

**Request for Qualifications:
Criteria Engineering Services**

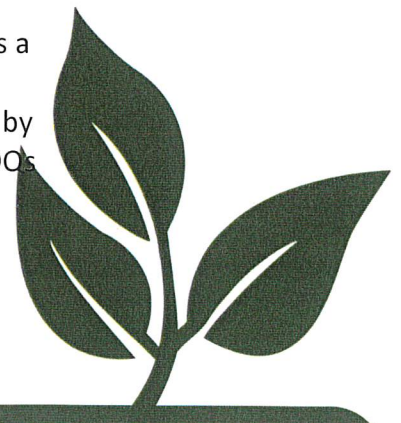
The Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to establish a prequalification list as authorized by Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Sections 153.65-153.73 for as-needed architectural and engineering professional design services aimed at stream and wetland restoration, including ecological assessments. Criteria engineering services are needed in 2025 for a dam removal project on a tributary draining to Harsha Lake (project summary below). Additional projects may take place in 2025 and 2026. All interested firms may email their **Statements of Qualifications (SOQ)** to jmcmamus@clermontcountyohio.gov, or they may submit one (1) hard bound copy of their (SOQ) to John McManus, District Administrator, Clermont SWCD, P.O. Box 549, 1000 Locust Street, Owensville, Ohio 45160, no later than **4:00 PM EST on Friday, May 2, 2025**. This notice will be posted on the SWCD's website at the following URL link: https://www.clermontswcd.org/rfq_2025/ and posted through the county's DemandStar project listings.

The Board of Supervisors for the Clermont SWCD will use this file to select qualified firms for services required for projects if the estimated fee is **less than \$50,000** (ORC 153.71).

Submitted Statements of Qualifications shall include:

1. Information about the firm's history;
2. Education, technical training, and experience of owners and key personnel who would be assigned to perform the required professional design services;
3. Ability of the firm in terms of its workload and the availability of qualified personnel, equipment, and facilities to perform the required professional design services competently and expeditiously;
4. Past performance of the firm on projects related to stream and wetland restoration, including ecological assessments and design services, in addition to information on no fewer than three projects completed by the firm in this field in the last five years. This information shall include the project name, cost, location, project deadline, date completed, and project reference contact;
5. The firm's experience with Clermont SWCD projects, if any.

The format of the SOQ must be as outlined above. Narrative pages are to be 8-1/2 inches by 11 inches. All information provided shall be bound into a single volume. A clear and concise presentation of information is encouraged with a maximum page limit of 20 single-sided pages, excluding resumes and curricula vitae. Advertising or sales-based literature, information, or data is **NOT ACCEPTABLE** as a representation of statements of qualifications. All submitted electronic copies shall be submitted as a PDF and all submitted hard copies shall be accompanied by an electronic copy in PDF format on a CD, DVD, or flash drive. Any submitted SOOs that do not comply with these requirements will be rejected.



Public Disclosure

All material submitted to Clermont SWCD will be treated as public information with no expectations of confidentiality.

Cost of RFQ Submittal

Clermont SWCD is not liable for any cost incurred by any respondents in preparation or presentation of any qualifications.

Questions pertaining to this RFQ must be submitted in writing or via email to: Mr. John McManus: jmcmanus@clermontcountyohio.gov. All questions and answers are public information.

Electronic submissions in response to this RFQ must be addressed and sent to: Mr. John McManus: jmcmanus@clermontcountyohio.gov



John McManus, Administrator



Cloverlick Creek Dam Removal and Stream Restoration
(Project Location: 38.988889, -84.068056)

Project Summary

The Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife (DOW) are assisting the Village of Bethel with plans to remove the Cloverlick Creek Dam (also known as the Bethel Low-Head Dam). Funding for the project is provided through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) H2Ohio Rivers Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (AERI). Project partners are seeking Criteria Engineering (CE) services to develop a baseline conceptual design for the dam removal and stream restoration. The conceptual design will be included in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Request for Proposals (RFP) for Design-Build (D-B) services to implement the project.

