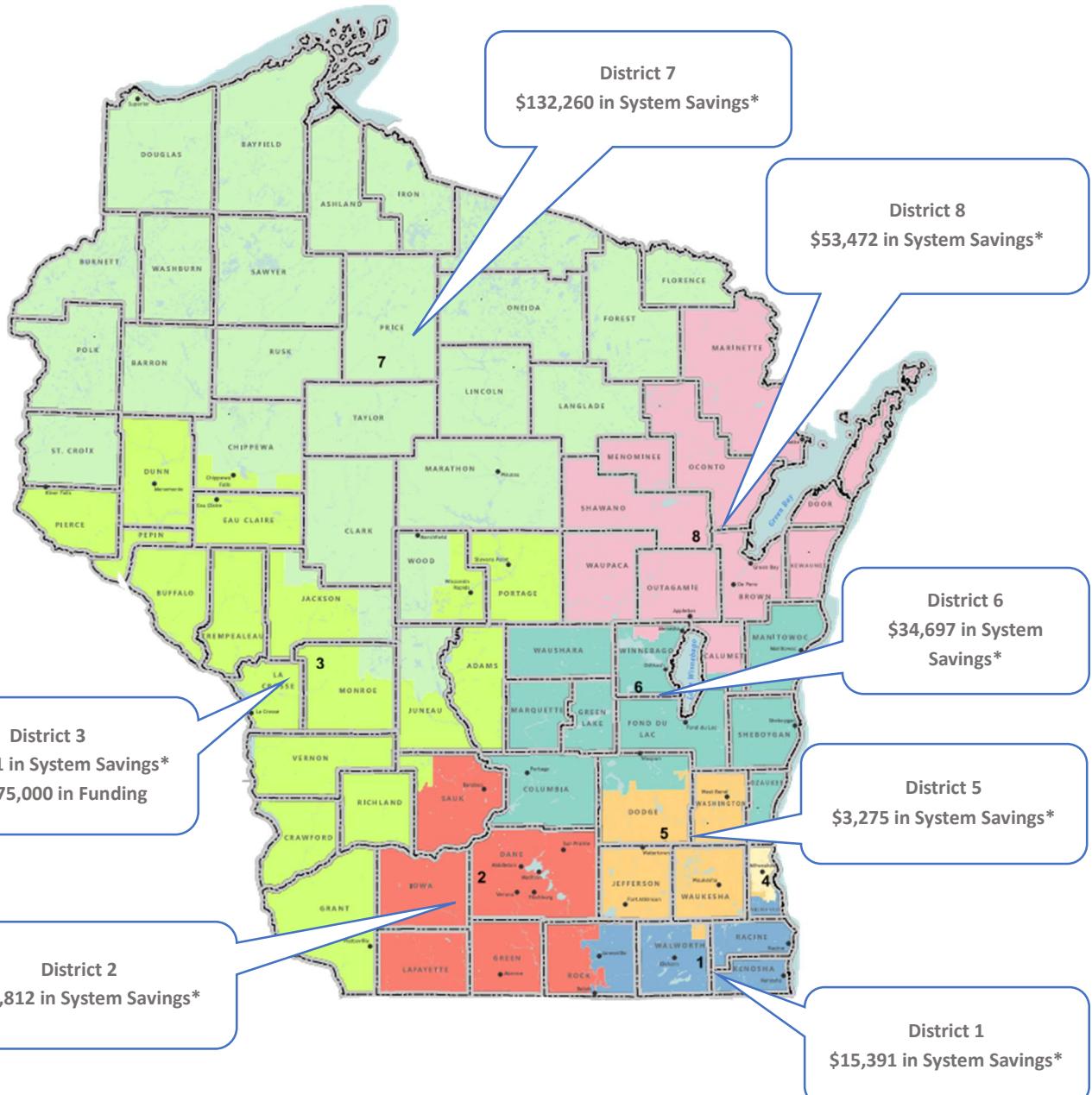




WISCONSIN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

2025 IMPACT ON WISCONSIN



** Includes significant visits only. Does not reflect all WRWA assistance provided throughout the year.*





Provides Training...

WRWA continues to be the leading provider of training in the state of Wisconsin to those in the water and wastewater industries. In fact, WRWA is one of the leading trainers of water and wastewater system personnel in the nation. In 2025, WRWA conducted a total of **147** training sessions and events. These were attended by **5,350** operators, managers, administrative personnel, plumbers, and business representatives.

Technical Assistance...

Providing technical assistance to operators of small rural water and wastewater systems throughout Wisconsin is the backbone of our services. WRWA conducted **3,207** on-site technical assistance visits in 2025 in addition to over **5,670** phone calls to and from systems. WRWA currently has a field staff of 11 providing on-site technical assistance to water and wastewater systems in the state.

WRWA technical assistance is provided in several areas, including regulatory compliance, utility management, solving distribution system problems, treatment, emergency response, source water protection, system operations assistance, energy efficiency, and providing loaner equipment.

And Resources for Project Funding!

WRWA works closely with USDA Rural Development to help rural communities secure loans, grants, and loan guarantee programs necessary for replacing worn out equipment and expanding operations. During 2025, Rural Development assisted the town of Campbell with a low-interest loan for \$30,835,000 and a grant of \$8,540,000 to install a municipal water system necessary to reduce their high levels of PFAS. The 4,500 residents of Campbell have been on state-funded bottled water for five years due to the high PFAS levels.



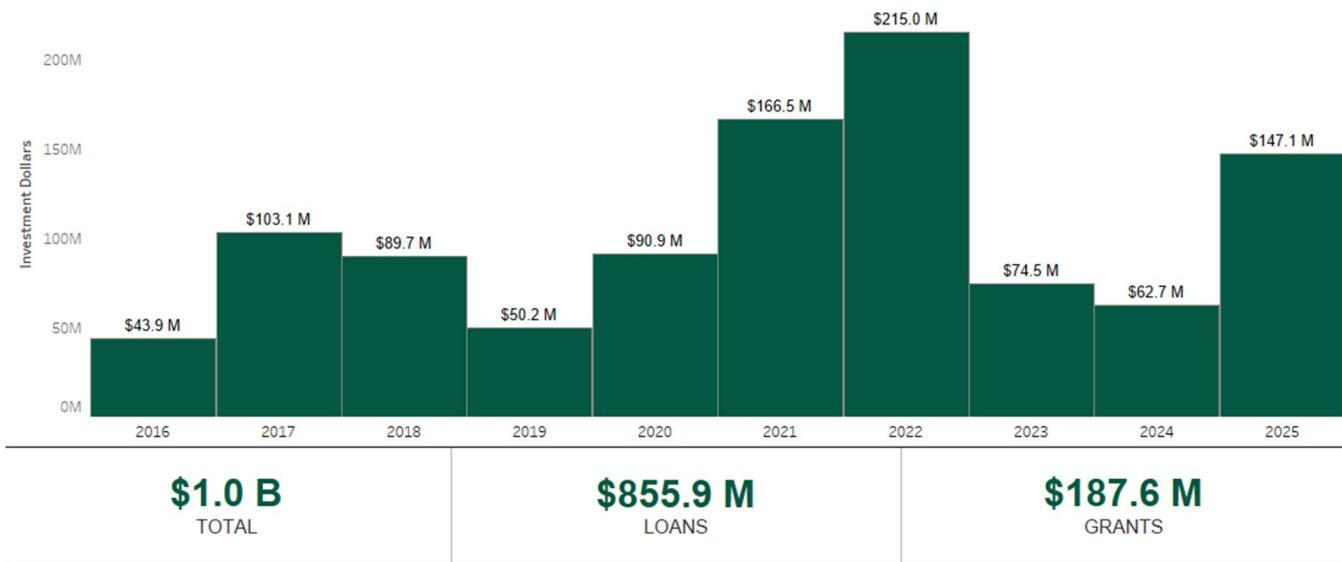
Rural Development

Community Facilities & Water/Environmental

Project Funding History – All Districts

District: All

Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental



The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: All. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

