Ohio EPA
Updates and Priorities
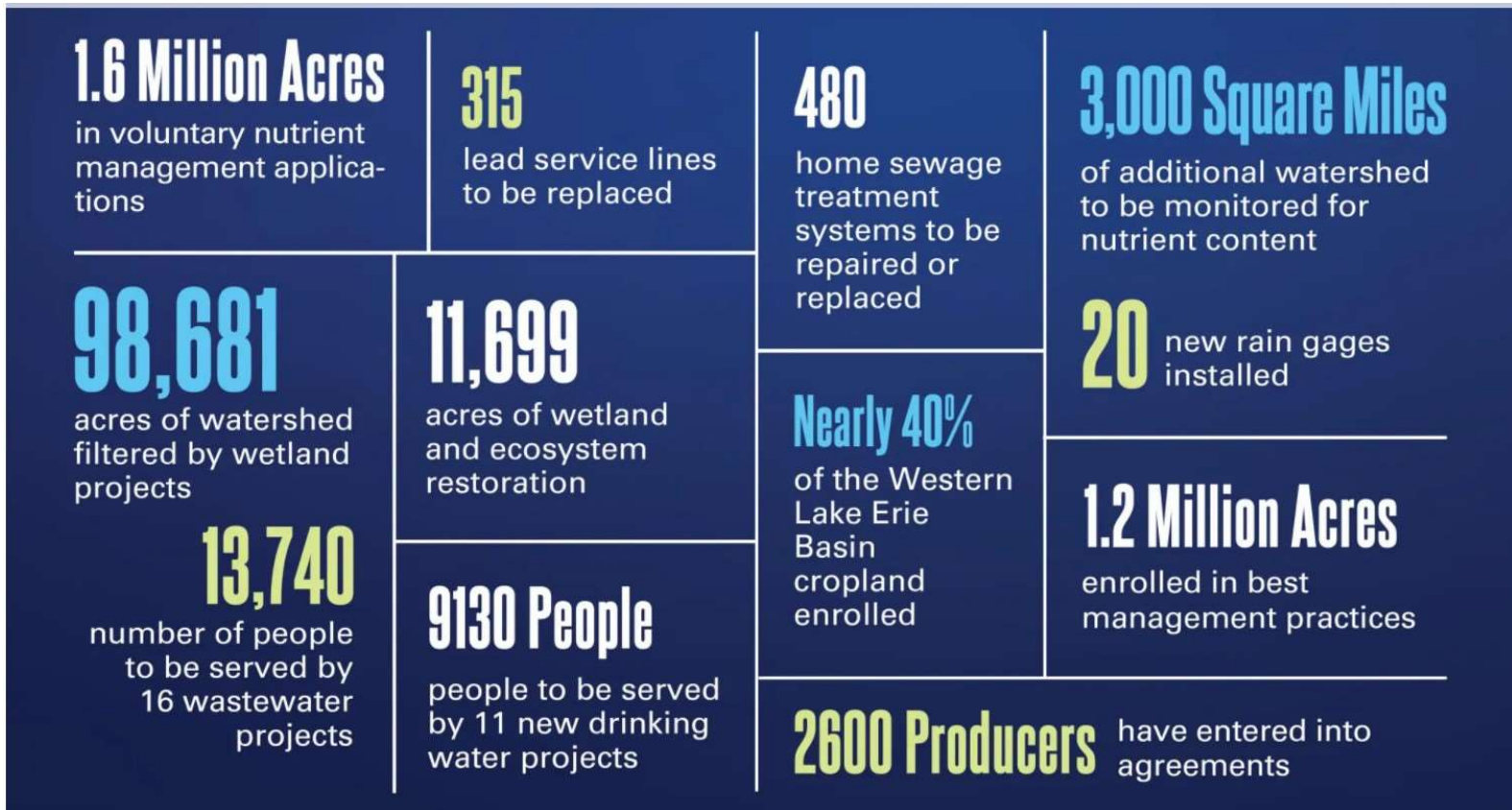
Laurie Stevenson

Director, Ohio EPA

The Past Year+
Priorities and Accomplishments

- H2Ohio

- Infrastructure Funding

- Drinking Water

- Surface Water

- New Website

- Customer Connection and Service

H2Ohio

- Launched by Governor DeWine in 2019, H2Ohio invests in targeted solutions to address harmful algal blooms on Lake Erie, improve infrastructure and reduce lead exposure in drinking water from old service lines and fixtures.

