

SUBGROUP: Funding Sustainability

Remediation and Redevelopment External Advisory Group



Meeting Minutes

Remediation and Redevelopment External Advisory Group – Funding Sustainability

Tues. Dec. 5, 2023 | 10-11:30 a.m. | Milwaukee Water Commons | Adams Garden Park
1836 W. Fond Du Lac Ave. | Milwaukee, WI 53205

Action items/assignments for next meeting

- **ALL:** Subscribe to the [RR EAG listserv](#) to receive information about future meeting dates, agendas, resources, and other EAG-relevant items. Zoom attendees are automatically added to the listserv; if you would like to opt out, please email Jodie.Thistle@wisconsin.gov.

Introductions

In-person attendees

- Mark Rutkowski, Chairperson, Shannon & Wilson, Inc
- Judy Fassbender, DNR
- Cory Katzban, The Sigma Group
- Alyssa Sellwood, DNR
- Michael Prager, DNR
- Jodie Thistle, DNR
- Jody Irland, DNR
- Jennifer Borski, DNR
- Rob Hoverman, DNR
- Molly Schmidt, DNR

Zoom attendees

- Chad Rogness, Lifetime Radon
- Chris Valcheff, True North Consultants
- Gena Larson, DNR
- Steven Wiley, Director of Planning and Development, City of Ashland
- Donald Gallo, Donald Gallo Law
- Ray Tierney, SCS Engineers
- Ashely Wagner, Cedar Corporation
- Tom Coogan, DNR
- Heather Herr, GEI Consultants
- Lanette Altenbach, AECOM Technical Services
- Lynda Schweikert, Chippewa County Land Conservation and Forest Management Department
- Jason Lowery, DNR
- Cory Katzban, The Sigma Group

Review Takeaways from Last Meeting

- Meeting notes and materials from [Sept. 7 2023 meeting](#)
- Steven Wiley (City of Ashland) shared that the city has applied for an EPA grant but hasn't been successful the last two times; need to reevaluate the approach and the application if they choose to reapply again. Many municipalities with smaller staff rely on consultants to help with grants because it can be a challenge to apply and administer the grants.

Overview of General State Budget Process and Timelines, DNR

- The funding process is lengthy and involves lots of people, including legislature and NRB.
- Think about categorizing the work of the subgroup into easy successes, long-term changes, and the middle area that lies between the two.

Funding Gaps Prioritization Activity

- Reviewed funding gaps (attached to agenda)
- Objective of activity: Identify the top five that need to be prioritized.
 - Outcomes: Vapor sites without an RP, address community health concerns, flexible cleanup funding, emergency water for private wells, small businesses that can't pay for cleanup

SUBGROUP: Funding Sustainability

Remediation and Redevelopment External Advisory Group



- General discussion after activity results
 - **Vapor and emergency water** -- Both have an acute risk. Funding is needed.
 - **DERF insolvency** –The stalled sites have a domino effect on the community and connects to other funding gaps such as vapor sites without RP, community health concerns, and small business that can't pay for cleanups.
 - **Small businesses that can't pay** – once funding is acquired for small businesses, then prioritization can begin.
 - **Holistic funding for technical resources** –By offering resources to the community, can help them move forward through liability protection and grants for funding for the project.
 - Next steps could include understanding the budget, legislative, and statutory processes better to draft a proposal.

Ready for Reuse (R4R) – Gena Larson, DNR

- [Program overview](#)
- Increase program interest brainstorm and discussion.
 - Site investigation must be complete to be eligible—this is a program rule. Money comes from 104K EPA Federal funding, we compete nationally for funding.
 - Open cooperative agreement covers cleanup only.
 - Closed cooperative agreement is the most flexible, can pay for investigation also.
 - Municipalities are strapped for cash, especially rural areas. Often, don't have time or staff resources that would qualify for R4R.
 - Contact league of municipalities and share a flyer to be passed along to members.

Agenda Repair: Summary of the last year of RR EAG Funding Sustainability and next steps in 2024

- Started Nov. 2022 – focused on data, gaps, inequities, and deficiencies.
- Currently have one proposal.
- Will work toward solution driven agendas. Goal is to develop a resolution moving forward.

