Ohio Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Proposal

RFP Number:	EPA-R5-GL2014-2
Focus Area:	Category I.B. Watershed Management Implementation; Crawford County, OH, Sandusky River Watershed HUCs (04100011-04-02, 04100011-03-01, 04100011-03-02, 04100011-09-02, and 04100011-09-03).
GLRI Program:	U.S. EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative 2014 Request for Applications
Project Title:	Lake Erie Watersheds Nutrient Reduction Project-Phase 2

Submitted By:	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Surface Water
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DUNS Number:	809172372
Type of Organization:	State Agency

Proposed GLRI Funding Requested: $689,060

Project Duration: November 1, 2014 to December 30, 2017

Project Description: Proposal builds upon success of other projects in the Sandusky River watershed: 2011 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative "Ohio Lake Erie Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Watershed Project," targeted in Loss Creek, and United States Department of Agriculture National Water Quality Initiative's "Brandywine Creek-Brokensword Creek" project, adjacent to Loss Creek. Flexible and innovative for crop producers, landowners, and entrepreneurs, it continues collaboration between Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service by including adjacent watersheds in stepwise fashion and engendering broader interest and increased rates of participation in adoption of effective agricultural nutrient reduction practices.

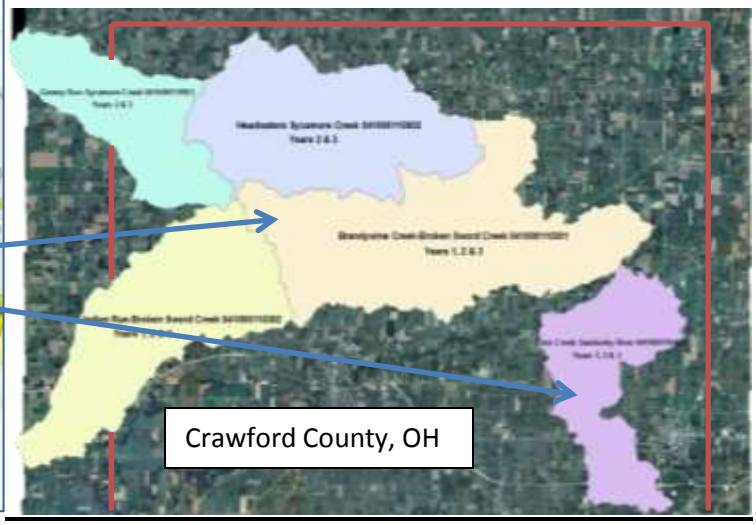
Project Location:

As part of this proposed three-year targeted watershed effort, Phase 2 of the Lake Erie Watersheds Nutrient Reduction Project will use and build upon the momentum and expand eligibility to farms located in the remaining adjacent HUC-12 watersheds in the Sandusky River watershed within Crawford County which weren't eligible to participate in the first phase.

Geographic center of project is in Brandywine Cr.-Brokensword Cr. (04100011-03-01), Brokensword Creek at State Route 4: **40°53'50"N, 82°57'26"W**

WORK PLAN

Targeted watersheds (12-digit HUCs) within the Sandusky River Watershed (left) along with focused implementation years are described below.



Project Summary and Approach:

In this project, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) will administer sub-grants to the local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) in Crawford County, Ohio and to the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition. The following describes what duties each of the sub-grantees will perform:

Crawford SCWD:

Crawford SWCD will commit to provide the equivalent of 1.5 years full-time employees to accomplish the deliverables that are the target of this grant proposal. This will include all contact and contracts with the local landowners, land managers on nutrient management planning, equipment usage, and best management practice (BMP) implementation and installations as well as working with potential entrepreneurs (for cover crop equipment technology development). The focus will be on sediment and nutrient laden runoff and drainage water reductions from cropland. Participating farms in the targeted watersheds will complete whole farm resource management plans that include in-depth evaluation of current management of cropland rotation, tillage and residue management; nutrient management; pest management; and woodland management. These plans will recommend BMPs and farm management changes best suited to reduce or eliminate sediment and nutrient losses to the watershed.