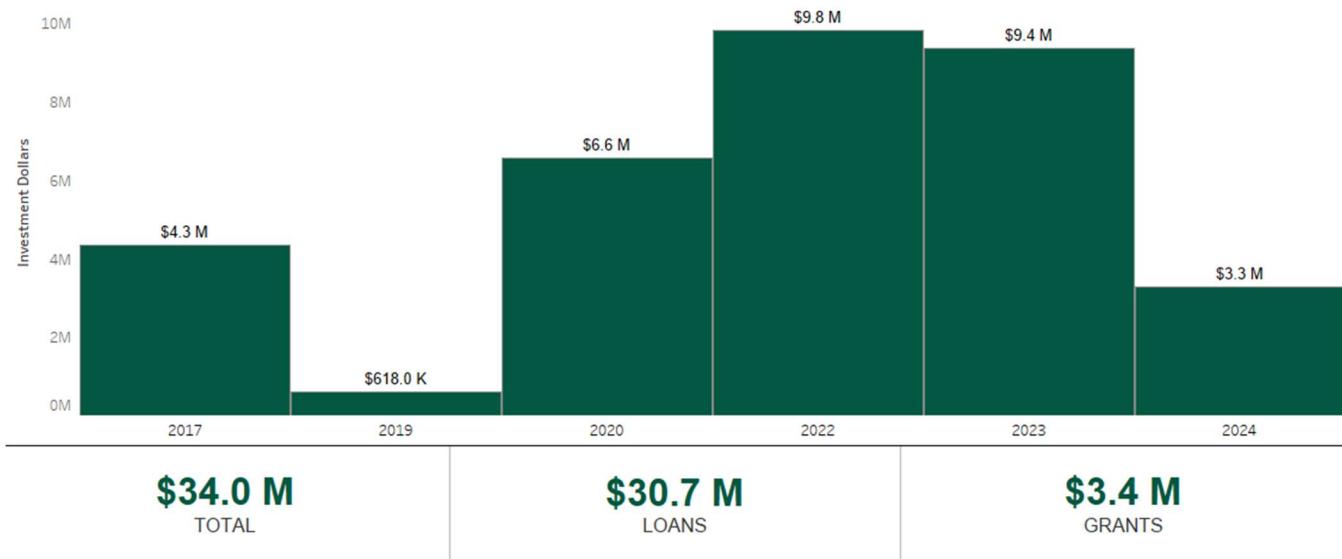
Rural Development

Community Facilities & Water/Environmental

Project Funding History By District

District: 1

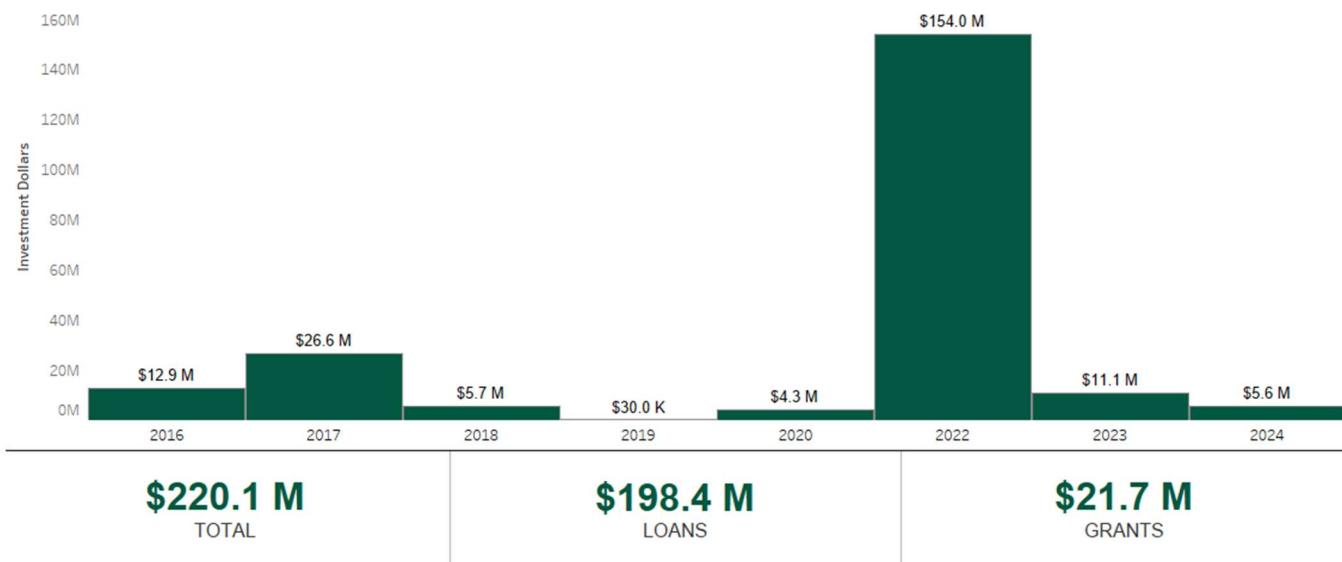
Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental



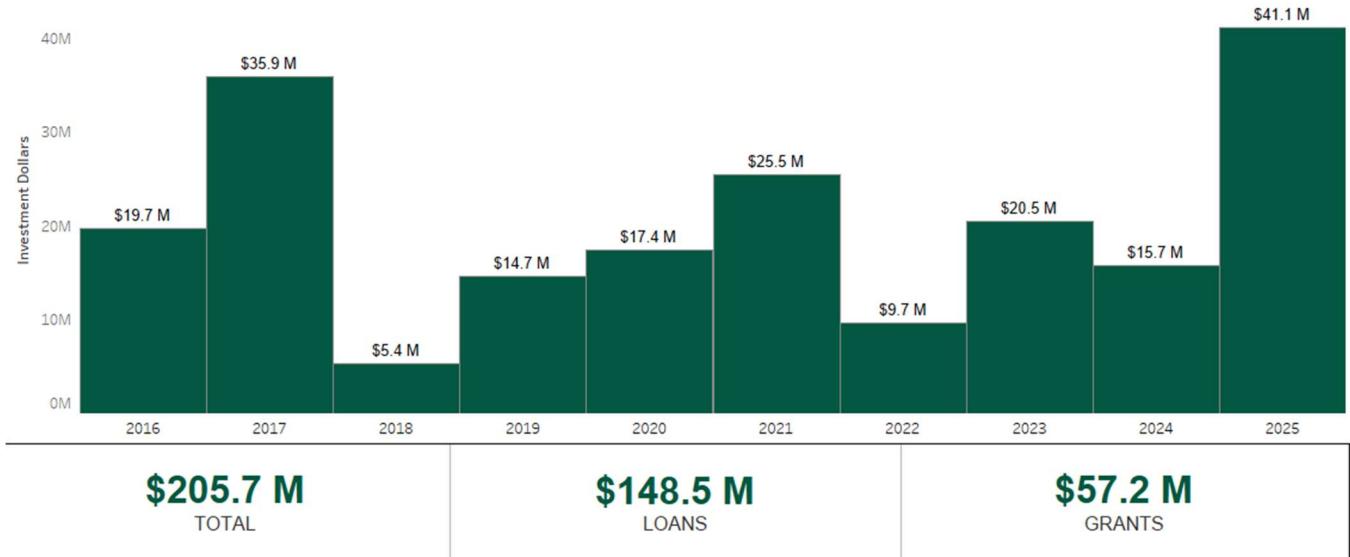
The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 1. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

District: 2

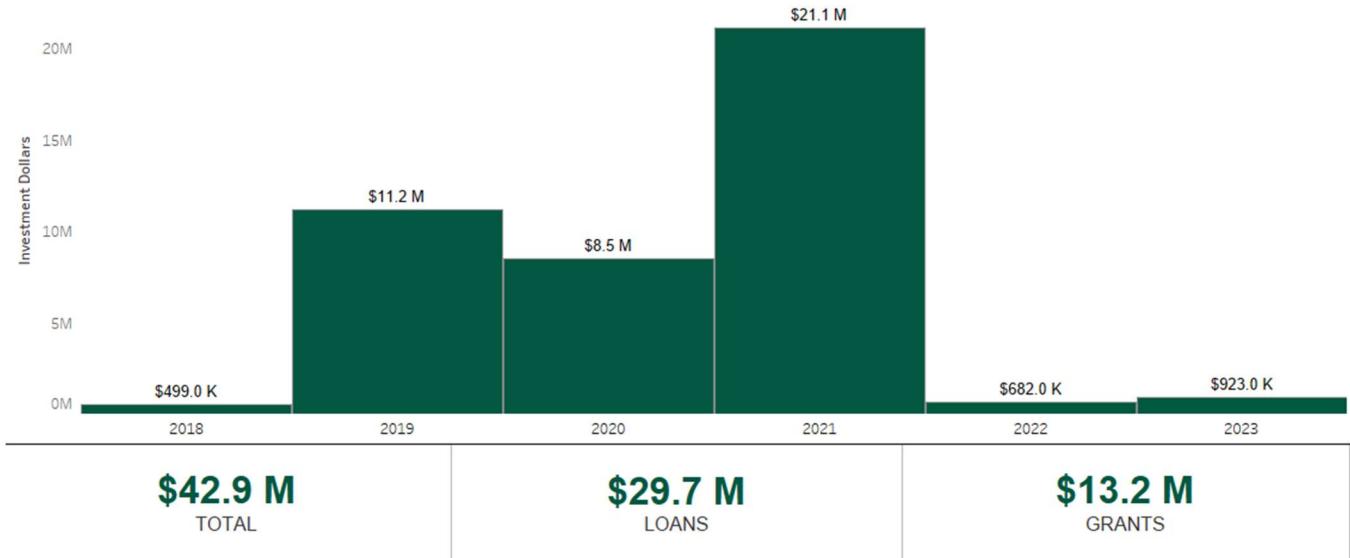
Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental



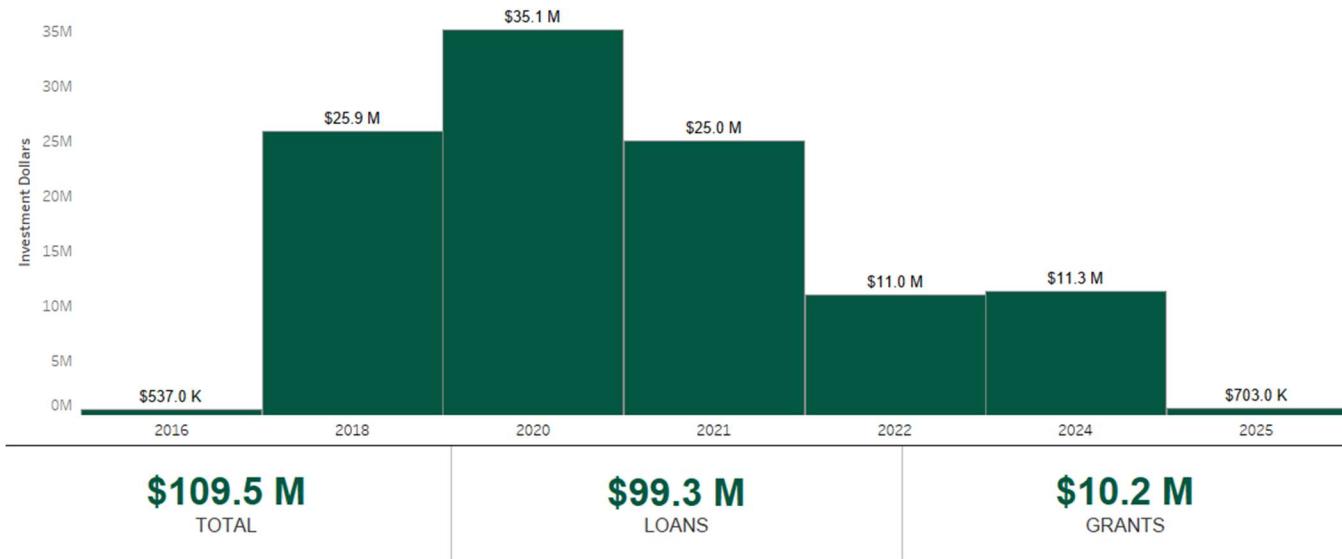
The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 2. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