Next Steps and Assignments

Next meeting date

- Remediation and Redevelopment External Advisory Group (EAG) – Jan. 25, 2024
- RR EAG Subgroup Series – Feb. 28, 2023

Adjourn

FUNDING SUSTAINABILITY SUBGROUP

Remediation and Redevelopment External Advisory Group (RR EAG)

Dec. 5, 2023

10 - 11:30 a.m.

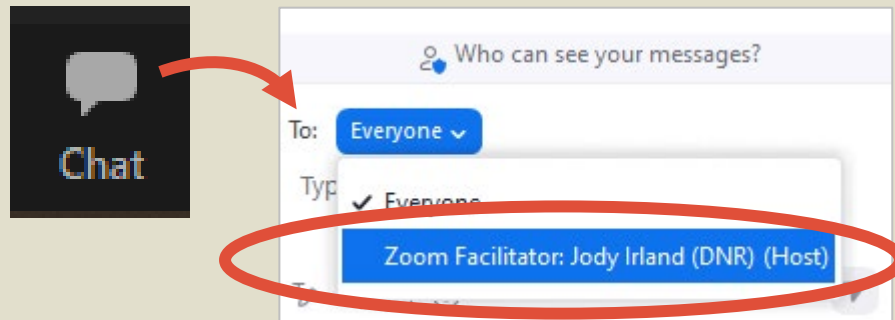
Milwaukee Water Commons
Adams Garden Park
1836 W. Fond Du Lac Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53205



Zoom Logistics

Written Comments/Questions

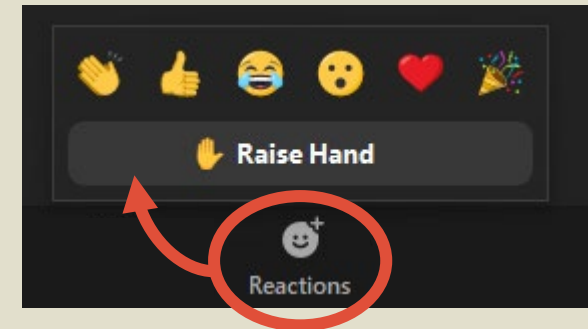
- Use **chat** and select Zoom facilitator in the “To” dropdown
- Remarks will be read out loud by facilitator



(direct message)

Verbal Comments/Questions

- **Raise hand** to request a turn to talk (* 9 on phone)
- Please unmute when your name is called (*6 on phone)



Agenda



Find agenda and meeting materials at
dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/brownfields/rreag

Introductions

- Agenda repair
- Meeting logistics
- Future meeting dates

Review Takeaways from Last Meeting

Review Identified Funding Gaps

Overview of DNR Budget process and timeline

Group Exercise to prioritize the different funding gaps

Ready for Reuse

Next Steps and Assignments

Future Meeting Dates

RR EAG - January 25, 2024

1 – 4 p.m.

Subgroup Series – Feb. 28

10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Madison GEF 2

RR EAG - April 11, 2024

1 – 4 p.m.

Subgroup Series – May 29

10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Madison GEF 2

RR EAG - July 25, 2024 (tentative)

