

Ohio Journal of  
Environmental  
Health

4th Quarter 2024

**Medical Reserve Corps: A  
Valuable Resource for  
Environmental Health**

**In this issue...**

- **President's Message**
- **Updated mailing information**



Official Publication of the Ohio Environmental Health Association

[www.ohioeha.org](http://www.ohioeha.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ohioeha](https://www.facebook.com/ohioeha)  
[www.twitter.com/OhioEHA](https://www.twitter.com/OhioEHA)



The object and purpose of the Association shall be the betterment of the health and welfare of mankind through the improvement of the environment. This shall be done by sponsoring state and regional meetings and publications, by developing methods of measuring and evaluating achievements in environmental health, the establishment of a central point of reference and education material for the membership, the procurement of cooperation with other agencies and organizations, and such other activities as will lead to the greater efficiency and professional growth of the membership.

**Board of Directors**

**President**

Courtney Myers, MPH, REHS  
Stark County Health Department

**President Elect**

Vacant

**Past President**

Sarah Burkholder, MPH, REHS  
Holmes County General Health District

**Vice President**

Emily Tyler, MPH, REHS  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

**Vice President Elect**

Alyssa Suto, EHST  
Franklin County Public Health

**Secretary**

Sarah Badenhop, REHS  
Columbus Public Health

**Treasurer**

Eric J Zgodzinski, DrPH, MPH REHS  
CPH  
University of Cincinnati

**Northeast District Director**

Courtney Grossman, BSPH, REHS  
Ohio EPA

**Northwest District Director**

Molly Owens, REHS, MBA, MPH  
Wyandot County Public Health

**Southeast District Director**

Carrie Kamm, REHS, MPH  
Columbus Public Health

**Southwest District Director**

Shelby Simmons  
Clermont County Public Health

**Publications Committee**

Adam R. Howard, MPH, REHS  
Delaware Public Health District  
ahoward@delawarehealth.org  
740-203-2069

Tracy L. Buchanan, REHS  
Retired, Ohio EPA

**Publication Information**

The Ohio Journal of Environmental Health is published by the Ohio Environmental Health Association. A one year subscription, without membership, is available at a cost of \$60.

Other correspondence relating to address changes, applications for membership and other matters should be addressed to: Ohio Environmental Health Association, Lauren Strobe, 10 W Broad Street, Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43215; Phone 740-277-8775.

The articles herein published represent the work of the designated author(s). The facts, opinions, and findings represented in the articles are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the facts, opinions, and findings of the Ohio Environmental Health Association nor the publications committee.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not necessarily include its endorsement.

To include articles or other materials for publication, contact: Adam Howard or Tracy Buchanan

**Advertisement Rates**

**One Page**

1 Issue: \$190  
1 Year: \$584

**1/2 Page**

1 Issue: \$120  
1 Year: \$356

**1/4 Page**

1 Issue: \$79  
1 Year: \$216

# Ohio Journal of Environmental Health

Volume 73  
Number 4  
4th Quarter 2024

## Table of Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| President's Message.....   | 4  |
| Courtney Myers, MPH, REHS - Stark County Health Department               |    |
| Medical Reserve Corps: A Valuable Resource for Environmental Health..... | 7  |
| Adam R. Howard, MPH, REHS - Delaware Public Health District              |    |
| Announcements.....   | 11 |
| Committees & Chairs.....   | 13 |

### Advertisements

|                       |                    |            |                |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------|
| Infiltrator ATL.....6 | Purell.....7       | ANUA.....8 |                |
| Polylok.....10        | Healthspace.....10 | JET.....12 | Norweco.....12 |

## *President's Message*

Courtney Myers, MPH, REHS  
Stark County Health Department

As we transition into fall, it's a time of change and growth for our organization. While transitions can sometimes be challenging, I am confident that OEHA is emerging stronger than ever. I'd like to take a moment to share some important updates and developments with you.



