



MIAMI VALLEY

Regional Planning Commission

6 North Main Street, Suite 400
Dayton, Ohio 45402

t: 937.223.6323
f: 937.223.9750
TTY/TDD: 800.750.0750
www.mvrpc.org

Ohio Southwest Ohio Water Study EPA Presentation Follow Up Question and Answers

Ohio EPA representatives Jessica Langdon, Assistant Policy Director and Joe Miller, Environmental Manager presented to the WESC on September 18, 2025 regarding the Southwest Ohio Water Study that will be conducted to understand the quality and quantity of water available in the Southwest Ohio area. This area is defined as the following counties:

Mercer	Montgomery
Auglaize	Greene
Darke	Fayette
Shelby	Butler
Logan	Warren
Miami	Clinton
Champaign	Hamilton
Clark	Clermont
Preble	Brown
Highland	Adams



*Note: Fayette and Logan Counties were incorporated in the Central Ohio Regional Water Study. Mercer and Auglaize Counties are anticipated to be included in the Northwest Regional Water Study.

Committee members asked questions related to the study work. A few questions required follow up and were not able to be immediately answered during the presentation. Below is a summary of those questions and answers.

Question: What is the consideration of agriculture criteria within the RFP and the projections that were available related to this study?

Answer: The Ohio State University was consulted about assumed increases in future agricultural irrigation water demands. It is estimated that by 2040, agricultural fields will need at least 5 inches of irrigated water during the critical growing season, which occurs between July and September. Based on this information, the consultant team reviewed future land use to



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identify where agricultural fields are expected to be in 2040 and 2050. The consultant team then calculated the water demand that would be needed for 5 inches of irrigation across those agricultural fields. These irrigation demands are present for the 2040 and 2050 conditions and are assumed to use groundwater as source water. The consultant team and state partners confirmed these assumptions with the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

Question: What data will OKI offer to support this work?

Answer: OKI will be providing the following data: Data aggregated by both ¼ mile and 1-mile grid, and at the county level:

- Current population estimate
- 2030/2040/2050 population estimates
- Current job estimate
- 2030/2040/2050 job forecast
- Current households
- 2030/2040/2050 households
- Current land use*
- 2050 land use*

*Land use categories will include National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) categories used in Central Ohio Regional Water Study: 0, 11, 21, 22, 23, 24, 31, 43, 71, and 81.

Here is a link to the MOPRC data that was included to support the land use information provided by OKI.

Expected Growth (MORPC): MORPC's forecast focuses on changing populations based on current living and working patterns. It employs a statistical model using historical population data from 1980 to project populations in central Ohio counties through 2050, producing median projections and a range of outcomes. These projections also help estimate future households and jobs, referred to as "county control totals." Additional details: - MORPC's 2024-2050 MTP Future Land Use Appendix (Tables 1-6) https://www.morpc.org/2023/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/MTP2024-2050-A_LandUseAppendix.pdf

MORPC's 15-County Population Forecast

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/cd446109151f474db74b13fa0795023c/page/County-Forecasts/>



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Question: Chloride is increasing in the water within the region, how is the selection of water contaminants is being conducted in the study?

Answer: They will include this as something to consider in more detail in the SW study and have brought it up to staff to review.

- EPA will work with the Chloride Reduction staff, which is a part of the H2Ohio Rivers Initiative. They have some presentations and information about trying to reduce Chloride through road salt.
- Here is also an example of a county “Report Out”.
 - <https://dam.assets.ohio.gov/image/upload/epa.ohio.gov/Portals/0/water/UnionWaterStudy.pdf> (Look at slides 67-75, Water Quality Protection Mechanisms)
 - They would like to see something like this for SW and potentially could add salt there and will look into it.