District: 3**Program Area:** Community Facilities & Water and Environmental

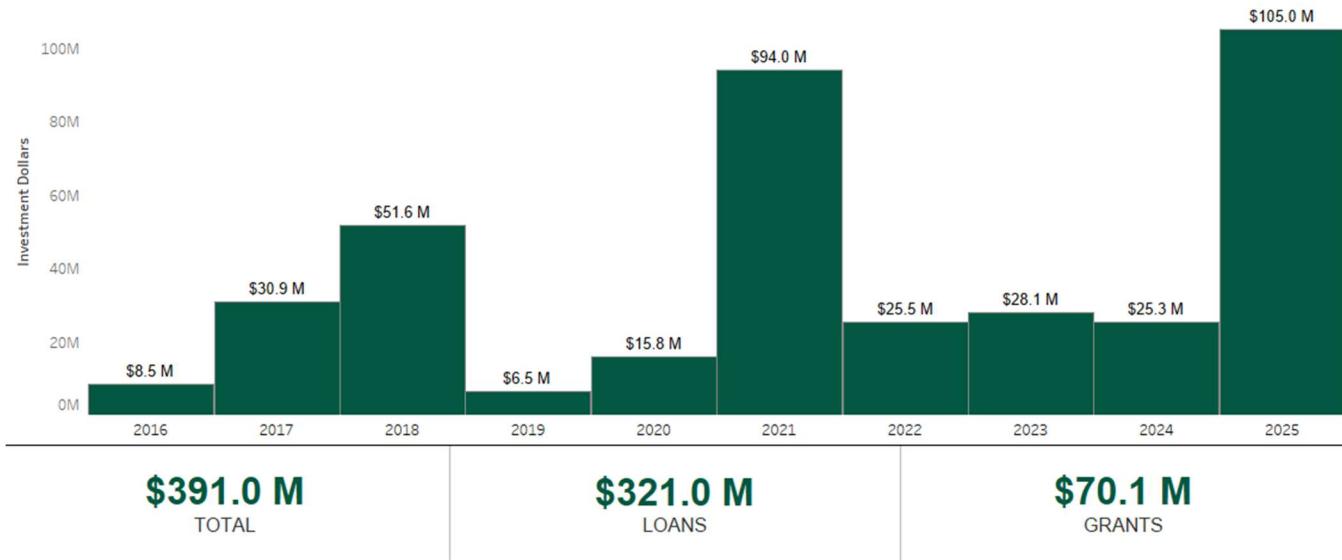
The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 3. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

District: 5**Program Area:** Community Facilities & Water and Environmental

The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 5. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

District: 6**Program Area:** Community Facilities & Water and Environmental

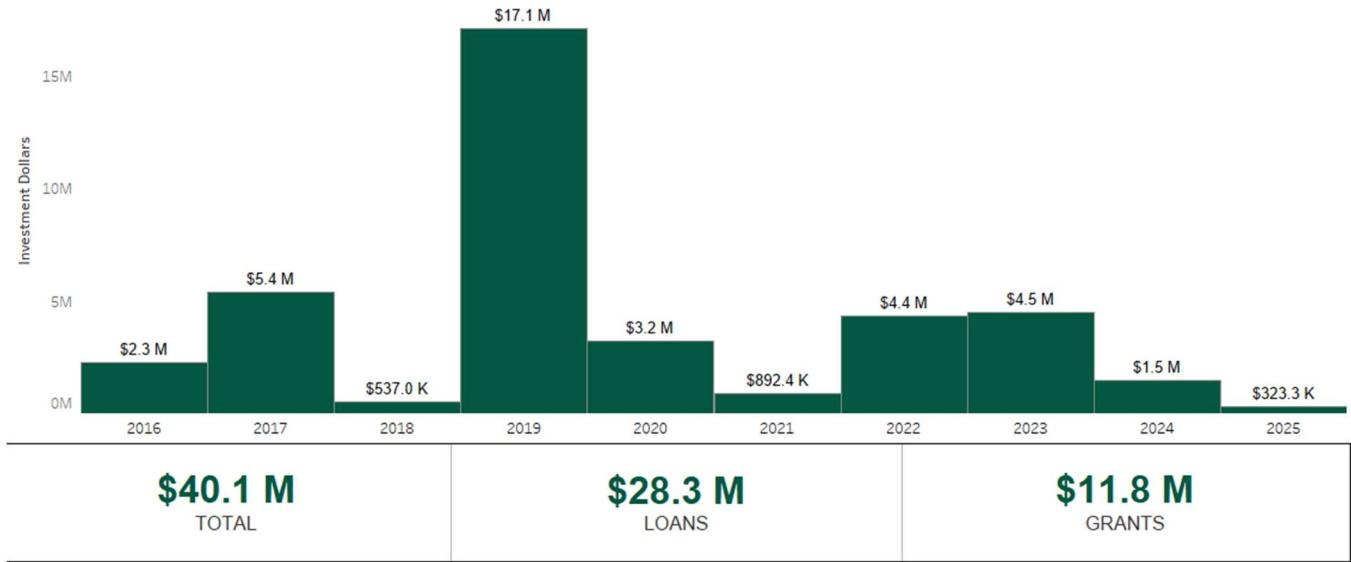
The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 6. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

District: 7**Program Area:** Community Facilities & Water and Environmental

The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 7. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

District: 8

Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental



The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 8. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.



Dear Congress: Please prioritize what is working.

Small and rural communities have the very important public responsibility of complying with all applicable federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act regulations and for supplying the public with safe drinking water and sanitation every second of every day. Over 91% of the approximately 50,000 community water systems serve fewer than 10,000 persons and 81% serve fewer than 3,300 persons. Small and rural communities often have difficulty complying with complicated federal mandates and providing safe/affordable drinking water and sanitation due to limited economies of scale and lack of technical expertise. This difficulty is eased due to ongoing and continuing support offered through rural water training and technical assistance programs as highlighted below.

	Initiative	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2026 Enacted	FY2027 Request
USDA	Circuit Rider Technical Assistance	\$21,180,000	\$21,817,000	\$23,900,000	\$24,617,000
	Wastewater Disposal Technical Assistance	\$37,500,000	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000
	Grassroots Source Water Protection Program	\$7,500,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000
	Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program	\$596,404,000	\$595,972,000	\$445,864,564 ^A	\$500,000,000
	Water & Waste Disposal Revolving Loan Funds	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
EPA	Safe Drinking Water Act Technical Assistance	\$30,700,000	\$30,700,000	\$30,700,000	\$35,000,000
	Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance	\$27,000,000	\$25,500,000	\$25,500,000	\$26,000,000
	Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$1,638,861,000	\$1,638,861,000	\$1,638,861,000 ^B	\$1,638,861,000
	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$1,126,101,000	\$1,126,101,000	\$1,126,101,000 ^C	\$1,126,101,000
DOL	National Water and Wastewater Operator Apprenticeship Program	Language included	Language included	TBD	\$20,000,000

A: WEP Earmarks \$110,488,564 B: CWSRF Earmarks: \$892,762,272 C: DWSRF Earmarks: \$715,364,627

How Can Representatives/Senators Support Rural Water?

1. Write the Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members in support of Rural Water's **five** funding priorities (or include in Members' formal appropriations requests);
2. Personally contact the Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members in support of Rural Water's **five** funding priorities; and
3. Ask the key staff person in each office to contact the Subcommittees in support of Rural Water's **five** funding priorities.

Subcommittee	House	Senate
USDA	Chair Andy Harris (MD) Ranking Member Sanford Bishop (GA)	Chair John Hoeven (ND) Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen (NH)
Interior (EPA)	Chair Mike Simpson (ID) Ranking Member Chellie Pingree (ME)	Chair Lisa Murkowski (AK) Ranking Member Jeff Merkley (OR)
Labor	Chair Robert Aderholt (AL) Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (CT)	Chair Shelley Moore Capito (WV) Ranking Member Tammy Baldwin (WI)

The National Rural Water Association represents over 31,000 small and rural community members dedicated to drinking water quality, environmental protection and public health protection.

Description of Rural Water Priorities

1. USDA Circuit Riders

Since 1980, Circuit Riders have provided the primary assistance to small communities for the operation of safe and clean drinking water supplies and compliance with water regulations. This assistance protects the sizable investment the federal government has made in rural water infrastructure. Circuit Riders are in the field every day helping systems with compliance, operations, maintenance, management, disaster response and training. The Circuit Rider Program has long been one of USDA's most successful public-private partnerships, efficiently and effectively using appropriated funds to provide technical assistance and training to rural communities through state based nonprofit associations.