### **A Heartfelt Farewell to Vicki Johnson**

In August, the OEHA Board accepted the resignation of Vicki Johnson, our longtime administrative aide, as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement. Vicki has been an invaluable asset to our organization for decades, and we are deeply grateful for her dedication and service. Please join me in wishing her all the best.

### **Leadership Changes and New Appointments**

In October, we received notice from Dustin Kent, our 2024 Board President, that he would be stepping down from his role. We thank Dustin for his years of exceptional service to both OEHA and environmental health. With his departure, the Board voted to appoint me as President, effective immediately, with the understanding that I will serve through my previous appointment until April 2026. I am honored to take on this responsibility and am excited to continue working alongside such a talented and dedicated team.

### **A Strong, Supportive Leadership Team**

I'm incredibly fortunate to be working with an outstanding Board that has made this

transition smooth and successful. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the OEHA Board, Committee Chairs, and Tony Brigano and Lauren Strope from Hicks Partners. Your support and guidance have been invaluable.

### **Fall Conferences and Leadership Course**

This fall, our four districts hosted outstanding conferences, offering educational and networking opportunities for members across the state. Thank you to all District Directors and planning committees for their dedication in organizing these events.

OEHA's Membership and Professional Development Committee held the 2024 Leadership Course in November, designed for Registered Environmental Health Specialists with 3-5 years of experience. Nearly forty OEHA members from across the state participated in this valuable training, which was made possible by the Workforce Development Grant. Special thanks to the Membership Committee, led by Luke Jacobs and Carrie Yeager, for their hard work in bringing this initiative to life and the Delaware Public Health District for hosting the event.

### **New Administrative Support**

In exciting news, OEHA has entered into a new contract for administrative services with Hicks Partners. We are pleased to welcome Lauren Strope as our new administrative aide. Lauren brings a wealth of experience and a strong background in public administration, having earned a master's degree in Political Science and a bachelor's in Public Administration from Miami University. Lauren is available to assist you with any membership

or administrative inquiries, and she will be the point of contact for all membership-related correspondence. We look forward to introducing her more fully in the upcoming Journal.

### **Looking Ahead: REHS Credential and Legislative Advocacy**

As we look toward 2025, the future of the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) credential will be a top priority for OEHA. We anticipate discussions around licensure may take place within the state legislature, and we are already preparing for this important debate. Our newly formed Ad-Hoc Committee on Occupational Credential Review, supported by Tony Brigano and

Lauren Strope at Hicks Partners, is diligently gathering information to ensure we are well-prepared to advocate for the continued importance of our credential.

### **Wishing You a Happy Holiday Season**

As we approach the winter season, I want to extend my warmest wishes for a joyful and restful holiday season to all of you. Thank you for your continued commitment to OEHA, and I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

In Your Service,  
Courtney Myers, MPH, REHS  
OEHA President

# **Welcome To Our New Administrative Aide!**

## **Lauren Strope**

Manager, Government Relations & Association Management

**Hicks Partners**  
**10 W. Broad St, Suite 200**  
**Columbus OH 43215**  
**(740) 277-8775**



# Reimagining Onsite Water Management



**INFILTRATOR**  
water technologies



- IM-300
- IM-540
- CM-1060
- IM-1250
- IM-1530

The strength and versatility of Infiltrator's Septic Tanks enable a wide-range of installation possibilities including shallow installations and multiple and serial tank configurations.



**Lightweight • Durable**

## Combined Treatment and Dispersal

ADVANCED  
**ENVIROSEPTIC™**



- Non-mechanical
- Non-biodegradable
- Low long-term cost

For residential, commercial, and community onsite wastewater treatment system designs.

**ATL**  
by INFILTRATOR



Combined treatment and dispersal (CTD) products offer a high level of treatment in a small footprint.

**Quick4™**  
CHAMBER SYSTEMS

With its Contour Swivel Connection™, Quick4® chambers



offer advanced contouring capability. The 4' chamber lengths are easy to handle and install. Infiltrator manufactures chambers in different sizes and styles to meet all regulatory and site requirements.



