

## Ohio FY 2022-2023 Executive Budget – H2Ohio and Water Issues

February 1, 2021

- **Overall:** Proposes increased H2Ohio funding from FY 2020-2021 across Ohio Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, and Lake Erie Commission to “address[] critical water quality needs and innovative solutions for some of the state's most pressing water challenges.” Total of about \$250 million for FY 2022-2023 dedicated to H2Ohio across four agencies.
  
- **Ohio Department of Agriculture:** \$95 million increase for H2Ohio efforts
  - H2Ohio funding of \$2,541,226 in FY 2020 and \$825,000 (estimated) in FY 2021 to \$49,300,000 in FY 2022 and \$49,300,000 in FY 2023
    - Increase to be used “to expand the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) within the H2Ohio water quality program, which will assist farmers with nutrient, water, and erosion management”
    - ODA has already enrolled 1.1 million acres in program to implement 10 specified BMPs across 14 counties, new goal is to enroll another 1 million acres across 24 counties in the Western Lake Erie Basin
  - Continuation of existing regulatory and enforcement efforts “to minimize the impact of manure, insect, and rodent control practices on water quality”
  
- **Ohio Environmental Protection Agency:** \$92 million in dedicated funding for H2Ohio
  - Dedicated H2Ohio funding of \$46 million per year in FY 2022 and FY 2023
  - “The increase in appropriation is for an expansion of the EPA's efforts within the H2Ohio water quality program. The EPA will continue protecting public health, improving water and wastewater infrastructure, and reducing lead exposure in daycare centers.”
  - Expanding on \$17 million in current biennium spending toward H2Ohio efforts to “improve water infrastructure, replace home sewage treatment systems, improve stream monitoring, and replace lead service lines and fixtures”
  - “The EPA will provide financial assistance, including funding from the H2Ohio Program, to improve drinking water and wastewater infrastructure within Ohio’s communities, particularly focusing on economically disadvantaged communities.”

- **Ohio Department of Natural Resources:** \$50 million for wetlands restoration
  - Go from \$21.7 million in current biennium spending on H2Ohio efforts to \$25 million in FY 2022 and \$25 million in FY 2023
  - Aim of restoring more than 40 wetlands across 80,000 acres, expanding on 2020-2021 efforts that resulted in 26 wetlands projects in contract
  
- **Lake Erie Commission:** Maintain relatively stable budget from FY 2021 levels
  - Small increase from \$833,000 budget in FY 2021 to \$874,000 in FY 2022 and staying at \$874,000 in FY 2023
  - Will continue to coordinate H2Ohio initiatives and other programs aimed at addressing nutrient management in the Lake Erie basin