

# WMA Grant Programs

## Water Management Act Grant

## M36 Water Audit Grant

## Ipswich Grant

2023

WMA Advisory Committee  
December 11, 2023

# Grants Funding Background

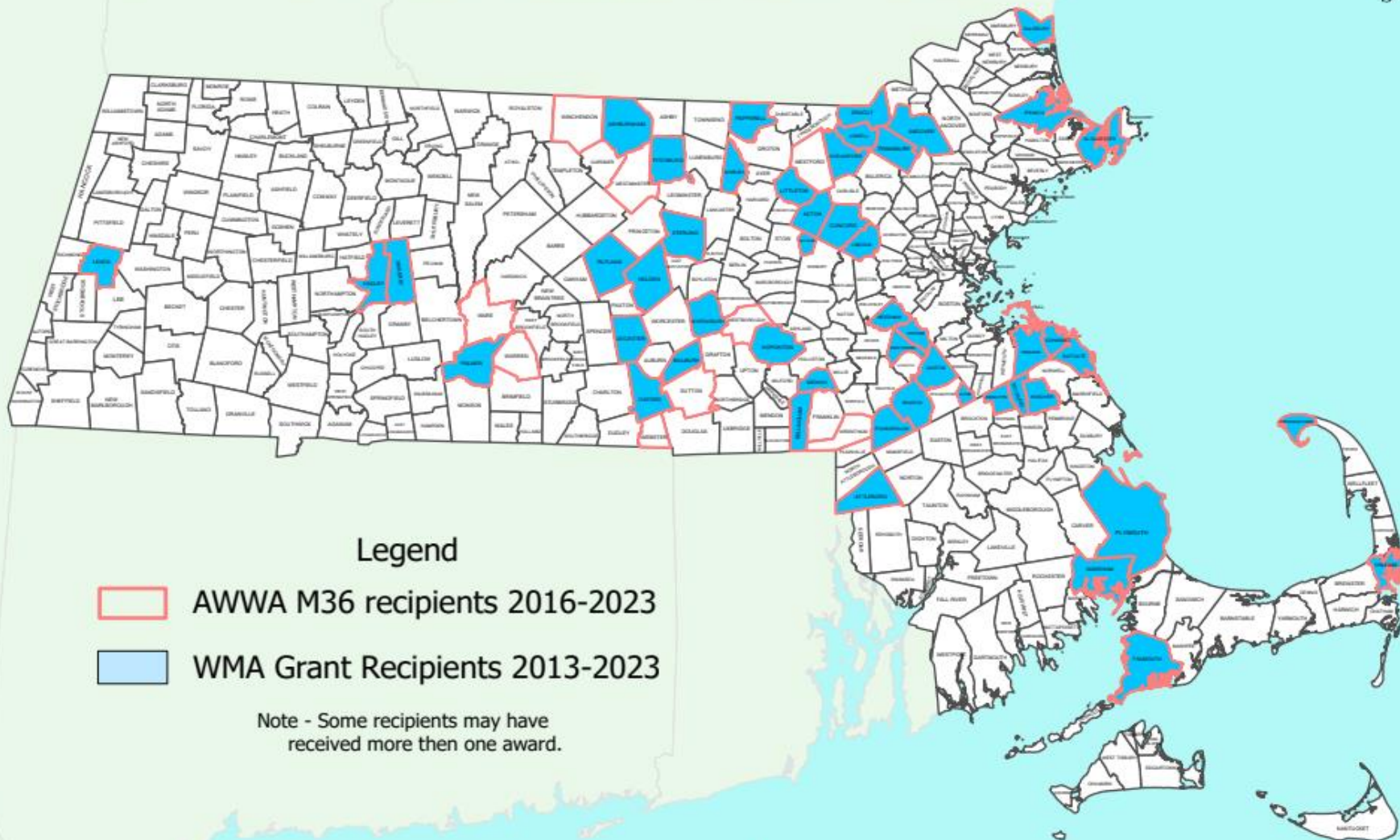
- State capital fund provides money for WMA and M36 Grant
  - WMA Grant began FY2013
  - M36 Grant began FY2016
  - Approximately \$2 million/year for WMA and M36
- Ipswich Grant new FY2024
- State FY24 budget provides \$2.3 million for Ipswich Grant

# WMA Grant

- WMA Grant
  - Assist WMA PWS permittees with minimization & mitigation requirements
  - 98 projects since FY 2013
  - Six additional projects proposed to be funded in FY2024
  - Special consideration is given to projects in “highly impacted basins or subbasins”, or areas with coldwater fish resources.
  - Project usually in the \$60k-\$200k range
  - Average of 9 projects a year
  - Current Requirements:
    - PWS must have a valid WMA permit or registration (added FY 2020)
    - 20% financial match for all projects

# WMA Grant Recipients 2013-2023

## AWWA M36 Audit Recipients 2016-2023



### Legend

- AWWA M36 recipients 2016-2023
- WMA Grant Recipients 2013-2023

Note - Some recipients may have received more than one award.