The Quick4® Equalizer 24 Chamber fits in a 18" wide trench and is ideal for curved or straight systems.

**CALL FOR INFORMATION AND A DISTRIBUTOR NEAR YOU!**

**Brian Martucci, Area Sales Representative**  
(614) 506-1735 • [bmartucci@infiltratorwater.com](mailto:bmartucci@infiltratorwater.com)

## Medical Reserve Corps: A Valuable Resource for Environmental Health

Adam R. Howard, MPH, REHS  
Delaware Public Health District

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a group of ready volunteers with a wide array of expertise. Often the MRC is thought of only in the context of medical emergencies such as the H1N1 or COVID-19 pandemics. During these emergencies, the MRC undoubtedly performed admirably, assisting local health districts (LHD), the community, and saving lives. They might have been assigned tasks such as giving vaccines, checking patients into clinics, or directing traffic in the parking lot. While these events show the hard work and difference the MRC can make in a medical emergency, the MRC can make a difference in all aspects of public health and environmental health.

Environmental health should take an active role in recruiting and engaging the local MRC units. Through these efforts, MRC members can become familiar with environmental health programs. By incorporating MRC members into routine tasks, the LHD positions itself to react in emergencies or times that require staffing surges. While not all scenarios may be appropriate for the use of the MRC, a creative LHD may find more uses for the MRC than initially thought possible by taking complex tasks and breaking them down into simple parts.

MRC is a ready resource for canvassing and education. In public health, there are times that call for an area to be canvassed, whether it be distributing or collecting information. In environmental health this could be after a case of mosquito-borne illness or even a spill. An engaged MRC can assist with these activities by providing those affected with the needed education or surveys to continually meet their needs and concerns. These tasks require significant effort but are ideal candidates for

the MRC. If corps members can alleviate this burden from the LHD, it will free up the time of the REHS to collect samples, manage containment, or evaluate the results of the questionnaires distributed.

Foodborne outbreaks have the potential to overwhelm when the number of ill patients exceeds staff capacity to interview. During these events, the MRC could be used to support foodborne illness interviews. Providing strong just-in-time training, could allow the MRC to help call patients and complete the foodborne illness interview form. This would free up the REHS and epidemiologists to analyze the information, perform inspections, collect samples, and support operators.

There doesn't need to be an emergency to call upon the MRC. Walking surveys of neighborhoods can provide valuable information to help develop tailored education campaigns. An example of this might be surveys looking for mosquito breeding sites. This can seem like a time intensive task; however, if the MRC is used for the task, the results can be obtained while requiring

**A Sanitizing Wipe That's Effective Enough to Do It All**

Restaurants can improve operational efficiency with NEW wipes formulated for food-contact surfaces with no rinsing or gloves needed!

**1** step to quickly and conveniently sanitize and disinfect surfaces

**30** seconds to kill the virus that causes COVID-19

Eliminates **99.9%** of viruses and bacteria, including norovirus, *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, and cold & flu

[GOJO.com/PURELLSurfaceWipes](https://www.GOJO.com/PURELLSurfaceWipes)

©2022 GOJO Industries, Inc. All rights reserved. | 33454 (5/2022)

significantly less staff time. This information can then be used to make impactful messages on issues occurring within the community. Not only does this prove cost effective, but it also builds relationships with the MRC members by providing meaningful missions for the MRC to engage in. These nonemergency missions will help build trust and camaraderie so that the corps is ready in emergencies.

### **A Case Study of a Tornado Touchdown: MRC as a Force Multiplier**

In March of 2024, a tornado system traveled through Ohio causing damage throughout the State. In response to a request for mutual aid in Logan County, Delaware Public Health District sent 2 emergency response personnel to Logan County to help with spontaneous volunteers. At the same time, Delaware County was ramping up a response for two smaller tornados that damaged its community affecting 7 political subdivisions. While these tornados were not as severe or deadly as the tornado in Logan County, they

still caused enough property damage to receive a major disaster declaration from FEMA, as they affected over 250 homes with at least 25 homes sustaining major structural damage.

In Delaware County the EMA established a rapid response effort with public safety and social services for the residents of the community. Within approximately 12 hours of the tornados' touchdowns, EMA called upon the Health District for assistance. County agencies were working to remove debris and connect families with resources. Delaware Public Health District was assigned to help coordinate debris management; staff the damage intake center; and provide vaccines, birth certificates, and other resources at a multiagency resource center.

One aspect of the response that neither EMA, the County, nor the Health District had adequate staffing to operationalize was the damage intake center. The center was intended to be operated 7 days a week for 6 hours each day and a mission request was sent out to the MRC. Within 24 hours of the request the first MRC members deployed to the Emergency

Clean Water

- Open cell foam media
- 2-foot soil depth credit
- Spray irrigation
- No aerator/blower
- Nitrogen reduction
- Residential and commercial
- NSF/ANSI Standard 40

**Quanics**  
AeroCell

877.782.6427 ■ [anuainternational.com](http://anuainternational.com)



Operations Center.

Corps members received just-in-time training as they entered the EOC to prepare them for the tasks of the day. During their deployments at the EOC, MRC members' focus was to staff the damage intake center to take damage reports. These reports were crucial to EMA's efforts to manage the situation. The reports helped EMA determine what needs existed in the community. Based on the identified needs, EMA was then able to target the specific organizations that could supply that type of assistance and steer them to the areas of the community that needed the service (e.g. if there were many downed tree reports, EMA could focus on working with companies that cut trees and send them to the zip code affected). Additionally, for a tornado, these reports began to help shape the path of the tornado in mapping software.

With the MRC taking the damage intake information, the County agencies were able to focus on life safety, debris management, standing up a multiagency resource center, and connecting residents with services and supplies. In all, the MRC provided 63 hours of service over 7 days and 20 deployments. Their rapid deployment and assistance resulted in accolades from EMA who declared the MRC a "Force Multiplier" and recognized the MRC's

ability to rapidly deploy as a strength of the response in the subsequent after action report.

Medical Reserve Corps units are a valuable community resource. They are positioned to support Health Districts with a variety of tasks including those in environmental health. Taking the time to train and prepare a unit may seem like a drain on resources, but having a well-trained response ready corps will prove valuable when emergencies occur, or an influx of staffing is needed.

At the heart of the MRC is the yearning to volunteer. Volunteers want to feel like their efforts are making a difference in their community. Environmental Health is a great place to provide these opportunities. Engage your MRC. Discuss your thoughts on how you would like to incorporate them with your MRC coordinator. Do they want to shadow during an inspection? Can you accommodate this? If so, it will bring corps and staff together to gain familiarity before an event occurs. By reimagining the possibilities of the Medical Reserve Corps into a public health reserve corps we can strengthen both the corps and local public health which will ultimately strengthen the health of all our communities and Ohio.

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  <p><b>Innovations in Precast, Drainage &amp; Wastewater Products</b></p>  <p><b>Zabel®</b><br/>A Division of Polylok Inc.</p>  <p>PL-68 PL-122 PL-525/625 GF-10 12x20 4x22 4x18 Filter Alarms &amp; Switches</p>  | <p><b>Extend &amp; Lok (3", 4" &amp; 6")</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy installation</li> <li>• No gluing necessary</li> <li>• Centers filter or tee under riser</li> </ul> | <p><b>Tank Risers (12", 20" &amp; 24")</b></p>  <p>6" Tall Risers 12" Tall Risers</p>  |
| <p><b>Effluent Filters / Filter Alarms &amp; Switches</b></p>  <p>Covers: 12", 15", 18", 20", 24" &amp; 30"      Grates: 3", 4", 6", 12", 15", 18", 20" &amp; 24"</p>   | <p><b>Distribution Boxes</b></p>    | <p><b>Hydro Shield</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One Hydro Shield fits 3 pipe sizes: 1", 1-1/4" &amp; 1-1/2" or 1", 1-1/2" &amp; 2"</li> <li>• Easy to install, just clip in.</li> <li>• 360 degree equal distribution</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Covers &amp; Grates (for Polylok Risers / D-Boxes &amp; Corrugated Pipe)</b></p> <p><b>1-877-765-9565 / www.polylok.com</b></p>  | <p><b>STEP Systems</b></p>    | <p><b>Flow Controller</b></p>   |



**Making Inspecting, Permitting and Data Management Easier.**

HS GovTech™ is the nation's largest provider of Environmental Health Data Management Solutions.

