

Washington Department of Ecology – Water Quality Financial Assistance Council
February 22, 2012

In Attendance: Jeff Nejedly, David Dunn, Alice Rubin, Don Seeberger, Kelly Susewind, Kim Wagar, Mindy Ballinger, Eli Levitt, Pat Brommer, Nancy Aldrich, Brian Cochrane, Lynn Schneider, Darwin Smith, Ty Meyer, James Kelly, Gene Dobry, Stuart Glasoe, John LaRocque, Peter McMillin, David Carcia

Introductions

Agenda Item #1: Legislative Session Discussion, Don Seeberger

Leg: Regional Study Group (HB 2948); died
Water Pollution Control (HB 3136); died
Clean Water Act (HB 3181. SB 6851); Don Seeberger (new WQ Deputy Program Manager) was going to have a meeting that afternoon about this specific bill. No update has been given.

Agenda Item #2: SRF Fee

Handout #1 SRF Admin Fee Retro Scenario
Handout #2 Focus on Clean Water

- Original Clean Water Act has no mechanism for administration costs, so that is why Ecology put together the fee bill, so we will be prepared when the Capitalization Grant expires.
- Stakeholders were concerned Ecology was only asking for 4%
- Provision to look at true cost and ask legislature for an appropriation
 - Asked to report in after 5 years to adjust the rate if necessary
 - Examine the fund for the actual need and if there is more than needed it can be rolled back into the SRF loan account
- House republican amendments were the only additions
- How will this affect perpetuity?: it will reduce loan availability by about \$1.5mil per year
- WA requires significantly less admin to run the SRF than other programs of comparable size.
- House staff advised us not to submit any bill that would require General Fund – reworded to bill for fee to be retroactive back to SFY2007 funded project
- 42 other states have an SRF fee in place
- WA averages 2.2%-2.4% admin where the standard is closer to 3%

Agenda Item #3: Stormwater Grant Program Discussion, Pat Brommer

Handout #3 FY 2012 Municipal GROSS Grant Summary
Handout #4 FY 2012 Statewide Stormwater Grant Program

- Draft offer list for FY2012 Stormwater Retrofit LID and Statewide Stormwater Grant Program published
- Two funding cutoff lines indicated trying to anticipate possible funding levels depending on the outcome of the final budget.
- Grants for east side and west side proportionate to the number of applications from east vs. west side.
- Lessons learned:
 - Try to put money out quickly

Washington Department of Ecology – Water Quality Financial Assistance Council
February 22, 2012

- Improve eligibility language
 - Base on questions about stormwater projects that address problems from commercial properties
- Request: provide better information on the rating and ranking process
 - Provide a fact sheet during the workshop?
- Suggestion:
 - Interested in preconstruction. Instead of annually, maybe try bi annually or quarterly.
- Response:
 - SRF can't fund anything that's not in the IUP. If preconstruction was done more often, we'd have to amend the list. Jeff will see what that entails.

Agenda Item #4: FY 2013 Combined Funding Cycle Draft Offer List, Jeff Nejedly

- Review of handout
- Experienced good success with the pre-application category. – hope that will help to boost wastewater applications in the future
- Were able to refinance one project to due lower demand of funds this year – could be a correlation with the Department of Commerce having planning funding cut in past years
- Currently in 30 day period.
- Public Meeting held February 27th at 10:00 at the Tacoma Library.
- Final list is expected to be published on July 1, 2012.

Agenda Item #5: Public Works Board Modernization, Jeff Nejedly

- Promote federal funding.
- Once a loan is issued, repayment starts immediately.

Agenda Item #6: Directors Talks for Nonpoint Source Funding Collaboration, Eli Levitt

- What are we getting out of the money we're putting out?
- How do we measure it?
 - Economic?
 - Water Quality Value?
- One thought is to set up a meeting w/each applicant once the project is over and talk about the results.
- Possibly include a handout that says Ecology will come back in X years to ensure everything is in place.

Agenda Item #7: Future Meeting Scheduling, Alice Rubin

- May meeting in Spokane?
- Doodle poll for August meeting scheduling