

## **Frequently asked questions**

### **Why do we have a permit from the County and the Township?**

The County permit is required by the Medina County Stormwater Management and Sediment Control Regulations, which are administered by the County Engineer. Township Zoning regulations address the setbacks of buildings and structures from property lines. Each of the 17 townships in the County has their own zoning requirements, which they enforce.

### **What does a pond permit address?**

The County permit addresses drainage and pond construction standards. For instance, surface water needs to enter and leave the property at the same location as it did prior to construction. In addition, when the water leaves the property it must leave in a fashion as not to cause damage to a downstream neighbor. Ponds constructed in Medina must meet generally accepted standards for pond construction. (spillway, freeboard, height of fill). The permit utilizes the Standards of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service.

### **Why are a 10-acre watershed, 1 ½ acre surface and a 10' high dam so important?**

These parameters come from the Engineering standard we are using. This allows the County to efficiently permit the vast majority of ponds being built, and provides a measure of public safety. If the planned pond is greater than these parameters, you will need to have a private engineer design the pond for you and you will submit this plan directly to the County Highway Engineer's Office. The Medina SWCD does not review plans that exceed these amounts.

### **Why do I need a grassed (an emergency) spillway?**

The principle spillway used in the ponds that the SWCD reviews is the grassed spillway. It is designed to handle a 10 year storm event. Its function is to safely direct the storm water around the dam to a stable outlet. It is required on all ponds including excavated and embankment ponds.

### **Can I use a larger trickle tube and not install a grassed spillway?**

The trickle tube function is to establish the designed water level, handle low flows, and it allows the grassed spillway to maintain a quality sod. The minimum size for a trickle tube is 4". A larger pipe can be used. If a pipe will be used as the principle spillway, a proper design needs to be provided by the contractor, which is then reviewed by the County Engineer's office.

### **How close can I build mounds next to buildings or property lines?**

Township zoning regulations usually addresses setbacks for so called landscape mounds. However, water must still be able to enter and leave the property at the same locations as it did prior to mound construction.

### **What if I hit a subsurface drain tile during construction?**

Many old field tile that had been originally installed for field drainage have taken on new roles as property is developed. Some of the old tile has been abandoned and is not in working order. These should be properly abandoned. However, the tiles that are working, particularly main tile, may be draining your client or their neighbors' yards. The best strategy is to try to avoid a working tile. If that can't be helped, routing the tile around your project is about the only choice.

### **When does the ODNR Division of Surface Water rules apply to my pond?**

The Ohio Dam law covers all bodies of water in the State. However, some ponds are exempt from the Ohio Dam Laws.

Dams that are Exempt include:

- ❑ Dams which are or will be less than ten feet in height and which have or will have a storage capacity of not more than fifty acre feet at the elevation at the top of the dam, as determined by the chief of ODNR-DOW.
- ❑ Dams, regardless of height, which have, or will have a storage capacity of not more than fifteen acre-feet at the elevation at the top of the dam, as determined by the Chief of ODNR-DOW.
- ❑ Dams, regardless of storage capacity, which are or will be six or less feet in height, as determined by the Chief of ODNR-DOW.
- ❑ Dams, which belong to a class exempted by the Chief ODNR-DOW (i.e. Class IV), Code.
- ❑ The repair, maintenance, improvement, alteration, or removal of a dam, which is subject to Section 1521.062 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- ❑ Dams constructed under Chapter 1513 of the Ohio Revised

For further information contact the ODNR, Division of Water, Engineering Group 1939 Fountain Square, Building E-3 Columbus, Ohio 43224-1336 (614) 265-6731. (614) 447-9503 (Fax)  
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/water/>