



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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FY 2023 Water Management Act Program Grant Summary

The Water Management Act Grant Program assists eligible public water suppliers and municipalities that hold Water Management Act permits and registrations 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. In 2020, planning projects for public water suppliers and municipalities due to restrictions that have been placed on their system from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination was added to the list of acceptable grant proposals.

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 nine proposals for this grant year totaling just under \$842,000 (\$1,131,000 when match is included). The proposal review committee recommends funding eight proposals this year. The total grant dollar amount of the recommended projects is \$637,362, which will also leverage an additional \$171,280 in project work (required 20% match), for a total of \$808,641. The proposals recommended for funding by the review committee are outlined below. Brief summaries for these projects are attached.

Table 1: 2023 WMA Recommended Grant Proposals

Title	Applicant	Project Total	Grant Money From the State	Match
Interconnection Phase 3	Avon	\$69,300.00	\$55,400.00	\$13,900.00
Rehabilitation of Mt. Warner Wells	Hadley	\$130,730.00	\$104,530.00	\$26,200.00
Rate Study	Abington Rockland	\$57,394.50	\$45,874.50	\$11,520.00
Demand Management	Sterling	\$95,555.00	\$76,415.00	\$19,140.00
System Optimization	Plymouth	\$79,523.85	\$60,650.00	\$18,873.85
Wakefield/MWRA Connection	Lynnfield Center Water District	\$184,000.00	\$147,200.00	\$36,800.00
Continuation of the Stony Brook Flow Restoration Project*	Westford and Littleton	\$27,238.00	\$22,392.00	\$4,846.00
Integrated Surface Water Tool	Peabody	\$164,900.00	\$124,900.00	\$40,000.00

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

**FY 2023 WMA GRANT PROGRAM
FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

NUMBER	TITLE	PROJECT TOTAL	MATCH
	APPLICANT		
01	Rate Study Abington Rockland Joint Water Works	\$57,395	\$11,520
	The Abington-Rockland Joint Water Works (ARJWW) has not completed a water rate study since 2012. Water rates are in need of updates to reflect current finances, planned and unplanned capital treatment and distribution projects, and ongoing operation and maintenance. A water rate study is also needed to evaluate and provide justification for switching to a conservation-based rate system, which would reduce water consumption, conserve water resources, and protect the Taunton and South Coastal watersheds. The ARJWW is requesting a Water Management Act Grant to assist in funding a water rate survey to help control demand and consider switching to a conservation-based rate system.		
02	Interconnection Phase 3 Town of Avon	\$69,300	\$13,900
	The Town of Avon's water supply is limited and vulnerable. Development of additional sources within Avon have been studied, with no real viable sites. The Town would like to continue efforts started with two previous WMA grants to evaluate an interconnection. To date Avon has determine the most effective option to move forward with a permanent interconnection between Brockton and Stoughton. The Town plans to utilize funds for this project to work with Stoughton, Brockton, and MWRA, to establish Intermunicipal Agreements and develop a plan of action to permit a permanent interconnection to be used initially for emergency but ultimately could be used to address long term supply needs.		
04	Alternative Source Study for Rehabilitation of Mt. Warner Wells Town of Hadley	\$130,730	\$26,200
	This grant would evaluate the possibility of rehabilitating and treating the Mount Warner Wells to be used as safe and redundant regional backup water supply for the Towns of Hadley and Amherst. Project objectives are to gain an understanding of how much water the Mt. Warner wells can provide to Amherst and Hadley, what it will cost to treat it, how to deliver it to Amherst via interconnection, and to provide recommendations for next steps. Tasks include: 1) Develop a Pilot Testing Protocol for MassDEP approval. 2) Perform Pilot Testing. Configure the required equipment for piloting of iron and manganese treatment. 3) Evaluate Potential Hydraulic Needs. Run simulations using Hadley's existing distribution system model to determine how much water can potentially be provided by the Mt. Warner Wells to Hadley and Amherst and what would be the hydraulic requirements of the interconnection.		

**FY 2023 WMA GRANT PROGRAM
FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

NUMBER	TITLE	PROJECT TOTAL	MATCH
	APPLICANT		
05	Wakefield/MWRA Connection Lynnfield Center Water District	\$184,000	\$36,800
	This application seeks funding for Lynnfield Center Water District's (LCWD) interconnection with Wakefield for wheeling MWRA water to help diversify sources, add non-ground water sources, and supplement existing LCWD water supply. This project would fund: (1) the engineering design of a system interconnection vault between Wakefield/MWRA and LCWD and (2) the Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) as the first step of the MWRA admission process.		
06	Integrated Surface Water Tool Peabody	\$164,900	\$40,000
	This project aims to develop a model to evaluate the resiliency of each of the City's three drinking water supply reservoirs under various scenarios. Inputs to the model will include precipitation, evaporation, direct surface runoff, groundwater fluxes (both in and out), inter-reservoir transfers, withdrawals from the Ipswich River, dynamic raw water demands that vary with hydrologic conditions (e.g., greater demand during dry summers), raw water offsets due to the use of regional and/or local purchases, the reactivation of groundwater supplies, and the initiation of water conservation measures. A workshop to discuss potential modifications to the City's sources and the management of those sources would also be held.		
07	System Optimization Plymouth	\$79,234	\$18,874
	The Town of Plymouth seeks to study the overall operational efficiency and capacity of its system, which has several pressure zones making it difficult to move water where it is needed. Based on that study, Plymouth will devise implementable strategies that will allow them to optimize their existing system capacity to meet current and future demands for water.		

**FY 2023 WMA GRANT PROGRAM
FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)**

NUMBER	TITLE	PROJECT	
		TOTAL	MATCH
	APPLICANT		
08	Demand Management Sterling	\$95,555	\$19,140
	Sterling reported high Unaccounted for Water in its 2021 Annual Statistical Report. The objectives of this demand management project are to: 1) initiate the process of identifying active and unmetered service connections and 2) identify areas where the distribution system can potentially be split into multiple pressure zones. Accomplishment of these objectives can improve operational efficiency while reducing demands on the Town's water supply sources.		
09	Continuation of Stony Brook Flow Restoration Project - 2022 Towns of Westford and Littleton	\$27,238	\$4,846
	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. The project includes updating low flow release protocols. Funding is contingent on changes to the Scope of Work.		