- To support H2Ohio, $172 million authorized by the General Assembly in the 2020-2021 biennium and $170 million in 2022-2023.

- H2Ohio is administered in partnership between ODA, ODNR, OEPA and OLEC. Many additional partners at the state and local levels.
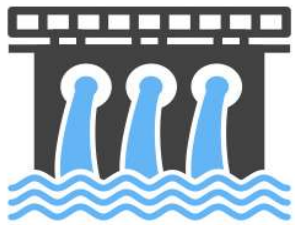
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H2Ohio By the Numbers

1.6 Million Acres in voluntary nutrient management applications

315 lead service lines to be replaced

480 home sewage treatment systems to be repaired or replaced

3,000 Square Miles of additional watershed to be monitored for nutrient content

98,681 acres of watershed filtered by wetland projects

11,699 acres of wetland and ecosystem restoration

Nearly 40% of the Western Lake Erie Basin cropland enrolled

20 new rain gages installed

13,740 number of people to be served by 16 wastewater projects

9130 People people to be served by 11 new drinking water projects

1.2 Million Acres enrolled in best management practices

2600 Producers have entered into agreements

https://h2.ohio.gov/

H2Ohio

$15,300,000
For 28 Critical Water and Sewer Projects

$1,250,000
lead service line and fixture replacement for safer water at Ohio daycare facilities.

$3,350,000
for 18 local health districts to replace household sewage treatment systems.

Increased Monitoring and Data Collection
installing an additional 20 rain gages to improve weather forecasting and rainfall estimates in northwest Ohio.
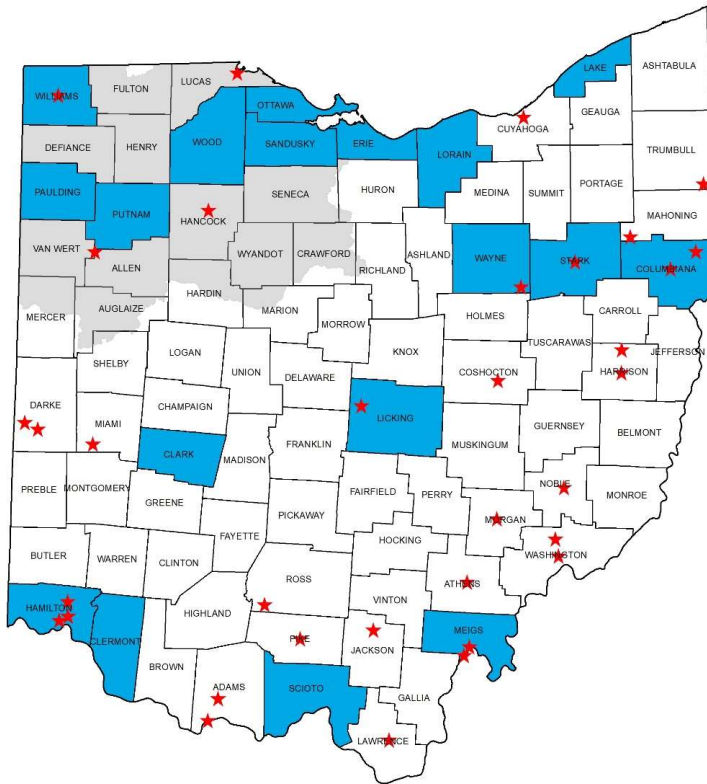
MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

Ohio

Ohio Environmental
Protection Agency

Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Funding

- 28 communities; $15.3 million

- Drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects in disadvantaged communities

- Replacing failing home sewage treatment systems in partnership with local health districts

H2Ohio

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Childcare Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement

During H2Ohio Years 1-2

$1.25 million in targeted funding to address LSL and lead fixtures replacements in Cincinnati childcare centers

$500,000 grant to Cleveland to remove and replace city-owned lead service lines that supply water to approximately 440 childcare centers.

