

# ResultsOHIO

## ResultsOHIO FEASIBILITY REPORT

As part of the ResultsOHIO program, prospective Pay for Success (“PFS”) projects are subject to a uniform application and screening process. ResultsOHIO Feasibility Reports are only issued to those projects deemed PFS Appropriate and Ready, meaning that the project, as described in the application, meets the requirements for the ResultsOHIO model and is well positioned to move forward with a PFS contract should it receive the support of policymakers.

### Rural Action Phosphorus Mitigation & Wetland Restoration Project

#### PFS APPROPRIATE AND READY

The project, as described in the application, meets the requirements for the ResultsOHIO model because it has garnered support from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), demonstrates a strong history of project delivery, can leverage existing data systems to verify performance metrics, and has secured commitments for upfront funding.

#### PROJECT PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Rural Action, Water & Land Solutions (WLS), and Civil & Environmental Consultants (CEC) plan to reduce phosphorus loading in high impact areas in northwest Ohio by restoring wetlands and stream channels through best management practices.



##### PROJECT DURATION/COSTS

5 years, \$5,000,000



##### SERVICE PROVIDER

Water & Land Solutions, Civil & Environmental Consultants



##### LOCATION

Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed



##### PERFORMANCE METRICS

Project siting & best management practices for project design within the top 30% of ODNR’s H2Ohio criteria; phosphorus removal by restoration activities; post-construction indicators of phosphorus reduction; and final cost-benefit analysis comparing best management practices & results



##### SERVICE INTERMEDIARY

Rural Action



##### POTENTIAL PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDERS

Water & Land Solutions plans to fund the upfront costs of this project.



##### INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR

To be procured by the Treasurer’s office, pursuant to ORC 113.61, upon receipt of a project appropriation.

**RURAL ACTION PHOSPHORUS MITIGATION & WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT PROPOSAL****PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

With a goal of reducing phosphorus loading, Rural Action, WLS, and CEC plan to partner with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to restore wetlands and stream channels through best management practices across the Western Lake Erie Basin Watershed.

The project will target sub-watersheds with high phosphorus loads, as identified in the Ohio Domestic Action Plan 2020, and sites within those watersheds that have a high potential for phosphorus removal. Best management practices will be site specific, but could include streambank stabilization, wetland reestablishment/restoration, and drain tile capturing.

**ANTICIPATED PROJECT COSTS AND TIMELINE**

The project is anticipated to have a duration of five years and a total project cost of \$5 million, which includes results-based payments.

**ESTABLISHED PROJECT STRUCTURE AND MEMBER DESCRIPTIONS**

Rural Action intends to serve as the service intermediary. The organization has experience coordinating multi-partner arrangements to implement more than 70 grants and contractual agreements each year.

Water & Land Solutions is an environmental investment firm that has worked to restore over 1.3 million feet of stream channel and 3,600 acres of wetlands. WLS intends to provide upfront funding and project design support.

Civil & Environmental Consultants intends to serve as the consulting engineer providing monitoring, regulatory, and design services. CEC has completed more than 100 ecosystem restoration projects, including restoring and conserving 180 miles of rivers and streams and over 1,300 acres of wetlands.

Based on the best management practices that are implemented, an additional contractor will be hired to assist with restoration activities.

**DATA IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS**

Performance metrics may include:

- » Ecosystem restoration project siting within the top 30% of ODNR's H2Ohio criteria;
- » Best management practices for planning, selection, design and permitting within the top 30% of ODNR's H2Ohio criteria;
- » Phosphorus removal by restoration activities;
- » Post-construction indicators of phosphorus reduction; and
- » Final cost-benefit analysis comparing best management practices and results

The applicants have suggested that currently available State of Ohio data sets and information from ODNR (including formulas, protocols, and ranking criteria) may be used to verify that performance metrics are achieved. It has also been recommended that the data collected through this project be made publicly available.

ODNR also anticipates using this project to further inform standards for project siting and best management practices.

*\*Any data, figures, calculations, or any other representations used herein were provided by the applicant and have not yet been independently verified by the Treasurer's office. As such, the Treasurer's office offers no warranty, express or implied, regarding the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, legality, reliability, or usefulness of any information provided by the applicant for the purpose of this initial evaluation.*

*\*If the applicant is awarded a pay for success contract, the project, as proposed in the application, is subject to change, and shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the pay for success contract.*