



Environmental Loans E-Bulletin

We're on the Web!

<http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/EIF.html>

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Municipal Elections - Remember to Update Contact Information

Has your municipality elected a new president, mayor, public works director, clerk, or other municipal official this spring? Please let us know as soon as possible if your municipality has a new municipal official/s and you are in any stage of project financing with the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFPP) or the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP).

It's important we get the correct contact information **right away** for municipal officials that will be signing Financial Assistance Agreements (FAAs) and bond documents for upcoming loan closings. If your municipality submitted an on-line Intent to Apply (ITA), Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF), or a Financial Assistance Application that included the name of an official who is no longer in office, we want to hear from you!

We need to have the correct contact information on file for the people in your municipality involved with a CWFPP or SDWLP project, regardless of what stage you are at in the process of obtaining your financial assistance: name, municipal title, street address, phone number, and email address.

Please inform your project manager or contact Cindy Wheeler at 608-266-9955 or cynthia.wheeler@wisconsin.gov with any new contact information.



Staff Change Due to Retirement

Maureen Hubeler, an Environmental Loans Project Manager and disbursement specialist for 17 years, is retiring May 1, 2015. Maureen will be greatly missed by our staff. While we will miss her humor, work ethic, and institutional knowledge, we will also envy her ability to spend more time with friends and family pursuing the many activities she so enjoys. Maureen has been training Kim Leizinger as the new disbursement and close-out specialist.

Projects currently assigned to Maureen will be reassigned to other project managers. We will notify you of your new project manager prior to her departure.



Webinar: Overview of Changes to Environmental Loans Programs Rescheduled to Monday, April 20 at 1:30 p.m.

View: [Environmental Loans Program Changes](#)

Date: Monday, April 20, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

Panel: Robin Schmidt, Environmental Loans Section Chief; Jeanne Cargill, policy coordinator; and Becky Scott, federal liaison/federal requirements specialist.

DNR is planning a public webinar that will include a 15-minute presentation highlighting recent and upcoming programmatic changes to Environmental Loans Programs. Following the presentation, a panel will be available for up to 45 minutes to answer questions.

- **Changes resulting from implementation of revisions to chs. NR 162 and 166**, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP).
- **Changes resulting from WRRDA.**
- Other **policy changes** affecting program implementation.

You can join a live presentation before it begins or after it has already started. The live Environmental Loans webinar will be recorded for future reference. It will be posted to the Environmental Loans website along with the slide show handout.

Guidance for the best viewing experience:

- Mediasite Player [viewing requirements](#)
- DNR [website requirements](#)
- DNR Help for [Troubleshooting Mediasite \[PDF\]](#)

Ask Questions

You may submit questions by e-mail prior to the webinar. Please email questions by April 16. We will try to include answers to your questions in the presentation or during the Q&A.

- Direct questions about rule revisions to chs. NR 162 and 166, Wis. Adm. Code to Jeanne Cargill at jeanne.cargill@wisconsin.gov or 608-267-7587.
- Direct questions about changes to the Federal Clean Water Act and WRRDA to Becky Scott at rebecca.scott@wisconsin.gov or 608-267-7584.

During the live presentation, questions may be submitted online using the Mediasite Player. We will be answering submitted questions during the 45-minute Q&A.

You can ask a question online using the Player by clicking on the “Ask a Question” button (looks like a speech bubble). When the “Ask Question” form appears, enter your name, email address (optional), the subject your question is addressing, and your question. To send your question, click “Ask Question.”

Provide Feedback

We encourage you to provide us with comments and feedback about our webinars. Also, we want to know who is watching our webinars. You can help us by using the “Ask a Question” feature in the Mediasite Player to leave your feedback and contact info: name, company/municipality, and email.

If you’re part of a group viewing the webinar in one room, please provide the name of the company/municipality, the number of people watching, and contact info for one of the participants.

Direct content feedback to Kay Christensen at kay.christensen@wisconsin.gov.

Direct technical feedback to either Christopher Tall at christopher.tall@wisconsin.gov or to Charlie Nettesheim at charles.nettesheim@wisconsin.gov.

