



## Legislation Text

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**File #: 2749-2014, Version: 1**

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The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Director of Public Utilities to enter into an agreement with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) for continuation of the Urban Watershed Delineations Project, for the Division of Sewerage and Drainage.

Recently, the US Environmental Protection Agency recognized the importance of allowing cities to take into consideration all of the regulatory challenges of complying with the Clean Water Act, and to prioritize work to achieve water quality goals more efficiently. They issued a policy encouraging cities to integrate the work needed to comply with both stormwater regulations and elimination of sewer overflows, and are strongly promoting the use of green infrastructure to meet these challenges. This approach is referred to as Integrated Planning.

In August 2012, the City asked Ohio EPA for permission to delay some of the WWMP projects to allow time to explore whether there are better alternatives associated with the proposed integrated planning approach. Ohio EPA has granted the City's request to explore options and the City is to develop an integrated plan by September 15, 2015. The City has initiated the Integrated Planning process and has hired the consulting firm Arcadis to assist in the coordination process.

Core to developing an integrated plan is having a thorough understanding of the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) including, but not limited to: the extents of the system, system components and system connectivity, as well as land cover, land use, and land ownership across the landscape contributing flows to the MS4. However, when evaluating urban watersheds in an environment such as Columbus, understanding the makeup of watersheds is complicated by the fact that subsurface drainage changes the configuration of watersheds from boundaries which originally corresponds to naturally occurring surface drainage to configurations dictated by the extensive network of stormwater pipes and appurtenances.

The Urban Watershed Delineations project will provide the delineation of stormwater runoff catchments within the entire City of Columbus using GIS platform. At this time, FSWCD has completed, to the maximum extent practical, inlet level delineations for the Linden, East Franklin, and Adena Brook areas. In addition, an initial delineation phase, yielding approximate delineations for the remainder of the Columbus service area (with the exception of the downtown area) has been completed. In addition significant progress has been made on second phase delineations throughout the service area (with the exception of the downtown area) which are expected to be of a reliable resolution and accuracy to use for planning and prioritization purposes at a small scale.

The City has currently identified priority areas in the Hilltop and Miller-Kelton areas for which catchment delineations have been requested. Several variables including classes of impervious surfaces, canopy cover and slopes will be summarized for each catchment. Additional priority areas and associated needs will be identified by the City in conjunction with Arcadis as the effort continues to develop during the coming years. This project prepares information needed for developing a stormwater model which will be applied to facilitate mitigation of sanitary sewer overflows through Blueprint Columbus.

This is an intergovernmental working agreement between the City of Columbus and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD). For the 2014-15 working agreement FSWCD combined the stream inventory work into the working agreement that was developed two years as well as updated some of the processes to better reflect the direction now taken. This is the third year of this project and this agreement and is effective upon execution by the City and terminates on March 31, 2016. For the services described herein, Columbus shall compensate FSWCD in the form of a grant in the amount of \$130,000.00. Future contracts will be required to continue this delineation process.

**SUPPLIER:** Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (31-0847446), Non-Profit Organization

**FISCAL IMPACT:** \$130,000.00 is needed for this project within the Division of Sewerage and Drainage. Expenditures will be reprioritized to cover this expense.

\$211,000.00 was encumbered in 2014

\$150,000.00 was encumbered in 2013

To authorize the Director of Public Utilities to enter into an agreement with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for the Urban Watershed Delineations Project, and to authorize the expenditure of \$130,000.00 from the Sewer System Operating Fund. (\$130,000.00)

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for the Director of Public Utilities to enter into an agreement with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) for continuation of the Urban Watershed Delineations Project, for the Division of Sewerage and Drainage, and

**WHEREAS**, recently, the US Environmental Protection Agency recognized the importance of allowing cities to take into consideration all of the regulatory challenges of complying with the Clean Water Act, and to prioritize work to achieve water quality goals more efficiently. They issued a policy encouraging cities to integrate the work needed to comply with both stormwater regulations and elimination of sewer overflows, and are strongly promoting the use of green infrastructure to meet these challenges. This approach is referred to as Integrated Planning, and

**WHEREAS**, in August 2012, the City asked Ohio EPA for permission to delay some of the WWMP projects to allow time to explore whether there are better alternatives associated with the proposed integrated planning approach. Ohio EPA has granted the City's request to explore options and the City is to develop an integrated plan by September 15, 2015, and

**WHEREAS**, core to developing an integrated plan is having a thorough understanding of the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) including, but not limited to: the extents of the system, system components and system connectivity, as well as land cover, land use, and land ownership across the landscape contributing flows to the MS4, and

**WHEREAS**, this project conducts delineation of stormwater runoff catchments within the entire City of Columbus using GIS platform. A detailed level of delineation has been completed within several selected areas (Linden, East Franklin, and Adena Brook). The City has currently identified priority areas in the Hilltop and Miller-Kelton areas for which catchment delineations have been requested and is to be performed. This project prepares information needed for developing a stormwater model which will be applied to facilitate mitigation of sanitary sewer overflows through Blueprint Columbus, and

**WHEREAS**, this is an intergovernmental working agreement between the City of Columbus and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD). This agreement is effective upon execution by the City and terminates on March 31, 2016; now, therefore

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Director of Public Utilities, be and is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, 1404 Goodale Boulevard, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43212, for the Urban Watershed Delineations Project, for the Division of Sewerage and Drainage.

**SECTION 2.** That the expenditure of \$130,000.00 or so much thereof as may be needed, be and the same hereby is authorized from the Sewer System Operating Fund, Fund 650, Department 60-05, to pay the cost of this contract as follows:

OCA: 605113

Object Level 1: 03

Object Level 03: 3407

**SECTION 3.** That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

**SECTION 4.** That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.