

Progress Report
FFY 12 USEPA-Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Projects
Powell Creek Nutrient Reduction Project

Grant or IA Number: GL-00E01131

Project Title: Powell Creek Nutrient Reduction Project

Reporting Period: July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

Principal Investigator: Russell Gibson, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

The principal investigator of grants, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements (IAs) is required to submit to the USEPA project officer a semi-annual progress report. This report can be as brief as one page as long as you can provide the requested information. The items listed below should be addressed as appropriate:

1. What work was accomplished for this reporting period? Report should quantify results as measurable products, i.e. numbers, acres, contact, improvements in water quality, habitat, etc.

During the reporting period the following activities were completed:

- Martha Spurbeck received and processed one quarterly fiscal report.
- Progress to date as reported by Defiance SWCD: Project deliverables in progress and completed are described below:
 - Idle farmland was improved through the development of 0.5 acres of vernal pool wetland development nearby Powell Creek.
 - Defiance SWCD has completed three (3) runoff wetland projects. Approximately 16.1 acres of wetlands were installed (at a cost to the grant of \$57,324.62). The vegetative seeding effort at these sites has reportedly “taken quite well.” One last vernal-pool wetland project was completed on fallow farmland near Powell Creek in the fall of 2015.



Figure 1: Vernal pool plan view— includes 0.5 acre of pools and 2.2 acre drainage area to pools. Powell Creek on right side of image.

- Defiance County and Putnam County (working cooperatively with Defiance SWCD) have contracted with 30 producers and facilitated planting of 2400.5 acres of cover crops through 2014. Every acre described has been planted and verified by the SWCDs. The cost to the grant for cover crops has been \$79, 816.63 (\$33.25/acre).
- Newsletter articles promoting the Powell Creek Nutrient Reduction project that include discussion on key conservation practices (saturated buffer, blind inlets, runoff wetlands, and controlled drainage)

were included in the summer 2014 newsletter (see Figure 2): <http://www.defiance-county.com/swcd/pdf/Summer2014Web.pdf>.

- Defiance County SWCD and Putnam County SWCD contracted with 12 producers and completed the installation of 31 controlled drainage structures.

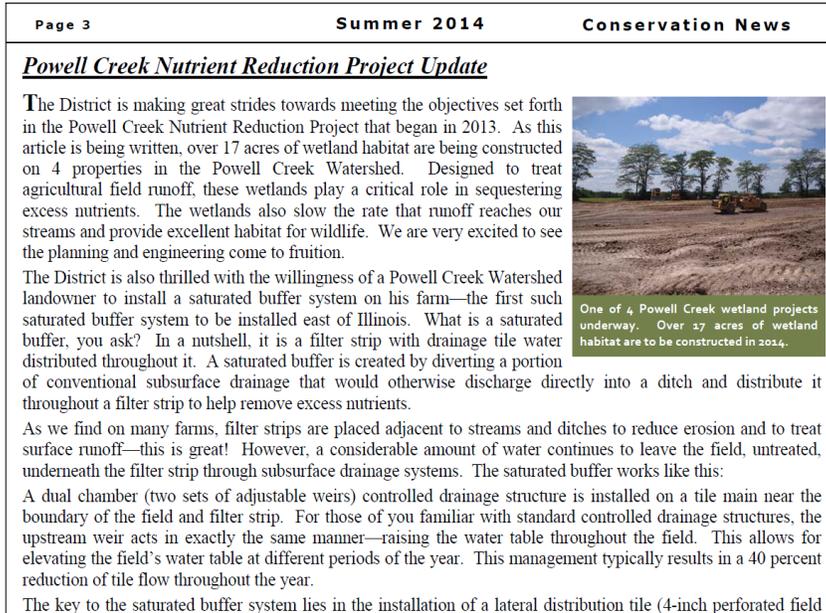
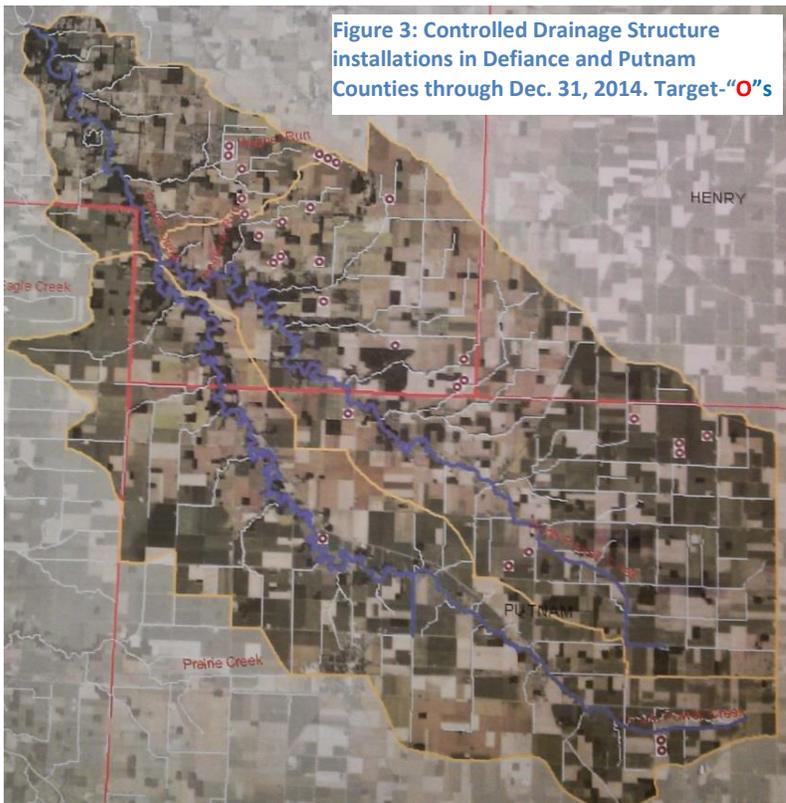


