



Ohio Revised Code

Section 940.41 Statewide watershed planning and management program; watershed regions.

Effective: April 12, 2021

Legislation: House Bill 7 - 133rd General Assembly

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Nine-element plan" means a strategic implementation plan that a political subdivision, organization, or individual engaged in water quality improvements may utilize to obtain funding through the federal "Clean Water Act," 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., or the great lakes restoration initiative for projects to address nonpoint source pollution.

(2) "Organization" means a public or private entity that is engaged in water quality improvement activities.

(3) "Political subdivision" means a county, township, municipal corporation, or any other body corporate and politic that is responsible for government activities in a geographic area smaller than that of the state.

(B)(1) There is hereby created a statewide watershed planning and management program for the improvement and protection of the state's watersheds to be administered by the director of agriculture.

(2) Under the program, the director shall appoint at least one watershed planning and management coordinator in each watershed region categorized under division (D) of this section to coordinate watershed planning in the watershed. A coordinator shall have experience or education related to water quality improvement or watershed planning and management.

(C) A watershed planning and management coordinator shall do all of the following in the watershed region in which the coordinator is appointed:

(1) Assist each soil and water conservation district to identify sources and areas of water quality



impairment, including total phosphorous, dissolved reactive phosphorous, and nitrogen nutrient loading. A coordinator also may assist any political subdivision or organization in the watershed region to address water quality impairment.

(2) Engage in watershed planning, restoration, protection, and management activities, including assisting a political subdivision or organization in the watershed region in developing and formulating a nine-element plan or its equivalent;

(3) Collaborate with state agencies engaged in water quality activities;

(4) Provide an annual report to the director about water quality.

(D) The director shall categorize watersheds in the state, identified by the specified United States geological survey six-digit hydrologic unit codes, into the following watershed regions:

(1) Region One: Western Lake Erie basin watershed, hydrologic unit code 041000;

(2) Region Two: Central Lake Erie basin watershed, hydrologic unit code 041100, and Conneaut creek watershed, hydrologic unit code 041201;

(3) Region Three: Wabash river basin watershed, hydrologic unit code 051200; Great Miami river watershed, hydrologic unit code 050800; and Little Miami river watershed, hydrologic unit code 050902;

(4) Region Four: Scioto river watershed, hydrologic unit code 050600;

(5) Region Five: Muskingum river watershed, hydrologic unit code 050400;

(6) Region Six: Mahoning river watershed, hydrologic unit code 050301;

(7) Region Seven: Hocking river and Ohio river tributaries watershed, hydrologic unit code 050302, and raccoon creek watershed, hydrologic unit code 050901.



(E) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent or limit a watershed planning and management coordinator from providing assistance for projects or activities that have been determined to improve water quality impaired from point sources of phosphorus, dissolved reactive phosphorus, and nitrogen nutrients.