



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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FY 2021 Water Management Act Grant Summary

The Water Management Act Grant Program is designed to assist eligible public water suppliers and municipalities with Water Management Act permits by providing funds for planning assistance, demand management, and withdrawal impact mitigation projects in local communities. The focus of these grants is: 1) planning projects for specific watersheds or sub-watersheds to identify implementation projects to improve ecological conditions; 2) demand management projects aimed to improve the efficiency of water use within a municipality or a watershed; and 3) mitigation projects in the following categories: improve or increase instream flow, wastewater projects that keep water local including reductions in inflow and infiltration, stormwater management projects that improve recharge, reduce impervious cover and/or improve water quality, water supply operational improvements, habitat improvement, and other projects that could mitigate the impacts of water withdrawals.

Eligible grant applicants are Massachusetts public water suppliers or municipalities with a valid Water Management Act Permit or Registration. A 20 percent funding match is required. Cooperative proposals are encouraged. Particular consideration is given to proposed projects in highly impacted basins or sub-basins and those undergoing permit renewals. The funds allocated for grants are distributed under a competitive procurement process. Approximately \$1.0 million was available to distribute. This year, up to 5 extra points were given to projects in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities.

MassDEP received eight proposals for this grant year totaling just under \$670,000. A summary of the review and ranking process for the eight proposals is provided below. The proposal review committee recommends funding six proposals this year. The total grant dollar amount of the recommended projects is \$360,909 which will also leverage an additional \$107,380 in project work, for a total of \$468,289.

The proposals recommended for funding by the review committee are outlined below. Brief summaries for these projects are attached.

Table 1: 2021 WMA Recommended Grant Proposals

Project	Title	Applicant	Project Total	Grant Money from State	Match
1	Water Conservation Planning and Preparation for Implementation of Proposed Worcester Interconnection	Auburn Water District	\$105,745.00	\$84,445.00	\$21,300.00
2	Interconnections, Phase 2	Avon	\$75,000.00	\$54,750.00	\$20,250.00
3	Water Rate Study*	Dighton Water District	\$29,750.00*	\$23,800.00*	\$5,950.00*
4	Alternative Source Evaluation	Leicester Water Supply District	\$122,740.00	\$92,000.00	\$30,740.00
5	Continuation of the Stony Brook Flow Restoration Project	Westford and Littleton	\$107,243.00	\$83,603.00	\$23,640.00
6	Demand Management Outdoor Water Conservation Campaign	Scituate	\$27,811.00	\$22,311.00	\$5,500.00

* Contingent on changes being made to the scope of work in the application.

**FY 2021 WMA GRANT PROGRAM
FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

NUMBER	TITLE	PROJECT TOTAL	MATCH
	APPLICANT		
01	Water Conservation Planning and Preparation for Implementation of Proposed Worcester Interconnection Auburn Water District	\$105,745	\$21,300
	This proposed project would continue the implementation of the proposed interconnection(s) between the Auburn Water District (District) and the City of Worcester, which supports the District’s ongoing efforts to improve the system’s supply resiliency (accounting for existing stressed and vulnerable water supplies) while minimizing environmental impacts through regional cooperation. The purchase of water from the City of Worcester has been identified as a potential alternative to the District’s local groundwater withdrawal sources. In prior WMA grant projects funded over the last four years, three potential interconnection locations were evaluated, preliminary designs were constructed, and biddable contract documents and permits were developed. This year’s proposal continues this work by preparing a Water Conservation Plan and initiating updates to the Auburn Aquifer Protection Bylaw, assessing corrosion control implications from the proposed interconnection, completing permitting for the proposed interconnection, and finalizing design plans and bid documents.		
02	Interconnections, Phase II Town of Avon	\$75,000	\$20,250
	Avon’s current system is limited and susceptible to contamination. This evaluation will focus on the two most feasible options determined from a previous WMA grant, either a connection with the Town of Stoughton that would allow Avon to purchase water from MWRA, or a connection with the City of Brockton which would allow for the purchase of Aquaria water. This evaluation will investigate needed infrastructure improvements and associated costs, costs to purchase water, preliminary design work for the most favorable location, and a detailed evaluation of permitting needs. The preliminary design work will consist of an evaluation of the potential interconnection location and development of conceptual design drawings.		
03	Water Rate Study Dighton Water District	\$29,750	\$5,950
	The Dighton Water District (DWD) will perform a detailed rate study to ensure that its rates fully capture the true cost of providing water service while promoting the conservation needed to protect the utility’s long-term supply sufficiency. The DWD wishes to re-examine its current rate structure and assess its options for implementing an alternate, multi-tier rate structure while considering additional revenue creation options used by other communities.		
05	Alternative Source Evaluation Leicester Water Supply District	\$122,740	\$30,740
	The Leicester Water Supply District (LWSD) will conduct an alternative source evaluation as part of their efforts to enhance their water supply sustainability through an interconnection with the City of Worcester. Consideration of the amount of water that the LWSD will draw from its own source water wells and the proposed interconnection as well as the future of the LWSD wells are the subject of this evaluation. Several factors will be considered including ecological conditions with regards to basin groundwater withdrawal category (GWC) and biological category (BC) and streamflow.		

- 06 Continuation of Stony Brook Flow Restoration Project**
Towns of Westford and Littleton **\$107,243** **\$23,640**
 The primary goal of this project is to improve streamflow in Stony Brook through operation of the existing impoundments in a coordinated manner based on actual streamflow data and model results to inform operational decisions. The study area is controlled by a series of six control structures located in Littleton and Westford including the Spectacle Pond Outlet, the Mill Pond Dam, the Forge Pond Dam (or Abbot Mill Dam), and the Stony Brook Dam. This project will expand on previous grants issued in past years by establishing an ownership agreement and automation design at Forge Pond, develop a Project website as part of the stakeholder engagement plan, and evaluating the feasibility of consolidating the Forge Pond monitoring stations to cost-effectively collect new data.
- 07 Demand Management Outdoor Water Conservation Campaign**
Scituate **\$27,811** **\$5,562**
 This project will build on the work of the WaterSmart South Shore regional education program and will provide increased collateral for continuing to message residents about water conservation in the towns of Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Rockland, Scituate and Weymouth. The outdoor water conservation campaign will supplement existing water conservation activities within the WaterSmart South Shore program. The grant will enable the making of 5, 30-60 second videos to advertise the campaign, the purchasing of social media advertising to put the campaign in front of residents, the purchase of lawn signs that are given to people who purchase rain barrels or take the pledge to not water their lawn. The videos will be made in collaboration with local cable access television stations, will be broadly shown via town cable access, and will be boosted on social media through paid advertising. The videos will ask people to take the pledge to not water their lawn and direct them to a website where they can sign up and receive a free lawn sign. Lawn signs will be distributed throughout the region via community partners.