The Crawford SCWD has already laid the groundwork for successful cooperation with landowners in the adjacent Loss Creek watershed (and the successes realized with farming community there through the Federal Fiscal Year 2011 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant "Ohio Lake Erie Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Watershed Project". Crawford SWCD intends to roll out this grant project

step-wise. This will first occur in two (2) watersheds in the Brokensword Creek HUCs in years 1-3, then into the Sycamore Creek watershed HUCs in years 2 and 3. (See maps above and table below).

Participants will be reimbursed for performance (i.e., for those BMPs or management/system changes that result in landscape improvements that are proven to reduce agriculturally derived sediment and nutrient loading). Reimbursements for results-oriented practice implementation and/or installation will be provided as:

A. **Performance reimbursement for utilizing state-of-the art technologies** such as modified and new cover crop seeding equipment and precision fertilizer technology. This reimbursement will be provided to participants who purchase and use this equipment on a per acre basis. The goal is to facilitate purchases of most modern nutrient placement equipment—and more importantly the use of that technology;

B. **Reimbursement for reducing a farm tract's risk of phosphorus loss to waters of the State** to "Low" from "Medium," "High," or "Very High" using a modified version of Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Phosphorus-Index scoring system that provides for scoring deductions for implementing new or improved conservation practices. This is a continuation of, and builds on the success of the same concept used as part of the Ohio Lake Erie Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Watershed-GLRI grant from 2011 which was implemented in the Loss Creek Watershed; and

C. **Cost share for drainage water management systems and cover crop planting** implemented at rate of 75-90% for BMPs installed or implemented.

BMPs and management/system practices will be selected from, Ohio's Nonpoint Source Management Plan Update (June 2014) and Ohio's Nutrient Strategy (June 2013). We will also encourage and incentivize innovative concepts from the farm producers that are similarly aimed to achieve sediment and nutrient loss reductions on their farm. BMPs known to be underutilized in the watershed and that are known to reduce sediment and nutrient loads are the targets of this grant application. Targeted BMPs are as follows: cover crops, drainage water management, 4R nutrient management, and intensive grazing practices. Incentives will also be offered for the following innovative BMPs and practices: progressive (multiple years) cover crops, "accelerated" 4R nutrient management, blind inlets, saturated buffers, and grazing management.

Sandusky River Watershed Coalition:

The Sandusky River Watershed Coalition will be heavily involved with project outreach and education. They will primarily provide the following services:

- Before and after survey of applicants participating in the performance reimbursement and cost-share initiatives;
- Assisting Crawford SWCD in planning and carrying out Field Day/Educational events; and
- Creation of informational brochures outlining the project to promoting participation.

Ohio EPA-Division of Surface Water, §319 Nonpoint Source Grants Program:

The grants program staff will administer the grant and provide technical and fiscal assistance to the sub-grantees. This is explained more later in this application beginning on page 9.

Project priority watersheds and relative timing:

	Hydrologic Unit Name	HUC#	Acres	% Ag-Landuse
Continued:	Loss Creek (from Phase 1)	04100011-04-02	15,520 ac.	71.6%
Year 1-3 adds:	Brandywine Cr. - Brokensword Cr.	04100011-03-01	35,381 ac.	85.2%
	Indian Run-Brokensword Cr.	04100011-03-02	24,972 ac.	78.9%
Year 2-3 adds:	Headwaters Sycamore Cr.*	04100011-09-02	25,934 ac.*	83.9%
	Greasy Run-Sycamore Cr.*	04100011-09-03	15,342 ac.*	79.9%

*(Significant acreage in this HUC is outside of Crawford County and the scope of this project.