0 20 40  
Miles

Data Source: MassDEP Water Management Program, MassGIS  
Map Produced by MassDEP GIS Program - November, 2023

# WMA Grants- Review Process

- Review Committee has consisted of staff from:
  - MassDEP, DCR, DFG
- Competitive scoring:
  - All proposals were reviewed and competitively scored using the following criteria:
    - Problem definition; Strategy/approach; Project viability; Applicant strength; Timeline; Proposal quality; Responsiveness, MBE/WBE; and EJ impact
- Recommendations made:
  - Based on total score.
  - Reviewed by MassDEP Commissioner, EEA Secretary, and the Governor's Office



# Recent WMA Grant Years

- 2021 -2022

- 11 proposals requesting \$1.42 million
- 6 projects funded (\$424,000)
  - Auburn, Avon, Hadley, Hamilton, Leominster and Littleton.

- 2022-2023

- 9 proposals requesting \$842,000.
- 8 projects funded (\$692,000)
  - Avon, Hadley, Abington-Rockland, Sterling, Plymouth, Lynnfield Center Water District, Littleton, Peabody.

# 2023 Projects

- Interconnection Phase 3 - Avon
- Rehabilitation of Mt. Warner Wells - Hadley
- Rate Study - Abington Rockland
- Demand Management - Sterling
- System Optimization - Plymouth
- Wakefield/MWRA Connection - Lynnfield Center Water District
- Continuation of the Stony Brook Flow Restoration Project - Westford and Littleton
- Integrated Surface Water Tool – Peabody
  
- Summaries available at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-management-act-grant-programs-for-public-water-suppliers>

# Avon

2020-2023

## Problem:

- Avon's water supply is limited and vulnerable.
- 6 wells run at capacity for most of the summer. Wells are often shut down due to drawdown issues.
- In the case of a fire, it could take up to a week to refill tanks to operating range.
- Existing and potential sources of contamination are a threat.
- Lack an alternative emergency supply of water. There are no viable sites for the development of additional sources.



# Avon

## 2020-2023 cont.

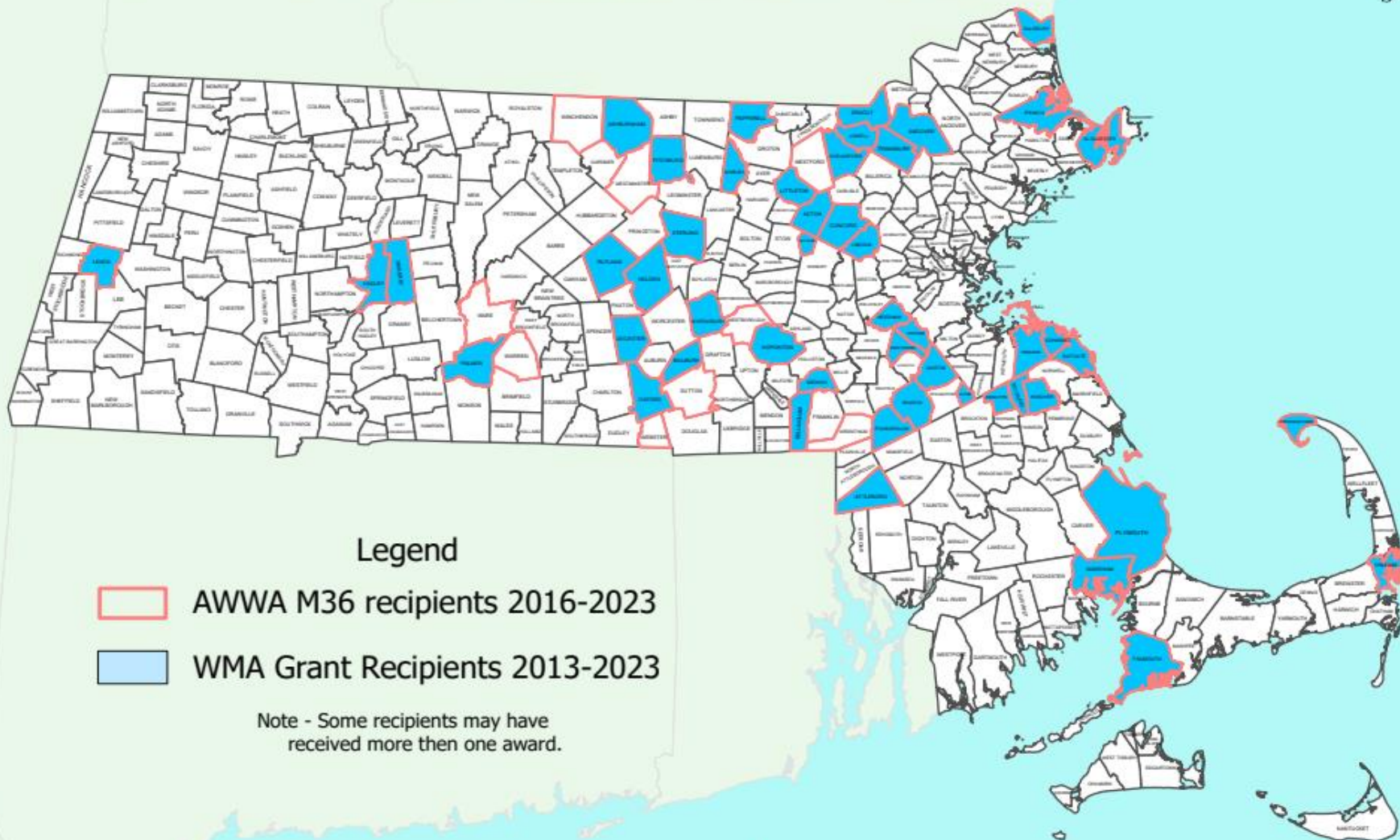
- Phase 1 - Evaluated current and projected demand needs and reviewed numerous interconnection options.
- Phase 2 - Evaluated the two most feasible options:
  - A connection with Stoughton that would allow Avon to purchase water from MWRA; or a connection with Brockton.
  - A new pump station between Avon, Stoughton, and Brockton at the existing Old South Street Pump Station was determined to be the most effective option.
- Phase 3 – Researched the development of formal Intermunicipal Agreements (IMA) with Stoughton and Brockton for three scenarios:
  - emergency interconnections for short term (less than one month),
  - a supply emergency lasting less than six months,
  - and a long-term permanent connection (particularly for MWRA).