Helping Water Systems Map and Replace Lead Service Lines

City/County	Grant Amount
Delphos - Allen, Van Wert	$500,000
Lockland - Hamilton	$500,000
Norwood - Hamilton	$348,000
Scio - Harrison	$150,000
Sebring - Mahoning	$500,000
Hubbard - Trumbull	$180,000

- $1.4 million for new program to assist public water systems in identifying and mapping lead service lines (50K grants)

- $600,000 for the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) & Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA) to assist small public water systems with ID and map LSL

Showing H2Ohio Progress in a Story Map

Ohio BUILDS Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Grant Program

- HB 168 authorized $250 million of ARPA funding to improve drinking water and sewer infrastructure
- Ohio Department of Development lead agency in distributing funding
- Grants to support design and construction projects
- Awarded approximately $250 million for 183 projects in three rounds
- Projects in all 88 counties

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Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Opportunities
Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

- **Funding will be routed through State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs:**
  - Water Pollution Control Loan Fund
  - Water Supply Revolving Loan Account

- **Three Purposes** – funding is for three main areas:
  - More funds for the core SRF programs to improve drinking water and wastewater infrastructure
  - Projects addressing emerging contaminants
  - Lead service line replacement projects

- **Appropriations spread over a five-year period** (2022-2026)

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PFAS Testing at Public Water Systems

- Under Ohio's PFAS Action Plan, >1500 public water systems were tested during 2020 for six PFAS compounds.
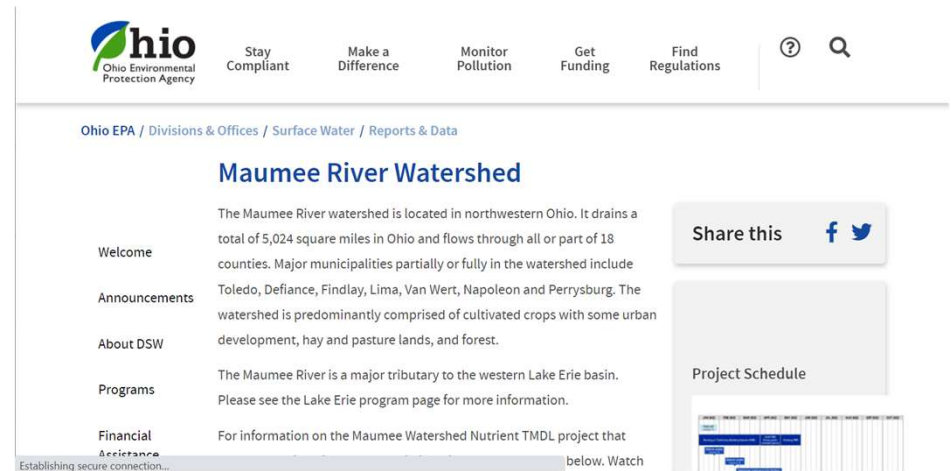
  ~94% systems non-detect, 2 systems with HAL exceedance

