Originally Posted on December 11, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN WATER TRUST

## NOTICE AND AGENDA

| | |
|---|---|
| **Meeting Date:** | Wednesday, December 13, 2023 |
| **Time:** | 1:30 PM |
| **Location:** | **Remote*** |
| | |
| **Listing of Topics:** | Call to Order |
| | 1. **LSL Grant Allotments Needs Survey:** MassDEP will provide an update on the revised LSL survey results for the Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment.<br>2. **LSL Planning Grant Program Update:** MassDEP will discuss public water suppliers' progress on developing LSL surveys through the LSL Planning Grant Program.<br>3. **Cybersecurity:** MassDEP will discuss cybersecurity for public water suppliers.<br>4. **Discussion on MassDEP Proposed Projects:** MassDEP will provide an update on proposed Clean Water PFAS and nitrogen projects.<br>5. **AMP Grant Extension Request:** The Trust will present an AMP Grant extension request. |
| | |
| | Other Business *(Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting)* |

***Location: Remote:** Notice is hereby given that the Wednesday, December 13, 2023 meeting of the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Executive Committee will be held through remote participation in accordance with M.G.L.c.30A, §20, as modified by c.20 of the Acts of 2021, c.22 of the Acts of 2022, and c.2 of the Acts of 2023.

Those who would like to attend the meeting, please e-mail masswatertrust@tre.state.ma.us to request meeting information. Information to access the meeting will be available through the duration of the meeting. However, we encourage participants to request the information by 5:00 PM the day before the meeting.

To ensure that the audio is clear to all attendees, unless you are actively participating in the meeting, please mute your audio. If you have technical difficulties joining the meeting, please email masswatertrust@tre.state.ma.us.

**Please Note:** There will be no physical meeting at the offices of the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.

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# Item #1: *PowerPoint on the LSL Grant Allotments Needs Survey*

# Lead Service Line Inventory Update to the 2021 DWINSA

- **EPA changed the allocation of LSL funding to the states based on the inventories submitted with the 2021 DWINSA.**
- **EPA calculated that Massachusetts had 117,090 LSLs. This resulted in a low percent of national LSLs and a loss in funding.**
- **But the LSL surveys submitted in 2021 were optional, both for the states and for the individual PWS.**
- **States questioned the methodology used by EPA in its calculations and EPA offered the states a chance for a one-time update.**
- **States were required to re-survey the same PWS from 2021.**
- **How many LSLs do we have in Massachusetts? Unknown. In 2016 AWWA estimated there are 220,000 LSLs**

# MassDEP resurveyed the 56 PWS originally included in the 2021 DWINSA

- 22 PWS had no changes from their 2021 LSL inventory
- 15 PWS had changes that resulted in an increased number of LSLs
- 11 PWS had changes that resulted in a decreased number
- 5 PWS never responded to our request
- 1 PWS responded after the Nov. 30th deadline
- 2 PWS are wholesale systems and have no service lines

# Updated Surveys

- Due November 30th
- MassDEP submitted the 15 updated inventories that showed an increase in the number of LSLs.
- Most of the 15 PWS had minor changes, a couple had significant changes.

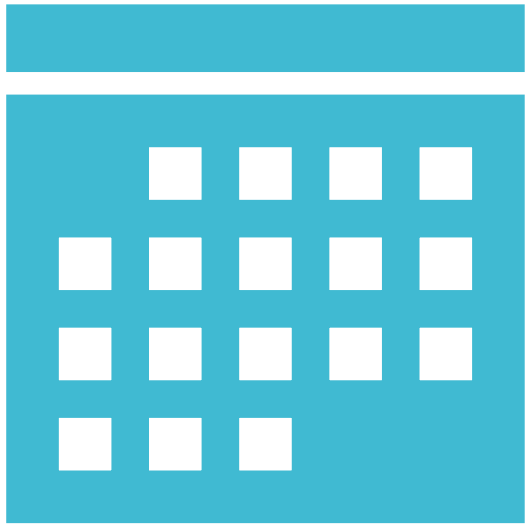
Because this is a weighted statistical survey, we will not know the final number of LSLs from EPA until February - March.

The update should put us closer to 200,000 LSLs in Massachusetts than the original 117,090.

# What's Next

## Schedule: February – March 2024

- EPA updates numbers of LSLs
- EPA recalculates the % of LSL for each state
- EPA updates $ allotments for 2024 (this will carry through 2026)



Whether this results in a larger percent of the national number of LSLs and an increase in funding depends on what the other states submitted (if anything) during the one-time update.

