

Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2003

Division of Water Ohio Department of Natural Resources



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Division of Water



Mission

To ensure the wise management of Ohio's water resources.

Vision

To be a leader in water resources management by providing the highest quality customer service.

Guiding Principles and Values

We commit to providing the highest quality customer service by adhering to these guiding principles and values:

- ◆ Ensure the highest level of protection for public health, safety and welfare
- ◆ Continually evaluate and improve programs, policies and services
- ◆ Use best available and innovative technology
- ◆ Promote public education of water management
- ◆ Provide prompt and effective technical assistance
- ◆ Faithfully administer regulations as mandated
- ◆ Promote resource management partnerships
- ◆ Promote professional growth and development through training and education
- ◆ Promote pride in job
- ◆ Provide a positive work atmosphere

Chief's Comments by Dick Bartz

The mission of the Division of Water is to ensure the wise management of Ohio's water resources. Our core business, then, is to influence people to make appropriate water resources decisions with sufficient information and knowledge to protect and wisely use Ohio's water resources. The staff in the division continued to focus on this mission. The highlights for Fiscal Year 2003 (FY03) are detailed more on the following pages. I just wanted to point out a few items from the programs and then overall for the division.

- ◆ The floodplain management program continued its Appalachian Flood Risk Reduction Initiative (AFFRI.) The division worked with communities to develop mitigation plans and developed multi-hazard maps as a new product to support local planning activities and decision making.
- ◆ The canal program continued to work with local partners on developing the recreation potential of the tow path and canal on the O&E and M&E canals. This year saw the publication of a 28-page booklet for the M&E Canal with support from the Miami & Erie Canal Corridor Association.
- ◆ County ground water pollution potential maps and potentiometric surface maps were completed in several counties with support from Ohio EPA's Source Water & Assessment Protection Program.
- ◆ The City of Lima and the division concluded negotiations for the city to buy the state's water supply equity in Bresler Reservoir. Bresler Reservoir had been constructed as a cooperative project in 1968 by both the state and the city and had been jointly operating the reservoir.

One of the division's guiding principles is to promote professional growth and development. The division has been encouraging the supervisory staff to participate in the Ohio Certified Public Managers Program which is a nationally accredited management development program for public managers in Ohio and offers over 300 hours of structured learning activities in four core curriculum areas. Two more of the division's supervisors completed the program in FY03 bringing the total to seven of the division's fifteen supervisors having completed the program.

The division applied for and received a Tier Two recognition from the Ohio Award for Excellence (OAE), which is patterned after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. OAE was created to formally recognize Ohio-based organizations that practice measurable continuous improvement and utilize outstanding processes to achieve customer-focused performance excellence. OAE examiners evaluated the division's practices and processes using a set of standards including Leadership, Strategic Planning, Customer Focus, Information and Analysis, Staff Focus, Process Management and Organization Performance Results.

As the state continued in the economic downturn, the department's and division's budgets were reduced significantly again. The Division of Water is one of several divisions in the department that relies heavily on the general revenue fund for its programs. As a result, Water's programs were impacted by the budget reductions. Several staff took advantage of the Early Retirement Incentive that was offered: Jean Eubanks, Patsy Cutler and Mike Schiefer. All are greatly missed for their expertise and experience. Most of the budget reductions were absorbed by the reduction in staff positions and reliance on outside grants.

Finally, the biggest change from the chair of the Chief is that Jim Morris left the division and department to take the position of Chief of the USGS Ohio Water Resources District Office. Jim had been Chief twice, from 1992 to 1994 and then from 1999 to 2003. Jim's leadership had a profound influence on the division and its programs with his emphasis on building partnerships, organizational and quality improvements, strategic planning and professional development. Jim was personally close to many in the division and the department. He had been a mentor for my professional development. Fortunately, he is still involved in water resources management in Ohio and continues to provide leadership in the state for water resources management.

Accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2003 by Section and Program

Water Management Section

Canal/Hydraulic Operations

- ◆ With the assistance of the department's Office of Communications, St. Marys' canal staff partnered with the Miami & Erie Canal Corridor Association (MECCA) to create and produce a 28-page booklet for the Miami & Erie Canal Corridor, which includes the area from Piqua in Miami County north to the City of Delphos in Van Wert County. The booklet provides valuable information to canal visitors and will be used by MECCA to solicit funds to preserve and develop the canal corridor.
- ◆ The Akron canal staff joined with Metro Parks Serving Summit County, the City of Akron, and the Ohio & Erie Canal Corridor Coalition to generate a master plan for the department-owned canal and adjacent lands from Summit Lake south to the Akron/Barberton corporation limit. The report titled "Confluence Regional Conservation Area" will be used as a guideline for future preservation and development projects. The report will also be used to establish other partnerships and to secure funds for local partners
- ◆ Canal staff and staff from the Division of Real Estate & Land Management conducted public meetings with stakeholders from the Miami & Erie and the Ohio & Erie Canals to solicit input for a review process to facilitate the department's canal lands transfer process. An advisory group will be established to develop a real estate review process and to provide input on future land transfers as a result of these meetings.
- ◆ Staff from St. Marys partnered with the Division of Parks and Recreation to improve the water depth at the bulkhead area on the east bank of Grand Lake St. Marys. The project will enhance and ensure the delivery of water to the St. Marys' power plant and to the communities north of St. Marys.

Dam Safety

- ◆ The program staff continued to implement and make improvements to the dam safety enforcement process for action against the owners of substandard high-risk dams and levees. Staff have and will continue to develop and refine the risk-based criteria for evaluating dams to determine priorities for enforcement. Based upon this and other criteria, the list of priority dams for enforcement actions to bring deficient dams and levees into compliance with current safety standards is updated periodically. During FY03, enforcement action was initiated on 23 dam and levee projects and enforcement action was completed on 13 projects.
- ◆ The inspection of 85 Class I (high-hazard) dams was completed by program staff. This level of inspection activity was at 98% of the statutory mandate (inspection of each dam at least once every five years) for high-hazard dams. However, as in FY02, limitations of staff resources did not allow for meeting the mandate for the inspection of Class II (significant-hazard) and Class III (low-hazard) dams. Only seven Class II and III dams were inspected.
- ◆ Dam Safety staff continued to meet the statutory mandate of reviewing all submitted and investigated dam and levee permit and repair projects. During FY03, 82 repair and 56 permit-related projects were initiated. Review and investigation of these projects helps ensure that new dams and levees are constructed and existing dams and levees are repaired to meet current safety requirements. Permits were issued for the construction of seven new dams and levees.

Floodplain Management

- ◆ Program staff continued the implementation of the Appalachian Flood Risk Reduction Initiative (AFRRI). During FY03 Floodplain Management (FPM) staff participated in 121 planning meetings supporting the local communities to build their mitigation planning capability. Multi-hazard maps were developed as a new product to support the planning activities. This product was the result of GIS technology integration in the Floodplain Program. FPM staff assisted Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) staff with conducting a mitigation planning workshop for Ohio communities applying the planning knowledge gained through AFRRI risk assessment activities.
- ◆ A partnership with the Ohio Department of Commerce and the Ohio Building Officials Association to deliver post-disaster inspection and damage assessment service culminated in state authority for mutual aid, a standard scope of work for inspections and products, and a community memorandum of understanding incorporating the products of service into the community recovery and flood mitigation actions. FPM staff gave a presentation on this partnership and service at the national Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) conference in 2003.
- ◆ FPM staff developed a new workshop focused at design professionals to encourage compliance with federal, state and local flood damage reduction standards. The workshop was delivered five times during FY03 including before the Statewide and National Association of State Floodplain Managers conferences.
- ◆ The program received a grant through the Ohio EMA to accomplish a statewide inventory of structures in the flood hazard area. This information is the baseline and initial step of risk assessment. The product of this project will assist Ohio communities and state agencies to identify what is at risk and the level of vulnerability. The grant was awarded in April 2003. Much of the work was completed this fiscal year and the project will be completed in FY04.
- ◆ Chad Berginnis, FPM Supervisor, was elected Chair of the ASFPM in May of 2003. The previous year, Chad served as Vice Chair of the Association. Through his positions as Chair and Vice Chair, Chad has helped to shape national floodplain management policy. In addition, Cindy Crecelius, Program Manager, chaired the ASFPM Annual Conference Technical Program Committee and Christopher Thoms and Alicia Silverio of the FPM staff assisted with program and workshop coordination. The 2003 conference was recognized for setting records and a very high standard of quality by the Executive Office of the ASFPM.