The dam is located on Cloverlick Creek (river mile 3.8), a Warmwater Habitat (WWH) stream that drains directly to William H. Harsha Lake in the East Fork Little Miami River (EFLMR) watershed (HUC-12: 050902021202). The dam was built circa 1940s to provide a local water supply which the village ceased to operate in 2006. The dam and pump house are located on a 20-acre riverside parcel that is part of the larger 130-acre water works facility property owned by the village. In addition to the WWH aquatic life use designation, Cloverlick Creek is also designated for Primary Contact Recreation (PCR) and as a Public Water Source (PWS). The Cloverlick Creek sub-watershed has a drainage area of 42 mi² and the stream flows 14 miles from Brown County in a westward direction into Clermont County, draining directly to Harsha Lake. Harsha Lake, also referred to as East Fork Lake, is a 2,160 acre reservoir owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), built in the 1970s for flood control, water supply and recreation. It provides drinking water for 100,000+ Clermont County residents. The lake is surrounded by the 4,870 acre East Fork State Park managed by ODNR; the lake and park have become a recreational hub for the region.

Ohio EPA has four sentinel monitoring stations in the Cloverlick Creek sub-watershed, all of which failed the WWH threshold for fish communities, as measured by the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI). The dam is located near stream mile 3.8 and the two monitoring stations located upstream of the dam at stream mile 5.2 and 8.5 yielded failing IBI scores of 34 and 28. IBI scores for WWH streams should be ≥ 40 . The monitoring station at 8.5 also failed the macroinvertebrate threshold for WWH streams, as measured by the Invertebrate Community Index (ICI).



Ohio EPA Monitoring Station	Stream Mile	Attainment	IBI	ICI	QHEI	Cause	Source
Station ID: 200468 (Cloverlick Cr.)	5.2	Partial	34	Good	62	Low D.O. & D.O. Swing >11 mg/l; Low Flow	Unknown, Agriculture
Station ID: 301898 (Cloverlick Cr.)	8.5	Non	28	Fair	64.3	Low D.O.; Low Flow; Probable Cause = Organic Enrichment (TKN/TP)	Unknown, Agriculture
<i>Biological criteria threshold WWH streams: IBI = 40; QHEI ≤ 55; ICI Narrative Score = Good</i>							

Table 1. Summary of Ohio EPA’s biological and habitat assessments at river miles 5.2 and 8.5

In the summer of 2022, Ohio EPA’s Southwest District, Division of Surface Water conducted a sediment assessment to determine whether the impounded sediments could be a significant source of stored nutrients. Sediments composed of more than 30 percent silt and clay particles (equal or less than 60 microns) are much more physically, chemically and biologically reactive. These sediments can attract and store nutrients and contaminants. The analysis results show the sediments sampled behind the Cloverlick dam are far below the 30 percent criterion and thus do not pose a significant threat of stored nutrients being released downstream when the dam is removed and stream restored.

The Cloverlick Creek dam spans approximately 220 feet across Cloverlick Creek and is around 12 feet in height. Similar to other dams in the East Fork watershed, the dam was constructed with timber cribbing and capped with concrete. Layers of concrete and rebar were added over the years to reinforce the dam, many sections of which have fallen into disrepair. The dam impoundment has the capacity to store 24.6 acre-feet and is categorized as a Class IV structure by ODNR’s Division of Water Resources.



Dam Classification			
Dam classification is based on height, storage volume and potential downstream hazard and the criteria outlined below.			
	Dam Height		Storage Volume
Class I	>60 feet	Class I	>5,000 acre-feet
Class II	>40 feet	Class II	>500 acre-feet
Class III	>25 feet	Class III	>50 acre-feet
Class IV	≤25 feet	Class IV	≤50 acre-feet
Potential Downstream Hazard			
Class I	probable loss of life		
Class II	health hazard, flood damage to structures, roads, utilities (no loss of life envisioned)		
Class III	damage to low value structures or roads		
Class IV	losses restricted mainly to the dam		
A dam is exempt from jurisdiction if it is less than 6 feet in height; less than 10 feet in height with storage ≤ 50 acre-feet, or a dam with ≤ 15 acre-feet of total storage volume regardless of height.			

Table 2. ODNR’s Dam Classification

The dam removal will restore 14 miles of stream to a free-flowing condition along the main stem of Cloverlick Creek, and improve overall stream connectivity for the 70 miles of tributaries in the HUC-12 sub-watershed. The Cloverlick Creek dam removal and stream restoration project implements the goals the East Fork – Lake & Tributaries Watershed Action Plan and the draft Ohio EPA Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report. The project also supports objectives outlined in the Ohio EPA Source Water Protection Plan (SWAP) to protect water quality and habitat conditions within the drinking water corridor of Harsha Lake, which includes Cloverlick Creek. The dam removal is also called out specifically by local stakeholders in the USACE Louisville District's Master Plan for William H. Harsha Lake to eliminate public hazards and create safer recreational opportunities.



