



December 2008
Issue No. 157

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Grants for Runoff and Storm Water Management

CFA Phone: (608) 266-7555

Robert Ramharter, Section Chief
Environmental Loans Section
Bureau of Community Fin. Assist.
Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Loan Interests

ITA and PERF Deadline December 31, 2008!

Jeanne Cargill

December 31, 2008 is the deadline to postmark, fax, ship or e-mail your signed Intent to Apply form (ITA) and Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF) for State Fiscal Year 2010 projects. Hand-delivered ITAs and PERFs need to be delivered to the Department and date-stamped no later than 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 2008. The department is not open for business on December 31.

You must submit an ITA and a PERF by the deadline if you intend to request funding from the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP), the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) or the Land Recycling Loan Program (LRLP) between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010.

ITAs are valid for one state fiscal year.

If your municipality submits an ITA for a project but does not receive funding during the following fiscal year, you must submit another ITA to keep the project current with the Environmental Improvement Fund.

If you previously submitted a PERF for your project and there is no change in the scope of that project, you do not need to submit another PERF. We require one PERF be submitted for each project. If the department receives another PERF for a project we scored in the past, we will re-evaluate the project priority score.

Please describe your municipality's project in detail on the ITA and PERF, and make sure the project descriptions on the ITA and PERF match each other. If your municipality is planning to apply for funds for more than one project, you must submit a separate ITA and a separate PERF for each project.

For purposes of scoring in the SDWLP, an individual project solves a particular problem or has a particular solution to a problem. Each unique problem or solution can result in a different project priority score. A detailed project description helps department staff reviewing the ITAs and PERFs appropriately assign project numbers and scores for each project.

Do you have the most recent version of the ITA and PERF? We recently revised all of the ITA and PERF forms. Please visit our program website and check the Forms and Publications page at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/Forms/forms.html>. You can view and print ITAs, PERFs and other forms for all EIF programs from this page. If you need forms mailed to you, contact Deb Olson at 608-266-5889 or debra.olson@wisconsin.gov.

ITAs and PERFs are fillable on line.

You can fill in ITAs and PERFs on line before you print them out. Be aware, however, that you can't save the data, unless you have Adobe Acrobat Professional Version 8 or higher.

If you have ITA or PERF questions, contact the specialist for the appropriate program.

CWFP - Dan Olson at (608) 267-7475 or daniel.olson@wisconsin.gov

LRLP - Maureen Hubeler at (608) 266-0849 or maureen.hubeler@wisconsin.gov

SDWLP - Jeanne Cargill at (608) 267-7587 or jeanne.cargill@wisconsin.gov



Is There Money in our Future?

Bob Ramharter

Two countervailing trends will affect how much Clean Water Fund Program and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program funding is available in the near future. A federal economic stimulus bill might provide significant additional funding for water and wastewater projects. A tight state budget might mean a shortage of funding, particularly for wastewater projects.

Federal Economic Stimulus Bill

There is considerable talk in Washington about a second economic stimulus bill. It appears increasingly likely that any stimulus bill would include additional funding for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Some of the current projections would have as much as \$178 million for wastewater and \$38 million for drinking water in additional funds coming to Wisconsin.

Any additional funding is likely to be accompanied by a requirement that the funds be committed (via a loan agreement) within a short period of time – probably 4 months. If this all occurs, we will have to move very quickly to take advantage of this additional funding.

New State Budget Cycle

We are entering into our next state biennial budget cycle. This budget process is important because it determines how much funding we have available for our loan programs.

The budget is particularly important for the Clean Water Fund Program since the state provides much of the funding that enables the program to meet all of the demand for loans. If the state does not provide sufficient funding to meet the loan demand, the statutes require that an alternate application process be put in place. This alternate application process specifies that only those projects that have complete applications submitted by June 30 would be eligible for funding the following fiscal year. A funding list comprised only of those applications that met the deadline would be prepared and funding would be allocated in order of priority score.

We won't know for sure whether we'll implement this alternate application process until after the state budget is passed, sometime after June 30. We'd advise that any municipality interested in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010 funding should attempt to submit a complete loan application by June 30, 2009. Remember, a complete application requires an approved facility plan and approvable plans and specifications.

What's Next?

With the state budget process and the possibility of a federal stimulus package, the next 6-12 months will be a dynamic time in terms of water and wastewater funding. Our best advice to municipalities at this point is to submit ITAs and PERFs for any projects that might be ready to go during SFY 2010. These documents are due by December 31, 2008.

We are following this federal legislation carefully and will provide you with updates on any developments in future *Loan Interests* issues.

Calendar of Events

December 31, 2008
DEADLINE - ITAs and PERFs
CWFP, SDWLP, and LRLP

March 25 - 26, 2009
Funding Sources Committee
Information Booth - WRWA Conf
KI Center - Green Bay

April 30, 2009
APPLICATION DEADLINE
SDWLP applications

If you would like further information, contact Bob Ramharter at 608-266-3915 or robert.ramharter@wisconsin.gov.

Grants for Runoff and Storm Water Management

Jeanne Cargill

Looking for grant funds to deal with runoff pollution or storm water in your municipality? The Bureau of Community Financial Assistance has two competitive cost-share grant programs that may interest you.

Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) grants and Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management (UNPS) grants support small-scale, 2-year projects sponsored by local governmental units.

For further information about these grant programs, see the page titled “DNR Grant Programs” in the appendix of this issue of *Loan Interests* or visit DNR’s Runoff Management Grants web page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/financial.htm>. φ

LRLP Funding List for SFY 2009

Maureen Hubeler

The Land Recycling Loan Program (LRLP) application deadline dates were August 1 and October 1, 2008; the LRLP received only one application. Therefore, the LRLP has only one project on the Funding List for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2009.

The City of West Allis submitted an application for \$1,006,020 for the SixPoints Redevelopment. West Allis must close on an LRLP loan by December 23, 2009, or the funds allocated to this project will carry forward to be allocated to SFY 2010 projects.

If you have any questions related to the LRLP, contact Maureen Hubeler at 608-266-0849 or maureen.hubeler@wisconsin.gov.

For additional information on the LRLP, check our website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/EL/Section/brownfield.html>. φ



EIF Forms and Other Documents

Jeanne Cargill

Please check DNR’s website for the most current version of any Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF) form before you complete and submit a form. You can obtain forms for all EIF programs--the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP), the Land Recycling Loan Program (LRLP), and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP)—from the Environmental Loans Forms and Publications web page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/EL/FORMS/forms.html>.

We recently posted the following revised forms on the web. All of these revised forms can be filled out on line and printed but can’t be saved.

- Intent to Apply, Clean Water Fund Program, Form 8700-195
- Intent to Apply, Land Recycling Loan Program, Form 8700-266
- Intent to Apply, Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, Form 8700-260
- Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form, Clean Water Fund Program, Form 8700-196
- Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form, Land Recycling Loan Program, Form 8700-272
- Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form, Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, Form 8700-265

We are currently working on revising our Financial Assistance Applications; we will post those forms when we complete the revisions this winter.

If you’ve never scrolled down to the bottom of the Forms & Publications page when looking for forms, you may not realize we have a few reference documents available to you.

- The “Drinking Water and Wastewater Funding Sources” document is a valuable reference book. It is full of information about various grant and loan programs available to Wisconsin municipalities and individuals that are preparing to construct drinking water or wastewater projects.
- The Legislative Fiscal Bureau’s “Information Paper 64” on the Environmental Improvement Fund provides detailed information about the CWFP, LRLP and SDWLP. This book covers topics such as project eligibility and priority, financial assistance criteria, program funding and costs, and EIF administration.
- The “Procurement Guide for Local Governments Receiving Grants (State or Federal) from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources” discusses the state’s competitive bidding requirements.

If you have questions about any EIF forms or documents, contact your DNR project manager or Jeanne Cargill at 608-267-7587 or jeanne.cargill@wisconsin.gov. If you need paper copies of forms mailed to you, contact Deb Olson at 608-266-5889 or debra.olson@wisconsin.gov. φ

Municipal Procurement Reminder

Bob Ramharter

We would like to remind everyone that all purchasing associated with projects funded by one of our loan programs must comply with the municipal procurement statutes. These statutes prescribe specific procurement procedures for different types of municipalities and for different cost levels. The statutes apply to all municipal procurement, including purchases made directly by a municipality. Engineers and municipal officials should be sure that all procurement complies with the statute in order to maintain the eligibility of costs under the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water loan programs.

Guidance on municipal procurement can be found on our web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/Grants/Forms/ProcurementGuide.pdf>. ☐

Chapter 30 Permit Fee Exemption

Jeanne Cargill

Is your construction project located near a waterway? Do you need a Chapter 30 waterway permit from DNR for your project? If so, we want to make sure you know that projects funded in whole or in part by any federal or state agency are exempt from the fees charged for Chapter 30 permits.

This means that a municipality receiving a subsidized loan from the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP), Land Recycling Loan Program (LRLP), or Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) does not have to pay the permit fee for any Chapter 30 permit required for its construction project.

When submitting an application for a permit to dredge, place structures, or conduct similar activities in or adjacent to navigable waters, make sure you let the permit staff know that you are receiving state and/or federal funds for your project from the CWFP, LRLP, or SDWLP.

For more information about whether you need a Chapter 30 waterway permit for your project, see DNR's Waterways and Wetlands web page at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway/>. ☐

Interest Rates for EIF Loans

Jeanne Cargill

The Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF) recently completed the process of issuing new bonds for our loan programs. Our loan interest rates went up slightly as a result of this bond issue. We will now provide loans to municipalities based on a market rate of 4.85%. EIF interest rates for various types of projects are determined using a percentage of the market rate. Our new interest rates are listed below.

Clean Water Fund Program

- Compliance Maintenance (55% of market) – 2.668%
- New/Changed Limits (55% of market) – 2.668%
- Storm Water/Nonpoint Source (65% of market) – 3.153%
- Unsewered (70% of market) – 3.395%

Land Recycling Loan Program – 0.00%

Safe Drinking Water Loan Program

- Disadvantaged Municipalities* (33% of market) – 1.601%
- Non-Disadvantaged Municipalities* (55% of market) – 2.668%

* Disadvantaged municipalities have a population of less than 10,000 and a median household income in the municipality that is 80% or less of the state's median household income.

