

WS Coordinator Roundtable: SRF Panel

Ashley: EPA CWSRF Coordinator

- Federal perspective on state revolving loan program...grant from EPA to state
- Will eventually have federal funding reduced or eliminated, but program should be sustainable due to it being a loan
- Each state has their own specific program

- CWSRF program recently amended to add new eligibilities
 - WIFIA: water infrastructure financing act
 - Extended loan terms
 - Green requirements for projects
 - Can be used to fund projects that fall into the typical SRF gaps
 - Keep up with state changes to the SRF plan
 - Website: twdb.tx.gov - financial assistance - CWSRF

Mark Evans: TWDB SRF

- TWDB has ample money through numerous programs that is currently underutilized
- SRF has low cost funding (subsidized interest rates); this year \$525 million available
- Can now fund almost all wastewater projects through recent WRDA authorization
 - Extended loan terms up to 30 years
 - Federal grant monies in program have subsidized interest rates
- Pass through type funding can be used to address OSSF issues; especially if they are removed and connected to centralized system
- Pass through funding can be used to fund OSSF repairs/replacements in areas where centralized systems are not feasible or cost effective
- NPS projects have a scoring advantage in SRF funding...funding set aside specifically for NPS projects

Key points for working with government programs:

- Understand the paperwork involved
- Have a key point of contact within the program
 - Mark and his staff can help with this

Nick Dornack: Plum Creek WSC - Hillside Terrace project

- Must remember that funds have to be paid back as it is a loan program, so be sure to couch that subject with stakeholders in a project up front
- Hillside Terrace is a septic to sewer project that utilizes SRF for the conversion and 319 for OSSF decommissioning
- Problem identified as a high priority project by watershed stakeholders
- Originally looked at EDAP program at TWDB, but didn't qualify
- SRF was next option...polled subdivision and found out that area qualifies for 70% loan forgiveness
 - Made much better economic sense and enabled the city to recoup their upfront costs much faster
 - Selling the project from an economic perspective was key to getting this one off the ground
- Local connections were key and the good foundations developed in the WPP process paved the way

- Not a fast process, but one that can be effective

Clarifying point: Who can get these loans?

- Typically go to political subdivisions (counties, cities, river authorities) which doesn't include water supply corporations
 - Recent WRDA amendments has changed some of this
 - Pass through funds may even be able to go through subdivisions
- Ohio implemented an interest rate reduction program to incentivize other ancillary projects as well

What are some of the changes made to program?

- Some of the 319 program plan items - now line itemed
 - Construction, repair, replacement of water treatment works or even ossfs
 - Manage, reduce and treat surface/subsurface drainage water
 - MS4s and CAFOs now eligible for funds
 - Stormwater conveyance that provide no treatment even qualify
 - Purple pipe (reuse) projects can also qualify for SRF funds
 - Develop and implement watershed projects (stormwater BMPs, partnerships, planning, etc.)

WIFIA eligibility: no funds yet, but planning what they will fund in the future

- All SRF project eligible, but looking at modified rankings for projects that fall in gaps perhaps
- Looking to fund high dollar projects (\$20 mill from large areas; \$5mill for small areas)
 - Will have listening sessions for stakeholder feedback on what program will fund

Specific project examples for CWSRF

- Wetland restoration
- Streambank restoration
- OSSF decommissioning of tank and laterals
- Landfill liners
- Tree/shrub plantings
- Pervious pavement
- Rainwater harvesting
- Irrigation infrastructure improvements
- Green funding options too

TWDB Financial Assistance website has good concise info on program facts; each page has factsheet at top of page

- CWSRF: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/CWSRF/index.asp>
- EDAP: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/edap/>
- SWIFT: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/SWIFT/index.asp>
- Ag Water Conservation Grants: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/AWCG/index.asp>
- Ag Water Conservation Loans: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/AWCL/index.asp>
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/DWSRF/index.asp>
- TWDB Flood Protection Planning Programs: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/grant/FPP.asp>
- Groundwater Conservation District Loan program: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/GDLP/index.asp>
- And others

Texas Water Infrastructure Coordinating Committee (TWICC)

- Entities can submit projects to group for guidance on what best funding source is
- Committee includes state, federal and private funding programs
- Just google TWICC for website and list of agencies participating

For projects like wetland restoration, who gets the loan and how is it paid back?

- Normally see political subdivisions looking for alternative treatment options
- Bonding process typically used to pay for it all...TWDB funds are typically available at better than market interest rates
- Typically loan at 155 basis points better than what is available to a borrower

Watch over the next few years as new ideas for program eligibility expands

- See Texas Intended Use Plans to see how program changes from year to year

Projects get collected, prioritized and ranked

- Project demand is 1.6 billion, but many of these really wanting grant dollars
- Funds are underutilized as a result

Really very few NPS related projects that cannot be funded through SRF...use same funding guidelines as NPS program

Priority system is in place but smaller demand than supply trumps that

- If looking for loan forgiveness, must contact TWDB and be put on the list

TWDB staff will come to your local meeting to discuss SRF program upon request

- Get on website, click map for regional office and contact office manager