Project Priorities and Relevance with Existing Plans:

This project is consistent with recommendations within the state of Ohio's approved Nonpoint Source Management Plan (NPSMP) June, 2014, Ohio's Nutrient Reduction Strategy, June 2013, the general recommendations within the Lake Erie Restoration Plan, 2013, the conditionally approved Ohio Coastal Nonpoint Source Management Plan, and the Lake Erie Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP). This project will also accelerate implementation of recommendations within the Sandusky River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the state endorsed Sandusky River Watershed Action Plan (WAP). These respective documents may be found at the following web sites:

- **Ohio Nonpoint Source Management Plan Update, June, 2014:** http://www.epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/nps/NPS_Mgmt_Plan.pdf
- **Ohio Nutrient Reduction Strategy:** http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/35/wqs/ONRS_final_jun13.pdf
- **Lake Erie Restoration Plan:** http://lakeerie.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Reports/LEPR%202013%20Final.pdf
- **Sandusky TMDL:** http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/tmdl/SanduskyRiverUpperTMDL.aspx
- **Sandusky River WAP:** ftp://ftp.dnr.state.oh.us/Soil_&_Water_Conservation/WatershedActionPlans/EndorsedPlans/Sandusky%20(Honey%20Creek).pdf
- **Lake Erie LAMP:** http://www.ohio.gov/dsw/ohiolamp/index
- **Ohio NPS Management Plan:** http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/nps/NPSMP/index.html
- **Coastal NPS Plan:** www.dnr.state.oh.us/Portals/12/programs/coastalnonpoint/cnpcp/finalcnpcp.pdf

This project is aimed to address agricultural pollutants in headwater tributaries of the Sandusky River watershed (HUC-12 watersheds listed above):

- Phosphorus
- Dissolved Phosphorus
- Nitrogen
- Sediment

This project focuses on targeting implementation of agricultural management practices and modifying land and fertilizer management behaviors in the five (5) HUC-12 watersheds listed above. Specific water quality planning references are provided in the attachment. Because the focus of this GLRI grant cycle Category is to address nearshore water quality in the Great lakes (in this case Lake Erie) "…as evidenced by excessive nutrients; harmful algal blooms…" more focus is provided to address downstream nutrient loading than is provided for abating localized stream impairment.

Stream Impairments: Similar practices are identified and prioritized in the TMDL and watershed action plans to address the localized stream impairment concerns which include Nutrients (Specifically

Phosphorus), Sedimentation, and Habitat Alteration, Flow Alteration, and Enrichment. Pertinent pages from TMDL and WAP are provided in the attachment.

Within the state endorsed Sandusky River Watershed Action Plan, specific reference is made in Sidebar 6.2 on page 70 of the importance of targeting implementation to site-specific sources and causes of impairment. This project does precisely that by focusing action in the targeted HUC-12 sub-watersheds that have been selected. There is general reference to "targeting practices in upstream portions of the watershed" on page 74 of the endorsed plan, which is consistent with the selection of these headwater HUCs under this proposal. This project focuses on accelerating implementation of improved nutrient management practices and drainage water management practices on thousands of acres of cropland.

Civilian Conservation Corps Model: This project will hit on a few components of the Conservation Corps model. This will be realized through increased localized employment through cover crop technology development and usage and drainage water management systems design and installation; which will produce tangible results. The significant outreach component in this proposed project will lead to greater public awareness and appreciation of the environment; because each participant will feel they are making changes that will help solve problems in their local tributaries, downstream and in Lake Erie.

Shovel Ready: Upon notice of grant receipt from Great lake National Program Office, Ohio EPA will move quickly to secure sub-grants with our project partners. Because we are already involved with Crawford SWCD and the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition (i.e., the FY11 GLRI Ohio Lake Erie Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Watershed Project), we anticipate that the transition in this project will be somewhat seamless, and that participants sign-up and practice implementation will begin almost immediately.

No Permits Needed: The types of practices described in this grant proposal will not require permits from any other office or agency. We do anticipate working with the USDA-Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service with respect to conservation practices that are install on or nearby land that is enrolled in Farm Bill programs. This has not been an issue in the past as all involved recognize the importance of improving and building upon the effectiveness of conservation practices on the agricultural landscape.

