



Improving the Quality of Life in Rural Ohio

2018 First Quarter Report

THE OHIO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION PROVIDED OVER \$975,000 IN BENEFITS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2018

Zanesville, Ohio: The Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) reviewed our work for the first quarter of 2018 and determined that the **organization provided over \$975,000 in total benefits to Ohio's rural water and wastewater utilities**. These benefits included training operators, detecting water leaks, protecting drinking water sources, providing energy audits, and inspecting sewer systems.

Considering our federal grant income of about \$150,000 this quarter, ORWA estimates that we provided an **overall net benefit (without federal assistance) of over \$825,000 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 \$5.50 in benefits to rural Ohio.

To illustrate the work of the Ohio Rural Water Association through an example:

The superintendent of New Carlisle, Ohio contacted an ORWA circuit rider requesting assistance with implementing the EPA asset management program for them, which will soon be required in Ohio.

Using a template developed by the Ohio Rural Water Association, the circuit rider was able to provide the necessary information and training that New Carlisle needed.

Ohio House Bill 2 mandates that all water systems in Ohio have an asset management plan in place by October 1, 2018. The Ohio Rural Water association is on the front-end of this mandate, at the ready to assist smaller water systems in the great buckeye state get in compliance with this new legislation.

The ORWA Circuit Rider's work for New Carlisle is a great example of the association's work with the mandated asset management program in Ohio.

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:

Joe Pheil, Executive Director

55 Whites Road

Zanesville, OH 43701

740-455-3911

joe@ohioruralwater.org