Figure 2: An excerpt of a Defiance SWCD Summer 2014 Conservation News article



A saturated buffer system—a new type of controlled drainage system—has been installed. This practice not only controls drainage water in the crop field, but also directs tile water into leaching chambers that are installed along the length of the grassed riparian buffer strip. We are glad to report that this practice has generated interest locally. The Defiance SWCD included this site as part of a Powell Creek project tour in spring 2015.

- Two (2) Nutrient Management Plans (using Variable Rate Technology) for approximately 774 crop acres are completed.
- Progress to date by Defiance County Health Department: ***This project is now closed***
Project deliverables by Defiance County Health Department as part of this sub-grant.:
 - The Defiance County Board of Health defined and approved the target area (i.e., specific sections of Highland Township) based on sampling points from the

Ohio EPA. Six (6) candidate residences were identified for repair or replacement in the summer/fall of 2014.

- Seven (7) Home Sewage Treatment Systems have been inspected and four (4) were repaired or replaced.

2. What, if any, changes were made from the Object Class Categories listed in Sec. B of the SF 424A or Box 29 of the IA, as applicable?

No changes have been made to the object class categories.

3. If a problem was encountered, what action was taken to correct it?

The Powell Creek GLRI project has been granted an extension through June 30, 2016.

Pertinent item included from previous report: With regard to drainage water wetland deliverable efforts, one obstacle that has been identified is the need to account for cropland removed from production through the installation of the drainage wetland. A February 5, 2014 meeting with Ohio Farm Service Agency (FSA), Ohio NRCS and Defiance SWCD was held to highlight the Powell Creek project and to work out solutions in short-term, and to begin to work on strategic longer term solutions that might enhance the effectiveness and efficiencies of programs that incentivize removal of land from production for the purpose of water quality protection. One possibility that is being explored is the purchase of conservation easements on the land being converted to wetland basins and associated buffers, at a rate similar to that which would have been provided through the USDA-FSA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and another could be developing a water-detention type Conservation Practice (CP) Standard in FSA’s Conservation Reserve program toolbox.

4. What work is projected for the next reporting period?

Ohio EPA anticipates completing the following activities during the upcoming reporting period:

- We anticipate receiving and processing 2 quarterly fiscal reports and 1 semi-annual progress reports during the next reporting period.
- Efforts will be focused toward administrative closure of this grant

Is the project work on schedule? List activities from the Work Plan, and any required Quality System Documentation, and report as percent completed.

Project work is largely complete. We will work with Defiance SWCD to ensure all efforts are focus upon completing deliverable wherever possible.

5. Does the project funding rate support the work progress? Report as percent spent of budgeted amounts Federal and non-Federal.

Activity/Expenditures	Federal Funds	State Match
Subgrant Funded Project Reported Expenses	\$277,416.43	\$0.00

We anticipate any remaining deliverables (by Defiance SWCD) will be completed by March 31, 2016.

6. Is there a change in the principal investigator?

No. Russell Gibson continues to be the principal investigator with support from Martha Spurbeck, Rick Wilson and Johanna Hodanbosi within Ohio EPA.

7. Will the project take longer than the approved project period? If so, have you formally requested an amendment in writing?

An extension request has been filed by Defiance SWCD to OEPA in November 2014 and from Ohio EPA to Region-5 in December 2014. A 12 month extension was granted.

8. What is the date and amount of your latest drawdown request? If no request has been submitted, please explain.

Our most recent drawdown on this grant was completed December 26, 2015 in the amount of \$471.28

9. What is the date of your latest entry into the Great Lakes Accountability System (GLAS)? If no recent entry has been submitted, please explain.

Not Applicable: GLAS no longer exists

Respectfully Submitted,

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