Water Resources Section

Ground Water Resources

- ◆ Staff successfully completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAP) contract with OEPA . Potentiometric surface (ground water level) maps were completed for six counties. Location information (X-Y data) for water wells in Knox and Holmes counties was completed as well.
- ◆ As part of a 319 grant along with other mapping efforts, Ground Water Pollution Potential (GWPP) maps and reports were completed and made available in an electronic format. GWPP maps for 44 counties are now available electronically.
- ◆ Presentations on the division's ground water geographic information system (GIS) were made by staff to several audiences during the fiscal year including to attendees at the 12th Annual Ohio GIS Conference.
- ◆ Demo Geocoding for location of water wells for Summit (11,620 usable well logs) and Stark (10,208 useable well logs) counties was completed.
- ◆ Staff assisted the Division of Mineral Resources Management with the development of hydrology rules for Senate Bill 83.
- ◆ 12,292 water well records were added to the water well database and 39,000 well logs and associated images in the database were checked for accuracy during FY03. Location information (X-Y data) for 33,023 wells in nine northeastern Ohio counties was converted and added to existing well log data. The X-Y data enables retrieval of well log data that may be used for investigating, modeling or mapping ground water systems for water resources planning.

Water Inventory

- ◆ Phase 1 construction of the Observation Well Network Rehabilitation Project was completed. Fifteen new wells were drilled: seven at new sites and eight replacement wells at existing observation sites. New equipment shelters and electronic data loggers were also installed at all the sites.
- ◆ The equivalent of approximately 710 years (nearly 260,000 days) of records for discontinued observation well sites were data entered and will be available through web page application once the data are added to the observation well database.
- ◆ The design and migration of the registration and annual water withdrawal reporting data were made to an Access database.
- ◆ Due to budget considerations, the funding for two sediment gauges was discontinued.
- ◆ Plans with ODOT to continue the long-term funding of the crest-stage gauge network were finalized.

Water Planning

- ◆ Staff successfully applied for and received a FY04 Coastal Grant to perform a water quantity assessment for the Ashtabula, Grand and Chagrin River Basins. Work will continue on the water quantity assessment for the Huron, Vermilion, Rocky and Black River Basins scheduled for completion in March 2004.
- ◆ The final draft of a new Division of Water publication entitled *Basin Descriptions and Flow Characteristics of Ohio Streams* was completed.
- ◆ Staff participated in a number of contract negotiations during the fiscal year. Included were negotiations with:
 - ◆ City of Lima to buyout the state equity in Bresler Reservoir
 - ◆ City of Fremont for a water supply allocation in Killdeer Plains
 - ◆ City of Akron to amend contract for water supply from the Portage Lakes, providing Akron with an additional three million gallons per day
 - ◆ City of Wilmington to amend its contract for water supply from Caesar Creek Reservoir
- ◆ A departmental policy for licensing ground water withdrawals from beneath ODNR-owned property was developed by staff. Under this policy, which has been implemented, ODNR will not consider such licensing.
- ◆ Staff continued work on the Council of Great Lakes Governors' Water Management Work Group. The work group is pursuing regional implementation of the Great Lakes Charter Annex 2001.
- ◆ Water education staff served as judges at the State Science Fair in May held at OSU and distributed the *Governor's Award for Excellence in Water Resources Research*.
- ◆ The 3rd Annual *Make A Splash with Project WET* (Water Education for Teachers) was held at Battelle-Darby Creek Metro Park in May. Project WET and other water education activities were presented to 396 third and fourth grade students from three school districts through a partnership among the ODNR, Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks, Franklin and Madison County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Keep Columbus Beautiful, and the Ohio Wildlife Center.

Ohio Water Advisory Council

The Ohio Water Advisory Council is created by statute in Ohio Revised Code Section 1521.031. The council consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. Each member represents a different area of expertise or interest and serves a two-year term. The Council's primary function is to provide advice, recommendations, and direction to the Chief of the Division of Water on goals, programs, and issues. During FY03, members included:

Member	Interest or Expertise
Joan Brasaemle Akron, Ohio	Ground Water
Doug Johnson Vice Chair Dayton, Ohio	Dam Safety
Dr. Harry Kaneshige Chair Athens, Ohio	Representing Public
Dr. Vincent T. Ricca Columbus, Ohio	Floodplains
Dr. Robert Stiefel Columbus, Ohio	Surface Water
Sandra Zellmer Toledo, Ohio	Representing Public
Paul R. Labovitz Peninsula, Ohio	Canal Lands

The council met on the following dates during the fiscal year and discussed the primary focus area indicated:

