

Small Communities Water Infrastructure Exchange Newsletter
SCWIE January 2025 E-mail Newsletter
Summary of the December 4, 2024 SCWIE Microsoft Teams Meeting

PRESENTERS

1. CWSRF Update – Franny Josephs, USEPA
2. DWSRF Update – Keelan Baldwin USEPA
3. RUS/RD Update – Megan Gernentz. USDA
4. RCAP Update – Jodi Hilsabeck RCAP

Please note that the Microsoft Teams software failed to record the December 4 meeting nor did it produce a transcript. Unfortunately, I had relied on this software to produce much of the newsletter. As a result the copy is limited.

USEPA CLEAN WATER SRF UPDATE

Franny Josephs presented materials that emphasized the recent work that has taken place with respect to Marketing and Outreach. CWSRF Program Overview Factsheet (1) Below are some links to USEPA's new CWSRF Facts Sheets.

[Watershed Financing Partnerships](#) (2)

This factsheet describes how CWSRF funds can be used to help support watershed-scale investments in water quality through the formation of watershed financing partnerships. It outlines how to develop a CWSRF-supported watershed financing partnership and highlights successful examples in South Dakota and Pennsylvania.

[Using WIFIA and SRF Programs to Finance Water Infrastructure Projects](#) (3)

This factsheet describes how co-funding sustainable drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects with the WIFIA and SRF programs offers funding recipients efficiencies, cost saving and other advantages.

USEPA recently renewed the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (4) between USEPA State Revolving Funds and FEMA Public Assistance Grants program that can help communities recover quickly after a Presidential-declared disaster occurs.

USEPA's website also features an updated [factsheet](#)(5) with links to the [webinar series](#) (6) from 2022, project success stories and more!

USEPA DRINKING WATER SRF UPDATE

Keelan Baldwin provided an update on the Office of Inspector General (OIG) with respect to the lead service estimated number of Lead Service Line Replacements (LSLRs) done by the DWSRF and the funding amount.

The [OIG report epaoig.gov](#) (7) on the Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment released on October 21st provided an extensive response within this report that can be found on page 27. Keelan has encouraged everyone to read it.

USDA/RURAL UTILITIES SERVICES (RUS) UPDATE

Megan Gernentz from the Water and Environmental Programs(WEP)/Rural Utilities Services (RUS) updated the information that she had provided during the last two meetings. The data that was presented in FY 23 as a guide for FY 24 proved to be accurate. Funding for all of FY 24 is very accurate as compared to FY 23, but the amounts are a little less for each account. There is a higher subsidy rate for the loans. One will see all the different kinds of funding paths of money on the enclosed (8). All the towns received funding, but probably received a little less overall (9).

USE OF TERMINOLOGY: REGIONALIZATION VS COLLABORATION

A concern has been raised about the use of the term regionalization. Is the term Regionalization too strong and/or threatening? The term may turn off those who support working together. Would not collaboration be a better term?

Ramón Lucero in New Mexico from the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) commented that at first, he struggled with the term, but has

grown comfortable with it. He noted that in 2023, New Mexico passed the Regional Water System Resiliency Act (10). In response to a question, Ramón noted that RCAP has positive data about regionalization. RCAP uses the term “regionalization” broadly to capture small utility collaborations and partnerships. [https://www.rcap.org/special-initiatives/regionalization/\(11\)](https://www.rcap.org/special-initiatives/regionalization/(11)) . Deidre White from ASDWA also supported the use of the term and noted that there are studies in support of regionalization.

RCAP UPDATE

Jody Hilsabeck announced that the National State Revolving Fund (SRF) Infrastructure Financing and Training Workshop will take place at the Grand Hyatt in Seattle from March 25-27, 2025. For more information, please go to <https://www.rcap.org/srf-conference/> (12).

CIFA SUMMIT ON WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The Summit will take place at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill from Tuesday, April 22- 24. The summit convenes leaders of the SRF community, including SRF managers, federal partners, public finance experts, engineers, consultants, and water policy advocates, to engage in a national conversation on the future of funding and financing for water infrastructure.

For more information, please go to <https://www.cifanet.org/summit> (13)

Note to All readers

If you are interested in reading the documents and attachments referenced in the newsletter, I will e-mail to you a copy of the newsletter which will enable you to download all the documents.

This e-mail newsletter is sent to all water funding officials currently listed on the SCWIE website (www.scwie.org). It is sent to all those who have requested that they wish to participate on the regular SCWIE Microsoft Teams Meeting. It also is sent to all who have requested that they wish to receive the newsletter. In addition, it is posted on the SCWIE website under Newsletters.

If you wish to participate in SCWIE's Microsoft Teams Meetings, please let me know

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