2. USDA Farm Service Agency Grassroots Source Water Protection

This is the only statewide local community-based initiative ensuring environmentally progressive local land-use decisions without the controversy and bureaucracy of regulatory programs. It provides each state with at least one full-time person to organize and assist rural communities, farmers, and other land-use interests in the implementation of source water protection plans including non-point source (runoff) protection practices in agriculture regions. This initiative allows the people who benefit from environmental protection to take responsibility for achieving it—ensuring its success and eliminating local controversy.

3. EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Technical Assistance and Training

Since 1977, small and rural communities have relied on local/on-site technical assistance and training for compliance with the myriad of federal EPA regulations, avoiding EPA fines, and operating drinking water and wastewater supplies. According to small and rural communities, EPA-funded local initiatives are the most effective environmental protection efforts for drinking water & wastewater, ground water, source water, and compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Small communities want to ensure quality water and stay in compliance—rural water provides them the shared technical resources to do it.

4. EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance

Small and rural communities have more difficulty affording public wastewater service due to lack of population density and lack of economies of scale. This challenge is compounded by the fact that rural communities have lower average median household incomes and often have higher rates of poverty. PL 155-270, enacted in October 2018, authorized a new technical assistance program for small and rural communities to improve water quality, operate and maintain public wastewater treatment utilities and comply with federal Clean Water Act standards.

5. National Rural Water Apprenticeship Program

Since 2016, NRWA has collaborated with State Rural Water Associations, USDA, DOL, EPA, and local rural water utilities to build the first nationally recognized DOL Registered Apprenticeship Program for water and wastewater system operators. Employment data indicates up to 50% of the rural water workforce will leave the water industry over the next 10 years. Rural water and wastewater utilities need a pipeline of skilled workers to help ensure clean and safe water for the public and to maintain the water infrastructure necessary to keep rural service areas economically viable. To date, thirty-five State Rural Water Associations have federally approved Registered Apprenticeship Programs and are currently offering a job creation program specifically designed by industry leaders to attract, train and retain the next generation rural water workforce with over 1200 apprentices enrolled or graduated so far.



NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY

Name of program: Circuit Rider Program

Appropriations bill: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Senate subcommittee Chairman: John Hoeven (ND)

Senate subcommittee Ranking Member: Jeanne Shaheen (NH)

House subcommittee Chairman: Andy Harris (MD)

House subcommittee Ranking Member: Sanford Bishop (GA)

Department: United States Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Utilities Service (within Rural Development)

Appropriations account: Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account

Authorization: 7 USC 1926(a)(22)

FY2027 President's budget request: TBD

Funding History	
FY2021	\$20,157,000
FY2022	\$20,762,000
FY2023	\$21,180,000
FY2024	\$21,817,000
FY2026	\$23,900,000

FY2027 request: \$24,617,000

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests an appropriation of \$24,617,000 for the Circuit Rider Program for FY2027.

The Circuit Rider Program is a five-year competitive contract that was awarded to NRWA on November 1, 2020. The final year of that contract began on November 1, 2024, and expired on November 1, 2025. On October 31, 2025, USDA granted a 6-month extension to the existing contract. The FY2026 enacted level of \$23,900,000 fully funded the fifth-year contract costs and included additional funding to add a full-time position within the State of Rhode Island. This increased the total number of Circuit Riders from 132 to 133.

The Rural Development contracting officer requires NRWA to include a cost escalator for annual inflationary purposes necessary to maintain 132 Circuit Riders and to provide the same level of services. Also required is the establishment of a management reserve account to address unforeseen circumstances.

USDA Circuit Rider Justification: Increase the FY2026 enacted level of \$23,900,000 by 3%, or \$717,000, to \$24,617,000 for FY2027.

USDA Rural Development Circuit Rider: Since 1980, the Circuit Rider Program has been one of USDA's most successful public-private partnerships, efficiently and effectively using appropriated funds to provide technical expertise, training, regulatory compliance, management and disaster assistance to rural communities through state based nonprofit organizations.

There are currently 132 full-time permanent Circuit Riders deployed in rural America in all 50 states and Territories. As previously mentioned, this funding request is based on the federal contract requirements and regardless of the appropriations level, the terms and conditions of the contract require NRWA to continue to provide the same level of service, even with interrupted, delayed or reduced federal funding.

State Rural Water Associations provide non-federal matching money to cover their actual cost. In the last reporting cycle, State Rural Water Associations provided \$1,933,947 in non-federal funds to cover the full cost of delivering this program.

In addition to the core services Circuit Riders have provided for decades, demand for these critical services has increased and evolved. Included in these expanded efforts are additional emergency response and recovery efforts and requests, cyber security assistance, and increased regulatory demands to include compliance with the Lead and Copper and PFAS rules. Circuit Riders have also increased their assistance to address operator vacancies attributed to an aging workforce and addressing the increased challenges related to operating and maintaining aging infrastructure.

Experience and Benefits: Personnel turnover within this program is very rare. Circuit Riders have approximately 3,000 years of combined experience in the water and wastewater industry. This experience and dedication to the overall mission reaps rewards in additional cost savings provided to the communities served. With this seasoned experienced staff, salary and benefit costs are higher.

Circuit Riders Protect Federal Investments and Public Health: Circuit Rider assistance has become even more critical with the loss of over 1,000 USDA Rural Development staff in the field. Circuit Riders' on-site, hands-on assistance, combined with trusted peer-to-peer relationships, enhances all operations including fiscal management, disaster assistance, governance, regulatory compliance, all essential for the sustainability of water and wastewater utilities. This assistance enhances the water system's ability to repay their government debt, protects the low cost of this program while maintaining and enhancing the public health in rural communities. In addition, the Circuit Riders are considered essential employees to perform Mission Critical Services for the U.S. Government during a lapse of appropriations and public health emergencies.

NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY

Name of program: Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

Appropriations bill: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Senate subcommittee Chairman: John Hoeven (ND)

Senate subcommittee Ranking Member: Jeanne Shaheen (NH)

House subcommittee Chairman: Andy Harris (MD)

House subcommittee Ranking Member: Sanford Bishop (GA)

Department: United States Department of Agriculture

Agency: Farm Service Agency

Appropriations account: Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

Authorization: 16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2

FY2027 President's budget request: TBD

<u>Funding History</u>	
FY2021	\$6,500,000
FY2022	\$6,500,000
FY2023	\$7,500,000
FY2024	\$7,000,000
FY2026	\$7,500,000

FY2027 request: \$7,500,000

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests an appropriation of \$7,500,000, consistent with the FY2026 enacted bill, for the FSA Grassroots Source Water Protection Program. NRWA requested, and Congress appropriated \$6.5 million to carry out this initiative from FY2016 to FY2022. For FY2023, Congress increased this account by \$1,000,000 to allow additional activities to include, but are not limited to, enhanced assistance to address nutrient run-off from highly erodible cropland; decline in water quantity and quality related to drought; chemical security mapping; and coordination implementing source water protection practices in high priority areas, as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

NRWA currently maintains 55 full-time Grassroots Source Water Protection Program Specialists in the field. Every state has one full-time Source Water Specialist with two Specialists currently provided in Colorado, California, Kansas, Minnesota, and Montana.

FSA Source Water Justification: Enact the FY2026 funding level to maintain current field staff, services, and activities in FY2027.

Grassroots Source Water Protection Initiative: Protecting public health is the top priority in every water and wastewater system in America. Since 1990, the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) and State Rural Water Associations have assisted water utilities and rural communities in identifying, controlling, and eliminating pollutants from the nation's water resources. The NRWA Source Water Protection Program is built around small water utilities, local businesses, agriculture, government, and other groups working together to develop and implement strategies to protect their drinking water sources. It is a voluntary, grassroots planning effort that builds local responsibility and creates more sustainable communities.

Source Water Protection: The FY2027 source water protection program appropriation of \$7,500,000 will allow NRWA to maintain 55 full-time field employees to continue to provide this essential service with enhanced activities.

Prevention vs. Remediation: This cooperative program has made significant progress in reducing point source pollution from industrial, agricultural, municipal, and even household sources. The program has also made progress in the challenging area of nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution results from activities over large areas, such as runoff from agriculture, industry, and transportation that flows into water sources. In addition to protecting the health and welfare of U.S. communities, source water protection efforts save consumers money. The USDA estimates damages from soil erosion costs between \$2 billion to \$8 billion per year. The EPA estimates that public water systems spend an additional \$200 million per year just to remove excess nitrate to meet federal drinking water standards. A small community's nominal investment in implementing and adhering to a source water protection plan can avoid substantial remediation costs.

This is the only statewide local community-based initiative ensuring environmentally progressive local land-use decisions without the controversy and bureaucracy of regulatory programs. Currently there are 55 full-time specialists employed to organize and assist rural communities, farmers, and other land-use interests in the implementation of source water protection plans including nonpoint source (runoff) protection practices in agriculture regions. State Associations provided \$342,151 of non-federal matching funds to carry out this initiative from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. This initiative allows the people who benefit from environmental protection to take responsibility for achieving it- ensuring its success and eliminating local controversy. Through comprehensive planning efforts that identify potential threats to the water supply, communities proactively maintain local sources of safe and clean water. Additionally, by developing and implementing a source water protection plan, communities can help minimize the future need for expensive upgrades to treatment facilities.

NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY

Name of program: **EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Technical Assistance**

Appropriations bill: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Senate subcommittee Chairman: Lisa Murkowski (AK)

Senate subcommittee Ranking Member: Jeff Merkley (OR)

House subcommittee Chairman: Mike Simpson (ID)

House subcommittee Ranking Member: Chellie Pingree (ME)

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Appropriations account: Environmental Programs and Management

Authorization: Safe Drinking Water Act (42 USC 300j-1(e))

FY2027 President's budget request: TBD

Funding History

FY2021	\$21,700,000
FY2022	\$25,700,000
FY2023	\$30,700,000
FY2024	\$30,700,000
FY2026	\$30,700,000

FY2027 request: \$35,000,000

The National Rural Water Association requests report language, consistent with the House FY2026 reported bill (see below) appropriating \$35,000,000 under this account to provide \$26,000,000 dedicated to the technical assistance activities as prescribed under the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Act. Small and rural communities rely on local/on-site technical assistance and training for compliance with federal EPA regulations, avoiding EPA fines, and operating drinking and wastewater supplies.

Report Language: *Environmental Protection: National Priorities.* - The bill provides \$35,000,000. The Committee directs that funds be used for a competitive grant program for qualified non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance for improved water quality or safe drinking water, adequate wastewater to small systems, or individual private well owners. The Agency shall provide \$26,000,000 for Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act, for activities specified under Section 1442(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-1(e)(8)). The Agency is directed to provide funding to the most qualified and experienced non-profit organizations in providing technical assistance to small water systems and to issue the grant awards from this program on an annual basis.

EPA Technical Assistance Justification: Enact the House's FY2026 reported level of \$35,000,000 and follow the Congressional intent of Public Law 114-98 for FY2027.

EPA Technical Assistance Authorization: The President signed the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act into law (Public Law 114-98) on December 11, 2015. The House of Representatives unanimously passed the bill on November 30, 2015 and the Senate on June 9, 2015 (also unanimously). The authorization was modified in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (H.R.3684, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) to ensure the funding is used in the most beneficial manner for rural and small communities.

The purpose of the Act is to require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) follow Congressional intent in administering directed appropriations to assist small and rural communities to comply with federal environmental mandates. The Act authorizes the EPA to provide technical assistance to small and rural communities to assist them with: (1) compliance with the myriad of federal regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act; (2) operation and maintenance of their water utilities; and (3) public health protection through the supply of safe public drinking water.

Technical Assistance Demand: Small and rural communities often have a difficult time, due to their limited customer base and technical capacities, providing safe water and complying with federal standards. This is compounded by the fact that small and rural communities often have lower median household incomes and higher water rates compared to larger communities. As a result, the cost of compliance is often dramatically higher per household.

The vast majority of U.S. drinking water supplies are small; 91% of community water systems serve a population of fewer than 10,000 people. Some communities are so small they rely on volunteers to operate their drinking water supply. Small communities in violation of the federal rules are subject to \$25,000 per-day civil penalties. We are urging Congress to fully fund the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act portion at \$26,000,000 and ensure funding is limited to qualified, experienced technical assistance providers to effectively serve the needs of rural utilities

Experience: Since 1977, NRWA has assisted small and rural communities in providing safe drinking water and ensured access to the expertise of an experienced, trustworthy technician. This technical assistance provides for efficient system operation and maintenance and affordable compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act mandates. Small and rural communities are struggling under new federal regulations, complex funding program applications, and continuing mandatory operator training requirements. Recent EPA awards for this initiative do not adequately address the needs of small and rural communities that need help as soon as possible.

NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY

Name of program: **EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance**

Appropriations bill: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Senate subcommittee Chairman: Lisa Murkowski (AK)

Senate subcommittee Ranking Member: Jeff Merkley (OR)

House subcommittee Chairman: Mike Simpson (ID)

House subcommittee Ranking Member: Chellie Pingree (ME)

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Appropriations account: State and Tribal Assistance Grants Account

Authorization: America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (section 4103), "Technical Assistance for Treatment Works"

FY2027 President's budget request: TBD

Funding History

FY2021	\$18,000,000
FY2022	\$20,000,000
FY2023	\$27,000,000
FY2024	\$25,500,000
FY2026	\$25,500,000

FY2027 request: \$26,000,000

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests \$26,000,000, consistent with the FY2026 House reported level, to fund section 4103 America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. This competitive grant program provides small and rural communities with the technical assistance necessary to improve water quality, operate and maintain public wastewater treatment utilities, assist with permitting, comply with federal Clean Water Act regulations and apply for federal funding under the Clean Water State Revolving Funds. Small and rural communities strive to ensure quality wastewater stays in compliance—this initiative provides them with the technical resources to do so.

Bill Language: \$26,000,000 shall be for grants under section 104(b)(8) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(b)(8)).

Report Language: The Agency is directed to issue awards on an annual basis to the most qualified and experienced non-profit organizations necessary to provide quality uninterrupted training and technical assistance. The Agency is directed to allocate funds to grantees within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance Justification: Enact the FY2026 House reported level of \$26,000,000 for section 4103 of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 in FY2027

EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance: This technical assistance authorization, section 4103, “Technical Assistance for Treatment Works,” was included in America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, and signed into law by the President on October 23, 2018.

Small and rural communities have more difficulty affording public wastewater service due to lack of population density and lack of economies of scale. This challenge is compounded by the fact that rural communities have lower average median household incomes and often have higher rates of poverty. Likewise, rural communities have a much more challenging time complying with federal Clean Water Act permits and operating complex wastewater treatment systems due to the lack of technical resources and expertise in small communities. While most rural communities have fewer resources, they are regulated in the exact same manner as a large community - and often operating similarly complex treatment systems that are smaller in scale but no less sophisticated to operate and troubleshoot. Many small communities may only have one (or one part-time) operator with multiple duties (not just wastewater treatment) - while a large community may have a team of technical experts including engineers, chemists, and highly trained operators - all as part of their full-time staff.

Many small and rural communities are currently struggling to comply with the EPA sewer permits (i.e. federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits), experiencing issues with inflow and infiltration of their collection systems, meeting Clean Water Act ammonia standards, biochemical oxygen demand standards, new nutrient standards, stormwater regulations and changing permits due to implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations.

This recent law provides direct on-site assistance to communities to support the efficient operation of their wastewater utilities and ensure compliance with all the federal regulations under the Clean Water Act. Funding and implementation will allow communities to comply with the federal Clean Water Act requirements, potentially save thousands of dollars, prevent the hiring of consultants to comply with the Clean Water Act and limit exposure to civil penalties. Instead of a “must” mandate from the federal government, this provision will provide small and rural communities with “how-to” guidance for cost-effective compliance with the federal government’s Clean Water Act.

NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY

Name of program: National Water and Wastewater Operator Apprenticeship

Program

Appropriations bill: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies

Senate subcommittee Chairman: Shelley Moore Capito (WV)

Senate subcommittee Ranking Member: Tammy Baldwin (WI)

House subcommittee Chairman: Robert Aderholt (AL)

House subcommittee Ranking Member: Rosa DeLauro (CT)

Department: United States Department of Labor

Agency: Employment and Training Administration

Appropriations Account: Training and Employment Services

FY2027 President's budget request: TBD

Apprenticeship Grant Program Funding History	
FY2021	\$185,000,000
FY2022	\$235,000,000
FY2023	\$285,000,000
FY2024	\$285,000,000
FY2026	TBD

FY2027 request: \$20,000,000 set-aside within the Apprenticeship Grant Program

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests \$20,000,000 for a national water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program to be funded by the available resources within the Apprenticeship Grant Program account.

Bill Language: \$20,000,000 shall be for national water and wastewater operator industry workforce training through apprenticeship programs registered with the Office of Apprenticeship of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor or a State apprenticeship agency recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship pursuant to the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the "National Apprenticeship Act"; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

Report Language: The Committee directs the Secretary to make \$20,000,000 in grant funding available for a nonprofit organization working with community water systems to establish, implement, expand, and administer registered apprenticeship programs consistent with the National Guideline Standards of Apprenticeship for Water and Wastewater System Operations Specialists to address nationwide shortages of qualified drinking water and wastewater operators, especially in rural America.

DOL Rural Water Workforce Initiative Justification: Provide the FY2026 House reported level of \$20,000,000 for a national water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program.

NRWA, State Rural Water Associations, USDA, DOL, EPA, and local rural water utilities are collaborating successfully to establish the first nationally recognized Registered Apprenticeship Program for water and wastewater system operators, while creating jobs in rural America. In July 2024, NRWA achieved a significant milestone by securing \$7,631,873 in DOL competitive grant funding to support the development and expansion of these vital rural water apprenticeships. As of January 2026, 35 State Rural Water Associations have completed the rigorous process of obtaining federally approved Registered Apprenticeship Programs and are now attracting, training, and retaining the next generation water workforce with over 687 apprentices enrolled and over 519 have completed their apprenticeship as of December 31, 2025.

To bolster this effective initiative, Congress “urged” the Secretary of Labor to make funding available for the NRWA Registered Apprenticeship Program in the FY2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act and the FY2026 DOL House Appropriations report includes a set-aside directing the Secretary of Labor to invest \$20 million:

The Committee directs DOL to make \$20,000,000 in grant funding available to establish, implement, expand, and administer registered apprenticeship programs consistent with the National Guideline Standards of Apprenticeship for Water and Wastewater System Operations Specialists to address nationwide shortages of qualified drinking water and wastewater operators, especially in rural America (page 18)

To continue the growing, successful NRWA Apprenticeship Program, we also request a \$285 million funding level for the Apprenticeship Grant Program account, the same as the House and Senate’s FY2026 reported level with a \$20,000,000 set-aside for a national water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program to be funded by the available resources within that account.

