

Ethics Policy For _____ Soil And Water Conservation District

Policy Statement

It is policy of the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District to carry out its mission in accordance with the strictest ethical guidelines and to ensure that Soil and Water Conservation District members and employees conduct themselves in a manner that fosters public confidence in the integrity of the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District, its processes, and its accomplishments.

General Standards of Ethical Conduct

Soil and Water Conservation District officials and employees must, at all times, abide by protections to the public embodied in Ohio's ethics laws, as found in Chapters 102. and 2921. of the Ohio Revised Code, and as interpreted by the Ohio Ethics Commission and Ohio courts. (A copy of these laws is provided by the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District, and receipt acknowledged, as required in R.C. 102.09(D).) Officials and employees must conduct themselves, at all times, in a manner that avoids favoritism, bias, and the appearance of impropriety.

A general summary of the restraints upon the conduct of all officials and employees includes, but is not limited to, those listed below. No official or employee shall:

- Solicit or accept anything of value from anyone doing business with the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Solicit or accept employment from anyone doing business with the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District, unless the official or employee completely withdraws from _____ Soil and Water Conservation District activity regarding the party offering employment, and the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District approves the withdrawal;
- Use his or her public position to obtain benefits for the official or employee, a family member, or anyone with whom the official or employee has a business or employment relationship;
- Be paid or accept any form of compensation for personal services rendered on a matter before any board, commission, or other body of the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District, unless the official or employee qualifies for the exception, and files the statement, described in R.C. 102.04(D);
- Hold or benefit from a contract with, authorized by, or approved by, the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District, (the Ethics Law does except some limited stockholdings, and some contracts objectively shown as the lowest cost services, where all criteria under R.C. 2921.42 are met);
- Vote, authorize, recommend, or in any other way use his or her position to secure approval of an _____ Soil and Water Conservation District contract (including employment or personal services) in which the official or employee, a

- family member, or anyone with whom the official or employee has a business or employment relationship, has an interest;
- Solicit or accept honoraria (see R.C. 102.01(H) and 102.03(H));
 - During public service, and for one year after leaving public service, represent any person, in any fashion, before any public _____ Soil and Water Conservation District, with respect to a matter in which the official or employee personally participated while serving with the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District;
 - Use or disclose confidential information protected by law, unless appropriately authorized; or
 - Use, or authorize the use of, his or her title, the name “_____ Soil and Water Conservation District,” or “the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District’s acronym],” or the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District’s logo in a manner that suggests impropriety, favoritism, or bias by the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District or the official or employee;

For purposes of this policy:

- “Anything of value” includes anything of monetary value, including, but not limited to, money, gifts, food or beverages, social event tickets and expenses, travel expenses, golf outings, consulting fees, compensation, or employment. “Value” means worth greater than de minimis or nominal.
- “Anyone doing business with the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District” includes, but is not limited to, any person, corporation, or other party that is doing or seeking to do business with, regulated by, or has interests before _____ Soil and Water Conservation District.

Ethics Education

Providing ethics education and information is an inherent part of good ethics governance. The Ethics Commission is available to provide educational seminars and informational materials. The Commission can be contacted at (614) 466-7090.

Assistance

The Ethics Commission is available to provide advice and assistance regarding the application of the Ethics Law and related statutes. The Commission can be contacted at (614) 466-7090. The Commission’s web site address is: www.ethics.ohio.gov.

Penalties

Failure of any _____ Soil and Water Conservation District official or employee to comply with the Ohio Ethics Law and related statutes, may result in civil or criminal sanctions prescribed under the law.