  Sample results and information available at https://epa.ohio.gov/pfas
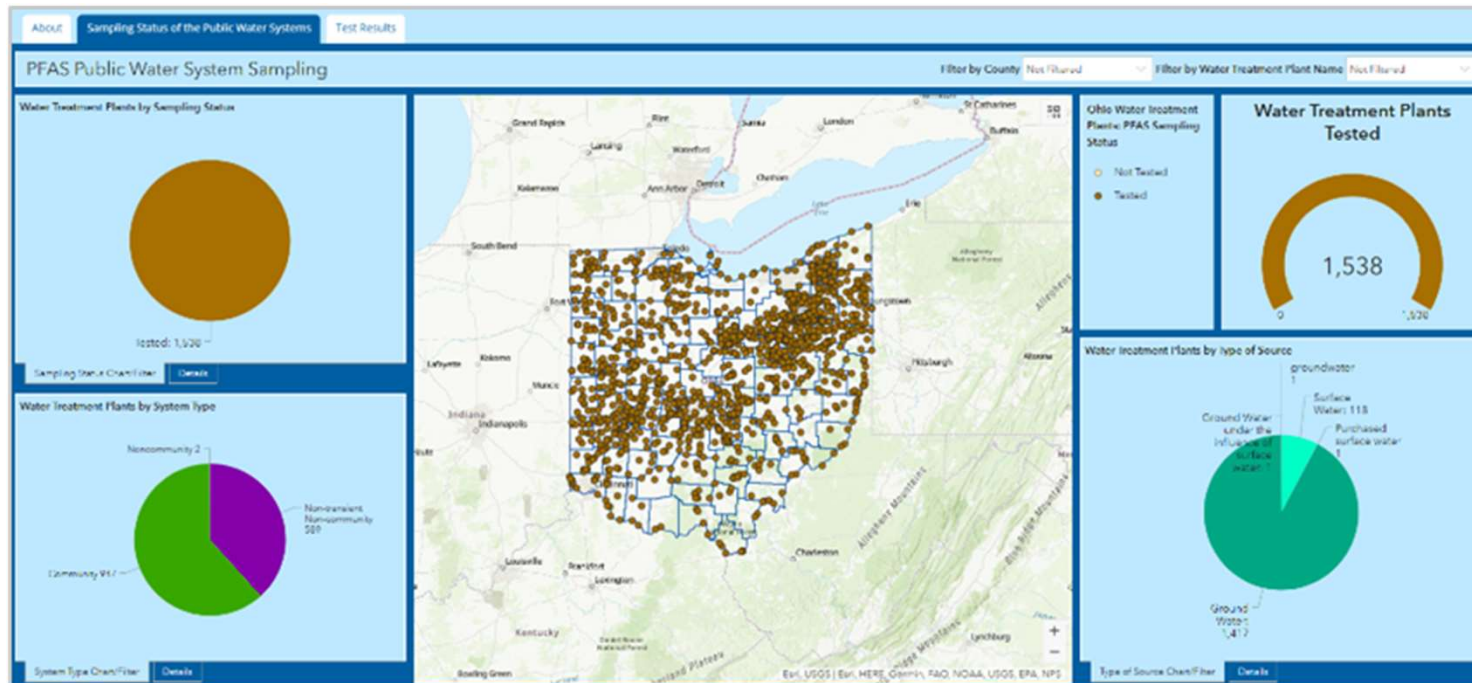
Water Quality

- Active outreach ongoing for Maumee River TMDL

- More info at: https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/surface-water/reports-data/maumee-river-watershed

- Integrated Report and Mass Balance in 2022

Statewide Anti-Littering Campaign

- Governor DeWine introduced statewide anti-littering campaign on Earth Day 2021
- Create awareness that every single piece of litter adds up to a big problem for the state, our roadways, parks, communities and environment
- Collaboration between OEPA, ODNR and ODOT
- Litter Summit, Aug. 6, 2021, first step
- Social media campaign, more to come

Agency Dashboard Reporting

- External dashboard reports issued semi-annually to help convey the important work we do and the progress we are making toward environmental improvements and operational efficiency.

- The dashboards include project/initiative highlights, permits/authorizations issued, outreach, funding, emergency response activities and other metrics.

- https://epa.ohio.gov/monitor-pollution/reports/dashboard-overview

Customer Connection and Service

- Created online portal for citizens to file environmental complaints https://epa.ohio.gov/help-center/contact-us/submit-a-complaint

- Online chat feature available through our Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP)

   https://ohioepa.custhelp.com/app/contactus

- Customers can provide feedback through customer service survey link, included in outgoing emails

   https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ohioepacustomersurvey

Permitting and Regulatory Assistance

Mark Johnson, Deputy Director, Business and Regulatory Affairs

For assistance with regulatory and permitting issues

mark.johnson@epa.ohio.gov

Dan Sowry, Assistant Chief, Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention

Small business assistance, sustainability, educational/outreach opportunities

dan.sowry@epa.ohio.gov

Looking Ahead

- Continued focus on Governor's priorities, including infrastructure and water quality

- Working with Ohio EPA senior team on goals/objectives through 2022

- Continued focus on staff development, including inspector training

- Open communication policy to discuss and resolve issues

- Continued focus on soliciting feedback to deliver best service, including permitting performance

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Thank You

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