We are committed to helping government agencies operate more efficiently through the use of our revolutionary cloud platform, and making information digitally accessible to their citizens and the businesses they regulate.



980.375.6060  
info@hsccloudsuite.com  
hsgovtech.com

Let's Connect  
f t y  
HSGovTech

HS GovTech™ is a proud sponsor of OEHA

# Announcements

*Have a grant, educational opportunity, move, promotion, or other announcement you would like to share? Please email a member of the publications committee.*

## **Open Positions** (With an opening of 12/5/24. For current listing [click here](#))

- REHS/EHST  
Clermont County Public Health
- REHS/EHST  
Putnam County Health Department
- REHS/EHST  
Wayne County Health Department
- Air Pollution Control Specialist  
Regional Air Pollution Control Agency
- Director of Environmental Health  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health
- REHS  
City of Hamilton
- REHS/EHST  
Mahoning County Public Health
- REHS/EHST  
Miami County Public Health
- Executive Direction  
Association of Ohio Health Commissioners
- REHS/EHST  
Greene County Public Health
- REHS/EHST  
Brown County Health Department

## **Educational Opportunities**

- AOHC New Employee Training - Mach 12, 2025; Delaware, Ohio
- AOHC LEHDS - March 18-19, 2025; Dublin, Ohio
- AOHC Finance For Health Departments - March 18-19, 2025; Dublin, Ohio
- OEHA AEC - April 10-11, 2025; Columbus, Ohio
- Ohio Public Health Conference - April 28-30, 2025; Lewis Center, Ohio
- AOHC Health Commissioner University - May 20-22, 2025; Dublin, Ohio

## **Farewell**

### ***Vicki Johnson***

Vicki Johnson, long time Administrative Aide for the Ohio Environmental Health Association announced her retirement this past August. Vicki served OEHA for many years. During this time she was often the first contact new members had with our Association. She always provided a warm greeting and welcoming presence whether it was handling membership questions, conference registrations, or reviewing continuing education requests. She was very thorough and maintained decades of membership records in a manner that information can easily be accessed and reviewed. She worked very closely with numerous Treasurers over the years to assure that we maintained good financial records and met all audit and tax criteria. Vicki also served as an informal historian for OEHA and would readily provide perspective and information to the Board of Directors upon request for topics that needed a historical lens.

Her dedication to the Association and all of its members was second to none. She will certainly be missed, but never forgotten. We are all better for the contribution that Vicki made and we would like to extend a sincere thank you and best wishes in retirement!



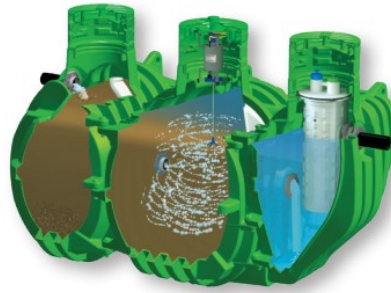
# **norweco**<sup>®</sup>

## **SINGULAIR**<sup>®</sup>



- ◆ Designed for 500-1,500 GPD flows
- ◆ Available in concrete and HDPE
- ◆ Simple to install and maintain
- ◆ Non-mechanical flow equalization

## **SINGULAIR GREEN**<sup>®</sup>



- ◆ NPDES package
- ◆ All-Season spray irrigation
- ◆ Industry leading warranty
- ◆ Suppliers throughout Ohio