Results – Outputs and Outcomes:

Activities Timeline:
Ohio EPA will prepare and execute sub-grant agreements with project collaborators immediately upon notification of successful GLRI funding for this project by U.S. EPA. Baseline monitoring activities will be completed by Ohio EPA Northwest District Office, Modeling, and Ecological Assessment staff as early as 30 days of notification of successful funding, weather permitting. Other implementation activities will occur in the general sequence listed below:

- By the end of the first year of the project:
    - Baseline water chemistry monitoring completed (Ohio EPA)
    - Sub-grant agreements prepared and executed (Ohio EPA)
    - Pre-project surveys developed and mailed (Sandusky River Watershed Coalition (SRWC)
    - Public meeting conducted (SRWC and Crawford SWCD)
    - Cost-share project outreach and awareness activities (SRWC and Crawford SWCD)
    - Potential project landowners identified and contacted (SWCD)
    - Potential cover crop equipment entrepreneurs identified and contacted (SWCD)

- Cover crop component of project advertised and sign-ups completed (SWCD)
- First semi-annual reports submitted and processed (Ohio EPA)
- 1,200 acres of cover crops planted as conservation rotation (SWCD)
- 5 Controlled drainage systems contracted and installed (SWCD)
- 1 Blind-Inlet system contracted and installed (SWCD)
- 1 saturated buffer drainage water management system participant identified (SWCD)
- First project-specific annual report prepared and submitted (Ohio EPA)

- Years 2 and 3 of the project: BMP implementation and installation will be robust during the second year and again in the third year of the project as the practices implemented approach the deliverable commitment quantities. All BMPs will be installed according to NRCS standards and include only practices identified in Ohio's approved Nonpoint Source Management Plan Update (June 2014). Other activities that will be completed during years 2 & 3 of this project include follow-up surveys, post-project water chemistry sampling and ecological assessment and extensive outreach including field days, project brochures, fliers and other activities.

Implementation of nutrient reduction BMPs in this project will be accelerated and highly targeted to known problems and based on site specific analysis conducted as part of the whole farm conservation planning and comprehensive nutrient management processes (rooted in 4R program). The first year of the project has very specific and achievable goals for implementation, including the completion of whole farm conservation plans, nutrient management plans and considerable use of cover crops and livestock exclusion fencing. The second year of the project is designed to implement the specific practices recommended in whole farm plans and/or nutrient management plans. Year 3 will be primarily a period for analysis, follow-up survey work and reporting on results.

This project will be rolled out in a step-wise fashion. Beginning in year 1, participants farming in three (3) HUC-12 watersheds will be eligible to enroll in the various project programs and begin to implement practices. In years 2 and 3 of the project, participants farming in all five (5) described HUC-12 watersheds will be eligible to enroll and begin implementing practices. Using this method for roll-out will allow for the normal progression of momentum to build across the county, and also allow for the SWCD to stay somewhat comfortable with the level of effort it will take to do the best job they can with their sub-grant commitments.

Fully functional implementation of projects:
With the exception of cover crops, each project deliverable (described below) is designed to be immediately functional. The effectiveness of cover crops (as the exception) is sometimes at the mercy of harvest and weather. This is one reason why there is an effort to improve the cover crop seeding technology and potentially open up opportunities for entrepreneurs to improve the timing and methods for cover crop planting by purchasing new cover crop implements or improving agricultural implements to address this need.

Deliverables:
The project deliverables for the entire 3-year project across the five (5) HUC-12 watersheds areas are as follows. It is entirely possible that multiple practices will occur on the same acreage and/or during successive years in the project. It is impossible to know to what extent this will occur however. As such, load reduction estimates are made recognizing that we may have to take a good look at the timing and location of the various participant practices and make adjustments to the load reduction estimates as necessary during and after the project is complete.

