

the Watershed

Letter from the President by Steve Larry, RCD President

By the time this is printed, we will have possibly had our first landowner meeting of those along Babbling Brook to update them on our plans to stabilize the shoreline which continues to experience a lot of erosion most of the year. Some of these events such as spring rains and winter freezing cause much more damage than anyone could imagine. For the community at large, our plans call for updates at our regular monthly meetings as well as postings in *The Watershed*. As stated before, this is a huge project for the RCD and hopefully a prelude to our next project of silt contain-

ment.

The Watershed Planning Committee and Technical Advisory Committee met in September and another meeting is planned after harvest season since these committees are run by and attended by stakeholders, many of whom are local farmers. The current activity of these committees is to decide on a project that supports their goals and objectives of protecting and stabilizing the watershed.

Several final notes: We now have our new chairs. Again, thank Betty Lou and Don Finn for their effort in getting them here. You may

also notice a new bench on the LCC dock. We have Dennis Cantrell to thank for its construction and placement.

Finally, there are just a few docks that have yet to get repairs and/or numbers put on them. Please, if you have one that needs either, now is the time to get it done. The Board has directed Becky to prepare letters to administer fines, retroactive to the first of September if we do not see the needed repairs completed. These will be sent out in January. Fines for lack of a number (which are free for the asking) will be \$20/month and for lack of repairs, \$30/month.

Natural Vegetation as a Shoreline Protection Buffer by Dennis Cantrell, RCD Board Member

The RCD will be adding a new element in our quest to improve our lake.

The Stabilization Program has been a success.

President Steve Larry has been working with our neighbors in the watershed, and is making great strides toward keeping silt and contaminants from entering the lake.

We now have another tool. It doesn't cost anything, it saves money. It doesn't require extra work. It saves work.

I'm talking about a natural

shoreline buffer. The science and application are simple and proven. Simply let Mother Nature do what she is trying to do.

The RCD will no longer be cutting our shorelines, with the exception of a few limited areas; we will let nature build a natural buffer. This simple non action will:

- Control contaminants from entering the lake
- Create a natural habitat for fish and shoreline birds, insects, frogs, turtles and other natural inhabitants.
- Slow flooding

· Add natural beauty

The RCD will ask the POA to follow suit with their lakeside properties and hope shoreline property owners will follow the example. I will add more details to this plan as it develops.

For now, lets watch the grass grow.

If you'd like more information; on the "Minutes and Info" page of our website, redinfo.com, you can click on "Educational Links" to access an EPA Lake Notes article that highlights shoreline buffer strips.

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the Watershed is a periodic publication that contains information relevant to our District's constituents.

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Did You Know?...

- The next Clear Creek WPC/TAC Meeting will be held at the township building on November 16th from 2-4PM
- We will lower the lake in mid-November and it will remain down until spring
- The lake was stocked this fall with 1,000 walleye, 500 bass and 3,200 perch
- The IDNR will *not* be surveying our lake this year
- Joe Rush, our Lake Management Consultant, has recommended some interesting articles that cover the topics of:

-Waterborne Pathogens and Health Risks

-Pressure Treated Wood

-Fish Cover and how to construct and place them

You may contact the RCD Office to obtain copies or access our web site at www.redinfo.com for links to these articles.