

The Stream Line

On Kentucky's State Revolving Fund Program

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Public comment period for 2011 IUPs ends Sept. 7

The 2011 Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plans (IUPs) and project priority lists are available for public review and comment until Sept. 7.

They can be viewed on the DOW website at water.ky.gov or the KIA website at www.kia.ky.gov. Copies of the plan may also be viewed at the main DOW and KIA offices (addresses and contact information shown left) or at any DOW field office or area development district office.

The IUP identifies the goals of the CWSRF and DWSRF program and describes how the money will be used to achieve those goals. The IUP was prepared jointly by DOW and KIA.

There is approximately \$142,672,265 available in

CWSRF low-interest loans for projects to prevent and control water pollution in Kentucky. This includes wastewater, storm water and nonpoint source projects.

On the drinking water side, there is approximately \$43,103,322 available in DWSRF low-interest loans for the construction of drinking water projects in Kentucky.

To be considered eligible to receive a loan, a project must be identified on the project priority list, which is attached to the IUP. Comments from the public are required in finalizing the plan.

The funds are part of the state revolving fund, a low-interest loan program created to provide a perpetual low-cost source of funding for a wide

range of efforts to protect or improve water quality and to improve public health. Construction loans carry a 20-year repayment period while loans for planning and design carry shorter repayment periods.

While the call for projects period for the 2011 IUP has closed, the 2012 call for projects period will begin in October. Be watching the DOW and KIA websites for more information coming soon.



Sustainable infrastructure critical to preserving water assets

(This article was compiled by the Kentucky Division of Water from the following references: (1) Allbee, S. 2005. "America's Pathway to Sustainable Water and Wastewater Systems." Water Asset Management International; (2) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Sustainable Infrastructure for Water and Wastewater Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/>)

America's water assets are critical to the country's public health and economic, environmental and cultural vitality. The delivery of water and wastewater services is accomplished through infrastructure composed of collection and delivery systems, treatment and distribution facilities, public and private sector resources, and the use of science, engineering and technological applications. The infrastructure also includes a complex web of local, state and federal regulatory requirements,

and the involvement of human resources on a wide and varied scale.

Water and wastewater infrastructure service is considered so basic to the wellbeing of America's citizens that it has come to be taken for granted. Most, but not all of our population has access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. Our nation acted with a sense of commitment to make safe drinking water and wastewater services available to most communities equally, regardless of ge-

ography, income levels or social circumstances.

Despite the progress made, the needs that demand attention continue to grow unabated. Many water and wastewater service providers are tested with renewing the aging parts of systems, upgrading the system performance to align with higher environmental objectives, expanding the service to accommodate growth, all while sustaining low fees for services. The most significant upcoming challenge is to efficiently and effectively man-



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age aging water and wastewater systems (Allbee 2005).

Allbee stated in a 2005 article, "America's Pathway to Sustainable Water and Wastewater Systems," "the costs of maintaining current levels of services to the customer and of removing pollutants at treatment plants are rising dramatically. The infrastructure is aging, populations are growing, and land development is putting pressure on the system for expansion of sewer and water lines."

While Allbee suggests a three percent per year increase in water and sewer rates would cover the costs, he recognizes that at least a quarter of the public will find these higher rates unaffordable. It is therefore urgent for utilities to apply more "business-like decision rules and processes under a well thought out and deliberate strategy for achieving outcomes." Allbee also suggests that the "paradigm shift" for water and wastewater uses a "transition from 'building and operating' to 'managing' assets, extending assets, optimizing maintenance and renewal and developing accurate long-term funding strategies." (Allbee, 2005)

In recent years, the federal government has been encouraging municipal water, stormwater and wastewater utilities to operate more efficiently and effectively as a means to sustain services in the future. In response to various studies identifying gaps between funding needs and funding availability at the local and national level to repair aging infrastructure, the EPA has developed a "Sustainable Water Infrastructure" initiative. The Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative guides our

efforts in changing how the nation views, values, manages and invests in its water infrastructure. The EPA is working with the water industry to identify best practices that have helped many of the nation's utilities address a variety of management challenges and extend the use of these practices to a greater number of utilities.

The EPA has focused on a number of measures that it believes will enhance the performance of municipal water, stormwater and wastewater systems. The goal is to help utilities maintain or "sustain" effective services into the future, by professionalizing their internal management, as well as by raising new revenues. The Four Pillars included in this initiative are:

Better management, which will shift the utility management model beyond compliance to sustainability and improved performance by focusing on utility management systems, such as environmental management systems (EMS) and asset management, capacity development, and selection of innovative, cost-effective technologies

Full cost pricing, which will help utilities recognize their full costs for providing service over the long-term and to implement pricing structures that effectively recover costs and promote environmentally sound decisions by customers. Full costs, meaning factoring all costs—past, present, and future operations, maintenance, and capital costs—into prices and rate structures and then to implement a pricing structure designed to recover costs and promote water efficiency.

