



Improving the Quality of Life in Rural Ohio

2015 Fourth Quarter Report

THE OHIO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION PROVIDED ABOUT \$715,000 IN BENEFITS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2015

Zanesville, Ohio: The Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) reviewed our work for the fourth quarter of 2015 (October 1 to December 31) and determined that the **organization provided over \$715,000 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 \$565,000 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 \$3.76 in benefits to rural Ohio.

To illustrate the work of the Ohio Rural Water Association through an example, in October 2015 we used our new classroom and training center at our updated facility in Zanesville to provide **free review sessions** for 21 water and wastewater operators in rural Ohio seeking EPA Certification.

ORWA's Wastewater Technician II held these two separate review sessions at the facility where each session was six hours long. This shows how we are maximizing the federal funding we do receive, making sure water and wastewater operators get these free sessions from our technician in a great facility.

The ORWA training and education program is excellent and exemplifies how the association cares about the continuing education and professional development of our state's Rural water utility workers. Certainly ORWA adds real value to Ohio with this program example.

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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