

Scope of work for Operation of the Tributary Loading Station on the Scioto River and Interpretation of Water Quality Data

Submitted to
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Department of Public Utilities
Division of Sewerage and Drainage
The City of Columbus, Ohio

by
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Period Covered by this Request: 1 January 2023 through 31 December 2023

Work to be accomplished:

We request that the City of Columbus provide funds to support the operation of water quality monitoring stations on the Scioto River in Chillicothe, which would be conducted in collaboration with the Division of Sewerage and Drainage (DOSD). The water quality information produced by our operation of this station and our analysis of NPDES data in the Scioto watershed through our prior agreements has proven to be highly valuable to DOSD.

This year we request a total of \$45,000. That level of funding will permit us to do the following:

- (1) Continue to produce water quality data through our intensive sampling protocol, analysis of suspended sediments and nutrients (including forms of phosphorus and nitrogen as well as other nutrients), computation and characterization of nutrient and suspended sediment concentrations and loads from the Scioto River to the Ohio River as calculated from the Chillicothe station;
- (2) Upload the Scioto River data to our public data download website (<https://ncwqr.org/monitoring/>) and interpret the data compared to all of the Ohio River and Lake Erie tributaries that comprise the Heidelberg Tributary Loading Program (HTLP);
- (3) Analyze dissolved organic carbon in a subset of samples collected at the Chillicothe station during both base flow and storm runoff events;

Work Plan

Our work plan for 2023 is as follows:

1. We will maintain one refrigerated automated ISCO sampler inside the monitoring building at Chillicothe. The sampler will collect one discrete sample every eight hours year-round. Samples will be shipped to us by our cooperator at the Ross County Soil and Water Conservation District weekly (except the last week in December). Heidelberg technicians will visit the site as needed, usually one to two times a year, to perform required maintenance and repairs. We have an excellent rapport with the Ross SWCD, and they occasionally volunteer in ensuring that the station is operational and has minimal “down time”.
2. As we have done since 1996, we will analyze between 365-500 (\pm about 50) samples each year for the Chillicothe station, the exact number dependent on the number and duration of storm runoff events during the year. We will analyze daily samples and additional samples as needed to accurately characterize storm runoff loads of the analyzed compounds. All analyses conform to methods specified in our Ohio EPA-approved QAPP and are certified by Ohio EPA at level 3J. We will analyze all water samples for specific conductance and the concentrations of total phosphorus, dissolved (soluble) reactive phosphorus, nitrate nitrogen, nitrite nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, ammonia, chloride, sulfate, dissolved silica, and total suspended solids.
3. We will continue to upload our concentration data and the corresponding flow data (provided by USGS) for each analyzed sample on our tributary data download website on a quarterly basis following QA/QC analysis, and we will make the data available more frequently upon special request. After the end of the water year (30 September), we will calculate the annual loads, unit area loads, flow-weighted mean concentrations and time-weighted mean concentrations for each parameter.
4. In addition to the above tasks, the NCWQR will analyze a subset of samples collected at the Chillicothe station during 2023 for dissolved organic carbon (DOC). This capability will be added to the laboratory last summer, and we’ll analyze samples routinely throughout the year to assess the dynamics of Scioto River DOC concentrations.

Budget

The operational costs to monitor water quality at the Chillicothe station as well as the estimated costs for dissolved organic carbon are shown below. The details are as follows:

Heidelberg Proposed Budget	
<i>Calendar Year 2023</i>	
Station Operation- Chillicothe	\$ 40,000
Optional services	
Other chemical analysis	\$ 5,000
Total Request to City of Columbus, not to exceed	\$ 45,000

Budget Notes

1. The costs quoted in station operation do not include any part of USGS program costs. The USGS operates and maintains the hydrological instrumentation that measures river stage and discharge. NCWQR does pay all electrical bills for the station, currently approximately \$100 per month.
2. For the total request, we have quoted a “not to exceed” total dollar amount, as the number of samples to be analyzed is not exactly known at this time.

We look forward to further collaboration with you as we continue to address important water quality issues in the Scioto River.



Laura T. Johnson
Director