Wanted: Comments about CWFPP and SDWLP Policies

The DNR posts policy/guidance documents for 21 days for the public to provide comments on various topics. The Environmental Loans Program has recently posted two policy papers for public comment:

- Eligibility of **water meter** and supervisory control and data acquisition (**SCADA**) costs and projects for Clean Water Fund Program (CWFPP) and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) funding.
- **New affordability criteria** for calculating principal forgiveness (PF) and funding assistance for compliance with new **fiscal sustainability plan (FSP)** requirements; both a result of the recent Water Resource Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA).

Briefly, the Environmental Loans (EL) program is clarifying that **water meter** and **SCADA** purchase and installation are fundable projects through the CWFPP and the SDWLP. The guidance provides more details as to stand-alone projects vs. inclusion of these items as part of a larger project. It also clarifies that simply replacing a handful of water meters is considered operation and maintenance, which is not fundable through the EL programs.

WRRDA requires the state to consider income, **population trends**, and **unemployment information** when awarding principal forgiveness funds. DNR developed PF criteria that incorporates these factors and is proposing that the criteria be applied to both SDWLP and CWFPP projects for consistency.

In addition, WRRDA includes a new requirement for CWFPP projects. Each applicant seeking CWFPP funding must develop a **fiscal sustainability plan**, beginning with applications received after October 1, 2014. To that end, the EL Program is taking a two-tiered approach:

- For a facility **with** the substantive components of a FSP already in place, the applicant will be required to sign and submit a certification form prior to loan closing.
- For a facility **without** the substantive components of a FSP, the EL program is proposing to offer funds to cover all or a portion of the costs associated with the development of an asset management plan for the facility. Depending on the population and MHI of the municipality, 100% of the cost of the plan could be funded (up to \$30,000), with less funds available for higher cost efforts or municipalities with higher populations or median household incomes (MHIs).

Direct questions about **water meters** and **SCADA** to Jeanne Cargill at 608-267-7587 or jeanne.cargill@wisconsin.gov.

Direct questions about the **new affordability criteria** for awarding principal forgiveness or **fiscal sustainability plans** to Becky Scott at 608-267-7584 or rebecca.scott@wisconsin.gov.



Upcoming Deadlines

June 24

- Deadline for SFY 15 SDWLP loan closing.

June 30

- Deadline for SFY 16 SDWLP applications as well as plans and specifications.
- Deadline for SFY 16 CWFPP hardship applications as well as plans and specifications.

September 30

- Deadline for SFY 16 CWFPP principal forgiveness applications as well as plans and specifications.

Status Update: Project Priority Lists (PPLs)

The State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016 **draft** Project Priority Lists (PPLs) for the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) were published to our webpage on March 26, 2015. Due to an IT issue at the DNR, we were unable to send a notification email indicating the availability of the lists until March 30.

Draft Project Priority Lists (PPLs) are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/LoanNews.html#tabx2>.

If a municipality believes their score is incorrect, they have 30 days from the date of their letter to submit additional, supporting documentation to request a re-score.

CWFP

The **draft** CWFP PPL includes the project scores as completed by the Construction Management Engineers (CMEs). If you have questions regarding the **draft** SFY 2016 CWFP PPL, please contact Candice Sovinski at 608-264-8986 or candice.sovinski@wisconsin.gov.

SDWLP

The **draft** SDWLP PPL includes the project scores as completed by DNR Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau staff. If you have questions regarding the **draft** SFY 2016 SDWLP PPL, please contact Mary E. Wagner at 608-267-7475 or marye.wagner@wisconsin.gov.

Benefits of New ITA/PERF Deadline

We anticipate our proposed rule revisions will be implemented early this summer. These rule revisions make October 31 the new deadline for Intent to Apply (ITA) and Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF) submittals. In addition, all ITAs and PERFs must be submitted online, including those for SFY 2017 funding.

We anticipate significant benefits from the new deadline's resulting efficiency! The October 31 deadline for ITA and PERF submittals will allow us to have the **draft** Project Priority Lists (PPL) developed long before the deadline for SDWLP applications and CWFP Hardship applications.

In turn, this will allow municipalities and consulting engineers more time to prepare financial assistance applications and submit them by their respective deadlines. The new deadline should also result in less stress at the end of the year when other activities must draw to a close. DNR anticipates publishing the **draft** PPLs in January 2016, or earlier.