Best Management Practice	Acreage/# of Installations
Cover Crop Planted (Producer)	5000 acres
Drainage Water Management Systems	20 Systems
Cover Crop Technology Performance reimbursement (Entrepreneur)	Up to 8000 acres
P-Risk Reduction Reimbursement	2500 acres
Implementation of Accelerated Nutrient Management Techniques--- Performance Reimbursement (Infrared Sensing)	2500 acres
Implementation of Accelerated Nutrient Management Techniques--- Performance Reimbursement (Nutrient In-Row or Banding)	2500 acres
Implementation of Accelerated Nutrient Management Techniques--- Performance Reimbursement (Nutrient Precision)	2500 acres
Implementation of Accelerated Nutrient Management Techniques--- Performance Reimbursement (Fertilizer Rate Control)	2500 acres
Implementation of Accelerated Nutrient Management Techniques--- Performance Reimbursement (Foliar Feeding)	2500 acres
Blind Inlets (replace surface inlets to drainage tile)	5 systems
Saturated Buffer DWM systems	2 systems
Intensive Grazing Systems	3 systems

Total Expected Load Reduction Estimates:

Practices Implemented	Estimated Load Reduction*		
	Nitrogen Pounds/3-Year	Phosphorus Pounds/ 3-Year	Sediment Tons/ 3-Year
Cover Crops (5000 acres)	30,438	856	247
Drainage Water Management (DWM) Systems (500 acres)	3916	381	40
DWM-Saturated Buffers (50 acres)	440	43	4
Blind Inlets (50 acres)	712	69	18
Grazing Management (6 acres)	16	4	1
Nutrient Managment-4R &Con Tillage (5000 acres)	4486	1199	346
Total Project Load Reduction Estimate (over 3 years)	**40,008**	**2,552**	**657**

Ave. Sandusky Load (08-12)	#/acre/year
N	17.8
P	1.73
DRP	0.44
Sediment	732.5

*Estimates calculated using Chesapeake Bay Phase 5.3 Community Watershed Model, Section 6, Best Management Practices for Nutrients and Sediment, Best Professional Judgment, and Average Annual Sandusky River loading data (Years 2008-2012) from Heidelberg National Water Quality Research Laboratory (see table at left).

Reduces nutrient loading (especially DRP) during critical periods

Implementation of these practices is expected to greatly reduce both nutrients and sediment from the row-crop land-use where they are implemented. Cover Crops and drainage water management practices both do very well at helping to cut the losses of nutrients during critical periods such as late-winter spring and summer runoff events, because cover crops sequester nutrients and hold soil, and improve soil-water storage. Also, drainage water management (DWM) structures reduce overall runoff by storing water, which can reduce peak stream flow.

In addition, the full suite of 4R practices will reduce the overall usage of soluble phosphorus fertilizer, while the cover crops (a living crop) will sequester otherwise mobile phosphorus and reduce the overall loading of dissolved reactive phosphorus to Lake Erie.

Practices provided in this proposal helps to ameliorate effects of climate change

Soil health practices such as cover crops and reduced tillage that help to provide more soil storage for water along with practices designed to store water (like drainage water management systems) on and adjacent to agricultural lands play an important role in addressing the effects of climate change (i.e., more intense rainfall and runoff) events, and prolonged droughts.

Project Effectiveness Monitoring and Federal Grants Compliance:

Project effectiveness monitoring will be conducted through semi-annual project site visits and delivery of technical assistance (as needed) by members of Ohio EPA's Nonpoint Source Program and northwest district office staff. In addition, all sub-grantees are subject to financial and compliance audits. Ohio EPA contracts with Ohio Department of Natural Resource's External Audit Section to perform ten sub-grant audits per year. We will conduct audits on at least one of the two anticipated sub-grantees under this project. Project effectiveness and grants compliance/audit activities will be provided by Ohio EPA using existing staff and capabilities at no direct costs to this project.

All sub-grantees will be required by executed grant agreements to comply with all state and federal grant requirements. Non-compliance will result in refunding any inappropriately managed federal grant funds and/or termination of the sub-grant agreement when necessary.