September 20, 2002 - MECCA / Canal Land Sales Policy

December 6, 2002 - Dam Safety Inspection Privatization & Engineer Certification

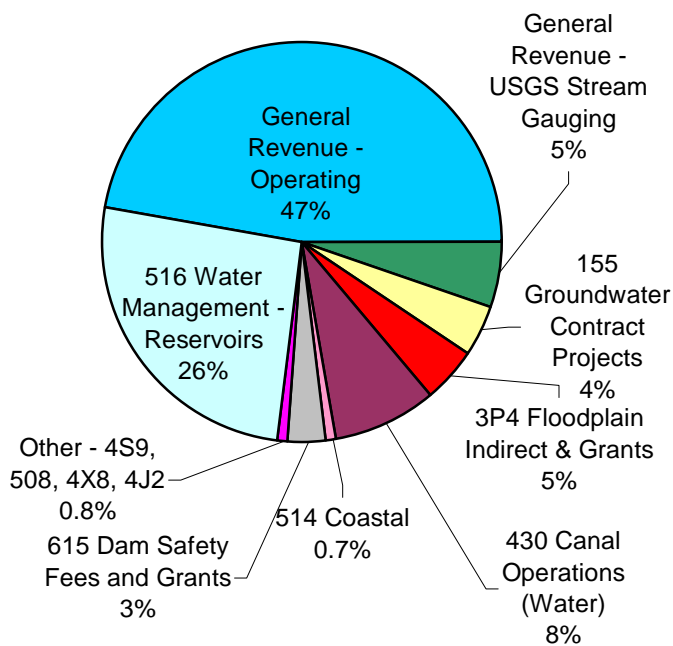
March 7, 2003 - Floodplain Management Program

June 6, 2003 - Floodplain Management's CAV / OAE Feedback Report

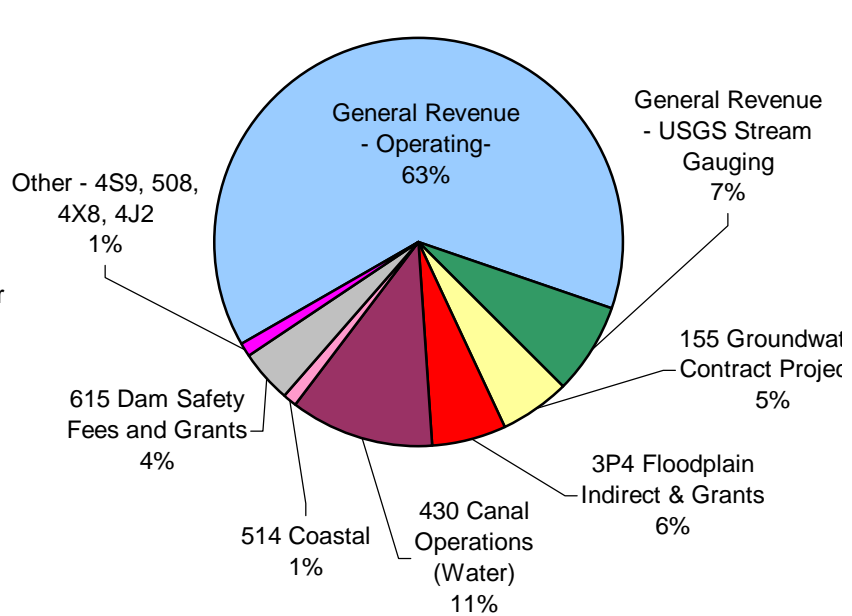
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Overview of Appropriations

ALL FUNDS



ALL FUNDS minus 516



<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% All</u>	<u>% Minus 516</u>
General Revenue - Operating	\$ 3,540,919	47.2%	63.6%
General Revenue - USGS Stream Gauging	\$ 400,383	5.3%	7.2%
155 Groundwater Contract Projects	\$ 304,093	4.1%	5.5%
3P4 Floodplain Indirect & Grants	\$ 339,059	4.5%	6.1%
430 Canal Operations (Water)	\$ 633,004	8.4%	11.4%
514 Coastal	\$ 52,971	0.7%	1.0%
615 Dam Safety Fees and Grants	\$ 237,974	3.2%	4.3%
Other - 4S9, 508, 4X8, 4J2	\$ 59,021	0.8%	1.1%
516 Water Management - Reservoirs	\$ 1,931,928	25.8%	
Total	\$ 7,499,352		

* Note: Fund 516, the Water Management Fund, is used primarily for pass through payments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for reservoir projects and to pay the state's share of upground reservoir operation, maintenance, and repair projects.

Office Locations and Telephone Numbers

Central Offices

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Columbus, Ohio 43224

Telephone: (614) 265-6717

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Miami & Erie Canal Office

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Ohio & Erie Canal Office

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