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# Item #2: *PowerPoint on the LSL Planning Grant Program*

# Service Line Inventory (SLI) and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan (LSLRP) Technical Assistance Program

- MassDEP's program helps small community (COM) and non-transient, non-community (NTNC) PWS complete their SLI and LSLRP before the LCRR deadline
  - Funded with $1.3 million from 2023 LSL Drinking Water SRF set asides for SFY2024
  - 599 PWS are eligible for the program
  - Partnered with UMass Amherst and two consulting firms to implement the program
- UMass Amherst
  - ISA used to hire Technical Assistance Providers to work with NTNCs (11 to date)
  - Budget $260k- 30% has been expended to date
- Consultants
  - Work directly with COM (14 to date)
  - Budget $1.055 million- 56% has been encumbered while 0% has been expended to date (initial invoices submitted when 50% of each PWS is completed- several are close)
- Ongoing outreach to increase interest
  - Articles, Emails, Partner organization sharing, Service line Inventory Compliance survey

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**Item #3:** ***PowerPoint on Cybersecurity***

# Cybersecurity and PWS

- Cybersecurity- emerging issue that MassDEP had some initial involvement
- More recently (2021), we have increased our efforts by partnering with UMass Amherst using annual Small System TA setaside funds to support:
  - p/t project coordinator and p/t technical assistance provider (TAP)
  - Hosting in-person and virtual trainings, education, and outreach
  - Sanitary survey inspections (new)
  - Hiring up to 4 additional TAPs (new)
- We've identified that PWS need funds to implement cybersecurity upgrades
- MassDEP/DWP proposes to use $500k in setasides in the 2024 IUP to develop a cybersecurity grant program similar to SLI Technical Assistance Program
  - Prerequisite for the grant would be PWS with completed a cybersecurity assessment and plan.
  - Utilize pre-approved consultants on Master Service Agreement
  - MassDEP oversees program management: outreach, application review, invoice approval, etc

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# Item #4: *PowerPoint on MassDEP Proposed Projects*

# MassDEP
# Bureau of Water Resources

Clean Water SRF Project Funding Requests

Clean Water Trust

December 13, 2023

# PFAS in Wastewater Treatment Plants

# Analysis of PFAS Concentrations at Wastewater Treatment Plants

**Problem and Need:**

- Needs of wastewater sector not well understood
- Limited understanding of PFAS concentrations in influent, effluent and sludge;
- Needs to understand differences within WWTPs, between WWTPs, and other factors such as seasonality, flow, different types of wastewater
- Project will help establish baseline information before required permit-driven data are collected by the permit holders over the next several years
- Anticipated surface water quality standards and effluent guidelines that limit PFAS discharged to environment through wastewater effluent; EPA has already published draft aquatic life criteria
- EPA Drinking Water Standard will affect land application of residuals and discharge limits for groundwater WWTPs
- The CWSRF needs to develop a PFAS remediation project pipeline; information collected could be used to develop projects benefiting from federal Clean Water SRF Emerging Contaminants funds

# Analysis of PFAS Concentrations at Wastewater Treatment Plants

**Summary:** Collect and analyze up to four rounds of influent, effluent and sludge PFAS samples from wastewater treatment plants discharging to surface water and groundwater (or collect at a portion of these WWTPs in FY24); collect samples of wastewater in sewersheds representing various types of waste.

**Purpose:** Develop understanding of PFAS concentrations in wastewater to plan for:
- Assistance in removal at the sources (decrease influent concs)
- Anticipated federal surface water quality standards (decrease effluent concs and develop standards)
- Evaluation of potential updates to the residuals land application program (address residuals)

**Background:**
- Up to 211 WWTPs discharging to surface water and 271 discharging to groundwater
- MassDEP/USGS have conducted 2 rounds of sampling at 9 WWTPs discharging to surface water
- Some WWTPs with renewed NPDES permits have begun to monitor
-All permittees who land apply residuals are sampling
- No PFAS sampling has been done at groundwater discharge plants

**Funding Request:** $3.75 M (split over 2 years)

| | FY24 | FY25 | FY26 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Request | $2,000,000 | $1,750,000 | | $3,750,000 |