Environmental Monitoring:

Ohio EPA will provide environmental monitoring of this project using both northwest district office (NWDO) water quality staff as well as the section 319 monitoring team from Ohio EPA's Ecological Assessment Unit. Baseline water chemistry monitoring will be completed by NWDO staff to complement the aquatic life use attainment assessments that were completed as part of the TMDL process. Follow up water chemistry monitoring and aquatic life use attainment assessment will be conducted in year three of this project following installation of all proposed BMPs. A final report detailing the results of this project will be prepared and submitted to US EPA. All monitoring will be completed consistent with Ohio EPA's approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) which will be submitted as required if this proposal is successful. **No GLRI funds will be used for environmental monitoring activities.**

Collaboration and Plans:

This project is a fully collaborative effort between Ohio EPA, the Crawford County Soil and Water District, and the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition. In addition, Ohio EPA vigorously supports

local watershed planning and implementation. Since 2001, annual section 319 grant funds have been sub-granted to establish and maintain full-time watershed coordinators employed by various local government, nonprofit organizations and/or soil & water conservation districts. We work very closely with these coordinators in encouraging implementation of the recommended actions within their endorsed watershed action plans and/or approved TMDLs. This project will help to maintain enhance such ongoing local and state collaboration.

As a state agency member of the Ohio Lake Erie Commission, we are committed to assisting with the Lake Erie Synthesis & Coordination Team project submitted to the GLRI. We will participate in planning and reporting meetings as necessary, share our project results, and assist in reviewing outreach materials. We believe the project of this coordination and synthesis effort will benefit our future work to better manage Lake Erie and its associated resources.

Letters of support: Letters of support for this project have been provided by both the Crawford Soil and Water Conservation District and the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition and are provided in the attachment. Each of these potential sub-grantees has demonstrated that they are willing to accept sub-awards and have the capacity to effectively administer and perform the tasks outlined.

Community-based Focus and Environmental Justice Impacts:

Both potential sub-grantees (Crawford SWCD and the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition) are equal opportunity employers. This project will largely involve the agricultural community in the watersheds described in the work plan. All prospective participants residing in, or farming in these watersheds, will have equal opportunities for participation. Fortunately, there will be very little chance for any biases or prejudices to play a part in any way with respect to this potential project.

Programmatic Capability and Past Performance:

Ohio EPA routinely receives three to eight federally funded assistance agreements each year from U.S. EPA. These agreements help support Ohio's water pollution control, nonpoint source, and water quality monitoring and assessment programs. This proposal is similar in size and scope to several of the federal assistance agreements Ohio EPA has administered recently. We have a solid history of successfully completing projects and meeting all reporting requirements. Ohio EPA's water programs consistently receive favorable reviews from U.S. EPA.

This particular project will be managed by Ohio EPA's Nonpoint Source Program and will be administered by the Ohio EPA—Division of Surface Water. Since FFY2001, we have successfully administered more than 110 locally implemented watershed projects totaling more than $30 million in federal section 319(h) funding. We maintain a vigorous sub-grant oversight protocol resulting in an exceptional level of accountability, efficiency and accomplishment. Ohio EPA contracting methods were improved in 2005 with the development and implementation of a standardized universe of grant deliverables. This system has resulted in much improved communication of expectations and greatly enhanced project reporting. This process will also be the framework used to make sub-grants under this project.

Ohio EPA's Nonpoint Source Annual Program Report (and other grant required reports) have been submitted on-time every year since 2005 when the current management team was put into place. This report is a comprehensive compilation of extensive data and information designed to meet U.S. EPA reporting requirements, but also to serve as a valuable management and evaluation tool for Ohio EPA. We will prepare and submit a similar annual report for this proposed project.

Ohio EPA's §319 nonpoint source grants program has demonstrated leadership with respect to conservation practice program innovation, targeting effective practices, and project targeting.

Similar projects that focus on innovative ways to engage farmers to implement more, and more effective agricultural conservation practices are ongoing.

