

# 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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## New SDWLP Coordinator: Noah Balgooyen

We are pleased to announce that Noah Balgooyen is our new Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Coordinator. This role expands on his previous position as an Environmental Loans Project Manager within the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance. The SDWLP Coordinator position was previously held by Greg Farmer.

Noah began his new position on January 31, 2022, and he will continue to work out of the DNR's Central Office in Madison, WI. He can be contacted at 608-692-4227 and [Noah.Balgooyen@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Noah.Balgooyen@Wisconsin.gov).

Having joined the Environmental Loans team in 2018, Noah brings administrative and grant experience to his new position from his six years with the department's Wildlife Damage Program. He previously served as the financial specialist for the DNR's Bureau of Wildlife. He is excited to work on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

## Construction Contracts for SFY 2022 CWFP PF Projects

April 30, 2022 is the last recommended date for opening bids on State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) Principal Forgiveness (PF) projects.

All required bid documentation, including the executed construction contract, must be submitted to the assigned DNR loan project manager no later than June 30, 2022—end of the state fiscal year—for SFY 22 CWFP PF projects.

In an effort to award PF to projects that are ready to proceed with construction, the CWFP has imposed a readiness-to-proceed deadline for projects that are allocated PF on the corresponding Funding List. This approach helps to encourage the timely use of PF funds as is preferred by EPA. Please note that the readiness-to-proceed deadline does not apply to CWFP projects that are *not* receiving PF.

For more on bidding & procurement, see pg. 2 of [December 2021 E-Bulletin](#).

## Upcoming Deadlines

### Late Winter / Early Spring

SFY 23 CWFP & SDWLP Project Priority Lists (PPLs) published.

- SFY 2023 CWFP priority score objections deadline is 30 days after its PPL is published.
- SFY 2023 SDWLP PERF score reevaluation requests deadline is August 14, 2022.

### March 31, 2022

Last recommended date to submit engineering report for DNR review, if required for SFY 2023 SDWLP project.

DNR, Environmental Loans Section—CF/2, 101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921  
[dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html) | CWFP phone: 608-358-3330 | SDWLP phone: 608-575-8825 | [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.

## Submit Plans and Specs Early

Complete Clean Water Fund Program and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program applications must include approvable plans and specifications. We encourage you to submit the plans and specs well in advance of the application deadline to allow ample time for DNR review.

The department generally reviews first in, so first out. The review times for projects submitted near the application deadline are expected to be longer than typical due to the volume of projects received.

### Application deadlines:

- June 30 – SDWLP
- September 30 – CWFPP if competing for principal forgiveness (PF)

### Average review times:

- Sewer and lift station: 14-30 days
- Water main: 40-50 days
- All other plan types: 60-90 days
- Up to 180-day extension: 270 days

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

## Submittal requirements

Submit required copies of approvable, biddable plans and specifications to the appropriate DNR water bureau for approval as well as with the financial assistance application by the application submittal deadline.

Please read the plan review website for additional information and the relevant submittals and plan review forms required with each project type. The department

### SFY 2023 projects

In late winter/early spring, we plan to publish the State Fiscal Year 2023 CWFPP & SDWLP Project Priority Lists to our [Project Lists & Intended Use Plans page](#).

routinely updates forms, so be sure to check the website regularly for the most up to date information.

### CWFPP projects

Follow requirements as explained in the DNR Bureau of Water Quality’s [Plan Submittal Requirements for Sewerage Systems](#).

- For help, [wastewater plan review contacts](#)

### SDWLP projects

Determine and follow the requirements in the DNR Bureau of Drinking Water & Groundwater’s [Public Water System Plan Review](#).

- For help, [DNRPublicWaterPlanReview@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRPublicWaterPlanReview@wisconsin.gov)

## 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 loan 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.

## NR 811 Community Water System Operation and Design Update

Chapter NR 811, Wis. Adm. Code, is being revised with the primary objectives of correcting, clarifying, and updating the design and construction standards, & addressing new technologies related to community drinking water systems, [learn more](#).

## Environmental Loans (EL) Policy Paper Update

The [draft Environmental Loans Policy Paper](#) was posted for a 21-day public comment period. Approximately 2,400 recipients were sent an e-mail notification. There was no opposition to the proposed changes resulting from Act 112, but a few general comments came in.

Thank you for your patience as Matt Marcum, EL Field & Technical Services Section Chief, is preparing a response to those comments before finalizing the proposal. The

response to comments document and final version of the policy paper, including any revision made as a result of feedback received, will be published on our [Statutes and Codes webpage](#).

We will email all current SDWLP applicants when the documents are posted to our webpage. In the next E-Bulletin, there will be an article with more information about program changes.

## Updated Request for Disbursement Form Available

In efforts to streamline the Request for Disbursement form, we have replaced the Davis-Bacon Act Payroll Certification page with five check boxes on the first page. Check out our improved [Form 8700-215](#).

Before the request can be authorized for payment, the five boxes must be checked to certify:

1. The amounts requested are in accordance with the terms of the Financial Assistance Agreement (FAA) and are for eligible project costs that have been incurred and have not been reimbursed on any previous request.
2. I am the municipal representative authorized to complete this request and that all necessary approvals by consultants and municipal governing officials have been obtained.
3. The Project complies with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts, which require that all laborers and mechanics employed by the contractors, and subcontractors, were paid wages at rates not less than those listed on the prevailing wage rate contained in the contract documents.
4. The Davis-Bacon poster was posted at all times by the contractor and subcontractors at the work site.
5. All contractors have provided the municipality or engineer with certified weekly payrolls for labor performed for all costs requested with this Request for Disbursement for Financial Assistance Programs Form.

