

Rotary Club of Toledo and Northwest Ohio (D6600)– Water Advocacy Transformational Project –

Rotary's involvement with the Northwest Ohio regional Harmful Algal Bloom water issue has so far moved through the initial steps of education (2 regional Water conferences) and outreach; tours to the Blanchard River Watershed Demonstration Farms, the Ohio State Stone Lab on Gibraltar Island and participation in wetlands reconstruction with the Black Swamp Conservancy.

Our next step is to participate in using the power of Rotary to "influence" through advocacy with the Ohio state legislators and executive branch members who develop and implement the programs governing the health of our state waters.

We have contacted Senator Randy Gardner's successor – Rep Theresa Gavarone of Wood County. She has expressed an interest in taking up the campaign for Sen Gardner's previously developed legislation for major healthy water funding. We expect that such advocacy will include:

- 2 trips to Columbus late spring/early summer and late summer/early fall.
 - o \$600.00 for 8-12 Rotarians from across D6600 (2-3 cars, either member vehicles or rentals, funds to reimburse gas cost or pay for rentals @ \$100 each)
 - o \$1400.00 (donation) for assistance with development of position talking points and training in advocacy; possibly Alliance for the Great Lakes
<https://greatlakes.org/about/contact-us/> or TMACOG
http://www.tmacog.org/enviro_body.htm

- So, our estimate would be a cost of approximately \$2000.00 for one year of Advocacy
- and 12 Rotarians involved for at least one development and training meeting and 2 trips to Columbus.
- We anticipate that our Rotary Water Advocacy work will need to be sustained over several years until legislation is completed which ensures the reduction in nutrient loading committed to under Ohio's agreement with Michigan and Ontario. That agreement commits to 20% nutrient reductions by 2020 and 40% reductions by 2025. Assuming that we will need to continue Advocacy for at least 3 years, our overall financial commitment is estimated at \$6000.00 for a multi-year project.

The Rotary Water Advocacy concept has already been vetted with D6600 leadership and discussed at the District Advisory Committee quarterly meetings. It is supported by leadership including DG Maris Brenner who has expressed her willingness to help us engage member advocates from other clubs in the District to represent our broad cross-section of rural to urban clubs. This connective aspect of Rotary advocacy is what enables us to be powerful in exerting influence to find a solution to this issue which embodies the principles of the Four-Way Test.

Respectfully submitted,
Yours, in Rotary,

Janina Douglas
D6600 Water Committee Chair

Cheri Budzynski
Rotary Club of Toledo, Water Services Committee Chair