[www.norweco.com](http://www.norweco.com) ◆ 1-800-NORWECO ◆ [email@norweco.com](mailto:email@norweco.com)



- Accu-Tab<sup>®</sup> Wastewater Tablets**
- Recognized global brand
  - Smaller tablet with beveled edges to minimize wicking
  - No imported ingredients; stearate free

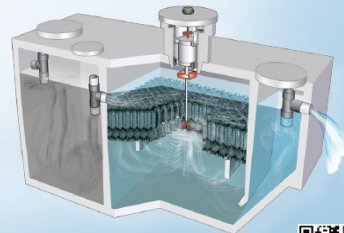
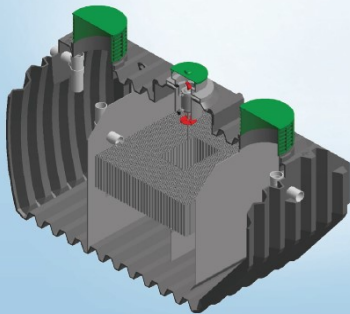


2012 Presidential E Award Recipient

### **Residential & Commercial Treatment Plants**

- Concrete and rugged polyethylene material
- 500-1500 GPD Residential Systems
- 1500-300,000 GPD Commercial Systems
- Up to 800 GPD in plastic design
- A single moving part
- Innovative design for easy system servicing
- No filters to clog
- Lifetime exchange program

- Illumi-Jet UV Disinfection Unit**
- Hermetically sealed electrical components
  - High capacity disinfection reservoir
  - Kapton seals improve serviceability



[www.jetincorp.com](http://www.jetincorp.com) • 800.321.6960 • [email@jetincorp.com](mailto:email@jetincorp.com)

## *OEHA Committees & Chairs*

### **Body Art**

Sarah Badenhop, REHS  
Columbus Public Health

### **Campground**

Mark Janowich, REHS  
Erie County Health Department

### **Food**

Vacant

### **Lead**

Greg Putka, REHS  
Lorain County Public Health

### **Private Water Systems**

Randy Ruskowski, REHS  
Stark County Health Department

### **Sewage**

Eric Cherry, REHS  
Huron County Public Health

### **Solid Waste**

Chuck De Jonckheere, REHS  
Hamilton County Public Health

### **Swimming Pool, Spa, and Special Use Pool**

Thomas Fink, REHS  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health

### **Vector Control**

Sarah Fink, REHS  
Ohio EPA

### **Archives**

Melissa Adams, REHS  
Delaware Public Health District

### **Constitution & By-laws**

Vacant

### **Exhibits**

Shannon Self, REHS  
Delaware Public Health District

### **Professional Development**

Luke Jacobs, MPH, REHS  
Columbus Public Health

### **Resolutions**

Jennifer Wentzel, MPH, REHS  
Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

### **Website**

Garrett Guillozet, MPA, REHS, AEMT  
Delaware Public Health District

### **Auditing**

Jennifer Wentzel, MPH, REHS  
Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

### **Awards & Recognition**

Gus Dria, REHS  
Canton City Health Department

### **George Eagle Scholarship**

Jacqueline A. Gruza, MPH, BS, REHS  
Greene County Public Health

### **Membership**

Luke Jacobs, MPH, REHS  
Columbus Public Health

### **Public Affairs**

Stephan Ruckman, MPH, REHS  
Worthington Schools

### **Publications**

Adam R. Howard, MPH, REHS  
Delaware Public Health District

### **Concentrated Animal Feed Facility**

Jason Menchhofer, MPH, REHS  
Mercer County Health District

### **Ohio Public Health Advisory Board**

Garrett Guillozet, MPA, REHS, AEMT  
Delaware Public Health District

### **Ohio Public Health Partnership**

Chad Brown, MPH, REHS  
Licking County Health Department

### **Sewage Treatment System Technical Advisory Committee**

Dan Lark, REHS  
Lake County General Health District

**OJEH**

Ohio Environmental Health Association  
10 W. Broad Street, Suite 200  
Columbus, OH 43215