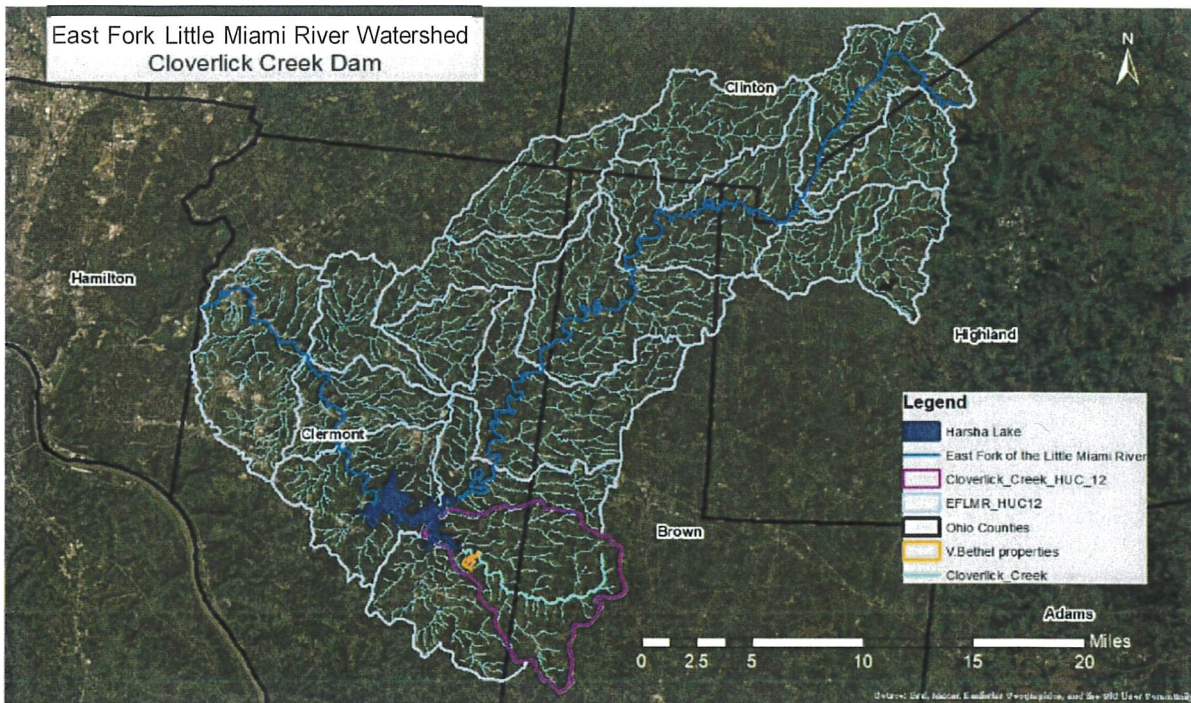


Figure 1. Project location in the Cloverlick Creek HUC-12: 050902021202 (EFLMR Watershed – Clermont County, Ohio)

