



September 2009
Issue No. 159

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Loan Interests

Funding Sources Information Booth

Jerry Wilson

Representatives of the Water and Wastewater Funding Sources Committee will staff an information booth at the upcoming 62nd Wisconsin Towns Association Annual Convention. The "Drinking Water and Wastewater Funding Sources 2009-2010" information booklet and other informative handouts will be available.

If you have questions regarding this information opportunity or other Committee efforts, contact Jerry Wilson at gerald.wilson@wisconsin.gov or 608-264-8986. ☐

No Funding Sources Workshops in 2009

Jerry Wilson

Please note: The Drinking Water and Wastewater Funding Sources Committee will not be presenting the annual Funding Sources Workshops in 2009. The Committee typically presents these workshops in the fall to share current program information on funding and technical information from guest speakers. Due to our workload associated with processing funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, we will not be able to provide this training.

Look for Funding Sources Committee Workshops to return in future years as program information becomes available.

Current information about drinking water and wastewater funding for Wisconsin municipalities and individuals is always available on-line at (<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/EL/FORMS/sources.html>). The "Drinking Water and Wastewater Funding Sources" booklet on this web page includes program and contact information for 18 different funding programs. Any Committee member is able to provide you a hard copy of the booklet or send a PDF copy of any program's page. You may also request a copy from Jerry Wilson at gerald.wilson@wisconsin.gov or 608-264-8986, or Ken Blomberg of the Wisconsin Rural Water Association at ken@wrwa.org or 715-344-7778. ☐

ITA/PERF Deadline December 31, 2009!

Jeanne Cargill

December 31, 2009, is the deadline to postmark, fax, ship, or e-mail your signed Intent to Apply (ITA) and Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF) for any State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2011 project. Hand-delivered ITAs and PERFs need to be delivered to the Department and date-stamped no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2009. The Department is not open for business 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) or the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011.

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 eligible with the Environmental Improvement Fund. However, municipalities that submitted ITAs after December 31, 2008, but before July 1, 2009, and will not receive CWFP or SDWLP funding in SFY 2010, do not need to resubmit their ITAs for SFY 2011 unless the project costs, cost categories and/or project description have changed since the previous submittal.

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.

Important! 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 funding for more than one project, you must submit a separate ITA and a separate PERF for each project.

For purposes of scoring, an individual project solves a particular problem or proposes a particular solution to a problem. Each unique problem or solution can result in a different project priority score. A detailed project description helps the DNR 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? Before submitting any CWFP or SDWLP form, please visit our program website and check the Forms and Publications page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/EL/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.

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.

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



LRLP Update

Maureen Hubeler

The Land Recycling Loan Program (LRLP) will no longer be accepting applications for remediation of brownfield sites. As part of the State's 2009-11 Budget, Section 677 of 2009 Wisconsin Act 28 transferred the remaining \$6.2 million in loan funds of the Land Recycling Loan Program (LRLP) to the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Fund.

The LRLP was created in 1997 to provide financial assistance to local governments for investigation and remediation of contaminated sites. The program was funded with an allocation of \$20 million from repayments of Clean Water Fund Program loans. The LRLP funded 9 remediation projects totaling \$13,745,126.

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

CWFP Hardship Assistance Update

Maureen Hubeler

The Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) received one application requesting hardship financial assistance in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010. The CWFP will publish a funding list for SFY 2010 at a later date.

A municipality may be placed on the SFY 2011 Hardship Financial Assistance Funding List by meeting the following criteria:

- Municipality's Median Household Income (MHI) must be 80% or less of the state's MHI. Wisconsin's MHI adjusted to 2006 is \$55,527 and the 80% cutoff is \$44,699 (rounding the percentage to the nearest whole number).
- Without hardship assistance, the estimated average annual residential user charges must exceed 2% of the adjusted MHI.
(continued on next page)

Calendar of Events

October 11-13, 2009
Funding Sources Committee
-Information Booth
WI Towns Association
Holiday Inn & Convention Ctr.
Stevens Point, WI

December 31, 2009
ITA & PERF deadline for CWFP,
SDWLP, and LRLP

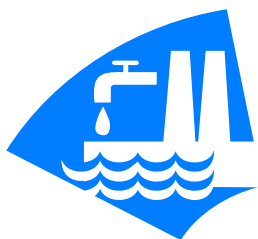
The municipality must also:

- submit an Intent to Apply (Form 8700-195) indicating its interest in hardship assistance, and a Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (8700-196), by December 31, 2009;
- obtain facility plan approval prior to submitting a Financial Assistance Application; and
- submit a completed Financial Assistance Application (Form 8700-203) and plans and specifications by June 30, 2010.