Remember, to be eligible for funding in SFY 2017, a municipality would need to submit their ITA and PERF online by October 31, 2015. PERFs will need to be submitted every year; each PERF submittal will be valid only for one fiscal year.

Direct questions or concerns about revisions to chs. NR 162 and 166, Wis. Adm. Code, to Jeanne Cargill at 608-267-7587 or jeanne.cargill@wisconsin.gov.

If you have questions about entering or submitting ITAs and PERFs online, please contact Becky Mesdjian at 608-266-5888 or rebecca.mesdjian@wisconsin.gov.



Use Most Current Forms

It's time to do a little spring cleaning if you've been reusing the same form that is saved to your computer for the last couple years!

Replace the old version in your files with the most current version found on our forms webpage, dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/EIF/forms/forms.html.

You should use the most up-to-date versions of forms, certificates, and documents because they may have new features and/or significant changes from the old versions.

The most current forms may have extended rights which allow them to be filled out electronically, saved, and printed using Adobe Reader version 8 or higher (free downloads at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>).

We suggest you copy the relevant information from the old version and paste it into a word processing document. You can then copy and paste that information from the word processing document into the most current version of the form.

The following are examples of information you may want to copy: detailed project description; estimate/actual project costs; significant dates; and/or contact information for your municipality, consulting engineering firm, any/all participating municipalities, and/or current/anticipated partners.

You may obtain a hard copy of our most up-to-date forms, certificates, documents, or publications by contacting Cindy Wheeler at 608-266-9955 or cynthia.wheeler@wisconsin.gov.



The *Environmental Loans E-Bulletin* is written by staff in DNR's Environmental Loans Section to provide up-to-date information on both the Clean Water Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program. It is sent out periodically to alert subscribers of the latest news, updates, and upcoming deadlines; to highlight program changes; and to provide assistance on topics that need clarification.

Project Managers:

Jeanne Cargill
policy coordinator
608-267-7587
jeanne.cargill@wisconsin.gov

Michelle Eis
small loans specialist
608-267-0490
michellem.eis@wisconsin.gov

Laurie Fike
CMAR specialist
608-266-4536
laurie.fike@wisconsin.gov

Maureen Hubeler
disbursement specialist,
closeout specialist
608-266-0849
maureen.hubeler@wisconsin.gov

Samantha Jordt
funding sources specialist
608-267-2450
samantha.jordt@wisconsin.gov

Kim Leizinger
disbursement specialist
608-264-8844
kimberly.leizinger@wisconsin.gov

Meja Maka
DBE requirements specialist
608-266-9193
meja.maka@wisconsin.gov

Becky Scott
EPA federal liaison,
Use of American Iron and Steel
608-267-7584
rebecca.scott@wisconsin.gov

Candice Sovinski
Clean Water Fund
Program specialist
608-264-8986
candice.sovinski@wisconsin.gov

Mary (E) Wagner
Safe Drinking Water
Loan Program specialist
608-267-7475
marve.wagner@wisconsin.gov

**Bureau of Community
Financial Assistance**
101 South Webster Street
PO Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Robin Schmidt
Environmental Loans
Section Chief
608-266-3915
robin.schmidt@wisconsin.gov

Tech / Support Staff:

Kay Christensen
outreach coord./admin. support
608-266-3163
kay.christensen@wisconsin.gov

Becky Mesdjian
ELOS data base manager
608-266-5888
rebecca.mesdjian@wisconsin.gov

Cindy Wheeler
administrative support
608-266-9955
cynthia.wheeler@wisconsin.gov

**Remember to contact your
Regional CME prior to your
pre-construction meeting.**

Regional Construction Management Engineers (CMEs):

Northeast Region:

Bob Hannes
920-366-4208
robert.hannes@wisconsin.gov

Northern Region:

Steve Ohm
715-365-8939
steven.ohm@wisconsin.gov

cell number not yet available

South Central Region:

Bernie Robertson
608-516-3623
bernie.robertson@wisconsin.gov

Southeast Region:

Frank Fuja
414-303-1711
francis.fuja@wisconsin.gov

Western Region:

Judy Hayducsko
715-491-3290
judy.hayducsko@wi.gov