Safe and effective water utility management is vital to rural America and the nation. There are currently over 50,000 community water supplies in the country, 91% serve populations of 10,000 or less. Employment data indicates up to 50% of this workforce will leave the water industry within the next 10 years. A vast majority of community water systems have been unable to attract, train and retain the next generation workforce due to the lack of an identifiable career path coupled with low salary levels and population density. Rural water utilities need a pipeline of skilled workers to ensure clean and safe water for the public and to maintain the water infrastructure necessary to keep service areas economically viable. These operators serve as public health officials and are often the only person responsible for complying with all the applicable federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act regulations and for supplying the small community with safe drinking water and sanitation every second of every day. Water and wastewater systems will be empowered to leverage workforce development activities including an identifiable career path and a modern, systematic apprenticeship model with this funding for the first time.

Wisconsin Rural Water Association

Impact on Wisconsin by Congressional Districts

DISTRICT 7

Legend:	
Blue - Waterworks Assistance	
Green - Energy Efficiency	
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance	
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance	

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections/ Energy Savings	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
3/14/24	Iron River Sanitary District					\$30,000
WRWA Source Water Specialist Andrew Aslesen drafted a wellhead protection plan for the Town of Iron River. On 3/14/24 Andrew attended the Town of Iron River public hearing and town board meeting to answer questions about the proposed wellhead protection zoning overlay district. After the public hearing closed, the town board voted unanimously to adopt the wellhead protection district, thus implementing the sanitary district's wellhead protection plan. WRWA's technical assistance with preparing the wellhead protection plan saved the town \$30,000 in engineering fees.						
1/9/25	Cameron Waterworks	Roger Abbott	Water Operations Specialist	798 W / 417 WW	3 hrs.	\$4,200
WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by Roger Abbott, Village of Cameron to assist with a DNR violation dealing with private well inventory. Dan met with Mr. Abbott, and they reviewed the violation letter and determined the village had private wells within the corporation limits. However, the village had no records of private wells. Dan found a state website listing all private wells within corporate limits. Dan and Mr. Abbott developed a comprehensive private well inventory list. Dan continued to work on the village's private well inventory and developed a streamlined Excel program that incorporates a look-up function and a private well permit certification page. Dan traveled once again to Cameron, worked with Mr. Abbott, and provided training on the operation and maintenance of the Excel program. During the on-site visit and remote work, Dan identified the system's record-keeping and processing deficiencies and provided Mr. Abbott with valuable knowledge. This service saved the Village of Cameron from a potential \$4,200 expense for developing a comprehensive private well program and empowered Mr. Abbott with new record-keeping skills.						
1/16/25	Tomahawk Waterworks	Glenn Hanna	Water Superintendent	1449 W / 1019 WW	3 hrs.	\$3,000
WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was requested by Glenn Hanna to assist him in performing leak detection within his municipality. Mr. Hanna told Todd he has a leak within his water system and had it narrowed down to 1 block. Todd explained the next step to leak detection was to go out into the system and listen to some hydrants with the LD-12 leak detection listening device. Todd gathered the equipment needed for the testing. Todd and Mr. Hanna started to listen to fire hydrants and water services in the area where Mr. Hanna suspected the leak to be. They also discovered during the leak detection investigation an area of water in the ditch under the snow. Todd and Mr. Hanna set up the correlator on each side of the leak. The correlation gave a spike of the location of leak. Todd then gave Mr. Hanna and Water Operator Derek Dotter technical assistance with getting the isolation valves that were needed working to control the leak for repair. Mr. Hanna estimated WRWA's savings to the city at \$3,000 in leak detection and minimizing the excavation.						
2/4/25	Unity Wastewater Treatment Plant	Joe Geiger	Public Works Director	0 W / 127 WW	5.25 hrs.	\$1,000
WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche was contacted by Joe Geiger to help with reporting monthly discharge data. The village had experienced rapid staff turnover and as a result was in noncompliance for failing to report wastewater monitoring data. Tony met with Mr. Geiger to create an account with WI DNR and submit monthly discharge reports for October–December 2024. Tony also helped Mr. Geiger create spreadsheets to log flow data and calculate phosphorus discharge values. WRWA's services saved the village \$1,000 in engineering firm costs.						
2/21/25	Phillips Waterworks	Todd Toelle	Water Superintendent	837 W / 837 WW	5.25 hrs.	\$8,000
WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was requested by Phillips Waterworks Water Superintendent Todd Toelle to assist with performing leak detection. Todd arrived on-site and went out into the system and listened to hydrants with the LD-12 leak detection listening device. Todd and Mr. Toelle went to the intersection in question and opened the valve cover. Mr.						

Toelle was instructed to put a valve wrench on the valve. The leak was close by, based on the noise level the valve was producing. Todd correlated the leak, obtaining a spike for the location. The location was marked for excavation and repair. Todd remained on-site to assist due to the location and conditions. The technical assistance provided by WRWA saved Phillips \$8,000 and prevented the destruction of a state highway by accurately pinpointing the location of the leak.

3/13/25	Glidden Sanitary District	Todd Schmidt	Water Superintendent	265 W / 265 WW	4.25 hrs.	\$8,600
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the Sanitation District of Glidden to assist with the Wisconsin Annual Public Service Commission (PSC) Water Report. Dan traveled to Glidden and met with Water Superintendent Todd Schmidt and Clerk Kathleen Bay. Dan reviewed the previous PSC Annual Water Report and indicated several issues that had taken place. It was Ms. Bay's first time completing a PSC Annual Water Report. Dan asked Ms. Bay and Mr. Schmidt to print several specific reports for the water department. With those reports, Dan, Ms. Bay, and Mr. Schmidt went line by line with the PSC Water Report and started to complete the current PSC Annual Water Report. Dan also provided training in the PSC Annual Water Report to help them better understand why and where monetary values are put in the reports and the importance of accuracy. Ms. Bay and Mr. Schmidt were able to complete the rest of the PSC Annual Water Report without hiring an accounting firm. During the on-site visit, Dan provided technical assistance and training with the Wisconsin PSC Annual Water Report and saved the sanitation district \$8,600 in accounting fees.

4/22/25	Danbury Waterworks	Pattie Edwards	Water/Wastewater Operator	8,972 kWh WW 4,025 kWh W		\$1,046 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Pattie Edwards and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Danbury's water and wastewater operations. For their wastewater operations, Matt suggested running a single blower in the summer months that alternates between aeration tank and digester rather than one for each. For their water operations, Matt suggested adding a timer to the dehumidifier to reduce the runtime by 10% as it runs 24/7/365 now. He also suggested Well 1 should be run more often than Well 2, as it pumps more efficiently. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Adams would save \$320 annually for their wastewater operations and \$726 annually for their water operations.

5/8/25	City of Montreal Waterworks	Mark Haeger	Public Works Director	354 W / 354 WW	4.5 hrs.	\$17,044
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the City of Montreal to provide technical assistance/training on GIS mapping. Dan traveled to Montreal and met with Mark Haeger. During the visit, Dan provided detailed training on the mapping system. Mr. Haeger grasped the mapping system training quickly and showed enthusiasm for learning more, which allowed them to engage in a conversation about water loss. It became evident that Montreal Waterworks was facing a significant issue with water loss. Mr. Haeger inquired about affordable leak detection solutions. Dan outlined the available services and technical assistance that WRWA could offer, at Mr. Haeger's request, and scheduled a follow-up visit for the following day. Dan traveled back to Montreal and met with Mr. Haeger to conduct an acoustic sounding of the entire water system. They discovered two minor leaks. Not long after, they found a significant leak at an abandoned property. Dan and Mr. Haeger successfully shut off the water at that location, effectively stopping the water loss. WRWA's on-site services saved Montreal Waterworks \$1,500 on GIS mapping training, \$2,800 on leak detection, and helped mitigate a loss of \$12,744 in revenue due to 2.6 million gallons of lost water.

5/21/25	Pittsville Waterworks	Peter Petersen	Public Works Director	4,697 kWh W 17,903 kWh WW		\$2,729 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Peter Petersen and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Pittsville's water and wastewater operations. For their water operations, Matt suggested running both booster pumps at 95% speed and swapping out the VFD from Well 8 to Well 9. For their wastewater operations, Matt suggested limiting Blower 2 to only 25% runtime and changing pulleys on Blower 2 to match Blower 1. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Pittsville would save \$637 annually for their water operations and \$2,092 annually for their wastewater operations.

6/12/25	Glenwood City Waterworks	Dave Caress	Water Superintendent	329 W / 329 WW	7 hrs.	\$5,380
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by Glenwood City for technical assistance with a water tower drain-down and inspection. Dan traveled to Glenwood City and met with Dave Caress, the Public Works Director, and Cory Schone, the Operations Specialist. Mr. Caress articulated this would be his first time completing a water tower drain-down. Dan addressed his concerns. They set up the pressure relief valve and discussed proactive solutions for the tower drain down. The following day, Dan returned to assist and provide training on how to complete a textbook water tower drain-down and inspection. As Mr. Caress and Mr. Schone started the tower drain-down, Dan provided education on system pressure and how to maintain system pressure during the time the water tower will be offline. Once the water tower was drained, an outside vendor provided the tank inspection. After the inspection was completed, Mr. Schone and Dan began to refill the tower. Dan provided on-site analytical technical assistance that was crucial to the success of the

water tower drain-down and inspection, ensuring clean, safe drinking water to the residents of Glenwood City. WRWA services saved Glenwood City \$5,380 in consultant fees and equipment rental fees along with technical training.

