**2020 Partners in Watershed Management Grants**

**Project No. 1 Zimber Ditch/Nimishillen Creek HMGP/PDM**

**Applicant Stark County Park District**

**County Stark**

**Total Project Cost** $1,889,874.67/$976,665.00

**Requested Grant** $125,983.59/$130,213.86

**Approved Grant** $256,197.45

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

In the summer of 2014, MWCD was contacted by State Rep. Kirk Schuring regarding repeated flooding of homes along the Zimber Ditch tributary to Nimishillen Creek in Stark County. The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) was presented to acquire and remove these repetitively flooded homes. Stark Parks stepped forward as the project sponsor and once each home was acquired and removed, the property was turned over to Stark Parks in perpetuity as greenspace thus restoring the floodplain and prohibiting further development.

 **Project No. 2 Wills Creek Ferncliff Culvert Replacement**

**Applicant Muskingum County Engineers**

**County Muskingum**

**Total Project Cost** $535,000.00

**Requested Grant** $450,000.00

**Approved Grant** $450,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The replacement of a culvert on Ferncliff Road along the south shore of Wills Creek approximately 1.2 miles south of Wills Creek Dam. The culvert replacement consists of excavating through the 30-ft deep roadway in order to remove the failing culvert, replace it with a new 6-ft by 10-ft concrete box culvert, and then reconstruct the roadway embankment.

**Project No. 3 Wayne County EMA-HMGP**

**Applicant Wayne County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)**

**County Wayne**

**Total Project Cost** $1,712,415.90

**Requested Grant** $150,000.00

**Approved Grant** $150,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Wayne County EMA has been working with OEMA on a mitigation project that will acquire up to 20 residential structures that have experienced repetitive flood damages in Wooster near Apple Creek. Once acquired, the structures are removed, and the floodplain is restored with permanent restrictions placed upon the property to prohibit future development. Both Wayne EMA andOEMA have been in contact with MWCD over the past year as this project has been approved by Ohio’s State Hazard Mitigation Team.

**Project No. 4 Black Forest Preserve Acquisition**

**Applicant Western Reserve Land Conservancy**

**County Richland**

**Total Project Cost** $3,930,000.00

**Requested Grant** $ 165,000.00

**Approved Grant** $ 165,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Western Reserve Land Conservancy’s application for grant funding involves the acquisition and protection of a 480-acre property located in Richland County, falling within the Mohican River sub watershed. The funding request will go towards the final remaining acquisition funds to make the project a success. The property contains high-quality natural resources including approximately 250 acres of floodplain, 130 acres of wetlands, and 7,745 linear feet of direct tributaries to the Black Fork Mohican River.

**Project No. 5 Development Analysis for Nutrient Reduction**

**Applicant Youngstown State University**

**County Carroll and Harrison**

**Total Project Cost** $84,012.00

**Requested Grant** $48,562.00

**Approved Grant** $48,562.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

In this study, YSU proposes to investigate the critical sources of nutrient and sediment loading in the Atwood Lake and Tappan Lake watersheds. Even though both watersheds are primarily forested, the Atwood Lake and Tappan Lake watersheds comprise 28% and 16% agricultural land use, respectively. Atwood Lake supplies potable water to MWCD facilities in Carroll County, whereas Tappan Lake supplies raw water to the Village of Cadiz. Both lakes, have experienced the growth of algal blooms resulting in microcystin produced by cyanobacteria and blue-green algae. In addition, higher concentrations of sediment, chloride, nutrients, and hydrogen sulfide gases are primary pollutants of the lakes along with grazing livestock and mining. Additional sources of pollutants are wastewater and poorly operating or non-functional septic systems. Sediment from construction sites, erosion, and nutrient runoff from cropland are some of the other sources of loading into the lakes. Approximately, 88% of the land in the Tappan watershed is considered erodible.

**Project No. 6 Walhonding Watershed Mass Balance**

**Applicant Rural Action Inc.**

**County Coshocton**

**Total Project Cost** $56,939.50

**Requested Grant** $28,483.50

**Approved Grant** $28,483.50

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Since 2018, Rural Action (RA) has been working with partners in the Walhonding River Watershed to identify opportunities and plan water quality improvement projects. The Walhonding River Watershed drains 2,252 square miles in east-central Ohio, containing all or portions of nine counties. RA’s approach is to help communities’ value the natural assets in their watersheds and make investments to enhance and protect these waterways. RA’s work ranges from taking K-12 students on science-based field trips to understand aquatic ecosystems, to managing large-scale restoration projects with state and federal partners, to convening coalitions tackling waterway preservation and restoration like the Greater Walhonding Conservation Alliance that this project will help support. This coalition will utilize a science-based approach to implementing conservation best management practices (BMPs) so that we are able to target the areas that will have the greatest impact on improving water quality.