- Ohio Lake Erie Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Watershed project (GL-00E00836-0)- $621,417 (open, expires 12/2014)
- Powell Creek Nutrient Reduction Project (GL-00E01131-0) - $600,152 (open, expires 06/2015)
- Upper Blanchard Watershed grant (GL-00E01020-0)- $631,572 (open, expires 03/2016)

Demonstrated Leadership: At the request of U.S. EPA, Region 5, Ohio's §319 program was asked to make a presentation entitled, "Performance Based Innovative Nutrient Reduction: Using an Enhanced Ohio P-Index to Increase Conservation Practice Adoption by Reimbursing Producers for Implementing Phosphorus-Risk Reduction Practices, Rick Wilson, Ohio EPA" describing the innovative nature (i.e., performance based reimbursement) of the Ohio Lake Erie Demonstration Watershed project along with the successes realized thus far in the grants described above at the National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Conference and Workshop, (October 29, 2013).

Further, Ohio EPA's program demonstrated leadership with respect to conservation practice effectiveness analysis by providing a webinar hosted by U.S. EPA Region 5 entitled, "Analyzing NRCS Ag-BMP Effects on Water Quality, A Process for Matching Practices to the Problems,"-July 24, 2013. This webinar is available at: http://www.epa.gov/region5/agriculture/pdfs/nutrient-webinar-20130724-analyzing-nrcs-v.pdf

Principal Program Staff and Qualifications: Ohio EPA's nonpoint source program staff will be managing this project, which builds upon the success with new and innovative methods to generate interest in adopting new and improved conservation practices; and expands the footprint of the Ohio Lake Erie Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Watershed project (GL-00E00836-0) into 4 additional HUC-12 watersheds. Principal program personnel responsible for implementing this project include:

- **Russell Gibson, NPS Program Manager**—Mr. Gibson has managed Ohio EPA's NPS and Section 319 Programs since 2005. Previously, he worked for more than 20 years with Ohio's Department of Natural Resources in a variety of positions including manager of permitting, hydrology & bonding for Mineral resources; northwest Ohio scenic rivers coordinator; community grants administrator for the Division of Recycling and as a preserve manager and park ranger. Mr. Gibson has a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management from Ohio State University as well as extensive graduate coursework in Public Administration. He has extensive experience in program development and evaluation, strategic planning and organizational design and has completed three federal grants training courses offered by Management Concepts, Inc., including "Awarding & Monitoring Sub-awards under Federal Grants" and "Federal Cost Principles."
- **Martha Spurbeck, Grants Administrator**—Ms. Spurbeck is the grants administrator for Ohio's NPS and Section 319 programs since 2000 and will be the primary responsible party for administering SWIF/GLRI sub-grants. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Ohio University and has completed three federal grants training courses offered through Management Concepts, including "Awarding & Monitoring Sub-awards under Federal Grants" and "Federal Cost Principles."
- **Rick Wilson, Environmental Specialist**—Rick is technical lead and agricultural specialist working in Ohio EPA's Nonpoint Source Program. Mr. Wilson has a civil engineering background and has been involved with agricultural pollution issues since 1999 when he became an inspector for Ohio EPA's CAFO program. Rick will perform the role of technical liaison with local project

implementers and Ohio EPA. Rick is currently the technical liaison for three (3) current grants that focus on innovative ways to increase and improve agricultural practices in targeted watersheds. These include the Loss Creek-GLRI Ohio Lake Erie Nutrient Reduction Demonstration Watershed, the highly successful Powell Creek Nutrient Reduction Project (GL-00E01131-0), and Upper Blanchard Watershed grant (GL-00E01020-0).

- **Jeff DeShon, Ecological Assessment Manager**—Mr. DeShon will supervise and organize the environmental assessment component of this project. Jeff is the manager of Ohio EPA's Ecological Assessment Section and supervises the assessment and biological surveys conducted on all of Ohio's surface waters. He has a Master's degree in Biology and more than 30 years' experience organizing, conducting and managing environmental assessments. He has been manager of the Ecological Assessment Section since 2000.
- **Dan Glomski, Environmental Supervisor, NWDO**—Mr. Glomski will supervise and organize the water quality monitoring component of this project. Dan is responsible for all water quality monitoring activities in the northwest region of Ohio, including the Sandusky River watershed.