# Analysis of PFAS Concentrations at Wastewater Treatment Plants

**Procurement:**

- MassDEP intends to establish contracts with:
  - Engineering consultant firm(s) to be selected from statewide master service agreement to collect samples, conduct QA/AC, assess results, prepare report
  - Laboratories to conduct analyses of PFAS; lab(s) could also be included as subcontractor(s) in contract with engineering firm
  - Potential partner (such as NEIWPCC or UMass) to assist in project coordination including outreach with WWTPs

**Project Management/Administration:**

- MassDEP staff will oversee the project and contracts with consultant, lab and partner
- MassDEP wastewater program will have three new FTEs (two PFAS environmental analysts and one procurement and grants administrator) who can support the project and SRF projects in general
- Potential partner will provide project management support and coordination with WWTPs, labs, and consultants

# Grants:
# Reducing Nitrogen in Coastal Embayments

# Reducing Nitrogen Pollution in Coastal Embayments Grant Program

**Summary:** Grant program to promote reduction of nitrogen loading in coastal embayments in Nitrogen Sensitive Areas

**Purpose:**

- Support compliance with the updated Title 5 or new Watershed Permitting regulations
- Enable other coastal areas to participate in updated Title 5/new Watershed Permitting regulations

**Background:**

- MassDEP promulgated revised Title 5 regulations and Watershed Permitting on July 7, 2023, to reduce nitrogen impairment in coastal embayments
- The regulations:
  - Designated 30 Nitrogen Sensitive Areas (NSA) for watersheds subject to a 208 plan with EPA approved Final TMDLs, and automatically designated one additional NSA upon EPA's approval of the Final TMDL
  - Requires upgrades of septic systems to incorporate Best Available Nitrogen Reducing Technology (BANRT) OR
  - Optional Watershed Permit application to comprehensively address nitrogen pollution
- 85% of the Cape Cod's nitrogen pollution is from septic systems

**Funding Request:**

| | FY24 | Total |
|---|---|---|
| Request | $ 600,000 | $600,000 |

# Reducing Nitrogen Pollution in Coastal Embayments Grant Program

**Problem and Need:**

- Areas designated as Nitrogen Sensitive need to respond in a timely manner, either with Innovative Alternative (IA) systems or Watershed Permit application
- Approximately 8 municipalities have submitted an NOI, Watershed Permit application or De Minimis Load Request to date.
- Municipalities applying for a Watershed Permit will need technical studies to support their applications
    - Update nitrogen load information
    - Conduct model runs to evaluate the efficacy of different nitrogen controls
- Other municipalities may want to apply for a Watershed Permit
    - Develop nitrogen reduction 208 or equivalent watershed plan to identify N sources
- Support Innovative Alternative septic system alternatives
    - Data system improvements to fund analysis of IA system performance

# Reducing Nitrogen Pollution in Coastal Embayments Grant Program

**Procurement:**

- Program is being piloted in FY24 with $300,000 in Capital funds
- Request for Responses to be posted to CommBuys week of 12/11/2023
- Future funding would be utilized in the now-established competitive grant program at MassDEP
- Eligible applicants are:
  - Regional or local government units that meet the regulatory definition of Local Government Unit as defined in (314 CMR 21.02)
  - Future RFRs may include
    - Municipalities
    - Regional Planning Agencies
    - Not-for-profit organizations

**Project Management/Administration:**

- MassDEP as program manager will review applications, select projects, administer contracts, perform project oversight, and make payments

# Reducing Nitrogen Pollution in Coastal Embayments Grant Program

**Eligible activities:**

- Planning activities that contribute to or come from a Watershed Management Plan or Watershed Permit, including:
  - De Minimis Load application
  - Watershed Management Plan, Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan, Targeted Watershed Plan, or Scientific Evaluation
  - Assessment of nitrogen loads
  - Modeling of nitrogen reduction scenarios
- Planning activities required by approved watershed permit
  - Data analysis of ambient water quality monitoring results
  - Permeable reactive barrier design.
- Review of ambient water quality monitoring, modeling, and/or other measures for the purpose of demonstrating de minimis load within a watershed or sub-watershed

**Ineligible activities:**

- Construction or implementation projects, including but not limited to:
  - Construction of approved sewering;
  - Upgrades to existing wastewater treatment facilities and/or septic systems
  - Installation of a permeable reactive barrier.
- Continued operation or maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities or upgraded septic systems

# Thank you!

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**Item #5:** ***(No Reference Documents)***