



Improving the Quality of Life in Rural Ohio

2016 Third Quarter Report

THE OHIO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION PROVIDED OVER \$1 MILLION IN BENEFITS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2016

Zanesville, Ohio: The Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) reviewed our work for the third quarter of 2016 (July 1 to September 30) and determined that the **organization provided over \$1 million 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.

Considering our federal grant income of about \$150,000 this quarter, ORWA estimates that we provided an **overall benefit of over \$750,000 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 \$5.00 in benefits to rural Ohio.

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

A village in central Ohio just completed a 10-million-dollar wastewater project consisting of a new lift station and wastewater treatment plant. The old trickling filter plant was replaced with a dual oxidation ditch activated sludge plant. The superintendent enlisted the help of the Wastewater Technician to assist him in plant startup and operation.

The new facility started to receive wastewater flow on June 27. The first couple of days went very well except for some minor equipment issues. On June 29, the plant received approximately 20,000 gallons of septic sludge from a demolition mistake at the old treatment plant. The sludge was contained in one of the oxidation ditches and the other ditch was put into service. The superintendent was instructed on operational procedures to develop a good activated sludge for proper treatment. The process was complete on July 22 and the plant is performing well including complete nitrification.

Because of this contact, the village's new treatment works is 100% in compliance with their NPDES permit. Follow up visits will be made to assist plant personnel with proper process control measures to insure continued compliance.

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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