Ohio EPA staff also routinely access engineers, technical NPS program specialists, storm water management specialists, permitting and regulatory personnel and agency fiscal and financial management staff. We also work closely with Ohio EPA personnel responsible for managing Ohio's State Revolving Loan Fund and Water Resources Restoration Sponsorship Programs, each of which provides support for stream restoration and nonpoint source pollution management programs statewide.

In addition to the above personnel within Ohio EPA that will serve as principals on this project, it also anticipated that local personnel such as the Sandusky River watershed coordinator Cindy Brooks, and perhaps most importantly staff at the Crawford County Soil & Water Conservation District office will play important roles in the successful implementation of this project.

Education and Outreach:

Activities completed under sub-grants awarded with this project are required to include a local project-specific and robust outreach component including activities such as news releases, media events, project signs, brochure and fact sheet development, articles within existing watershed publications and public involvement activities. Ohio EPA will also conduct extensive outreach for this project connecting it with the state's nutrient reduction strategy, Lake Erie management efforts and nonpoint source pollution management. We will work closely with our Public Involvement Center to prepare and release project specific news releases at key times throughout the project, including funding announcements, BMP cost-share availability, etc. We will also prepare and release all relevant program and grant management documents, guidelines, fact sheets and other informational materials developed as tool to insure public awareness of the project.

In addition, outreach efforts will be provided by both the Sandusky River Watershed Coalition and the Crawford SWCD. These efforts will include:

- Pre- and post-farmer and participant surveys;
- Educational brochures specific to the project
- Planning and conducting project specific field days
- Project newsletter articles
- Project specific press releases
- Display for fairs and agricultural industry events

DETAILED BUDGET

We anticipate supporting up to three sub-grants with the current requested funding. Cost-share funds will be provided by local landowners choosing to participate in this project. All federal funding will be used only for costs that are allowable, allocable and reasonable as defined in federal grant guidelines. Approval of this request will allow for enhanced nutrient reduction measures to be implemented in the concentrated area of a HUC-12 watershed within the Sandusky River basin.

Successful completion of this project will necessitate Ohio EPA making sub-grants to the following project partners:

Sandusky River Watershed Coalition (501c(3) organization):	$ 20,000
Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation District:	$580,250
Subtotal Sub-grants:	**$600,250**

For additional budget detail, please see the project budget included below and materials such as Budget Object Class Categories descriptions that are included with our SF424.

Object Class Categories	**Federal**
Personnel	$49,416
Fringe Benefits	$18,778
Travel	$0
Equipment	$0
Supplies	$0
Contractual	$0
Construction	$0
Other	$604,090
Indirect Charges	$16,776
TOTALS	**$689,060**

Project Expenditures

Expenditures incurred under this grant will be reviewed by Ohio EPA fiscal and grant staff prior to being reimbursed to sub-grantees and/or Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA hopes to use this demonstration as a means of implementing more effective nutrient reduction activities throughout the state of Ohio, including the Lake Erie tributaries. Ohio EPA monitoring costs will be borne by the agency at no cost to the project. Sub-grant costs have been scrutinized to minimize overhead and other administrative costs while still maintaining sufficient amounts to insure successful implementation.

Sub-granting

Sub-grant administration and management will occur through existing Ohio EPA procedures for sub-granting federal funds. As mentioned previously, Ohio EPA administers nearly 100 sub-grants per year—most of which is federal funding that is passed through for local project implementation. Administration of GLRI sub-grant funds will be conducted using existing DSW Nonpoint Source Program staff using the systems that are in place for managing and administering section 319(h) and Surface Water Improvement Fund (SWIF) sub-grants. All sub-grant expenses will be reviewed and considered using federal grant guidelines governing the allowability, allocability and reasonableness of grant project costs.