Let’s Get Together!

Regionalization Implementation in Ohio

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Defining Wastewater Regionalization

Regionalization – Independent entities working together to share the responsibility of providing services to their residential, commercial, and industrial customers by physically connecting their sewage collection systems or by using a centralized wastewater treatment system. For the purposes of principal forgiveness, regionalization is further described as the following:

a. Consolidation of two or more existing publicly-owned wastewater treatment works.

b. Construction of sanitary sewers in a community with failed household sewage treatment systems (HSTS) and transmission to an existing publicly-owned wastewater treatment works.

c. Construction of sanitary sewers in two or more communities with failed HSTS and construction of a new regional wastewater treatment works.
Defining Drinking Water Regionalization

Regionalization – Projects where at least two independent entities work together to share the responsibility of providing services to their residential, commercial, and industrial customers by physically connecting their water distribution systems and using a centralized water treatment system. For the purposes of principal forgiveness, regionalization is further described as the following:

(a) Consolidation of two or more existing public water systems.

(b) Construction of a water distribution system in an area with poor quality or poor quantity wells that connect to an existing public water system.
Small Systems Must Meet Multiple Challenges

- Environmental Requirements – Ohio EPA Findings and Orders
- Aging System Components
- Community Economic Issues and Population Change
- Asset Management Requirements (Drinking Water, Ohio Senate Bill 2)
- Local, Traditional Strategies for Stretching Dollars
  - Cutting staffing or reducing services
  - Increasing taxes and/or user rates
- Operator Shortages
- Supply chain/inflation disruptions
PWS in Ohio

~4,000 PWS Total

~1,000 Community PWS
SCEIG Members – Strong partners in Regional Approaches
SRF Incentives for Regionalization

• 0% interest funding for water and wastewater regionalization

• Dedicated principal forgiveness for regionalization
  – Wastewater: $15 million out of $35 million max PF made available
    • Consistent approach for five years
  – Drinking Water: ~$2.5 million available. Regionalization projects for disadvantaged communities also prioritized (~$10 million available)
    • Consistent approach for five years
Butler/Bellville Case Study

- Village of Butler – Ohio EPA DFFOs
- Village of Bellville – SNC & odors
- Clear Fork Schools – Plant age will soon require updates & requires an Operator
- Clear Fork Mobile Home Park – DFFOs, minimal operations, outdated system
- Blue Lagoon Campground – Gray water system, need additional capacity
Nelsonville Case Study

**Murray City/Carbon Hill (Hocking County)**
The Village of Murray City and unincorporated territory of Carbon Hill were unserved and wastewater from their communities was contaminating nearby creeks and rivers. Installing sewer collection in the villages presented significant financial challenges.

**Nelsonville (Athens County)**
The City of Nelsonville had outdated sewer infrastructure and an aging treatment plant. The plant was over capacity and required upgrades; building a new plant presented significant financial challenges for city residents.

**Buchtel (Athens County)**
The best way to route collected sewer given the topography was to go through the Village of Buchtel. Athens County owned the existing sewer infrastructure in the village.
Dupont/Cloverdale Case Study (Pisces Nomination)

- Under Agency Orders for 15+ years
- $8.5 million total project cost
  - $4 million PF
  - $900,000 0% funding @ 40 years
  - Numerous other grant sources
- STEP collection system and central WWTP
- Inter-municipal services agreement
New Franklin Case Study (Aquarius Nomination)

- 13 small systems eliminated
  - 10 had received violations for coliform and manganese
  - Up to 178 homes and 98 commercial lots
  - PFAS at daycare/preschool
- $3.8 million project
  - $1.9 million in principal forgiveness and balance as zero percent interest rate loan
- Key factors to their success
  - ready to proceed
  - met with staff
  - complete documentation
Coshocton/West Lafayette Case Study

June 2019

Water System Merger of West Lafayette and Coshocton

The conversation to merge water systems in Coshocton and West Lafayette dates back nearly three decades. With impeding system upgrade costs and maintenance, rate increases impacting both communities, and an increased focus on regionalization at the state level, shared services become the solution for these two communities.

Coshocton
In a position for expansion due to:
- Excess capacity due to simultaneous water system expansion and loss of industry
- Recent rate increases to residents to offset industry loss
- An established regional supplier for Coshocton County

West Lafayette
Impeding monetary and environmental issues facing water system:
- Contaminated plume found, with potential impact on water system
- Near future upgrades and maintenance for an aging water system
- Near future increases in water rates to residents to offset operation costs
- Substandard lines below the EPA requirements in need of replacement

SCEIG Video
Discussion and Questions

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