# M36 Grant

- AWWA M36 Grant 2016-2023
  - Designed to assist permittees and registrants reduce their non-revenue water
    - help determine how much water is being lost due to leakage, meter error, or other conditions; and
    - determine the cost of uncaptured revenue from non-revenue water
  - M36 Audit has been implemented throughout the US.
  - Permittees not meeting the 10% UAW Performance Standard for 2 out of 3 years are required to conduct a M36 Audit and implement the results to be considered Functionally Equivalent.

# WMA Grant Recipients 2013-2023

## AWWA M36 Audit Recipients 2016-2023



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# M36 Water Audits

- Overall, 99 M36 Audits have been funded in 57 towns since 2016.
- 10 additional audits are recommended for FY 2024.

FY	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Audits Completed	10	11	12	9	13	6	23	15

- In 2017 & 2019, funds were provided for 4 free M36 Training sessions across MA.
- An instruction manual for the M36 methodology was created. Both on-line at: [Public Water Supply Tools, Resources & Performance Standards | Mass.gov](#)

# AWWA M36 Audit Results

- 2022 and 2023 results have pointed to the following areas for PWSs to focus on:
  - Accuracy of master meters
  - Accuracy of customer meters
  - Billing inaccuracies
  - Systemic data handling errors
- 23 PWSs have done more than one round of M36 Audits (Acton, Attleboro, Avon, Foxborough, Gloucester, DWWD, Dracut, Hanover, Holden, Hopkinton, Littleton, Millbury, Oxford, Plymouth, Provincetown, Rutland, Salisbury, Shirley, Three Rivers, Westminster, Westborough, and Winchendon.) and all have performed a Level 2 or “bottom-up” audit.
- 13 of the 23 have consistently improved their UAW values (2016-2022). 2 have remained steady, and 8 have increased.



# Ipswich PFAS and Interconnections Grant

- WMA/Drinking Water Grant
  - Assist PWS with sources in the Ipswich Basin with:
    - persistent water quantity challenges; and
    - issues associated with PFAS in drinking water.
  - No Match
  - Reimburse projects that occur between July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024.
  - RFR posted 12/1/2023 at: [Water Management Act Grant Programs for Public Water Suppliers | Mass.gov](#) and on COMMBUYS – [www.commbuys.com](#)
  - Application deadline is 1/11/2024.



## Ipswich Grant, cont.

- Eligible projects must satisfy one or more of the following objectives:
  - Increase the number of Ipswich River Basin communities that join an alternative water supply source, or
  - Reduce the water demand on the Ipswich River; or
  - Remediate PFAS contamination in the Ipswich River Basin and improve access to clean drinking water. This will be demonstrated by: (a) achieving the Massachusetts PFAS6 MCL; and (b) working to achieve the draft MCLs of EPA's Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

# Ipswich Grant, cont.

- Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:
  - Planning projects that include feasibility studies, infrastructure design, water chemistry analyses, permitting, and other activities needed to identify and reduce demand or provide a connection to another water supply source.
  - Planning projects to support the planning, design or permitting of treatment systems that will remediate PFAS contamination in drinking water.
  - Implementation projects that include shovel-ready construction projects to remediate PFAS contamination, reduce water demand, or provide a connection to another water supply source.

# Get Informed

- RFRs are released in late summer.
- All WMA Grants RFRs are posted on COMMBUYS, the state's online procurement site, and on MassDEP's website.
  - <https://www.commbuys.com>
  - [Water Management Act Grant Programs for Public Water Suppliers | Mass.gov](#)
- Sign up for alerts on COMMBUYS.

# For more information...

- Water Management Act Regulations:

[MassDEP Water Management Act Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Guidance | Mass.gov](#)

- Technical Resources: (map and permitting tool)

[Sustainable Water Management Initiative \(SWMI\) Technical Resources | Mass.gov](#)

- Water Management Act Grants:

[Water Management Act Grant Programs for Public Water Suppliers | Mass.gov](#)

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