



## Legislation Text

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**File #: 0404-2022, Version: 1**

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This legislation authorizes the Director of Public Utilities to enter into a yearly agreement with the National Center for Water Quality Research (NCWQR) at Heidelberg University to provide funding for the continued operation of the water quality monitoring station on the Scioto River at Chillicothe. This operation will be conducted in collaboration with the Division of Sewerage and Drainage (DOSD) and includes intensive sampling, analysis of suspended sediments, and the calculation of the separate contributions of point-source and nonpoint-source loads of phosphorus and other pollutants in the Scioto River watershed upstream of the station. The first phase of this work was completed during calendar years 2014 through 2016, with a second phase running from calendar years 2017 through 2021. This third phase will occur during calendar years 2022 through 2026.

The NCWQR, founded in 1969 by Dr. David B. Baker, is a research organization within the science departments of Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio. The Heidelberg Tributary Loading Program (HTLP) began in 1974 and added the Scioto River monitoring station at Chillicothe in 1996. Presently there are 21 stations in the HTLP in Ohio and southeastern Michigan, which permit the calculation of pollutant loads from over 50% of Ohio's land area. The NCWQR uses information from these stations to calculate the loads of nutrients, sediments, and pesticides delivered to Lake Erie and the Ohio River. The HTLP receives funding from a combination of state and federal agencies, foundations, industries, individuals through research grants, and contract or well test analyses. All of the resulting data, including those for the Scioto River Loading Station, are publicly available at the HTLP website.

Measurements of pollutant export from watersheds are used to compare the amounts of pollutants derived from diffuse **nonpoint** sources, such as agricultural and urban storm runoff, with contributions from **point** sources, such as publicly owned wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities. The City of Columbus wastewater treatment plants (Southerly and Jackson Pike) are the two largest point-source dischargers into the Scioto River watershed. Accordingly, collecting pollutant monitoring data in the Scioto River watershed to enable comparisons of Columbus discharges with other pollutant sources is of significant interest to the City.

In operating the Chillicothe monitoring station, the NCWQR will obtain the best available data on point-source loads to the Scioto River upstream of the monitoring station, compute the proportional contributions of point-source and non-point source loads of total phosphorus and other pollutants of interest to DOSD, and provide the information in an interpretive summary. The NCWQR will compare these loads to measurements from a new station on the Upper Scioto River near Kenton, which will begin operations in the spring of 2022. Additionally, the NCWQR will coordinate with DOSD personnel to analyze dissolved organic carbon in a subset of samples collected at the Chillicothe station during both base flow and storm runoff events.

The work for this third phase of the agreement will occur during calendar years 2022 through 2026 and will continue as an annual ongoing contract. The cost estimate of the contract is \$45,000 for calendar year 2022 operations as a not-to-exceed amount. Funding requested for 2022 and any future years will be based upon budgeted funds and approval by City Council.

### **SUPPLIER:**

Heidelberg University (FID #34-4428219) (DAX #006982), Expires March 23, 2023. Heidelberg University is a private institution and does not hold MBE/WBE status.

The university is not debarred according to the Excluded Party Listing System of the Federal Government or prohibited

from being awarded a contract according to the Auditor of State Unresolved Findings for Recovery Certified Search.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

\$45,000.00 is budgeted in the Sewer Operating Sanitary Fund and available for this purchase.

\$69,500.00 was spent in 2021

\$0.00 was spent in 2020

\$60,685.21 was spent in 2019

To authorize the Director of Public Utilities to enter into an agreement with Heidelberg University to provide funding and continued support to the National Center for Water Quality Research for the operation of a tributary loading station on the Scioto River and computation of point-source and nonpoint-source loads for 2022, and to authorize the expenditure of \$45,000.00 from the Sewer Operating Sanitary Fund. (\$45,000.00)

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Public Utilities has a need to enter into an agreement with Heidelberg University to provide funding and continued support to the National Center for Water Quality Research (NCWQR) in 2022 for the operation of a tributary loading station on the Scioto River at Chillicothe and computation of the separate contributions of point-source and nonpoint-source loads of phosphorus in the Scioto River watershed upstream of this station; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Center for Water Quality Research (NCWQR) is a research organization within the science departments of Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, and the organization receives funding from a combination of state and federal agencies, foundations, industries, individuals through research grants, and contract or well test analyses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Heidelberg Tributary Loading Program (HTLP) began in 1974, expanded to include the Scioto River monitoring station at Chillicothe in 1996, and all of the resulting HTLP data are publicly available at the tributary download website; and

**WHEREAS**, there are 21 stations in the HTLP in Ohio and southeastern Michigan, which permit the calculation of pollutant loads from over 50% of Ohio's land area; and

**WHEREAS**, measurements of pollutant export from watersheds are used to compare the amounts of pollutants derived from diffuse nonpoint sources, such as agricultural and urban storm runoff, with contributions from point sources, such as publicly owned wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Columbus wastewater treatment plants (Southerly and Jackson Pike) are the two largest point-source dischargers into the Scioto River watershed, and accordingly, collecting pollutant monitoring data in the Scioto River watershed to enable comparisons of Columbus discharges with other pollutant sources is of significant interest to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCWQR will obtain the best available data on point-source loads to the Scioto River upstream of the monitoring station, compute the proportional contributions of point-source and non-point source loads of total phosphorus and other pollutants of interest to DOSD, provide the information in an interpretive summary, and compare these loads to measurements from a new station on the Upper Scioto River near Kenton, which will begin operations in the spring of 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCWQR will coordinate with DOSD personnel to analyze dissolved organic carbon in a subset of samples collected at the Chillicothe station during both base flow and storm runoff events; and

**WHEREAS**, this is a continuation of a prior agreement, with phase one running from 2014 through 2016 and phase two running from 2017 through 2021. The work for the years 2022 through 2026 is considered the third phase and will continue as an annual ongoing contract; and

**WHEREAS**, this funding request is for 2022, and funding for this and any future years will be based upon budgeted funds and approval by City Council; and

**WHEREAS** the expenditure of \$45,000.00, or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized in Fund 6100, Sewer Operating Sanitary Fund, in object class 03, Services, per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, it has become necessary in the usual daily operation of the Department of Public Utilities, Division of Sewerage and Drainage, to authorize the Director of Public Utilities to enter into an agreement with Heidelberg University to provide funding and continued support to the National Center for Water Quality Research for phase three work for the operation of a tributary loading station on the Scioto River and computation of point-source and nonpoint-source loads for 2022; now, therefore

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

**SECTION 1.** That the Director of Public Utilities is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Heidelberg University, 310 East Market Street, Tiffin, Ohio 44883-2462, to provide funding and continued support to the National Center for Water Quality Research for the development and operation of a tributary loading station on the Scioto River and computation of point-source and nonpoint-source loads for 2022.

**SECTION 2.** That the expenditure of \$45,000.00, or so much thereof as may be needed, is hereby authorized in Fund 6100, Sewer Operating Sanitary Fund, in object class 03, Services, per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

**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.