Introductions

- Name and affiliation

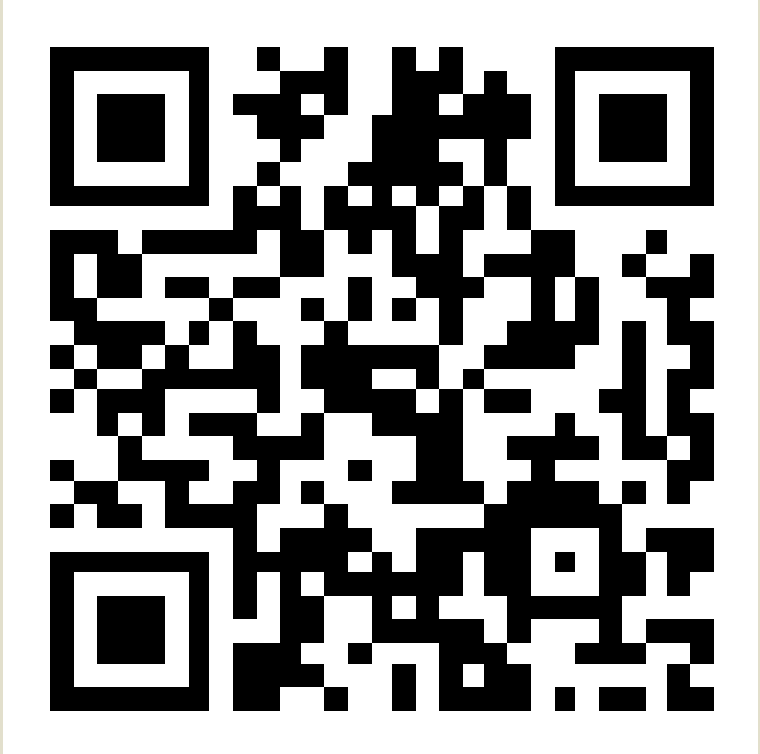
Slido

- Icebreaker test question

<https://www.slido.com/>

CODE - #3989495

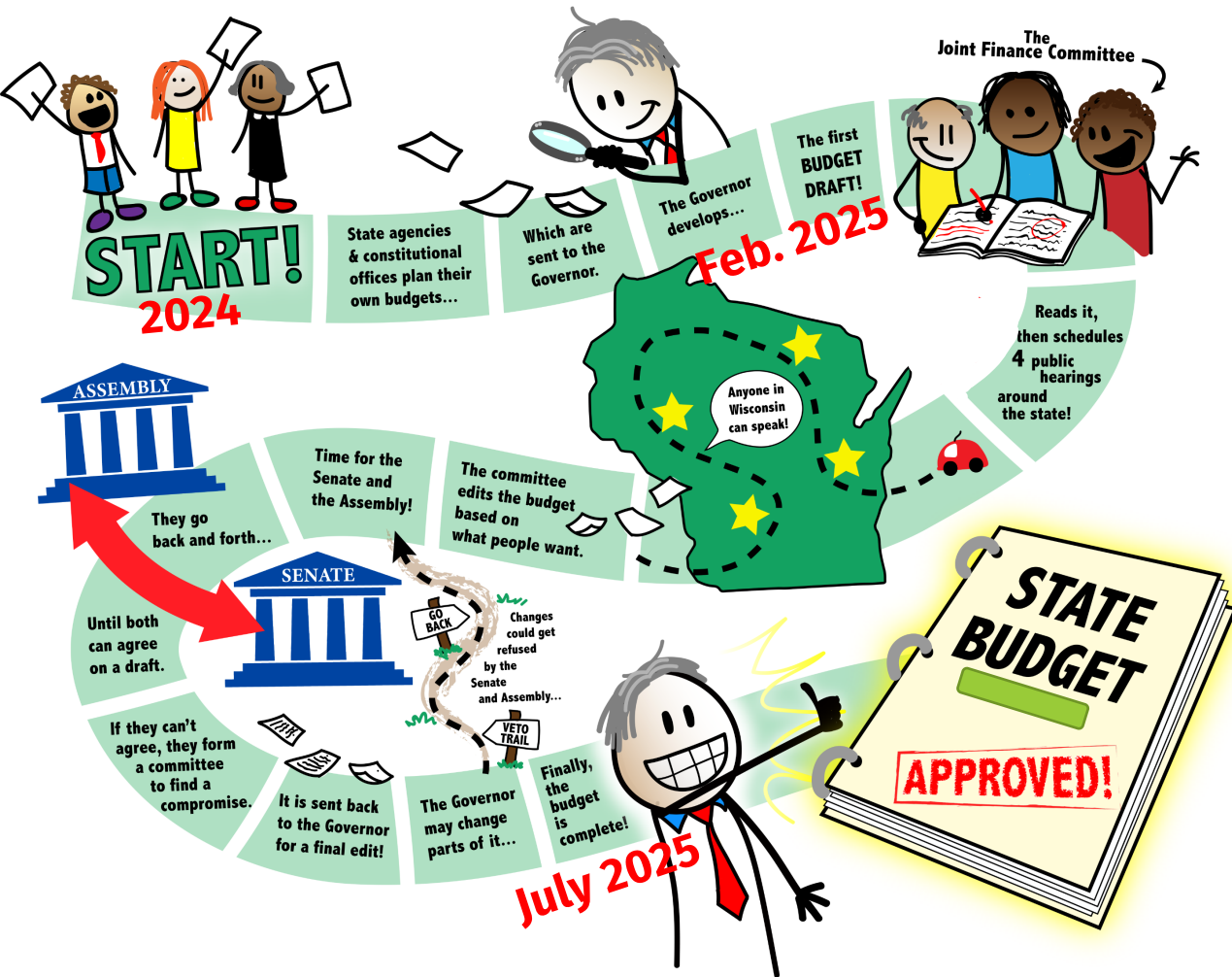
<https://app.sli.do/event/uCVrXQbhgVR9DthPY3senW>