Direct questions and feedback about the revised form to Kim Leizinger at [Kimberly.Leizinger@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Leizinger@Wisconsin.gov) or 608-695-0875.

## Adobe PDF Fillable Form Guidance

We offer the following guidance for the best results with DNR's PDFs:

- The Adobe PDF fillable forms do not work with mobile devices.
- Use Microsoft [Internet Explorer \(IE\)](#) version 10 or higher. Note: When IE is retired on June 15, 2022, use Microsoft [Edge](#) with Internet Explorer mode.
- Enable [JavaScript](#) in the web browser.
- Use [Adobe Reader](#) version 10 or higher. It is free to download and use.

If the form does not open/display in the web browser or you cannot download a form from the DNR website, try the following:

- Configure Internet Explorer to use the Acrobat Reader plug-in (Adobe PDF Reader add-on) to display PDFs in the browser and access all PDF capabilities, see instructions at [helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/using/display-pdf-in-browser.html](http://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/using/display-pdf-in-browser.html).
- Configure other web browsers to use the Adobe PDF plug-in to resolve issues and access all PDF capabilities, see instructions at: [helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/kb/pdf-browser-plugin-configuration.html](http://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/kb/pdf-browser-plugin-configuration.html).

If you get an error message [**Please wait...**] when you try to open a form on the DNR website, try the following:

- From a desktop computer:
  - Download the PDF (right-click on the link, then select "Save link as" or "Save target as").
  - Make a note of the file location and file name so you can access the PDF from your computer.
  - Do not double-click the PDF file. Open Adobe Reader then select "File > Open" then browse to the PDF file you saved on your computer.

If you're unable to add/delete rows or processes in the fillable PDF where there is a (+) or (-) next to the field, or if other fields are not functioning the way they should, try the following:

- Once the PDF form is saved to the desktop computer, the settings may be changed. Open the PDF form. Go to Edit > Preferences, and select JavaScript from the list of Preferences available. At the top of the screen, make sure the box "Enable Acrobat JavaScript" is selected. Save the file, then begin editing.

For further assistance, see DNR's Portable Document Format (PDF) Help at [dnr.wi.gov/site/pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/site/pdf).



## Public Comments Wanted on EPA's Draft Lead Strategy

The U.S. has made substantial progress in reducing lead exposure, but significant disparities remain along racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines. The EPA developed and is seeking public comment on a draft *Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities* (Lead Strategy).

The Lead Strategy lays out approaches to strengthen public health protections, address legacy lead contamination for communities with the greatest exposures and promote environmental justice. You can read the complete strategy and a fact sheet at [www.epa.gov/lead/draft-strategy-reduce-lead-exposures-and-disparities-us-communities](http://www.epa.gov/lead/draft-strategy-reduce-lead-exposures-and-disparities-us-communities).

### Public Comments

The agency is seeking input from communities affected by lead contamination. This is an opportunity for people to share thoughts on how to address lead issues in their

communities. The EPA will use the feedback received during this public comment period to determine if additional revisions need to be incorporated into the Lead Strategy before it is finalized.

**The EPA has extended the public comment period until **March 16, 2022**.**

### Provide written input

- Comments can be submitted in writing to [docket EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0762 at Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0762)

### Provide verbal input

From early February to early March 2022, the agency is hosting Zoom virtual public comment sessions. Registration is required to attend each session. Interpretation and disability access support will be provided. EPA encourages you to [register for any regional session](#).

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## We Work with Other Funding Sources

The Wisconsin DNR Environmental Loans Section often partners with other funding agencies to ensure that municipalities get the best funding package to meet their needs. We can collaborate to maximize resources, clarify the joint funding process, and help with common paperwork challenges. View a list of [water and wastewater funding sources](#).

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## Wastewater Plant Energy Assessments Via FOCUS ON ENERGY®

Could your plant be more efficient? Focus on Energy is offering an opportunity to collaborate with Wastewater Service Providers (WSPs) to evaluate the energy usage at your facility.

### Wastewater Plant Energy Assessments

Wastewater Plant Energy Assessments provide \$5,000 (up to 90% of an assessment's cost) to assess capital projects and low-cost/no-cost savings opportunities in your system. Training is available to learn more about the application process, available resources, and getting started. Visit [focusonenergy.com/business/water-and-wastewater-facilities](http://focusonenergy.com/business/water-and-wastewater-facilities) for a list of qualified WSPs.

### Project Assessment Incentive

In addition to receiving financial incentives to complete an assessment, customers can work with Focus on Energy to receive a Project Assessment Incentive. This additional offering is perfect for a more in-depth look into process system upgrades. It provides 50% off any further assessment costs up to \$7,500 and is capped at 20% of the initial energy savings projections. Plus, addi-

tional prescriptive and custom incentives may be available for projects completed in 2022. Contact your Energy Advisor to see how you can proactively plan for your facility's future. Visit [focusonenergy.com/EA-map](http://focusonenergy.com/EA-map).

### Trade Ally

Are you a Trade Ally who works with wastewater plants? Then you might be able to provide these assessments. Visit [focusonenergy.com/trade-ally](http://focusonenergy.com/trade-ally) to become a registered trade ally and get added to a list of qualified WSPs.

### About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment, and control Wisconsin's growing demand for electricity and natural gas.

For more information, call 800.762.7077 or visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com).