

Appendix L. Section 319 grants

The implementation plan will strongly recommend the use of existing 319 grant-funded projects and other funding sources to assist in carrying out the nonpoint source controls. There are two 319-funded projects underway in the upper Sandusky River watershed area covered by this TMDL report.

***Section 319 grant to Seneca County Health Department
Begin 2001 - end 12/2004 Federal grant: \$120,400.***

The grant will provide 50% up to \$4,500 cost share to 20 volunteer homeowners to replace failed home sewage systems with an experimental Peat bio-filter sewage treatment system. As part of the demonstration of this alternative treatment technology a field day and training will be provided to local home sewage system installers and sanitarians from other health departments. The county received a Rural Hardship grant in 1999 to assist with system replacement in the entire county. The county received a Rural Hardship grant in 1999 to assist with system replacement in the entire county. The Health Department has written a Home Sewage Treatment System Plan to identify critical water quality areas and carry out a program for inspection, replacement or repair of failed home systems in the Wolf Creek (04100007-100) and Sandusky-Tiffin (0410007-090) assessment units.

***Section 319 grant to Seneca SWCD
2002-2005 Federal Grant:\$500,000***

The goal of this grant is to implement agricultural best management practices (BMPs) in the Sandusky River watershed to reduce siltation and nutrient runoff into both surface and groundwater. Cost share funds for manure management, livestock exclusion, barn roof runoff, and filter strips will be targeted to landowners who are not eligible for other state and federal cost share programs. Cost sharing will also be provided for purchase of conservation tillage, residue management, and manure application equipment, and stabilization structures adjacent to sinkholes to reduce nutrient inflow into groundwater. Completion of a nutrient/resource management plan is a pre-requisite for 319 funding. These BMPS will benefit water quality in the project area which comprises 11 of the 14 assessment units of the Sandusky River watershed, excluding the most downstream units of Muddy Creek, Sandusky Bay-West and Sandusky Bay-East.

Seneca, Crawford, Wyandot, and Sandusky counties applied for WPCLF Linked Deposit financing for implementation of agricultural best management practices in the watershed. The project will continue for a minimum of five years, and focus on the development and implementation of Soil and Water Conservation Plans (SWCPs). Farming operations located in the watershed may be eligible for WPCLF linked deposit loans covering the items in the SWCPs. The Linked Deposit Program will operate in conjunction with the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 grant program.

The watershed project will be re-evaluated after the five-year implementation period to see if there is a need to continue it. Financing of individual projects will be subject to fund availability. It is estimated \$1 million will be targeted for agricultural cropland BMPs and \$500,000 for livestock BMPs

Several other 319 grants have been awarded which directly support public involvement in the TMDL process and implementation:

***Section 319-ODNR grant to Sandusky River Watershed Coalition
2000-2006*** ***Federal grant: \$192,000***

Watershed Coordinator grant to support building partnerships and developing the comprehensive watershed planning process throughout all 14 assessment units of the Sandusky River watershed. The coordinator's duties also include support of the TMDL initiative in the upper portion of the watershed which began in 2001. The coordinator has been involved with several implementation grants that have been awarded to partnering organizations in the Coalition.

***Section 319 grant to Sandusky River Watershed Coalition
2001-02*** ***Federal grant: \$32,000***

Watershed Coordinator support grant to specifically help raise public awareness about the TMDL assessment in the summer of 2001 and the ongoing public involvement in developing the TMDL plan. Funds were partially used to print the first edition of the Sandusky Watershed Inventory and Management Plan.

***USEPA Grant to Ohio RCAP and Sandusky River Watershed Coalition
2003 (one year)*** ***Federal Grant: \$50,000***

This grant will support the first year employment of a Karst Coordinator to implement the Unified Source Water Protection Plan for the karst region of the Sandusky watershed. The goals of the grant are to educate the public on the vulnerability of drinking water in the karst, and to work with the public drinking water suppliers to implement protection strategies outlined in the Plan. Local funds from the Ohio RCAP, WSOS and local communities will continue this coordinator position for several more years. The coordinator will initially work in the karst region associated with Green Creek (04100007-110), Sandusky Bay-West (04100007-130), and Honey Creek (04100007-080) assessment units. Public awareness and education efforts will ultimately extend south to the Sandusky-Mexico (04100007-070) and Broken Sword (04100007-030) assessment units.