

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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Bad Bond Market

As always, the Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF) encourages applicants to diligently move forward toward closing loans.

Further Increase in Market Interest Rates

On March 1st, the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) increased the market rates for assistance agreements approved by a borrower's governing body after April 1, 2022. Since then, the municipal bond market has seen unprecedented interest rate increases. This increases the cost of funds that the EIF uses to make loans. Consequently, DOA announced a further 0.70% increase in the market rates, **effective immediately**. Current market rates are:

- For loans up to 20 years, **3.70%**
- For loans longer than 20 years up to 30 years, **3.90%**

View current loan interest rates for the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) and Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) at:

- dnr.wi.gov/aid/documents/EIF/guide/interest.html

In early June, DOA will review market rates for a possible change, which DOA expects would apply to assistance agreements that a borrower's governing body signs on July 1st or after. Based on current municipal bond market projections, another market rate increase could occur at that time. The EIF encourages applicants to **move forward quickly** with a view toward approving an assistance agreement in June, if possible. This change highlights that DOA reserves the right to make an increase, if needed, to market rates at **any time**. Please direct any questions or concerns to DOA Capital Finance Office staff at DOAEIF@Wisconsin.gov.

Update New Official's Contact Info

We need to have the correct contact information on file for the people in your municipality involved with a CWFP or SDWLP project, regardless of what stage you are at in the process of obtaining funding. Please inform your DNR loan project manager of any newly elected officials and provide any new or updated contact information:

- name
- municipal title
- mailing address
- phone number
- email address (required)



Upcoming Deadlines

Early Spring

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

- SFY 2023 CWFP priority score objection deadline is 30 days after its PPL is published.
- SFY 2023 SDWLP PERF score reevaluation request deadline is 08/14/2022.

May 31

Executed construction contracts due for SFY 2022 SDWLP projects.

June 30

- SFY 2023 SDWLP application deadline (reminder: submit plans & specs to DNR Drinking & Ground Water as well as with the application).
- ALL required bid documentation (including executed construction contracts) due for SFY 2022 CWFP PF projects.

Note: September 30, 2022 is now the SFY 2022 SDWLP loan closing deadline.

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: 608-358-3330 | SDWLP phone: 608-692-4227 | [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.

State Fiscal Year 2023 Projects

The Wisconsin DNR received 899 Intents to Apply (ITAs) with Priority Evaluation & Ranking Formula (PERF) information by the October 31, 2021, deadline for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 funding cycle.

The five Construction Management Engineers have finished reviewing the 571 Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) ITAs/PERFs. The Bureau of Drinking Water & Groundwater expects to finish reviewing the 328 Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP) ITAs/PERFs by the end of April.

ITA approved and PERF finalized

The municipality and consulting engineer will receive an email when the ITA is approved. They will receive a second email once the PERF score is finalized and the Project Priority List (PPL) is posted to our [Project Lists and Intended Use Plans webpage](#). The municipality and their authorized consultant can log in to the online system to see their project's priority score and any important comments or notes about the project.

Objections and reevaluations

Contact the appropriate program coordinator if you would like to pursue a priority score objection or request a PERF score reevaluation.

- The SFY 2023 CWFP priority score objection deadline is 30 days after its PPL is published.
- The SFY 2023 SDWLP PERF score reevaluation request deadline is within 45 days of its application deadline, so August 14, 2022.

Project Priority Lists

All projects with a valid ITA submittal will be placed, in priority score order, on the corresponding SFY 2023 PPL and are eligible to submit a financial assistance application. We anticipate posting the SDWLP PPL within the week of May 2, 2022.

CWFP applications

Applicants of the CWFP may start entering information into the online application system because all the CWFP ITAs/PERFs have been reviewed. The SFY 2023 CWFP Financial Assistance Applications can be submitted starting on July 1, 2022. Note: The Pilot Projects Program application is a PDF and is currently not available to submit through the online system.

September 30, 2022 – CWFP application deadline, if competing for principal forgiveness (PF).

- CWFP applications are accepted year-round for projects not seeking PF.

SDWLP applications

The online application system will become available once all of the SDWLP ITAs have been reviewed. Applicants may then begin entering information and submitting SFY 2023 SDWLP Financial Assistance Applications. Note: June 30th SDWLP application deadline does not apply to the Private Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement Program's Calendar Year 2023 funding, which will have a different deadline near the end of Calendar Year 2022.

June 30, 2022 – SDWLP application deadline, whether competing for principal forgiveness or not.

Online system

The online system has help text built-in to clarify what information and supporting documentation is needed for that question or section. To help applicants through the application process, information, instructions, and guidance documents are on our [Online System webpage](#).

Contact information

Direct comments or questions about entering and submitting applications online to:

- [Suzy Hasheider](#), Database Manager

Direct questions about CWFP application contents to:

- [Lisa Bushby](#), CWFP Coordinator

Direct questions about SDWLP application contents to:

- [Noah Balgooyen](#), SDWLP Coordinator

Direct questions about the CWFP PERF to:

- [DNR Construction Management Engineers](#)

Direct questions about the SDWLP PERF to:

- [Jim Witthuhn](#), DNR Public Water Supply Engineer



EPA's PISCES Recognition Program

On February 16, 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized twenty-seven Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) projects in communities across the country through the George F. Ames Performance and Innovation in the SRF Creating Environmental Success (PISCES) program. These exemplary projects demonstrate leadership in innovative financing, partnership, and problem solving while improving water quality and public health protection. To see the full list of recognized projects and learn more about the award program, visit www.epa.gov/cwsrf/pisces.

Bluffview SD's WWTP upgrade

Wisconsin's Bluffview Sanitary District is recognized with honorable mention in the PISCES program.

