

Central Ohio Roundtable

March 18, 2020

Stormwater Funding Opportunities and Resources

There are a multitude of approaches to funding stormwater infrastructure. We hope to provide you with some ideas and information that is useful in finding something that meets your specific needs, from small scale local and residential site specific needs to regional and watershed scale programs.

OEPA 319 <https://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/nps/319docs/2019-rfp.pdf>

Stormwater Utility - communities with a utility fee have begun implementing flood control and stream bank stabilization projects for the benefit of their rate payers. Equitable use of these fees across a community and a watershed are often perceived issues with these expenditures. Check out some of these resources for ideas and issues.

<https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/assets/pdfs/FundingStormwater.pdf>

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-12/documents/sw_utility_-_combined_slides_-_aug_13_2015.pdf

FSWCD Conservation grant <https://www.franklinswcd.org/conservation-fund>

Held at the Columbus Foundation, the purpose of our Conservation Stewardship Fund is to raise money for the implementation of conservation projects targeted to improving water quality for the benefit of wildlife, recreation and drinking water. While focused on water quality and rainwater runoff, these projects will also benefit wetlands, forestry, carbon offsets, pollinators, native plants, and bird populations throughout Central Ohio. We are reaching out to private businesses for funding requests.

H2Ohio <http://h2.ohio.gov/>

There may be opportunities as H2Ohio roles out statewide in 2022. The focus areas are as follows:

- Wetlands- ODNR (opportunity for older stormwater basin retrofits?)
- HSTS-OEPA (opportunity for more funding for connecting to existing sewers or replacing failing HSTS systems?)
- Innovative Technologies- OEPA (opportunity for stream inserts and other innovative technologies)
- Suspension of local match money for 319 grants - OEPA (continuing?)
- Water Quality Monitoring – OEPA (partner with local communities?)
- Agricultural Cost Share for conservation practices – ODA

Franklin Soil and Water would like to work with partners to put together a potential projects list to be ready to pitch project ideas or if that does not happen, have information ready for 319 grants and other funding possibilities.

(J. D'Ambrosio) Ag bmp funding, ODA rolled out H2Ohio in February to 14 counties in the Maumee watershed of the western basin. In 2021 they will expand funding to all 24 WLEB counties. In 2022 the plan is to go statewide. I have not seen any plans for the statewide rollout portion and there is still some woe to do in setting BMP priorities and shifting focus from (or, rather, adding focus) P to N reduction from ag lands. To help ag partners outside of WLEB, we can get farmers working with 4R certified retailers as they will be Director's designers for nutrient management plans, help farmers get their Voluntary NMPs ready for approval, help them sign on to the OACI certification profile page, and etc. All participants in H2Ohio will need a voluntary NMP and be registered in the OACI system to be eligible. there might be opportunity somewhere with the sewershed work we've done in the Olentangy, ID-ing innovative technologies especially around streams and inland reservoirs to reduce nutrients, and retrofitting storm water ponds into wetland treatment areas. Can we help ID locations and potential project sites?

I also think we can help with doing Ag conservation planning framework runs to ID ag and wetland projects around the state and support 9 element plans

To help ODNR, find and suggest wetland restoration sites. Their goal is nutrient reduction so not the 1/4 acre backyard pond. More like the Hellbranch project.

To help EPA, perhaps identify HSTS hot spots or aging school pipes and infrastructure.

OWDA loan & research grants - this is an underused resource agency that has typically focused on large drinking/waste water infrastructure loans. Much of the current direction is towards a comprehensive look at water issues and the broadening of fundable ideas.

<https://www.owda.org/owda-doc/Program%20Info/LGA%20Program%20Description.pdf>

Petition ditch process ORC 6131, 940, HB 340

Urban programs in Ohio have been using this process for the long term management and operation of post construction bmps to meet their NPDES MS4 permit obligations.

New language in this proposed bill is directed at rural ag programs, the implications for urban programs is not clear such as the inclusion of post construction bmps.

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/6131.04>

Rebate programs – rain barrels, rain gardens, etc. – Check out our rebate program offerings and implement one in your community or residence.

<https://www.franklinswcd.org/community-outreach-programs>