Great Lakes Basin Program GLRI Project

Old Woman Creek Sediment Reduction Initiatives

Size: watershed
Grant Amount: $179,582
Year awarded: 2010

Sponsor: Erie SWCD
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Submitted Project:

II. Project Background

Erosion and Sediment Goal

Estimate the total amount of erosion, in tons, your project will save.

223 tons/yr

Estimate the total amount of sediment, in tons, your project will save.

N/A

Describe the major sources of sediment in your watershed and the types of sources you will be reducing (cropland, streambank).

Major sources of sediment in the Old Woman Creek watershed include cropland and streambank erosion. Although much of the creek has a significant amount of riparian buffer and filter strips, areas within the field experience gully erosion due to concentrated flow patterns. In addition to in-field erosion the creek itself is also experiencing several areas of streambank erosion in the form of bank failure and slumping particularly in areas where the stream has been channelized.

Watershed/ Project Work Area

Name of your watershed plan and the agency that approved the plan:

The Old Woman Creek Watershed Action Plan (OWC WAP), prepared by the Firelands Coastal Tributaries (FCT) Watershed Coordinator in direct collaboration with the OWC WAP workgroup consisting of representatives from Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Erie Soil and Water Conservation District, and

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the Ohio State University. The FCT program is administered through the Erie Soil and Water Conservation District.

Watershed: list all 12 digit USGS HUC codes that compromise your watershed.

Old Woman Creek Watershed, HUC 041000120304

Describe the Priority Areas within the watershed where you are going to concentrate your efforts. List by area or narrative description of specific conditions.

The southeastern headwaters portion of the OWC watershed appears to be the most susceptible to soil erosion, sediment yield, and resultant loadings (Herdendorf, et al. 2004). The soils in this region are predominantly of the Bennington-Cardington association, which have the highest erodible potential of the soils in the watershed. The southeastern portion of the watershed is also incurred a significant amount of land alterations for agricultural drainage purposes. Channelization and entrenchment of Old Woman Creek for improved drainage encompasses approximately 23% of the watershed. Although some banks appear to be stable, many sections are experiencing moderate to severe bank erosion as a result of increased storm activity in the recent years and increased flows due to extensive tiling of fields.

Based on this area's potential for sediment reduction through the implementation of conservation best management practices, the Old Woman Creek Watershed Action Plan has established a focus area for restoration along the southeastern branch headwater region and its tributaries. The action items proposed in this application will specifically target this area, though participation in the program will be open to the entire watershed.

How many acres are in the watershed? 17,468 acres

How many acres are in:

- *Forest including brushland landuse?* (20%) = 3,494 acres
- *Urban, suburban, industrial, commercial and rural residential landuse?* (12.3%) = 2,149 acres
- *Agriculture including pasture landuse?* (65.7%) = 11,476 acres

U.S. Congressional District(s) where project is located, as listed at: www.house.gov/writerep/

District 9

III. Implementation

A written contract will be required between you and the landusers/landowners to fund conservation practices with GLBP funds. *The contract will include among other items, the type, number and location of each practice to be installed as well as the cost-share/incentive rate to be paid for each practice. (We will also use the signed contract as proof of commitment of funding for reimbursement of your expenses.)*

Approved applicants will enter into contract with the local SWCD Board of Supervisors. Contracts will be modeled after the contract utilized by USDA NRCS for USDA Farm Bill programs.

Installation of the practice/project will be in accordance with NRCS specifications and standards; SWCD sign off will be required before payment is issued.

Annual spot checks of the grass waterways will be conducted by the Local SWCD. Anyone found to not be within the guidelines of the contract agreement will be sent a letter with a specified time frame to make improvements in order to be in compliance. If corrections are not made within the specified timeframe repayment of incentive monies will be repaid to the local SWCDs and placed in a special fund to be used for conservation improvements as agreed upon between the FCT Executive Committee and the local SWCD Board of Supervisors.

B. Engineering Practices installed by Landowners/Landusers with Financial Assistance provided by this grant (ex. Grass Waterway, Streambank Stabilization.) *If you have more than three BMPEs, copy and paste BMPE1 section and change the number as appropriate. (NRCS equivalent or PE sign-off.)*

BMPE1

Description: Brod Ditch Streambank Stabilization

Check the quarters the task is to be started and completed:

Quarter	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*
Start/Complete	*x*					*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*			

**additional water quality monitoring be completed both pre and post stabilization project.*

Number of acres/units of BMP to be installed during project: 500 linear ft

Incentive method and rates: Cost-share of installation of stabilization techniques and excavation up to $16,350

Expected soil savings in total tons: 64 tons/year

BMPE2

Description: Grassed waterway

Check the quarters the task is to be started and completed:

Quarter	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*
Start/Complete	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*

Number of acres/units of BMP to be installed during project:

Incentive method and rates: 100% cost share up to $2500 per grassed waterway

Expected soil savings in total tons: 58 tons/year

BMPE3

Description: Overwide/2-stage ditch installation

Check the quarters the task is to be started and completed:

Quarter	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	*11*	*12*

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Great Lakes Commission des Grands Lacs

Keeping It On the Land

Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
www.glc.org/basin

Start/Complete	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*	*x*							

**additional water quality monitoring be completed both pre and post Overwide/2-stage ditch installation.*

Number of acres/units of BMP to be installed during project:

Incentive method: Cost share on installation up to $32,300 for total project

and rates: $1/per linear foot plus assistance for Farm Bill contract adjustment as needed

Expected soil savings in total tons: 102 tons/yr

IV. Media Campaign

A. You will be required to conduct a kickoff event in the first quarter of the project. *You are specifically to invite, among others, all members of Congress who have a portion of their district within your watershed project boundaries, the media and the chair of the Great Lakes Commission delegation from your state. Describe how and what you will do to meet this requirement.*

B. You are also required to establish an on-going outreach campaign. Describe your on-going outreach campaign strategy for:

1. The general public/media:

The Erie SWCD utilizes several forms of media to inform the public of conservation stewardship and conservation opportunities to benefit our local resources. Information related to this project will be included in the Erie SWCD newsletter which is distributed to over 17,000 households in the Erie County area. The Erie SWCD also utilizes the local newspaper (Sandusky Register) for a bi-weekly article under the agri-business section in which this program will be highlighted. In addition to print media, the Erie SWCD produces a weekly radio program, “From Fields to Streams”, to promote conservation stewardship and local ongoing programs, such as this project.

2. Landowners/landusers:

The small size of the Old Woman Creek Watershed makes it possible for more direct contact with landowners. Direct mailings in the form of brochures, letters, and newsletters will be used to make initial contact with landowners in the watershed, with specific emphasis given to the southern headwaters region. Staff from the SWCD will also follow up with phone calls and site visits to producers within the project area, in the effort to provide education on the benefits of conserving soil and water resources. Throughout the project, progress will be reported through the Firelands Coastal Tributaries website at www.firelandstributaries.org; the “Up a Creek” Newsletter, which is mailed to the entire watershed, and any FCT meetings. At least one BMP Tour/Field day and several informational meetings will be implemented by the SWCDs to promote conservation practices and the project.

3. Elected officials:

Elected officials will receive direct invitations to a biannual FCT meeting to receive project updates as well as being informed of the outreach efforts previously described. The Erie SWCD will also partner with the Berlin Township Trustees to hold meetings with the residents of Brod Ditch, where the 500 linear foot streambank stabilization project will take place.