6/16/25	Bloomer Waterworks	Bill Miller	Public Works Director	14,200 kWh		\$2,069 ann.
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Bill Miller and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Bloomer's water operations. Matt suggested installing a new pump/motor to Well 2 with a VFD to eliminate the booster pump and reservoir. He also suggested adding VFDs to Well 3 and Well 5 to eliminate the valve being partially closed. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Bloomer would save \$2,069 annually for their water operations.						
6/17/25	White Lake Waterworks	James Turner	Water Operations Specialist	96 W / 96 WW	3 hrs.	\$4,500
WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by the Village of White Lake Public Works Director Scott Popelka to assist him in performing leak detection within his municipality. Todd met with Mr. Popelka and Operations Specialist James Turner, who told Todd they had a leak within the water system and had no clue where it was. Mr. Turner said their small water system had doubled in daily water pumping. Todd listened to some hydrants, valves, and customers' services with the LD-12 leak detection listening device. They discovered noise on a vacant lot that had water stubbed into it for future housing. WRWA's technical assistance and loaner equipment saved the village approximately \$4,500.						
6/20/25	Rib Lake Waterworks	Cody Lind	Wastewater Operator	56,000 kWh		\$6,042 ann.
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Cody Lind and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Rib Lake's wastewater operations. Matt suggested a 123-panel solar array to their WWTP for green energy production. With credits, the total project cost would be \$88,189 and will net a 13-year payback. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Rib Lake would save \$6,042 annually for their wastewater operations.						
6/30/25	Thorp Waterworks			219,315 kWh		\$18,230 annually
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment follow-up for Thorp's wastewater operations. Their plant underwent an overhaul with some of the previous 2021 assessment recommendations implemented but also brought about some changes to their operations. Matt suggested replacing the 100 hp blower with a 60 hp turbo blower with a VFD, DO controller for the VFD, and natural gas heaters. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Thorp would save \$18,230 annually for their wastewater operations.						
8/21/25	Glidden Sanitary District	Luke Eder	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	265 W / 265 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$1,000
WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche visited Glidden Sanitary District and assisted Luke Eder with measuring the sludge blanket depth and collecting sludge samples in their stabilization lagoon system. Tony and Mr. Eder successfully measured the sludge blanket depth in the wastewater lagoon system and successfully collected sludge samples to keep the sanitary district in compliance with their wastewater discharge permit. WRWA's technical assistance saved the district \$1,000 in consultant fees to measure the sludge depth profile and collect sludge samples.						
11/19/25	Wabeno Sanitary District #1	Scott Shaffer	Wastewater Superintendent	365 W / 365 WW	1 hr.	\$5,000
WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Scott Shaffer to help with a few reports due by the end of 2025. Jesse and Mr. Shaffer met at his office and began by reading over his permit and deciding what was required for the utility to complete. The first report was a Phosphorus Compliance Alternatives Plan. This report was due 11/28/25. Jesse and Mr. Shaffer looked over the data and the report that Mr. Shaffer initially submitted. Mr. Hass gave input to complete the report after looking over the suggestions from his DNR Representative. They also discussed the utility's Notice of Noncompliance sent by the DNR. Jesse said Mr. Shaffer would have to submit a report to the DNR for every violation they have received in the past months. Jesse helped Mr. Shaffer by providing possible reasons why the Wastewater Treatment Facility was not meeting permit. Jesse offered to help the Sanitary District with their upcoming reports and get the treatment plant back into compliance. Jesse also discussed options for completing the chemical addition forms for the DNR since the Sanitary District will be adding chemical and the DNR needs to approve permanent chemical addition. WRWA services saved the village \$5,000 in consulting fees.						
11/21/25	Land O' Lakes Sanitary District	Chad Lederer	Public Works Director	6,852 kWh		\$1,242 ann.
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Bloomington's water operations. Matt suggested insulating the Well 1 building to a higher R-value and adding a timer to the water tower recirculation pump. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Land O' Lakes would save \$1,242 annually for their water operations.						
12/17/25	Land O' Lakes Sanitary District	Chad Lederer	Public Works Director	3,190 kWh		\$530 ann.

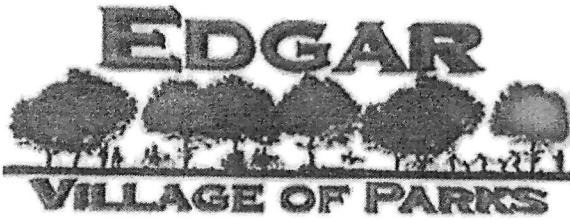
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Land O' Lakes' wastewater operations. Matt suggested adding a camera to the sewer mains to reduce I/I in the system. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Land O' Lakes would save \$530 annually for their wastewater operations.

12/18/25	Cumberland Waterworks	Casey Delawyer	Water Operations Specialist	916 W / 916 WW	1.25 hrs.	\$9,648
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the Utility Supervisor, Jordan Peichel, and by the Water Specialist, Casey Delawyer. Mr. Peichel stated that a significant water leak was taking place near Highway 48. Once on-site, Dan and Mr. Peichel determined the leak was located on 11th Street. After some further investigation, Dan's radius was narrowed down to 50 feet. Mr. Peichel requested that we conduct a correlation on Thursday when a contractor could be available. Dan returned to Cumberland to pinpoint the water leak on 11th Street. The current leak was more significant than initially thought. Mr. Delawyer stated the leak was estimated at around 100,000 gallons per day and, according to the pumping records, it started around December 3rd. Dan and Mr. Delawyer began the process of correlating the water main. The results came expeditiously. WRWA saved Cumberland Waterworks \$3,600 for correlation services, \$5,040 in water loss revenue, and \$1,008 in pumping expenses in addition to providing technical guidance.

12/27/25	Glen Flora Waterworks	Wayne Hillman	Water Operations Specialist	31 W / 31 WW	3 hrs.	\$3,000
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Wayne Hillman contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich to assist him in taking the water tower offline for a recirculating pump replacement. Todd arrived and met with Mr. Hillman and Matt Fisher from Lane Tank Company. Mr. Fisher was hired to do the repairs. Mr. Fisher went out into the distribution system to set up a pressure relief valve so the system would maintain water pressure. After the pressure-relief valve was set up, Todd and Mr. Hillman set the well setting into hand so the pump would run continuously, and they located the valve that would isolate the water tower. The valve was turned off, and the tower was isolated. Todd and Mr. Hillman went back to the well house to make sure pressure was maintained and the water tower was drained. Mr. Fisher replaced the pump and some broken valving in the tower. Todd and Mr. Hillman then opened the valve and started to fill the water tower slowly, placed the well back into auto setting and removed the pressure relief valve. Mr. Hillman said he was not aware of the technical assistance WRWA can provide. Todd's technical assistance saved the village \$3,000 in engineering firm expenses.



VILLAGE OF EDGAR

224 S. Third Avenue
P.O. Box 67
Edgar, Wisconsin 54426

Ph. (715) 352-2891
www.vil.edgar.wi.us

January 22, 2025

Todd Weich
Wisconsin Rural Water Association
350 Water Way
Plover, WI 54467

Dear Todd and the Wisconsin Rural Water Association Team,

On behalf of the Village of Edgar, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you and your team for your continued dedication and expertise in supporting our community. We especially want to recognize and thank Todd Weich for his outstanding efforts in assisting us with our water system.

This year alone, Todd has been instrumental in helping us locate and address three significant water leaks. Each time, his professionalism, knowledge, and use of advanced techniques provided precise locations of the breaks, saving our community invaluable time and resources. Todd's presence and participation during these critical events ensured efficient and effective resolutions, allowing us to restore services swiftly to our residents and businesses.

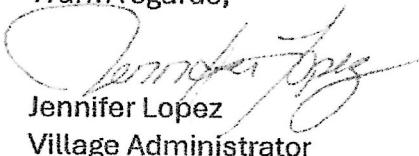
We want to particularly highlight Todd's extraordinary dedication during our third water main break, which occurred in extreme weather conditions. Todd was out with our team in temperatures as low as -20°F, with wind chills nearing -40°F. As is often the case, these breaks didn't happen in good weather, yet Todd showed unwavering commitment to helping our community resolve the issue quickly and efficiently despite the severe cold.

The importance of Wisconsin Rural Water's support in rural communities like ours cannot be overstated. Your organization plays a vital role in safeguarding essential infrastructure, and your unwavering commitment to providing these services is deeply appreciated.

We encourage others in our community to join us in voicing their thanks and advocating for the continued funding and support of organizations like Wisconsin Rural Water. The work you do is indispensable, and we must ensure it continues for the benefit of all.

May your dedication be met with the recognition and support it so richly deserves. Thank you again for your incredible service and partnership.

Warm regards,


Jennifer Lopez
Village Administrator

Renee Koback

From: Chris Groh
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:45 AM
To: Renee Koback
Subject: FW: Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Matt Boehmer <boehmer.m66@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:14 AM
To: Chris Groh <CGroh@wrwa.org>
Subject: Thanks

Chris,

I wanted to write a quick note to thank you for all the help over the years while I was working in Ladysmith and what a great Executive Director you have been since assuming the role.

As my time in this profession has come to a close, I've been reflecting on all the great people who I've met and who have helped me along the way. I learned so much from you. Not only in daily tasks at the plant or lab, but in understanding the meaning of helping fellow operators. Even though I trained a few operators at Ladysmith, it wasn't until helping Johnathon in Hawkins that I truly understood how important it was to pass that knowledge along. During your opening remarks at the conference you said all the old guys need to mentor the young. That's kinda when it hit me that's exactly what I had done in Hawkins. I didn't feel worthy of my nomination until that statement. The fact the committee chose me over the other very well deserving operators was just the icing on the cake. Thanks so much.

