



Sunset over Lake Superior

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The Environmental Loans E-Bulletin is written by staff in the WI DNR Environmental Loans Section to provide up-to-date information on both the Clean Water Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program.

These E-Bulletins will be sent out periodically to alert you to upcoming deadlines, highlight program changes and provide assistance on topics that need clarification. The E-Bulletin replaces the “Updates” which have been used in the past to get timely information to our customers.

In this E-Bulletin:

- *Clean Watersheds Needs Survey: Pages 1 and 2*
- *SFY 2013 SDWLP Draft Project Priority List: Page 3*

The Needs Survey Needs Your Help

What is the survey and why do we need your help?

EPA, in cooperation with the states, conducts the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) every four years to collect capital needs for wastewater treatment and storm water management. Survey results are compiled by EPA and ultimately reported to Congress and made available to the public.

Submitting documentation that EPA can use in the Needs Survey is extremely important as the federal government may use CWNS results to determine each state’s allocation of federal funds to the state revolving loan program in the future. Wisconsin currently receives an annual capitalization grant equal to 2.74% of the national allocation for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program. There has been an ongoing push in Congress to base the capitalization grant allocation formula on numbers reported in the CWNS. If this happens, Wisconsin stands to lose a considerable amount of federal grant funding for the Clean Water Fund Program. Wisconsin’s wastewater treatment and storm water management needs reported in the 2008 CWNS comprised only 2.13% of national needs. This is why we are asking every municipality to help us document Wisconsin’s needs as completely as possible.

Your participation in the CWNS will help us return your federal tax dollars to Wisconsin.

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The Needs Survey: Who are we contacting for help?

DNR is in the process of mailing letters and survey forms to all treatment plants and collection systems in Wisconsin with a population under 10,000. If your facility has a population of 10,000 or less and you don't receive one of these forms in the next couple of months, please contact Becky Scott at 608-267-7584 or rebecca.scott@wisconsin.gov. When filling out these forms, please attach supporting documentation if it is available, and don't forget to sign the form.

We will be contacting facilities with populations greater than 10,000 by e-mail, phone, or letter over the next several months. You don't need to wait to be contacted though in order to provide us with information.

Data collection will continue through September 2012.

What projects can be counted in the CWNS?

The 20-year timeframe for projects to be counted in the CWNS is from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2031. This means any wastewater, or storm water project that had not started construction as of January 1, 2012 can be counted. Needs can include traditional wastewater projects, expansion or rehabilitation of your collection system, decentralized wastewater management, and water quality-related storm water management projects. **If you have a non-drinking water capital project that has a water quality benefit or a water-related public health benefit, we can count it in the Survey, regardless of how it is being funded.**



Greater Bayfield Wastewater Treatment Plant

What sort of documentation do we need?

In order for EPA to accept your documentation, it needs to include the following elements:

- a description of the problem being addressed,
- a description of the proposed solution to the problem,
- the cost of the proposed solution (including the date the cost estimate was developed).

Facility Plans and Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) often are the best documents for wastewater projects (if the CIP includes a description of the problem), but most documents that include the necessary information can be used. A complete list of acceptable documents as well as further information on the CWNS can be found on EPA's website at:

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datait/databases/cwns/plan.cfm>

You can submit documents, or portions of documents, by mail or electronically. We need you to include the cover page and table of contents as well as the sections described above.

Please send relevant documentation to:
Becky Scott, CF/2
WDNR
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Or by e-mail:
rebecca.scott@wisconsin.gov

We greatly appreciate your assistance in this effort!

REMEMBER TO CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL CME PRIOR TO YOUR PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING!

Regional Construction Management Engineers:

Northeast Region:	Bob Hannes	robert.hannes@wisconsin.gov ;	(920) 662-5116
Northern Region:	Steve Ohm	steven.ohm@wisconsin.gov ;	(715) 365-8939
South Central Region:	Bernie Robertson	bernie.robertson@wisconsin.gov ;	(608) 275-3312
Southeast Region:	Frank Fuja	francis.fuja@wisconsin.gov ;	(414) 263-8749
Western Region:	Judy Hayducsko	judy.hayducsko@wisconsin.gov ;	(715) 831-3268

Now Available:

SFY 2013 Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) Draft Project Priority List!

The [Draft SFY 2013 SDWLP Project Priority list](#) is now available on the DNR EL website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/LoanNews.html>. Staff completed the review of the SFY 2013 SDWLP Intent to Apply (ITA) and Priority Ranking and Evaluation Forms (PERFs) and determined final scores for each project. We're sending letters to each municipality confirming their score(s) and allowing them 30 days in which to provide additional information. By May 25, 2012, we will finalize the SFY 2013 Project Priority List and post it on the web site (see above).

Multi-purpose project scopes cause significant delays in publishing the Project Priority List

Jim Witthuhn (DG) and Mary (E.) Wagner (EL) worked together reviewing ITAs, PERFs and accompanying project descriptions. As in prior years, one very time-consuming aspect of completing this draft Project Priority List was contacting municipalities and consulting engineers to get more complete information regarding the problems to be solved with multi-purpose scopes of work. Although the DNR revised its forms in the fall to better define specific information about each project, 48 individual ITAs this year described multiple projects that needed to be split apart for scoring purposes. This resulted in delays for all municipalities in knowing their project priority scores.

It's important to understand that the SDWLP must provide funding first for project work that will solve Wisconsin's greatest public health needs. We can't, for example, fund replacement of still functional but aging mains prior to providing funding to all municipalities having contaminant issues in their wells. Therefore, we must split multi-purpose scopes of work into multiple projects for scoring purposes. Each single project must be solving a single problem, unless the problems are too interrelated to have a single stand-alone solution.

Because many submitted project descriptions include a scope of work that is solving multiple, mostly unrelated problems in a system, DNR staff must work to determine how to split that scope into multiple projects, re-score each project based on its new description, and mock up an individual ITA and PERF for each portion of the split scope of work. Again, this is very time-consuming.

In the near future we will publish additional information on this topic, including examples of well-described individual projects and examples of project descriptions that have to be split. Please watch for that information and take a good look at it prior to submitting forms next year.

TRAINING PLANNED FOR PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Because of the inordinate amount of time DNR staff spend splitting ITAs into multiple projects, we are putting together specific training on this topic. This training will be in the form of a video available on our web site. We understand how important it is to have the Project Priority List available as early as possible, and minimizing our time re-scoring projects will help us meet that need.

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

June 30, 2012:
SFY 2013 SDWLP Applications

June 30, 2012:
CWFP Hardship Applications

July 1, 2013:
Start of SFY 2013

September 30, 2012:
SFY 2013 CWFP
Principal Forgiveness
Applications

December 31, 2012:
SFY 2014 SDWLP and CWFP
Intent To Apply/Priority
Evaluation and Ranking Forms