm water facility and have filed a long term maintenance agreement with the County, when not required. This would ensure the long term maintenance of storm water facilities for zoned lots developed prior to the adoption of 943.
- Section 942.11 COMMUNITY COST-SHARE PROGRAM: A community should have the liberty to spend these funds towards any water quality or quantity surface water improvement, approved by the Board. This would allow the community to address the local surface water issues they prioritize and to apply funds towards unfunded mandates to address water quality issues.

Again, we applaud your efforts and hard work to address this issue. We will support this methodology or another funding methodology to decrease flooding in Summit County. I also understand many details will be ironed out by the Board, if this legislation is adopted. Summit SWCD will be greatly honored to

provide a representative to assist the Board through the development of this program. If you have any questions or like to discuss these comments further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 330-929-2871 x14.

Respectfully,



Brian Prunty
Stormwater Specialist
Summit SWCD
330-929-2871 x14

PC: File
Helen Humphrys, Township Association of Summit County
Jason Dodson, Chief of Staff to County Executive Russ Pry
Sandra Kurt, Summit County Council
Paul Wilkerson, Metro Parks Serving Summit County