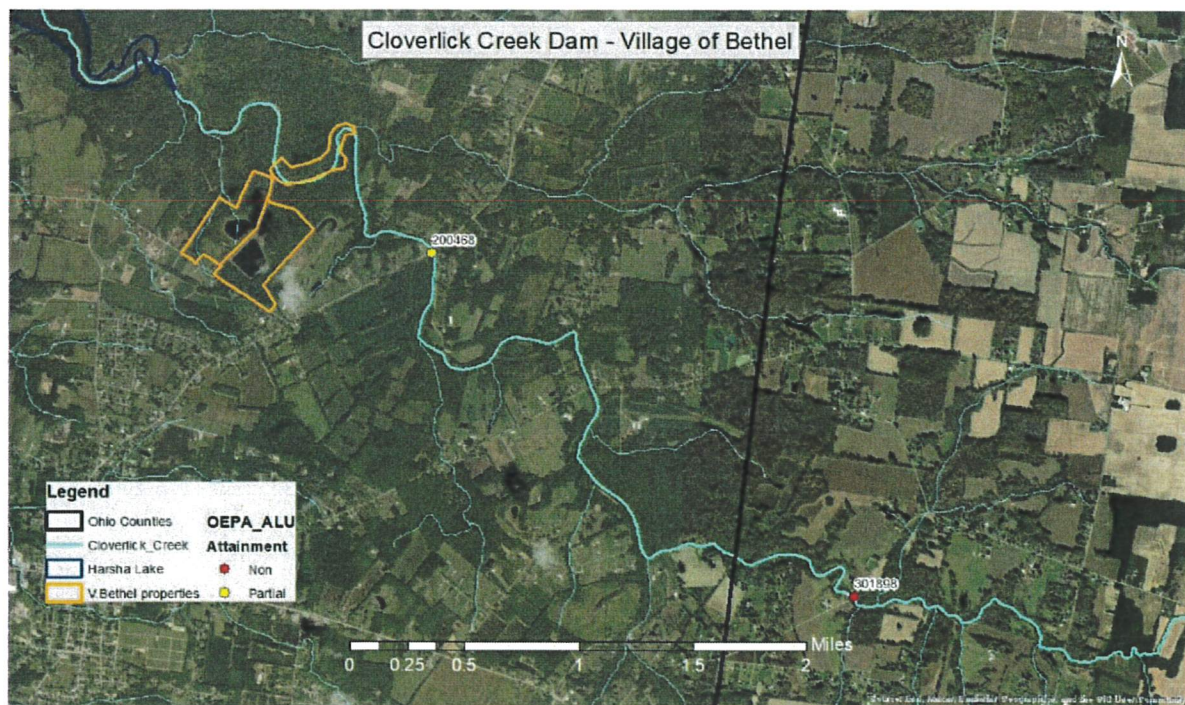


Figure 2. Bethel Water Works Facilities Property (outlined in orange) and Ohio EPA monitoring stations



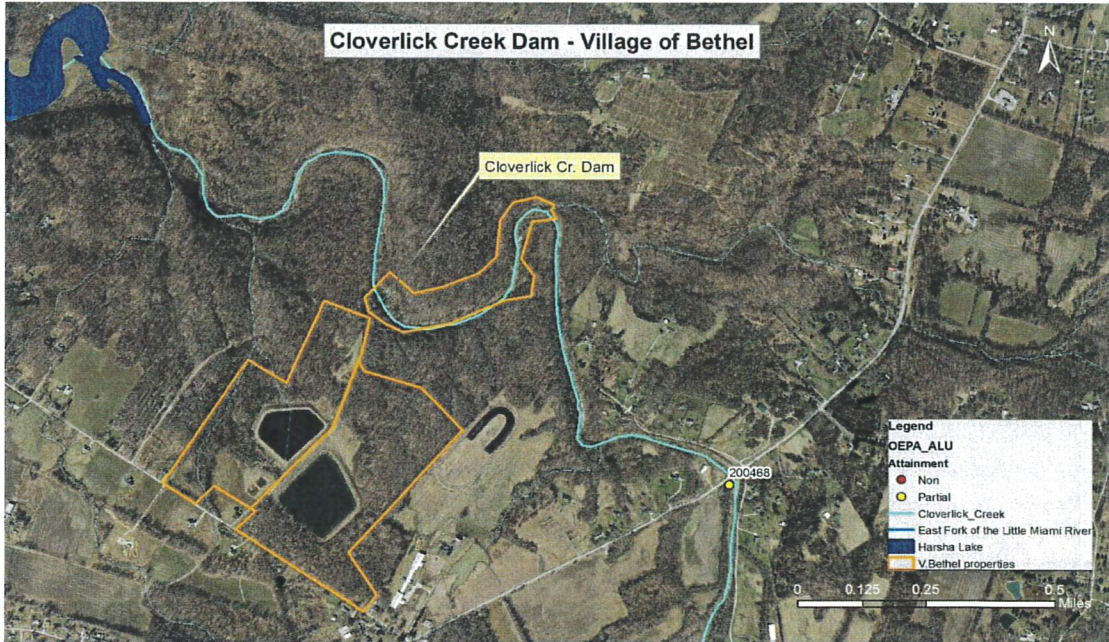


Figure 3. Bethel Water Works Facilities Property, dam location and Ohio EPA monitoring stations

Parcel ID	Acreage	Description
PIN: 323019M057.	47.7 acres	Upland area includes a 5 acre holding pond
PIN: 323019J007.	59.6 acres	Upland area includes a 10 acre holding pond
PIN: 323019M026.	20 acres	Stream side parcel

Table 3. Bethel Water Works Parcel Numbers and Acreage





Figure 4. Picture of the dam looking upstream



Figure 5. Picture of the dam looking upstream





Figure 6. Picture of the dam looking upstream toward the right descending bank



Figure 7. Picture of the upstream impoundment and pump house toward the left descending bank

