

## Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program - Updates for Program Year 2024

## April 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. EST



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DEFA

Ohio EPA's Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program (WRRSP) will be conducting a webinar, in preparation for the program's annual call for project nominations, to discuss important items such as getting the most out of your Pre-Nomination site visit, construction oversight and management for restoration projects, how to address full and partial mineral rights severances when preparing a nomination, a new tool to help implementers find potential sponsors, and contract submissions and requirements for restoration projects.

Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) administers both the WRRSP and Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF). WRRSP funds are generated by repayments on loans awarded through the WPCLF. Participating WPCLF loan recipients voluntarily agree to sponsor a WRRSP protection and/or restoration project, and in return, the sponsor's WPCLF loan interest rate may be reduced by up to 0.1 percent. DEFA established the WRRSP in 2000 to help address the loss of ecological function and biological diversity threatening water quality. WRRSP funds specifically target the protection and restoration of the highest quality aquatic habitats and biological communities. Qualifying projects must be directly related to restoring and/or protecting a site's aquatic life use. Eligible projects include stream and wetland protection through fee-simple property acquisition, and stream and/or wetland restoration that corrects impairments to on-site aquatic resources.



## **Pending CEUs**

1 hour of Registered Environmental Health Specialist or Environmental Health Specialist in Training