You may submit a CWFHP Hardship Financial Assistance Preliminary Calculation Request (Form 8700-282) at any time to request a determination as to whether your municipality is likely to meet the second hardship assistance criterion.

All the forms listed above are available on the Environmental Loans Section’s Forms & Publications web page, (<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/EL/FORMS/forms.html>). If you need forms mailed to you, contact Deb Olson at 608-266-5889 or debra.olson@wisconsin.gov.

For additional information, see our website at (<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/EL/Section/hardship.html>) or contact Maureen Hubeler at 608-266-0849 or maureen.hubeler@wisconsin.gov. ☐



Bob Ramharter Retired

Jeanne Cargill

After 29 years of service, Bob Ramharter retired from the Department of Natural Resources. Bob’s last day in the office was June 19, 2009. At the time of retirement, he was the chief of the Environmental Loans Section in the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance.

Bob started in the bureau in 1993 when we were organized a bit differently. At that time, he was charged with managing staff that were closing out Wisconsin Fund and EPA grants from the Construction Grants era of wastewater treatment funding. That task was complete when we closed out the last of the grants in 1995. That accomplishment was cause for celebration!

Bob’s section then began working more on loan closings for Clean Water Fund Program (CWFHP) loans, establishing policies for the Hardship Financial Assistance Program and continuing implementation of the Small Loans Program. He guided the hardship program through some significant changes. With the department’s reorganization in 1996, the CWFHP was combined with the majority of the department’s grant programs to form the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance and what were previously three sections for environmental loans became one section, with Bob the only remaining section chief for the CWFHP.

Bob saw the section through the implementation and closure of the Federal Hardship Grants Program and the Land Recycling Loan Program, as well as the implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP)—our state revolving fund for public water system projects. He also led us through the process of adding storm water projects to our list of eligible projects in the CWFHP. None of these were simple tasks. Establishing and changing programs involves statutory changes, writing of administrative rules and policies, procedural changes, etc. Bob did a good job managing all of these additions to our workload without the benefit of having increased staff to handle the new tasks.

Bob’s final year with the revolving loan programs was fraught with challenges and difficulties that arose from implementing the requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Decisions had to be made and laws interpreted in order to blend the ARRA funding with our existing CWFHP and SDWLP processes. New policies and procedures had to be written and implemented that would follow the guidelines established by EPA and the policy decisions made in Wisconsin regarding how to distribute the ARRA funds. Bob rose to the challenge and established an ARRA Team made up of some of his staff members and led by him. He encouraged us to work together to get the tasks ahead of us done, started us off in a good direction with implementing new policies, and gave us a solid base from which to develop new procedures for processing the ARRA applications.

We are grateful to Bob for preparing us for the tasks we are continuing to work on. This year has been challenging for all of us, but Bob pointed us in the right direction and let us know we were up to the challenges. He was a good leader for the SRF programs in Wisconsin. He’s getting some much-deserved rest and trying to play some extra golf now that he’s retired. We wish him well in all of his retirement years. ☐

Acting Director and Chief

Jeanne Cargill

Mary Rose Teves is currently the Acting Director of the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance. Mary Rose's permanent position in DNR is Chief of the Grants Section, but she is temporarily assigned to lead the entire Bureau, including the Environmental Loans Section. Specifically for Environmental Loans, Mary Rose is charged with seeing us through this period of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

Also, as Acting bureau director, Mary Rose is responsible for signing Financial Assistance Agreements (FAAs) for the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP), so many of you will see her name associated with FAAs and other program documents.

Bernie Robertson is currently the Acting Section Chief of the Environmental Loans Section. Bernie's permanent position is Construction Management Engineer for the CWFP and the SDWLP in DNR's South Central Region. In addition to continuing his engineering duties in the region, Bernie is also charged with leading the Section and helping us get the ARRA funding out.

Environmental Loans staff very much appreciate Bernie's perspective on issues we're dealing with. Bernie knows our programs but has a different background and a different set of skills and knowledge than the project managers. It's been very nice having an engineer working in the office with us each day as we weave our way through ARRA requirements and their impacts on projects.

We're happy to have Mary Rose and Bernie available to help us continue the success of our loan programs. We're grateful for their participation in all of the ARRA issues we're dealing with.

Mary Rose Teves is available at 608-267-7683 or mary.teves@wisconsin.gov.

Bernie Robertson can be reached at 608-266-3915 or bernie.robertson@wisconsin.gov.

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