

E-Bulletin Newsletter



To provide affordable financial assistance to communities within Wisconsin for water infrastructure projects that protect and improve public health and water quality for current and future generations.



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Upcoming Deadlines

February/March 2021

SFY 22 CWFP & SDWLP Project Priority Lists (PPLs) published.

February 24, 2021

SFY 20 CWFP final loan closing date (for PF projects).

March/April 2021

SFY 22 CWFP project priority score objections deadline (within 30 days after PPL is published).

March 15, 2021

PSC approved rate order due to DNR project manager (prior to execution of FAA).

March 31, 2021

Executed construction contracts due for SFY 21 SDWLP projects.

April 30, 2021

Last recommended date for opening bids on SFY 21 CWFP projects.



Small Loans Program (SLP)

Consider using the SLP for your less expensive wastewater projects. Certain federal requirements do not apply to projects funded through the SLP, and there are no issuance costs. The SLP pays part or all of the interest on [State Trust Fund \(STF\) loans](#) from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) provided to municipalities to fund wastewater projects.

This month, twenty-nine Wisconsin municipalities will receive checks from the SLP totaling \$134,000. One sanitary district alone will receive \$33,000.

Subsidy amount

The SLP pays at least 30%, and up to 100%, of the interest on qualifying STF loans. The average subsidy is 47% of STF loan interest. View the current [share of loan interest](#) paid for various project and borrower types.

Project eligibility

To be eligible, total project costs must be **\$2 million or less** after all contracts are awarded and the project must not have been substantially complete for more than three years. The following is a partial list of eligible projects:

- Preventing a significant WPDES permit effluent limit exceedance.
- Replacing or rehabbing existing sanitary sewers.
- Controlling storm water runoff rates, volume, and discharge quality.

How to apply

You only need two things to apply:

- An approved [Intent to Apply](#) for the state fiscal year in which the municipality plans to receive an interest rate subsidy agreement.
- A completed [Interest Rate Subsidy Application](#), which is significantly shorter than the regular CWFP application.

To learn more about the SLP please visit the SLP webpage at dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/documents/EIF/small.html.

Contacts

Direct general SLP questions to:
Kevin Olson
608-234-2238
Kevin.Olson@wisconsin.gov

Direct interest rate questions to:
Andy Behm
608-266-0739
DOAEIF@wisconsin.gov

DNR, Environmental Loans Section—CF/2, 101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921
dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html | CWFP phone: 608-267-7475 | SDWLP phone: 608-266-5889 | [staff directory webpage](#)



Program implementation details are outlined in chs. [NR 162](#) and [NR 166](#), Wis. Adm. Code. [Legal notice](#): This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format upon request, call 608-267-9481 for more information.

Early Drinking Water Project Plan & Spec Submittals

Section 281.41, Wis. Stats., requires the department to approve, conditionally approve, or reject plans and specifications for all “reviewable projects” within ninety (90) days of receipt of acceptable plans and specifications, unless a time extension is agreed upon. The time extension shall not exceed six (6) months.

Please review the plan review website for additional information and the relevant submittals and plan review forms required with each project type. The department routinely updates forms, so be sure to check the website regularly for the most up to date information.

- [Public water system plan reviews](#)
- [Plan submittal requirements by project type](#)

In general, the DNR reviews projects from a technical perspective. Average review times are:

- Water main: 30–35 days
- All other plan types: 60–90 days
- Up to 180-day extension: 270 days

Submit early on

Complete plans and specs can be submitted well in advance of the principal forgiveness application deadline because the department generally reviews first in, so first out. The review timelines for projects submitted near the PF deadline are expected to be longer than typical due to the volume of projects received.

Projects submitted near the application deadline have additional risk of being incomplete or inadequate for department review. Once the application deadline project submittals are deemed incomplete by the department, they are considered ineligible for principal forgiveness.

Application deadline for principal forgiveness:

- SDWLP – June 30th

Insufficient time to bid

If plans aren't submitted early enough, there may be insufficient time to bid the DNR-approved plans and have executed contracts to your DNR project manager by the date required for loan processing. As a result, your funding may be at risk for the corresponding state fiscal year. Submit plans and specs early to avoid delaying your loan closing.

COVID-19 Submittal Process for SFY 22 DW Plans & Specs

In response to the public health emergency, DNR is updating the plan and specification submittal process for community water system improvements that are required under ch. NR 811, Wis. Adm. Code, to the following:

1. Effective March 12, 2020, all community water system improvements must be submitted digitally.
2. Send an email directly to DNRPublicWaterPlanReview@Wisconsin.gov, containing:
 - a. Subject line:
 - i. Water System name;
 - ii. Project type (water main, well rehab, tank painting, well site investigation report, etc.);
 - b. Body:
 - i. External web link in which digital plan review submittals can be accessed and downloaded (e.g., ftp website, Microsoft OneDrive, Citrix Files, Dropbox, etc.)
 - c. Do **not** include any attachments on the email.

Note: Submittals with attachments rather than a link to a file transfer site will **not** be accepted or marked as received until the date the complete submittal information is provided through a file transfer site.

You will receive an automated email indicating that your email has been received. A plan review engineer will be assigned and will conduct the review of your project as normal.

You can check the status of your submittal, the project ID and the assigned plan reviewer at any time using the '[Plan Review Web Query](#)' tool.

Please note, all staff are currently working remotely. As a result, email correspondence with the plan reviewer is preferred over phone calls.

Additionally, all reports, correspondence, etc. to be submitted to DNR field representatives should be emailed to them directly, until further notice.