Water efficiency, which can reduce the strain on aging

water and wastewater utilities and can sometimes delay or even eliminate the need for costly new construction to expand system capacity. WaterSense is an EPA partnership to promote water-efficient products and services in the residential and commercial sector, in particular, through labeling and marketing programs.

Watershed approach, which encourages adoption of watershed management principles and tools into utility planning and management practices, so that key decision-makers consider watershed-based, cost effective alternatives along with traditional treatment technology investment choices. Watershed management approaches include, but are not limited to, source water protection, water quality trading, centralized management of decentralized systems, smart growth approaches to stormwater and wastewater management, watershed approaches to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting, sustainable watershed financing and watershed approaches to restoring impaired waters.

More valuable tools and resources regarding the Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative can be found at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Sustainable Infrastructure for Water and Wastewater Website: <http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/>. The DOW staff can assist water and wastewater utilities in implementing the Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative. Contact DOW today to inquire about more Sustainable Infrastructure tools and resources: (502) 564-3410 or <http://water.ky.gov/>

The Stream Line

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Community Spotlight: Covington, Kentucky

Rainwater harvest project makes “cents” in Covington

ARRA project educates public while improving the environment

By Alison Simpson

A \$1.2 million rainwater harvest project recently completed in northern Kentucky with federal stimulus funds will have economic, environmental and education benefits for the area it serves.

As far back as 2007, city planners in Covington began discussing the idea of harvesting rainwater from nearby Prisoner’s Lake into an irrigation pond in Devou Park. The plan would save money on the purchase of water, treatment chemicals and the energy to pump it.

But the benefits won’t stop there.

By reducing outflow from Prisoner’s Lake, the project is expected to alleviate the problem of combined sewer overflows (CSOs). With the Sanitation District No. 1, located in northern Kentucky, under a consent decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency because of this problem, the project would reduce rainwater flow – a major contributor to CSOs.

When city planners

learned about the availability of funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), they knew their project would be a good candidate.

“We always wanted to harvest rainwater, but it was the green component of the ARRA funding that really piqued our interest,” said Tom Logan, director of public improvements for the city of Covington. “When the ARRA funds came available is when we realized it could happen.”

Logan and consulting engineer Jim Shumate of CDS Associates, Inc. oversaw the project. Construction began in late October 2009 and is now nearly complete. Logan said the late start date presented problems with weather.

“There was a lot of excavation with this project and we were doing it through fall, winter and spring,” he said. “We had one of the snowiest Februarys in our history, but even with all that, the schedule was not too delayed.”

The plans called for construction of a pump station and force main to transfer



Photo courtesy of CDS Associates

Crews work on the irrigation pond at Devou Park in Covington.

water from the lake into the irrigation pond at the park. The operation of the pump is controlled by the water level of the lake and the pond when operating in summer mode. The project also included improvements to the embankment of the pond to prevent leaks.

“We had worked with SD1 before on projects, but this was our first project navigating and leading the charge,” Logan said. “We are a municipality that doesn’t typically do SRF funding. ARRA added another layer and at times we struggled.”

Despite these hurdles, the project met the tight ARRA deadlines, which required the contract to be in place and all conditions of the loan agreement fulfilled by Feb. 17, 2010. ARRA funding also required certifications that all equipment be manufactured in the United States and that Davis-Bacon wage rates be applied to all workers.

Logan said the community response to the project has been very positive. Residents

are pleased with the economic savings and the potential to protect the environment, not to mention “this magnificent pond on the golf course,”

Logan said the project has also provided educational opportunities.

“We have been able to use it to educate the community about the fact that it’s a green project, that we are harvesting water and also how it improves the CSOs,” Logan explained.

Logan said the rainwater harvesting project has set the bar for more green projects in Covington, which could lead to more opportunities for innovation and education about the benefits of green infrastructure.



Photo courtesy of CDS Associates

The irrigation pond before work began.

News You Can Use

SRF Binding Commitments

MAY 2010

Fund A (Clean water):

- Oldham Co. Sewer District, \$1,500,000
- Oldham Co. Sewer District, \$1,000,000
- Oldham Co. Sewer District, \$1,930,000

JUNE 2010

Fund A (Clean water):

- Lexington Fayette Urban Co. Government, \$10,500,000
- Lexington Fayette Urban Co. Government, \$3,928,375

Fund F (Drinking water):

- Columbia Adair Water Commission, \$1,694,000

JULY 2010

Fund A (Clean water):

- Oldham Co. Sewer District, \$250,000
- Sanitation District #1, \$17,146,500

Fund F (Drinking water):

- Adair Co. Water District, \$4,000,000
- City of Louisa, \$1,700,000

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