At this time, I don't know where or even if I will continue as an operator. Hopefully I can find something for a couple hours a week that allows me to stay in this field. If not, I'm ok if this was my last hoorah!

Thanks for all you and your staff do. We couldn't do it without you.

Matt

Renee Koback

From: Todd Weich
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2025 5:17 PM
To: Renee Koback; Chris Groh
Subject: Fw: Thanks

Email I received from hawkins.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Matt Boehmer <boehmer.m66@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 7:48:44 AM
To: Todd Weich <TWeich@wrwa.org>
Subject: Thanks

Hey buddy,

I've been meaning to email since conference, but haven't had the words to express how thankful I am for all you did for me, John, and Hawkins. You truly were a blessing. It's a shame there is no award for what you do and the people you help. I just really, really appreciate you. Thank you!

Matt
Sent from my iPhone

Renee Koback

From: Curtiss DPW <curtissdpw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 2:00 PM
To: Renee Koback
Cc: Andrew Aslesen
Subject: Thank you!

Good afternoon, Andrew!

Thank you very very much for all the work you put into our current water project! It has been great working with you. I look forward to, I am sure, more interaction as we continue working towards getting this across the finish line. All the hours doing the Bedrock surveys, Groundwater Flow Direction, Zone of Influence, Zone of Contribution (Recharge Area), Well siting strategy meetings, Setback requirement info, example land agreements, and much more is very appreciated. This is the first time in at least 20+ years that every test well drilled on a project could be turned into a production well. Our ratios in the past were more like 5-10 test wells per final well. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Larry Swarr

Village of Curtiss Public Works

P.O. Box 97

915 Meridian St

Cell: 715-551-9802

Office: 715-223-1755

Email: curtissdpw@gmail.com

Give Thanks unto the LORD for He is **GOOD!**

Renee Koback

From: Curtiss DPW <curtissdpw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 1:50 PM
To: Renee Koback
Subject: Thank you!

Good afternoon, Dan!

Thank you for being available for questions relating to our water system upgrade. It has been very helpful to bounce some things off of someone with no conflict of interest. Thanks for your service!

Respectfully,

Larry Swarr

Village of Curtiss Public Works

P.O. Box 97

915 Meridian St

Cell: 715-551-9802

Office: 715-223-1755

Email: curtissdpw@gmail.com

Give Thanks unto the LORD for He is **GOOD!**

Renee Koback

From: Curtiss DPW <curtissdpw@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 1:47 PM
To: Renee Koback
Cc: Todd Weich
Subject: Thank you!

Good afternoon, Todd!

Thank you very much for being available to call up and ask questions regarding our system upgrade. It has been very helpful to have someone with knowledge about the system to bounce things off of to double check our direction and plans. Thanks again!

Respectfully,

Larry Swarr

Village of Curtiss Public Works

P.O. Box 97

915 Meridian St

Cell: 715-551-9802

Office: 715-223-1755

Email: curtissdpw@gmail.com

Give Thanks unto the LORD for He is **GOOD!**

Renee Koback

From: Scott Popelka <publicworks@vi.whitelake.wi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 8:10 AM
To: Renee Koback
Subject: Appreciation Letter

To all the WRWA staff:

Your organization plays such a major part in helping small communities like ours transition through difficult and trying times. Recently, Todd helped find a leak which we were unable to locate. He used his knowledge and expertise and found the leak very quickly. Thank You Todd!

Your staff continues to amaze all on how you organize and execute the Annual Technical Conferences and Outdoor Expo's They continue to grow and get better each year. You should all be commended on a job well done.

Andrew recently visited the local school and shared his expertise of the "water cycle" with the kids there. Prior to that, Andrew was very instrumental in preparing a wellhead protection plan for the Village and Tony has done an energy audit of both our water and wastewater departments.

WRWA has been very supportive in teaching and instructing, helping and guiding our small community over the years. Thank You so much for your continued help and support.

Scott Popelka
Village of White Lake

Renee Koback

From: Chris Groh
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 12:40 PM
To: Renee Koback
Subject: Fwd: CR Follow-up [EXTERNAL] site visit

Another good one for Dan
Sent from Chris' iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brian Davis <Brian.Davis@nrwa.org>
Date: July 23, 2025 at 12:07:41 PM CDT
To: Chris Groh <CGroh@wrwa.org>
Subject: Fw: CR Follow-up [EXTERNAL] site visit

The email below was received in response to the automated message sent following an on-site visit by one of your Circuit Riders.

From: citypublicworks cityofbayfield.com <citypublicworks@cityofbayfield.com>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 8:15 AM
To: Customer Satisfaction <customersatisfaction@nrwa.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] site visit

NRWA,

Dan is doing a great job and enjoy our informative visits when he comes around. With all the new legislation happening, it's nice to have someone from WRWA to keep the communities up to speed and in compliance. Keep up the good work.

Joel Weber
City of Bayfield
Director of Public Works
715-779-1204

This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Renee Koback

From: George Taylor
Sent: Monday, December 1, 2025 11:32 AM
To: Renee Koback
Subject: Fw: Thanks

Thank you letter I received.
George Taylor

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Emma Ruth Eby <lesteremmaeby@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 11:26:27 AM
To: George Taylor <GTaylor@wrwa.org>
Subject: Thanks

A big thank you to George Taylor and DNR for taking the water samples for us at Railside School. It was
much appreciated!

Lester Eby

N 10396 Hilne Ave
Spencer, WI 54479

Renee Koback

From: Village of Radisson Public Works <vrpublicworks@bevcomm.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 8:53 AM
To: Renee Koback
Subject: WRWA appreciation

WRWA members are always there for you when you need them. They offer equipment, knowledge, and hands on help that is always greatly appreciated.

--
Robert Sampson, Village of Radisson Public Works Phone Number 715-558-4641 Email
vrpublicworks@bevcomm.net

Village of Gilman
P.O. Box 157
Gilman, WI 54433-0157

December 2, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

The Village of Gilman is in full support of Wisconsin Rural Water and all that they do for our Village. Todd has been instrumental in assisting our Public Works Director with valve concerns and hydrant updates. We were also grateful to Brooke Klingbeil and Tony Roche with our WPDES permitting changes and now have Dan Cooper assisting us. We are thankful for the time and energy they all have spent assisting us here in Gilman.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Candice Grunseth, WCMC
Village Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Gilman

Village of Deer Park

112 Front St W

Deer Park, WI 54007

December 3, 2025

Everyone at WRWA,

I would like to thank everyone at WRWA. Having support from you makes our OIC's job much more efficient and manageable.

Being a small community makes it very difficult to manage money for our multi-million-dollar system. I am very much appreciative of having resources available from WRWA.

Thank you,



Dale E Clarkson

Clerk/Treasurer
112 Front St W
Deer Park, WI 54007

Renee Koback

From: John McCue <pw3@centurytel.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 12:56 PM
To: Renee Koback; Chris Groh
Subject: City of Hayward Thanks You

I would like to thank WRWA for your hard work on the numerous projects the City of Hayward's had during past year. Dan Wundrow's Water Technical advice, hands on help and tool loaner program. Tony Roche's Wastewater Technical advice and training.

I am really proud of the effort WRWA put into these projects and wanted to give you a shout-out for all your hard work. It's great to see how much you've grown as an association and team members. I don't know what I would do with out WRWA's help on these projects.

Thanks John

--
John McCue
Public Works Director
City of Hayward
PO Box 969
15889 W 3rd Street
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: 715-634-4612
Fax: 715-634-5868
pw3@centurytel.net
www.cityofhaywardwi.gov

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12/10/25

Lakeland Sanitary District #1 would like to send a big "thank you" to Tony Roche for all of his help in 2025. He did an in-house visit this year to help us fill in some gaps in our laboratory knowledge, which was very helpful. He is also always prompt in his replies when we have questions. He is considered an indispensable member of our team and things would be much more difficult without him!

Cheryl Pettit
Lakeland Sanitary District #1

Renee Koback

From: Michelle Dollar <msd1@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 12:18 PM
To: Renee Koback
Subject: Thank you

Renee

I am reaching out to you today to Thank you and Rural Water for all you do for us. Your help with the Wellhead Protection Plan is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Michelle Dollar
Sec/Treas
Mercer Sanitary District #1
5054N US Hwy 51
Mercer WI 54547
Ph: 715-476-3575
Email: msd1@outlook.com

Land O' Lakes Sanitary District #1

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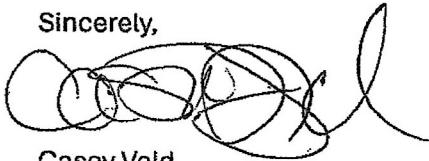
December 18, 2025

Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA)
350 Water Way
Plover, WI 54467

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to send this note to express my sincere gratitude for the time and effort that was given to the Land O' Lakes Sanitary District by WRWA Source Water Specialist Andrew Aslesen. Our Wellhead Protection Plan was out of date and through WRWA we were introduced to Andrew and his specialties. His willingness to travel the distance to meet with us and review our system, write the updated plan and again travel to review the first draft with us has been invaluable to our small system. These updates and revisions to plans are necessary to keep the system operating smoothly as well as maintain compliance. Andrew's efforts to help us with this project, at no cost to our small budgeted system, are truly appreciated. Without the WRWA as an invaluable resource it would be difficult, if not impossible, to keep everything up to date and operate to ensure safe drinking water for our consumers as well as continuing to protect the environment through proper wastewater treatment. Thank you for everything you do for all municipal water systems.

Sincerely,



Casey Vold
Sanitary Clerk