

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Franklin Soil and Water Recognizes Local Leaders with Conservation Steward Awards**

**12/3/2018 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**— Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) recognized Tracy Hatmaker, Prairie Township’s administrator with the Great Blue Heron Award at his retirement party November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Tracy’s last official day with Prairie Township will be December 1st.

The Great Blue Heron Award recognizes outstanding contributions in natural resources and stream protection within Franklin County. Franklin Soil and Water recognizes the importance of partnerships to the sustainability and success of its mission to protect and improve soil and water resources, and is pleased to recognize Tracy with this award.

Tracy has been a long-time supporter of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District first as an employee at Franklin County Planning Department and then as the Administrator at Prairie Township for the last 15 years. He was recognized for his conservation ethic, environmental initiatives, and community partnerships as he has always been dedicated to doing the right thing for both the community and for the environment.

Jennifer Fish, Director of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District stated that “Tracy truly cares about the long term care of sustainability in our communities from both the economic, social and environmental perspectives”. Susan Ashbrook Board Supervisor of Franklin Soil and Water stated that “Tracy was one of the leaders who championed the Big Darby Accord and his dedication was critical to its success.”

It is an honor to bestow Tracy with the Great Blue Heron Award on his last official day of business.



*FSWCD Board Supervisor Susan Ashbrook, Great Blue Heron Awardee Tracy Hatmaker, and Director Jennifer Fish and*

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***The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote responsible land use decisions for the conservation, protection and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance and education.***

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