



Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
SB 2 – Written Testimony
2/22/2017

Chairman Balderson, Vice Chair Jordan, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for allowing me provide written testimony in support of the asset management provision included in ORC section 6109.24 of SB 2. My name is Kevin Strang and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Rural Water Association (ORWA). Since 1976 ORWA has provided on-site technical assistance to rural communities with water and wastewater systems throughout Ohio. Today, we continue to expand the base of benefits we provide to our members. Our system members provide water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.01 million Ohioans.

Asset management is a process water and wastewater utilities can use to make sure that financial resources are available so that planned maintenance can be conducted and assets (pumps, motors, pipes, etc.) can be repaired or replaced. Asset management is extremely important in that it helps community water systems develop sustaining funding strategies that protect the viability of community systems. Asset management ensures community systems are adequately maintained so that small, rural communities have access to safe and reliable water and wastewater services.

ORWA takes great pride in the services we offer community systems throughout Ohio. Part of our services includes assisting small, rural systems in developing asset management plans. ORWA provides *onsite, hands-on* assistance to community systems that have the least amount of resources. Many of these systems, by necessity, have often overlooked or delayed maintenance, replacement, mapping and inventory planning. With our help, these community systems can be assisted in implementing an asset management plan at a much reduced (at cost) rate when compared to the services offered by consultants. These efforts can then be followed up by our technicians at no additional cost to the system.

As detailed in the accompanying documents, we have recently provided extensive services to the Villages of Botkins in Shelby County, Gratis in Preble County and Spring Valley in Greene County. In these three systems alone we project potential long term savings of nearly \$500,000.00 by reducing the need for premature repairs and replacement of system equipment.

Members of the committee, I thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony on behalf of ORWA. I would like to thank Senator Hite and the Ohio EPA for including ORWA in the development of SB 2 and we look forward to continuing this work as the provisions of the bill are implemented moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kevin Strang
ORWA, Executive Director



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The Village of Botkins

November 16, 2016

Ohio Rural Water Association
55 Whites Road
Zanesville, OH 43702

Dear Sir or Madam:

Over the past six months, the Village of Botkins has had the fortune of working closely with Tim Ballard, and your team at the Ohio Rural Water Association. During this time, the Ohio Rural Water Association assisted the Village in a valve exercise and asset mapping program.

Without the assistance of your organization, there is little doubt that the Village would have been able to afford the staff and resources to complete this vital project. With Tim's help, we were able to exercise all of our valves to the full extent, for the first time in a while. Furthermore, Tim and his crew helped us map our entire system with GPS equipment the Village of Botkins could never have afforded on our own. Through this process, we discovered several potential problems, and were able to mitigate them before they became major issues.

For a small government with aging infrastructure and increasing EPA demands, these services are invaluable. My experience with the Ohio Rural Water Association has been very positive, and I fully support the organization's mission. We hope to work Tim and his team again soon.

Sincerely,

Ryan Piche
Village Administrator
Village of Botkins, Ohio

"Where the waters divide and the people unite"

Asset Management Pilot Study Results

Botkins Ohio Shelby County

Population 1,155

Number of connections 500

Treatment Plant with filtration

Distribution system is approximately 30-35 years old

Newer areas 15 years old or less

They did not have a valve exercising program.

Many of the valves were original installation and had not been operated other than for an emergency shutdown or other repairs.

They were extremely concerned that valves would be broken due to their past experience.

Our technician was able to operate and evaluate all system valves without any broken valves or any other disruption to system. We were able to find two unknown leaks during the leak detection survey while performing valve exercising program.

We were able to take 80 valves that were well outside industry standard and return them too new condition based on the number of turns and required torque needed to fully operate.

Number of valves turned 177 at a savings of \$20,500. A projected savings of \$280,000 if the 80 valves would have needed to be replaced.

Asset Management Pilot Study Results

Gratis Ohio Preble County

Population 881

Number of connections 485

Pump and chlorinate only no filtration

Distribution system is approximately 35 to 40 years old

Very few new improvements to distribution system

They did not have a valve exercising program.

Many of the valves were original installation and had not been operated other than for an emergency shutdown or other repairs.

They were extremely concerned that valves would be broken due to their past experience.

Our technician was able to operate and evaluate all system valves without any broken valves or any other disruption to system. We were able to find one unknown leak during the leak detection survey while performing valve exercising program.

We were able to take 23 valves that were well outside industry standard and return them too new condition based on the number of turns and required torque needed to fully operate.

Number of valves turned 62 at a savings of \$.7.750.00

Asset Management Pilot Study Results

Spring Valley Ohio Greene County

Population 476

Number of connections 310

Treatment Plant with filtration

Distribution system is approximately 45 to 50 years old

Very few new improvements to distribution system

They did not have a valve exercising program.

Many of the valves were original installation and had not been operated other than for an emergency shutdown or other repairs.

They were extremely concerned that valves would be broken due to their past experience.

Our technician was able to operate and evaluate all system valves without any broken valves or any other disruption to system. We were able to find two unknown leaks during the leak detection survey while performing valve exercising program.

We were able to take 60 valves that were well outside industry standard and return them too new condition based on the number of turns and required torque needed to fully operate.

Number of valves turned 76 at a savings of \$9500.00.

A projected savings of \$210.000 if the 60 valves would have needed to be replaced.