



Improving the Quality of Life in Rural Ohio

2017 Fourth Quarter Report

THE OHIO RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION PROVIDED OVER \$1 MILLION IN BENEFITS TO RURAL COMMUNITIES DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2017

Zanesville, Ohio: The Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) reviewed our work for the fourth quarter of 2017 (October 1 to December 31) and determined that the **organization provided over \$1 Million 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 \$860,000 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 \$8.60 in benefits to rural Ohio.

To illustrate the work of the Ohio Rural Water Association through an example: A village in north central Ohio was getting complaints for dirty water, with low water pressure in one section of town. The Ohio Rural Water Circuit Rider suggested doing a pressure and flow test of the main lines to be sure there was adequate pressure and supply.

During the testing, the ORWA Circuit Rider noted there were surges of dirty water coming through. After confirming the pressure and flow was not the problem, the Circuit Rider suggested doing unidirectional flushing on that area of town. The village provided a map of the system and the necessary valves were located to perform the flushing. The flushing removed a large portion of dirty water and clean water was restored.

The Circuit Rider then suggested checking the area for leaks as that would draw any sediment in the lines to that area. A fire hydrant was found to be leaking in that area. A weekly flushing in that area will be done to monitor the systems water quality.

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**