



Improving the Quality of Life in Rural Ohio

2015 First Quarter Report

THE OHIO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION PROVIDED ABOUT \$537,000 IN BENEFITS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2015

Zanesville, Ohio: The Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) reviewed our work for the first quarter of 2015 (January 1 to March 31) and determined that the **organization provided over \$537,000 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 \$387,000 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 \$3.58 in benefits to rural Ohio.

To illustrate the work of the Ohio Rural Water Association through an example: The Village of Belmont contacted an ORWA Wastewater Technician to assist them in locating a lateral connection that was supposedly installed during the construction of the collection system. The main collection line runs adjacent to a vacant lot that the owner is going to build on. A video inspection of the main line revealed the lateral connection was never installed during original construction. As a result of this contact, the village does not have to blindly excavate the main line looking for a connection that doesn't exist. The Technician offered to assist the operator to install the lateral in the future.

In a second example, the operations specialist at the Village of Butler was working on the sewer when the Wastewater Technician made a non-requested visit to the system. The sewer cleaner had little to no water pressure. The technician identified the high pressure pump as being very low on oil. Employees were advised to change the pump oil and the proper level to maintain oil. Immediately the working pressure of the pump was in normal range. The technician also assisted in identifying and repairing several leaks on the equipment. As a result of this contact, the system will not have to take this piece of equipment miles away for repair saving time and money.

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.

Contact Information:

**Kevin Strang, Executive Director
55 Whites Road
Zanesville, OH 43701
740-455-3911
ksorwa@gmail.com**