

**Village Council Agenda Item  
Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio**

**Agenda Title: Consideration of Resolution 2008-xx Authorizing the Village Manager to enter into an agreement with Little Miami River Partnership in conjunction with other municipalities operating wastewater treatment plants to perform services for submitting funding through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for protection of environmentally sensitive lands.**

**Presenter: Eric C. Swansen, Village Manager**

**Problem/Issue Statement**

While the Village is working to meet compliance requirements for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, a considerable amount of agricultural lands have a substantial impact on the overall water quality of the Little Miami River. Improving the overall water quality through land protection, especially when leveraging federal funds, has the potential to be more cost-effective than making additional improvements a wastewater treatment plants.

**Financial Impact**

The planning phase of this work will cost \$1,285.27. There is no additional funding required. There may be future investments to acquire environmentally sensitive areas, although such costs are heavily leveraged with state and federal funds. Council would consider those investments as the opportunity arises. Our share of the planning effort is 0.69% - this means that for every 69 cents the Village puts up, other wastewater plants will leverage with \$99.31. This ratio would be considerably higher with federal and state funding of acquisition efforts.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends approval.

**Background**

The Little Miami River Partnership has proposed working with locally operated wastewater treatment plants (otherwise known a publicly owned treatment works (POTW)) to create a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program application for mutual benefit.

Little Miami is hoping to protect as much as 20,000 acres of riparian areas along the river, by working with an atypical alliance of agricultural interests, environmental groups, wastewater plants, conservation groups, state and federal agencies.

To accomplish this they are seeking funding for a planning effort and grant application funded from local wastewater plants. The total effort will cost \$185,000, with the Village's 0.69% share (based on average percentage of permitted effluent) is \$1,285.27.

This effort looks at the entire watershed, from Greene County down to Hamilton/Claremont Counties. All wastewater plants are considering participation, but there is some question about Mason participating. We might need to alter the amounts to reflect this, but such a change is relatively minor in cost to use. There is also the possibility of the scope be revised downward to fit the budget.

Funding our portion will be from our Wastewater enterprise fund, which is funded through user fees on sewer services provided to residents. Staff anticipates no impact to the rate on this one-time expense. The agreement and cost allocation is attached.

### **Alternatives Analysis**

The Village can elect not to participate in this effort.

### **Recommendation**

Approved by: