

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.



Inside this Issue

Current Discount Rate for Cost-Effective Analysis	1
New SDWLP Phone Number	1
SFY 2023 Funding Lists Available	1
EC & LSL IUP Amendments Available	2
New Webpages for BIL, BABA, and Data Sources	2
New Deputy Capital Finance Director	2
Clean Watersheds Needs Survey	3
New Staff: Sarah Bolitho and Elizabeth Higgins	3

Current Discount Rate for Cost-Effective Analysis

All wastewater facility plans require a cost-effectiveness analysis to ensure that only the minimum required resources (monetary, environmental, and social) are expended over the 20-year planning period. The DNR updated the discount rate for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 facilities plans to **2.625%**.

Beginning October 1, 2022, the 2.625% discount rate applies to facility plans until the rate's annual update, occurring in October 2023. See DNR's [Municipal Wastewater Facility Planning webpage](#).

If you have any questions about a facility plan cost-effectiveness analysis, contact [DNR municipal wastewater plan review staff](#).

New SDWLP Phone Number

Noah Balgooyen, Safe Drinking Water Loan Program Coordinator, has new cellphone #: **608-720-0802**



Upcoming Deadlines

December 14

Final loan closing date in 2022.

December 16

Disbursement Request Form due at DNR.

December 28

Last disbursement date in 2022.

No loan closings will occur on 12/28/22.

Winter/Early Spring 2023

SFY 2024 CWF & SDWLP Project Priority Lists (PPLs) published.

- Priority score objections deadline within 30 days of SFY 2024 CWF PPL being published.

SFY 2023 Funding Lists Available

The DNR received eligible Safe Drinking Water Loan Program applications from 38 municipalities for 48 projects by the June 30, 2022 deadline requesting \$83,177,371 in funding, and 42 eligible Clean Water Fund Program applications with 53 projects by the September 30, 2022 Principal Forgiveness (PF) deadline, requesting \$224,090,998 in State Fiscal Year 2023 funding.

These projects are identified in priority score order on the corresponding program's SFY 2023 Funding List. The funding lists show the estimated allocation of loan and PF dollars, and total requested costs for each project.

- View funding lists at dnr.wi.gov/aid/projectListsIUPs.html

The priority score ordering is used for the allocation of PF funds that reduce the size of a project's loan. The allocation methodology is explained in the annual [Intended Use Plans](#). Note that municipalities who submit a CWF application after the PF deadline can still receive a loan and be considered for [Energy Efficiency Priority PF](#) if funds are still available. The SDWLP will accept supplemental applications seeking loan-only funding (funding without PF) until June 30, 2023.

Your DNR project manager (*see Funding List*) should have the loan stage of your application set up in the [online system](#) and you can begin uploading the remaining documents needed for loan closing.

- [Document Upload Screen & Instructions](#)
- [Document Upload Categories & Types](#)

DNR, Environmental Loans Section—CF/2, 101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921
dnr.wi.gov/aid/eif.html | CWF phone: 608-358-3330 | SDWLP phone: 608-720-0802 | [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 federal regulations or state statutes or administrative rules 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 federal regulations and state 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.

EC & LSL IUP Amendments Available for Public Comment

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) Intended Use Plan (IUP) provides detailed descriptions of the changes made to the program relating to the implementation of the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#). Details regarding BIL funding for Emerging Contaminants (i.e., PFAS) and Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacements can be found in the amendments to the SFY 2023 SDWLP IUP.

Emerging Contaminants

Submit comments on the [Emerging Contaminants \(EC\) Amendment](#) by **December 21, 2022**, via email to Ryan Atkinson at Ryan.Atkinson@wisconsin.gov.

A webinar discussing the new EC Program will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 11:00 am (CT). Join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85188541261>

LSL Replacements

Submit comments on the [Lead Service Line Amendment](#) by **December 15, 2022**, via email to Becky Scott at Rebecca.Scott@wisconsin.gov.

A webinar discussing the new LSL Program was held on December 7. View the recording and slideshow handout on the [Project Lists and IUPs webpage](#).

New Webpages for BIL, BABA, and Data Sources

The Environmental Loans Section has created new webpages to provide information and guidance on changes to the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) as a result of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

BIL Funding webpage

dnr.wi.gov/topic/aid/BILfunding.html

The new BIL Funding webpage has a table showing the funding amount of each BIL grant for each state fiscal year, all through SFY 2027. We include how we intend to use each grant's funding and when municipalities can apply for it. After the Emerging Contaminants and Lead Service Line Amendments' public comment periods close, we plan to update their program's information.

BABA webpage

dnr.wi.gov/topic/aid/BABA.html

Congress passed the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act concurrently with BIL. For typical CWFP and SDWLP projects designated as federal equivalency, the new law

expands domestic preference procurement requirements from iron and steel to construction materials and manufactured goods. The new BABA webpage explains the Act, which projects it affects, what items it applies to, and waivers. We plan to update this webpage once we work through how we are going to document compliance.

Data Sources webpage

dnr.wi.gov/topic/aid/dataSources.html

The Environmental Loans programs use data to determine interest rate subsidies, principal forgiveness (PF) eligibility, and project priority score. Access this data from the new Data Sources webpage. We also updated our PF webpage to reflect the new disadvantaged/affordability criteria, which fulfill BIL mandates.

MHI webpage update

In the near future, our existing Median Household Income (MHI) webpage will redirect to the new Data Sources page, so update your bookmarks. We also updated our Interest Rates webpage with MHI information.

Deputy Capital Finance Director, Katherine Miller



As of October 9, 2022, Katherine Miller is Wisconsin's Deputy Director of the Capital Finance Office. Prior to this appointment, Katherine served as a Capital Finance Officer within the Department of Administration since 2015.

Please join us in congratulating Katherine on her promotion!

She has worked for the State since 1996, serving many years as a budget analyst within the Department of Transportation. As a Capital Finance Officer, Katherine has worked on the authorization, sale, issuance, and post-issuance compliance activities of State debt, including the Environmental Improvement Fund Revenue borrowing program. Since 2019, she has been instrumental in the day-to-day operations of the State's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds by making water infrastructure loans to communities within Wisconsin. Contact her at 608-266-2305 and KatherineC.Miller@wisconsin.gov.

Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) [Clean Watersheds Needs Survey](#) is a comprehensive assessment of capital investment needed nationwide to meet the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act. The EPA reports needs periodically to Congress, which helps their budgeting efforts and determination of resources needed to improve water quality infrastructure.

Your participation matters

Fully capturing the extent of needs within the State will help to better position Wisconsin in obtaining future federal funds. The information collected is not intended for compliance or regulatory purposes.

- The 2022 CWNS is open for data collection through February 28, 2023

The DNR has contacted communities directly to collect:

- Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs), Facility Plans, Preliminary Engineering Reports, TMDL Implementation Plans, etc., which describe planned wastewater, storm water, decentralized, or nonpoint source projects and costs.
- Documents should include projects that are eligible for funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and are planned within the next 20 years.

Small communities

Capital costs that are needed to address water quality and water quality related public health concerns have historically been underreported, especially for small communities. We need your help to accurately represent the investment needed in Wisconsin's water quality infrastructure.

If your community is considered small (population <10,000) and meets the qualifications below, the DNR has sent the Small Community Form to email addresses associated with your community's wastewater and storm water permits.

Requirements to be eligible for the Small Community Form are as follows:

- The facility is **not** one of several facilities serving a community of 10,000 persons or more.
- The facility's wastewater system and its location are **not** within an urbanized area, so it is not a component of, and virtually indistinguishable from, surrounding adjacent entities (which are not small).
- The facility's wastewater system is **not** physically connected to a regional treatment authority serving 10,000 persons or more.

Small communities may not have planning documents that address their infrastructure needs. The Small Community Form is a web-based form, provided via email, that communities can use to include their needs in the CWNS. Please note that small communities likely received more than one request to fill out this form because a unique form is required for wastewater and storm water.

Please direct questions to:

- DNRCleanWatershedsNeedsSurvey@wisconsin.gov

2023 Disbursement Schedule Available

View and download the Environmental Loans [2023 Disbursement Schedule with 12-Month Calendar](#)

New Staff: Sarah Bolitho and Elizabeth Higgins



On August 29, 2022, **Sarah Bolitho** started as our Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) Specialist. Contact her at 608-960-2927 and Sarah.Bolitho@wisconsin.gov. Sarah comes to us from outside of state service; she previously worked as an environmental consultant for 8+ years in the Chicago area. Sarah shares with us that she received her undergraduate degree from Knox College in Galesburg, IL, majoring in Biology with minors in Environmental Studies and Spanish. In her free time, she enjoys reading, movies, playing tennis, and traveling with her wife. Sarah looks forward to joining the Environmental Loans Section and working on the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey.



On September 26, 2022, **Liz Higgins** started as our Federal Reporting Specialist. She will also be assisting with the CWNS and loan processing. Contact her at 608-444-2451 and Elizabeth.Higgins@wisconsin.gov. Liz came from the DNR Wetlands & Waterways team where she processed permits. Liz has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Geography and the Environment. In her free time, she enjoys trivia, video/board games, camping, and traveling with her husband and their pets. Liz shares with us, "My main passion is leaving the world a better place than I found it. I'm really excited to join the team and learn a new side of what the DNR does."