The Bluffview Wastewater Treatment Facility, located in south central Wisconsin, was built to treat wastewater from the Badger Army Ammunition Plant. This military industrial installation was constructed in 1942 to support efforts in World War II and later the Korean War and Vietnam War. Original housing built for the Army has been converted to multi-unit housing for the community and now has a population of approximately 700 people. The Bluffview SD provides wastewater service for this community, which has a low median household income.

Total nitrogen limit

In 2016, the Army transferred ownership of the treatment facility to the Bluffview SD. At the time of property transfer, the facility was not able to meet the discharge permit limitations for total nitrogen.



CWFP loan forgiveness and CDBG

In order to meet the total nitrogen limit, the district implemented a \$4.3 million facility upgrade. The district qualified for hardship assistance and received \$2.3 million in CWSRF loan forgiveness and received a Community Development Block Grant for \$500,000 to make the project affordable for its users.

Cleaner effluent

Facility upgrades included the construction of a moving bed biofilm reactor, a groundwater disposal system, a pressure distribution drainfield system, an effluent pump station, a potable well, and additional improvements. The treated effluent is now discharged to a newly installed groundwater distribution system with groundwater monitoring wells. These upgrades will produce a cleaner effluent and enable the plant to meet the groundwater total nitrogen limit.

Hello, Babies! We're happy to announce our families are growing



Lisa & Henry - Many of you already know that Lisa Bushby, Clean Water Fund Program Coordinator, was on maternity leave the last couple of months. She is back from leave part-time and plans to return to work full-time on July 5, 2022. Lisa's son, Henry, enjoys chewing on anything that he can get his hands on, nursing, stroller rides, and being read to.



Andy & Siena - Andy Behm, Capital Finance Officer with the Department of Administration, will be on parental leave May 16-July 15, 2022. Andy's daughter, Siena, likes smiling, riding in the stroller, taking baths, and looking out windows. She also enjoys using municipal water and sewer services and looks forward to benefiting more fully from those services.



Andrew & Brielle - Andrew Dutcher, plan reviewer in the DNR Wastewater Program, just returned from paternity leave. Andrew's daughter, Brielle, is calmest outside and enjoys cuddles except for when she wants to look out and see the world. Brielle already has increased the family's utilization of water and sewer services by getting any clothing within spitting distance dirty.

Three New Loan Project Managers

We are pleased to announce three new project managers in the Environmental Loans Section. Please give a warm welcome to Dee Surillo, Michelle Brietzman, and Erika Mills! All three will be working out of the Community Financial Assistance (CFA) Bureau space in the DNR Central Office. They are learning about the programs and general loan project management as well as how to process awards for the Private Lead Service Line Replacement Program. Dee and Michelle started their positions on March 28th. Erika started on April 25th. Here's a little something from the new loan project managers to help you get to know them better:

Dee Surillo

Dee Surillo has been with the DNR since 2018. Before joining us, she served as the Remediation and Redevelopment Program business coordinator working on the fiscal aspects of that program. Dee can be contacted at 608-445-4352 and Dominga.Surillo1@Wisconsin.gov.

Dee shares with us, "Hello Everyone! I am excited to start in this position, and begin this new role, joining the Environmental Loans team! I'm very much looking forward to continuing to expand my knowledge of the many great programs the department manages to safeguard our resources. In my free time I enjoy reading (especially mysteries), spending my time outdoors, particularly hiking and sightseeing. I also enjoy traveling and attending live music events. I am so excited to be a part of this team. I look forward to working with you!"

Michelle Brietzman

Michelle Brietzman came from the DNR Grants Section where she was the Federal Recreation Trails and Stewardship Grants project manager. Prior to being in Grants, she worked at the Department of Revenue and in the DNR Air Program. Contact Michelle at 608-490-0178 and MichelleE.Brietzman@Wisconsin.gov.

Michelle shares with us, "Hi! I'm so excited to delve into the world of Loans! Here is a little about me for those that don't know me. I have spent most of my career in IT as a programmer as well as doing project management and business analyst duties. Most of my free time is spent hanging with my husband and best friend, Robin, watching Wisconsin sports, training for triathlons, doing yoga, and enjoying my growing family of 4 adult children and currently 7 grandkids! I look forward to working with everyone, and the opportunity ahead!"

Erika Mills

Erika Mills has been a State of Wisconsin employee since 2015. She was an LTE in the DNR CFA Bureau. Since then, she has mostly worked in Human Resources and its

related fields. Once available, Erika's new phone number and email address will be posted to the [Environmental Loans Staff Directory webpage](#).

Erika shares with us, "It's my pleasure to be (re)joining the CFA team! I am excited to take on this important new role and help tackle the impacts of climate change, environmental justice, and endangered resources for the people of Wisconsin." Erika enjoys the outdoors in every way imaginable, especially travelling. During the worst of the Pandemic, she took her two dogs out hiking and camping all over WI, IL, and MI. Erika also loves to volunteer with the DNR Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Division.



Dee Surillo



Erika Mills

CME Corner: Engineer Recruitment

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Community Financial Assistance is recruiting to fill a Construction Management Engineer (Wastewater Engineer Entry, Senior, or Advanced) vacancy in the Environmental Loans Section. This position will work out of the Milwaukee office.

The job (and full position description) was announced on April 27, 2022, through [Wisc.Jobs](https://www.wisconsin.gov/jobs).

- Search for Job ID 5838
- **Applications are due May 9th**

The CME position is responsible for implementing field oversight responsibilities of the Clean Water Fund Program, Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, and other DNR loan programs in the [South East Region \(SER\)](#).

Contact information

If you have questions about becoming a Construction Management Engineer (CME), please reach out to Matt Marcum at MatthewR.Marcum@Wisconsin.gov or 608-575-8825.