

DATE: November 5, 2014
For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Rich Cogen
Ohio River Foundation
513-460-3365

Largest Dam Removal in Ohio River Watershed Begins

(Ohio) Restoration of the state scenic Stillwater River in Ohio has begun with work to remove the 13 foot high 200 foot long West Milton dam, north of Dayton, Ohio. Its removal and associated river restoration work will improve water quality and fish passage, and reconnect 200 miles of the Stillwater's upstream section to the lower river. The Stillwater will have the longest free-flowing section of any river in Ohio.

Village officials looking to the future seized upon the opportunity to work with Ohio River Foundation to obtain funds to remove the dam. Funding for this \$1.3 million project comes from Ohio's Water Resources Restoration Program, and the Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership.

With safety reports advising repair or removal and repair estimates of hundreds of thousands of dollars, it was an easy decision to remove the dam with no cost to its citizens. The Village sees the project as not just a benefit to the river, but also a potential driver for economic growth through bike and walking trail development and better access to the river for all.

"We have developed a workable model from this project that will enable us to help other communities raise the necessary funds to achieve the social, environmental, and economic benefits of river protection and restoration. We applaud the Village of West Milton for having the vision and ambition that this project requires," said Rich Cogen, Executive Director of Ohio River Foundation. "Also, the Citizen Advisory Group that is forming there will help guide future plans for the river corridor."

Ohio River Foundation is a nonprofit organization serving the 200,000 square mile watershed with education and conservation programs. ORF also assists communities throughout the watershed in protecting their water quality and facilitating the restoration and protection of their natural resources.

For more information about how ORF can help your community, or how you can support its efforts, please call Rich Cogen at 513-460-3365, or visit ORF's website at www.ohioriverfdn.org.

###