



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

100 Cambridge Street Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 • 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Bonnie Heiple
Commissioner

FY 2024 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. For the past three years, up to 5 extra points were given to projects in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities.

MassDEP received six proposals for this grant year totaling just under \$385,000 (\$483,000 when match is included). A summary of the review and ranking process for the proposals is provided below. The proposal review committee recommends funding five of the proposals this year.

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

Table 1: 2024 WMA Recommended Grant Proposals

Title	Applicant	Project Total	Grant Money From the State	Match
Reservoir Model	Abington-Rockland	\$186,950.00	\$149,500.00	\$37,450.00
Water Conservation	Foxborough	\$24,005.00	\$18,240.00	\$5,765.00
Source Capacity Evaluation and Rate Study*	Kingston	\$86,440.00	\$69,040.00	\$17,400.00
Stormwater Projects and Drought Plan	Milford	\$60,000.00	\$48,000.00	\$12,000.00
Rate Study and Optimization Planning*	Onset	\$62,000.00	\$49,500.00	\$12,500.00

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

**FY 2024 WMA GRANT PROGRAM
FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

NUMBER	TITLE/APPLICANT	PROJECT TOTAL	MATCH
01	Reservoir Model Abington Rockland Joint Water Works This project would provide a model to help understand potential future water reservoir levels under a variety of conditions, including optimal timing for withdrawals from the Hingham Street Reservoir in Rockland and Great Sandy Bottom Pond in Pembroke. The model will potentially allow Abington-Rockland to reduce withdrawals from the impacted sub-basins where their Myers Ave. Wellfield and Great Sandy Bottom Pond are located and increase utilization of the Hingham Street Reservoir as storage allows. The development of this model will provide Abington-Rockland with the capability to make real-time decisions that will help ensure long-term water supply adequacy and provide ecological benefits.	\$186,950	\$37,450
02	Water Conservation Town of Foxborough The Foxborough Water Department embarked on several water conservation efforts last fiscal year and would like to launch additional programs this fiscal year with this grant project. Foxborough has partnered with Neponset River Watershed Association again to help implement the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid social media campaigns and other media coverage identifying opportunities to improve water efficiency, as well as Water Department programs that support customers' water conservation efforts. • Community event participation to promote the rebate program and provide public education materials and water efficient fixtures. • Residential newsletter to educate residents about the importance of efficient water use. • Personalized letter to top 25% of residential water users to provide targeted education and recommendations for efficient water use. • Point of sale promotions to alert consumers to the availability of rebates for certain types of fixtures and appliances. • Regulatory review to identify opportunities to incentivize and/or require efficient water use into the future as our Town grows and changes. 	\$24,005	\$5,765
03	Source Capacity Evaluation and Rate Study Town of Kingston The goal of this project is to complete a source capacity evaluation and water rate study. The Town has a demonstrated water demand from recent development and	\$57,300	\$11,700

recent demands have exceeded both Drinking Water Guidelines for sources and the Town's WMA permitted withdrawal. The goal of the rate study is to review the existing rate structure and evaluate how best to increase rates to meet current and future revenue needs, while encouraging water conservation and remaining fiscally sustainable.

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| 05 | Stormwater Projects and Drought Plan | | |
| | Town of Milford | \$60,000 | \$12,000 |
| | The Town seeks to develop conceptual designs for three (3) priority stormwater projects and take the most easily implemented project to 80% design. The project team will also evaluate suitable sites for small-scale infiltrating rain gardens, and develop a model drought plan, which will serve as a template for Milford and communities across the watershed to personalize and adopt. The proposed drought plan template will focus on consistency with the state drought plan, WMA permit guidance on minimization and mitigation requirements, and specifically the Charles River Basin Water Management Act permit requirements. | | |
| 06 | Rate Study and Optimization Planning | | |
| | Onset Water District | \$62,000 | \$12,500 |
| | Onset proposes to 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. Onset will also evaluate the options for lessening the impact of Onset's withdrawals on Red Brook by reducing the volume the District withdraws from nearby wells and increasing the volume that the District withdraws from wells located further away. Each evaluation will include planning level cost estimates and a feasibility level for each action. | | |