



Improving the Quality of Life in Rural Ohio

2015 Second Quarter Report

THE OHIO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION PROVIDED ABOUT \$765,000 IN BENEFITS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2015

Zanesville, Ohio: The Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) reviewed our work for the second quarter of 2015 (April 1 to June 30) and determined that the **organization provided over \$765,000 in benefits to Ohio's rural water and wastewater utilities**. These benefits included training operators, detecting water leaks, protecting drinking water sources, and inspecting sewer systems.

Taking into account our federal grant income of about \$150,000 this quarter, ORWA estimates that we provided an **overall benefit of over \$615,000 to rural water and wastewater systems** during these three months.

Put another way, ORWA's grant management is extremely effective and efficient as for every dollar of federal assistance we were given, ORWA provided \$4.10 in benefits to rural Ohio.

To illustrate the work of the Ohio Rural Water Association through an example: A village in southwest Ohio had a recent inspection by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency at its wastewater treatment plant. One of the areas that needed to be improved on was the laboratory. The inspector requested the operator create standard operating procedures (SOP's) for all of the analysis performed in the lab. The operator contacted the ORWA Wastewater Technician to review lab procedures and help create the needed SOP's. The technician supplied example SOP's and modified them for particular methods and equipment used by this laboratory. As a result of this contact, the operator has a better understanding of the analysis he is performing and SOP's are in place for all parameters. A private lab was contacted and needed a fee of \$1,500.00 to do the same thing. Thus the ORWA Wastewater Technician saved the village that fee.

In a second example, the Water Superintendent for the Tupper Plains, Chester Water District, contacted ORWA Circuit Rider 1 (CR1) and inquired if the CR1 could conduct a water 1 review session for two of its employees. On April 20, 2015, the CR1 visited the water district and conducted a water 1 review session. Numerous theory topics were discussed and time was spent on various math problems. Both employees were scheduled to take the Ohio EPA water 1 test on May 6, 2015 and felt this review session was very helpful in assisting them pass the exams. The Water Superintendent and his employees were extremely grateful for ORWA's assistance with this review.

The Ohio Rural Water Association was founded in 1976, with the goal of improving the quality of life in rural Ohio. With funding primarily through membership dues and federal grants, ORWA offers free on-site technical support to water and wastewater systems, both large and small. This includes: assistance with the operation and maintenance of water and wastewater treatment plants; source water protection planning; and distribution system troubleshooting such as leak detection, smoke testing, line locating, and sewer line inspecting. ORWA also offers training opportunities on the operation, management, finance, and governance of water and wastewater utilities.

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