Review Takeaways from Last Meeting

- **Update Federal/ State Funding Opportunities**
 - WAM
 - EPA Grants
- **Plan for Subgroup**
 - Identify funding gaps
 - Prioritize for solution identification
 - Draft white papers with recommendations for priority gaps/ needs
- **Funding Case Studies Scenarios**
- **DERF Funding Concerns**

Budget Proposal Timelines



New funding and programs, changes to existing funding, etc. for all agencies is included in the biannual State Budget

- DNR Programs submit budget requests to Secretary's office
- DNR goes to Natural Resources Board
- DNR Submits Budget Requests to DOA/Governor

Review of Identified Funding Gaps (List #1)

- A. Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Fund (DERF) insolvency
- B. Resources for long-term maintenance of vapor impacted properties
- C. Stalled leaking underground storage tank sites due to Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Award (PECFA) sunset
- D. Resources for emergency water for contaminated private drinking water wells
- E. Funding for innocent landowners – people who acquired property and can demonstrate through due diligence that contamination was not suspected at the time of transaction
- F. Funding for sites where a small business owner or small business whose operations caused contamination but they can't afford to pay for cleanup

Review of Identified Funding Gaps (List #2)

- G. Sites where a local government and/or local businesses want to redevelop but there is a responsible party who is not doing the cleanup or making sufficient progress with cleanup
- H. Funding for holistic technical assistance to community groups or local governments (e.g., from liability planning to redevelopment)
- I. Funding to support citizens or neighborhood groups that are concerned about the health and safety impacts of contaminated sites in their communities
- J. Flexible cleanup funding
- K. Sites with known or potential vapor issues and no responsible party

Funding Gap Prioritization

What criteria should be considered in picking the top priority funding gaps to evaluate further?

- Broad public benefit
- Benefits to human health
- Equity, how much will this lead to improvements for under-resourced communities.
- Feasibility – likelihood that some action could successfully be taken to address the gap
- Program purview - Is this beyond the DNR's purview but something another agency may be more efficient in addressing?
- Duplicative effort - Are others already working on this topic?

Funding Gap Prioritization - Group Exercise

Attendees in-room or online can login to Slido with a phone or on computer to select priority funding gaps



<https://www.slido.com/>

CODE - #3989495

<https://app.sli.do/event/uCVrXQbhgVR9DthPY3senW>

Debrief on Funding Gaps Prioritization

- Why did you select specific funding gaps as top priorities?
- Report out and share your thoughts
- Next Steps



Ready for Reuse

Overview

- Primarily a LOAN program, some grant funding available
 - Interest-free
 - Flexible payback terms
 - Applicant must be municipal
- Currently \$2.9M available (approx. \$1.745M closed CA, \$1.245M open CA)

Ready for Reuse

Discussion

- Is the program widely known?
 - Where are the unreached potential recipients?
 - How can we better reach them?
- What are the biggest factors that may make RFR unappealing to a project?
 - How can we address them?

NEXT STEPS AND ASSIGNMENTS



CONNECT WITH US

Thank You!

DNR RR Program Contacts:

dnr.wi.gov/topic/Brownfields/Contact.html



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"WILD WISCONSIN:
OFF THE RECORD"