

Make Funding Work For You

It is that time of year again! Funding. As many Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Districts are finalizing their applications, many are getting ready to start accepting applications. GGC Engineers has been working with a majority of our clients to apply for round 25 funding. As with past rounds we are now seeing that OPWC offers some form of preference in scoring to projects that are "ready to go." The big dilemma is how does one undertake a project design without depleting ones reserves.

Both The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) and the OEPA-Division of Environmental Financial Assistance have design and planning loan programs that will allow a municipality to apply for a design loan to have the design performed and then roll the design loan into a construction loan when the project grant and loan package is secured.

GGC strongly encourages the use of these programs and the "bundling" of different grant and low-interest programs to form the basis of a successful financing package for most infrastructure programs. As competitive as the search for grant money is, the extra consideration given to applications where the project design has been completed and approved for construction is usually a bonus. This item may not be the "deal clincher" for a grant award, but it is one item of many that can clinch that extra grant that makes an infrastructure project possible – and affordable.

Now is a great time to start planning your funding approach as it will give you time for proper agency approvals and time to start the design process. For more information about the funding process or for help with a current funding application please call Jennifer Emerick at 614-471-7310.



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THE GGC *focus*

Fall 2010

Funding Success for The Village of Thurston

GGC congratulates the Village of Thurston for successfully securing a \$300,000 Neighborhood Revitalization Grant through the Ohio Department of Development. The Village teamed with the Fairfield County Regional Planning Commission (FCRPC) and GGC Engineers to develop a list of projects to be considered for the funding program.

The Village held several public meetings to solicit input from the public regarding the projects that they would prefer to be selected for the grant program. GGC provided the project descriptions and cost estimates and the FCRPC prepared and submitted the application. The grant program allows 2 years for the projects to be completed.

Once finished, the Village will have new playground equipment in the Village Park, new sidewalks along Main Street, new water meters for over half of the water system, new street signs throughout the Village, new storm sewers along Main Street, and new fence around the cemetery

"We are very excited to be receiving funding for several projects throughout the Village. It's as though Thurston is feeling a fresh breeze blowing through the Village during the tough economic storms our nation is facing. We are very grateful to Michael Betts and his team at GGC for providing excellent, professional guidance and service throughout the planning project," said Aaron Reedy, Clerk and Treasurer of the Village of Thurston.

GGC is also working with the Village on two other ongoing projects. GGC helped the Village secure a CDBG Formula grant to recoat the water storage tank and an OPWC grant to pave over half of the streets in the Village!

Congratulations Mayor Boring, Aaron Reedy and Village Council for all your hard work in obtaining the much needed grant funding for the various Village projects!

Need Funding \$\$\$ Help????
GGC Engineers has focused our business on assisting cities, villages, counties, and rural utility districts by providing quality engineering, surveying and construction services to meet their needs. A critical part of those services has been our assistance with project funding acquisition. GGC has a strong track record with funding, helping more than 90% of our clients obtain funding through various state and federal funding programs. Contact GGC Engineers if you need assistance at (614) 471-7310.



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Rising Energy Costs – Cause for Concern?

Many of us wish that we had a crystal ball to predict what is going to happen in the next 5 to 15 years with the economy. As many municipalities are revising their budgets and forecasting what costs will increase in the future, it is becoming more and more apparent that electricity is going to be a big point of concern. Power for treatment facilities are a huge part of a municipalities budget and with the threat of increased energy costs in the future, many people are looking at what they can do now to help decrease costs.

One big thing that municipalities can do now is take a look at economical ways to reduce power use in their treatment facilities! Variable frequency drives (VFD's) and timers can be added to existing pumps and blowers to reduce power consumption throughout the day. In wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs), adding too much air into aeration tanks can waste power. So by adding reasonably priced control instrumentation to measure dissolved oxygen or oxidation levels, blower, mixer and/or pump use can be reduced. In smaller plants, the use of timers can help make plants run more efficiently.

There are also many energy companies such as AEP that are now offering incentive programs to municipalities. For many, these programs will help reduce the payback period of energy efficient equipment purchased, which in turn will create a long-term reduction in your energy consumption and costs. To take advantage of programs such as this a municipality could start by contacting their local power company's consumer relations department to discuss how these incentives could help them.

For additional information on how to take advantage of programs and funding such as this, please contact GGC Engineers and we can aid in the creation of an energy plan or help with cost cutting solutions.

News From The Field

Recently GGC was able to make lemons into lemonade through their work on the Lake County Fairgrounds Road Construction project. The job site was directly affecting the Lake County Fair held from August 16-22nd, as a majority of traffic enters the fair through the Fairgrounds Road entrance including a large flow of truck pull trailers. GGC Engineers Construction Administrator, Michael Bender, P.E. and Construction Field Coordinator, Jeffrey Simons have been coordinating with the County throughout the project.

When the fair became a concern, Jeff Simons and Michael Bender became proactive and started coordinating with the President of the Lake County Fair Board and Maintenance Director to ensure that all concerns were brought up before the event and that the team was prepared with the County's expectations.

In the end all parties were so pleased that GGC Engineers was offered a spot for a sign near the Grandstand.

GGC Engineers has a great construction services team with the experience and foresight to work with all types of construction projects from water to roadway. Please give us a ring if you need help in making your designed project into a successful reality!



Jeffrey Simons and Michael Bender, P.E.

The I/I Challenge

GGC Engineers continues to assist Ohio communities deal with the challenging problem of I&I. I&I is short for Inflow and Infiltration, which are terms used to define the sources of clean water entering sanitary sewer systems. This causes many problems, the most important being potential non-compliance with EPA permit discharge limits and sewer overflows. It can also significantly increase the sewer system operation and maintenance costs associated with pumping and treating all of the clean water that finds its way into the system.

GGC is ready to begin a full depth I&I investigation and removal program in the Village of Thornville, where it is not uncommon for the wet weather flows to be ten times the dry weather flows at the wastewater plant. GGC will perform smoke testing, dye testing, private plumbing inspections, manhole inspections, sewer televising, rapid response wet weather observations and flow monitoring through the three lift stations in the system.

Once the field work is complete, GGC will present a report containing the findings of the investigation along with recommendations to remove the sources of I&I from the system.

GGC helped the Village obtain an OPWC grant and loan funding package to cover the investigation phase of the project as well as design and construction of the first phase of the recommended improvements. Before proceeding with any work, GGC provided project information to the Thornville residents and business owners at a public meeting in August at the Thornville elementary school.

GGC completed this same type of project for the nearby Walnut Creek Sewer District beginning in 2008. Today, construction of the second phase of the sewer rehabilitation project is underway and is approximately halfway completed. The WCSD operators are reporting that wet weather flows are already significantly reduced, which is a welcome sign indicating another successful project relationship between the WCSD and GGC Engineers.

If you struggle with I&I in your sanitary sewer system, contact Michael Betts, P.E. to discuss how GGC can help you tackle this challenging problem. (614.471.7310)