**Project No. 7 Cover Crop Interseeder**

**Applicant Ashland County Soil and Water Conservation District**

**County Ashland/Richland/Holmes**

**Total Project Cost** $54,789.60

**Requested Grant** $46,600.00

**Approved Grant** $46,600.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Ashland SWCD is proposing to purchase a cover crop interseeder as a conservation tool to be used throughout Ashland, Holmes, and Richland Counties (within MWCD’s jurisdictional area). The cover crop interseeder would be made available to farmers to rent in order to interseed cover crops into their cash crop earlier in the season, as opposed to waiting until post-harvest. Rental fees would be used for equipment upkeep, maintenance, and replacement to make the program self-sustaining.

**Project No. 8 Flood Warning Signage**

**Applicant Coshocton County Engineer**

**County Coshocton**

**Total Project Cost** $24,618.36

**Requested Grant** $19,694.70

**Approved Grant** $19,694.70

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Coshocton County Engineer is requesting grant funding to purchase and install a system of water sensors and warning signs from K&K Systems to alert vehicles of high-water conditions when roads are inundated at the following locations:

* CR 410 at SR93 in Linton Township; Wills Creek
* CR 19 at SR 60 in Clark Township; Killbuck Creek
* CR 6 in Virginia Township; Mill Fork Creek

**Project No. 9 Boettler Park Rain Garden**

**Applicant City of Green**

**County Summit**

**Total Project Cost** $16,150.00

**Requested Grant** $14,025.00

**Approved Grant** $14,025.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City of Green is proposing to install a green infrastructure project in the form of a demonstration rain garden in city owned Boettler Park. Situated downslope from the city’s historic Lichtenwalter Schoolhouse, the garden will consist of native plants designed to temporarily hold, clean and soak in the rainwater runoff from the schoolhouse roof as well as provide food and shelter for butterflies, songbirds, and other wildlife.

Concurrent with the rain garden installation, the city will design and install a sign at the rain garden site. The purpose of the sign’s messaging is to educate the community and park visitors about what a rain garden is and why they could (and should) replicate this green infrastructure feature in their backyard.

**Project No. 10 Kokosing River Restoration**

**Applicant City of Mount Vernon**

**County Knox**

**Total Project Cost** $1,082,567.92

**Requested Grant** $ 200,000.00

**Approved Grant** $ 200,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City of Mount Vernon and ODNR Scenic Rivers Program have identified three locations of degraded habitat and active erosion. This request is for MWCD to assist with phases one and two of this three-phase river restoration effort:

* West Lake (Phase 1) will restore approximately 125 linear feet of severely unstable streambank and restore approximately 500 linear feet of riparian areas and create a 5-year event floodplain connection. A flood event in 2017 severely eroded the bank, leaving a direct connection between the river and lake.
* Norton Street (Phase 2) will utilize natural channel design techniques to restore approximately 700 linear feet of riverbank to disconnect the backwater channel.

**Project No. 11 County Road 410 Box Culvert Replacement**

**Applicant Coshocton County Engineer**

**County Coshocton**

**Total Project Cost** $89,086.46

**Requested Grant** $71,269.17

**Approved Grant** $71,269.17

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project consists of the replacement of an aging culvert with an 8-foot by 4-foot concrete box culvert 44-feet in length under CR410 to allow Bacon Run to flow into Wills Creek. Profile adjustments will be made to the road in conjunction with the culvert installation to allow CR410 to remain open longer when the Wills Creek pool level rises during flood events.

**Project No. 12 Sanitary Sewer System Relining**

**Applicant Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum**

**County Carroll**

**Total Project Cost** $186,347.00

**Requested Grant** $175,347.00

**Approved Grant** $129,097.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project will replace or reline an 80-year-old failing sanitary sewer line that serves a variety of buildings and large areas of the campgrounds directly adjacent to Leesville Lake. In addition, a sanitary manhole that is partially deteriorated will be replaced. The project will include excavation, removal of existing pipeline, installation of new pipe, or the relining of existing pipe wherever possible. 729 feet of original sewer line will be replaced, and 343 feet of sewer line will be relined which will mitigate improper drainage into Leesville Lake.

**Project No. 13 Sharon Drive Flood Study**

**Applicant Warwick Township**

**County Tuscarawas**

**Total Project Cost** $50,000.00

**Requested Grant** $50,000.00

**Approved Grant** $50,000.00

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Sharon Road corridor in the Village of Tuscarawas has experienced repeated flooding events over the last several years causing serious hardship to residents and putting the Township's roadway and drainage infrastructure at risk of premature wear and damage. Due to the recent increased frequency of flooding events along the corridor, the Township wants to advance a study and improvements to mitigate the damage caused by the flooding along the corridor.