



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### B O A R D   O F   C O M M I S S I O N E R S

**Commissioners:**

Steven A. Davis

Jeffrey M. Fix

David L. Levacy

**County Administrator**

Aundrea N. Cordle

**Deputy County Administrator**

Jeffrey D. Porter

**Clerk**

Rochelle Menningen

***For Immediate Release: April 28, 2025***

## **Ohio EPA Awards the Fairfield County Engineer \$74,652.18 in Grant Funding**

### *Funding from H2Ohio Rivers Chloride Reduction Grant Program*

**LANCASTER, OH** – The Fairfield County Engineer was recently awarded \$74,652.18 in the second round of grant funding by the Ohio EPA’s new H2Ohio Rivers Chloride Reduction Grant Program. This funding will be used for the construction of a new brine system to lower overall salt use and improve winter driving conditions in Fairfield County.

This is part of the \$2.7 million in grants for 52 Ohio communities announced on August 1, 2024, by Governor Mike DeWine to upgrade equipment and salt storage facilities. The H2Ohio Rivers Program is an expansion of Governor DeWine’s H2Ohio initiative. Part of the program is to reduce excessive road salt usage and encourage communities and jurisdictions responsible for winter road and surface maintenance to adopt salt best management practices. Applicants for these grants were able to apply for funding for either new salt equipment or storage facility construction to help alleviate costs to local governments across Ohio.

In May 2024, the Ohio EPA announced 31 communities received \$1.6 million in funding during the first round, which had over 260 applicants.

Recent water quality testing has shown that Ohio’s waterways are seeing an increase in salt concentrations, primarily due to the use of road salt. Salt can also cause nutrients and metals to detach from sediment, decreasing water quality. There are many drinking water facilities across the state that utilize river water for their source of drinking water. Water that is contaminated with road salt requires additional treatment. Additionally, road salt can cause issues with corrosion in pipes, valves, and other drinking water equipment. Road salt also corrodes infrastructure like bridges and shortens the life of paved surfaces.

The Ohio EPA is excited about Fairfield County’s commitment to reducing salt use in the community and protecting Ohio’s waterways.

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*Founded in 1800 (three years before Ohio became a State), Fairfield County was the 8th county formed in the Northwest Territory. Today, more than 900 employees serve, connect, and protect the more than 158,000 citizens of Fairfield County, providing high-quality services and outstanding customer service at exceptional value to taxpayers. Fairfield County fosters economic and fiscal sustainability and works to enhance the County's reputation as a high performing, learning, and caring organization. For more information about the county, its services and employment opportunities, please visit <https://www.co.fairfield.oh.us/>*

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