



Improving the Quality of Life in Rural Ohio

2016 First Quarter Report

THE OHIO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION PROVIDED ABOUT \$1,299,000 IN BENEFITS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2016

Zanesville, Ohio: The Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) reviewed our work for the first quarter of 2016 (January 1 to March 31) and determined that the **organization provided over \$1,299,000 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 \$1,079,000 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 \$8.66 in benefits to rural Ohio.

To illustrate the work of the Ohio Rural Water Association through an example: The Village of Bolivar requested assistance from the Ohio Rural Water Association in locating a leak. The village's administrator had the county's distribution crew over to help find the leak, but they had found nothing and were unable to locate the leak.

The ORWA Circuit Rider II provided leak locating equipment. The Circuit Rider II also held hands-on training to help conduct a leak survey. The leak was finally located and the water was finding its way into the County's sanitary sewer system. The leak was estimated to be sixty thousand gallons a day. Obviously this work by ORWA was a great help to the Village of Bolivar.

In another example: The Village Administrator with the Village of Leesburg contacted an ORWA Wastewater Technician to assist them in locating a lateral sewer connection. A customer is building a new house, and the system was having difficulty finding the lateral connection. The ORWA Technician used video inspection equipment to inspect the main sewer and locate the tap for the lateral.

As a result of this contact, the wastewater utility saved money by not needing to hire a contract inspection company. Also, time consuming and costly excavation was avoided saving the system an estimated \$1,000.00.

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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