

CHAPTER 10

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

10.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter briefly discusses some of the funding options that may be available to the Town of Mashpee for implementation of the Watershed Nitrogen Management Plan (WNMP). Even though this implementation is several years in the future, obtaining funding will be an important factor in gaining Town approval for implementing the solution.

10.2 STATE REVOLVING FUNDS

The Town of Mashpee is currently taking advantage of this program to develop this WNMP.

Massachusetts has a State Revolving Fund (SRF) that was established in 1989 to provide low interest loans for publicly owned treatment works (POTWs). The goal of the SRF is to aid municipalities in meeting federal and state water quality requirements. This funding is available for the planning, design, and/or construction of new collection, treatment, and discharge facilities. The current interest rate on these loans is 2 percent.

A. **Eligible Projects.** According to MADEP, financial assistance can be obtained for the following types of projects:

- “Tier 1 Wastewater Facilities – These include secondary or advanced wastewater treatment facilities and the major components of wastewater conveyance systems, such as large pumping stations/force mains and interceptor sewers.”
- “Tier 2 Wastewater Facilities – These projects are similar in nature to the Tier 1 projects but would generally have difficulty in obtaining funding in competition with

Tier 1 projects due to lower priority points (for example, smaller communities or CSO correction projects), or that may otherwise be ineligible for funding (such as upgrades or additions at facilities that previously received funding). The priority rating system is adjusted for this category, whereby, for example, a lower population can give higher points, or the number of points assigned for a CSO project is higher than in the Tier 1 rating system. (Any Tier 1 project would also satisfy the definition of a Tier 2 project).” (Tier 1 and Tier 2 definitions are quoted directly from MADEP’s Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Fact Sheet)

- Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) Removal – planning and design or construction projects that are designed to eliminate I/I problems.
- Collection Systems – smaller diameter sewers; preference is given when the project is related to a Tier 1 or Tier 2 project, where there are significant septic system failures, where there are high population densities, and where soils are unfavorable for septic systems; 75% of the projected flow in collection area must have been in existence prior to July 1, 1995.
- Tier 1 Planning and Design – facilities planning and preparation of plans and specifications for Tier 1 projects.
- Non-point Source – projects may include landfill capping, erosion control, and remediation of underground storage tank leaks.

10.3 OTHER STATE FUNDS

A. Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). CZM is part of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), and offers several grants aimed at protecting coastal resources from pollution.

The focus of the Coastal Pollutant Remediation (CPR) Program is removal or elimination of point sources of pollution (stormwater outfalls, etc.), especially those that are transportation-related (road runoff, boat pumpout facilities). The CPR grant pays for 75% of the project cost; the Town (or other agency that is applying for the grant) is required to provide a 25% match, either through cash or in-kind services (Town employee wages, etc.). Projects that receive funding have a limited time period in which to complete the work outlined. Requests for responses (RFRs) usually come out in the late spring or early summer and grants are awarded within a few months. The CZM website (<http://www.mass.gov/czm/>) posts announcements when the RFRs are available. Projects are usually classified as either an assessment or construction. Applicants need to demonstrate that there is a definite pollution problem affecting coastal waters, explain how the project will improve water quality, and show support among various Town departments or local interest groups.

The Coastal Non-point Source (NPS) Grant is similar to the CPR grant. However, the NPS focuses more on nonpoint sources. A 25% match is required and the pollution problem needs to be explained. RFRs for the NPS come out in late spring or early summer and are awarded within a few months. Eligible projects include construction, assessment, and development of NPS management tools that can be used by other organizations and municipalities.

10.4 BARNSTABLE COUNTY EFFORTS

Barnstable County formed the Wastewater Implementation Committee (WIC) as an advisory committee for discussion, education, and coordination on wastewater management planning. The Barnstable County Blue Ribbon Committee was also formed to investigate the feasibility of a regional approach to wastewater management. These committees led to the formation of the Cape Cod Water Quality Collaborative to facilitate the development of wastewater facilities on Cape Cod. The County staff believes that the Collaborative will be successful in acquiring federal money to help fund wastewater projects. It is unknown whether or not federal money will actually be received.

10.5 ESCROW ACCOUNTS AND TOWN CONSENT AGREEMENTS

Following the completion of a WNMP, an extended period of time typically elapses between the planning process, design of the collection, treatment and disposal facilities, and the actual implementation. During that time, numerous septic systems are likely to have some type of failure. In such cases, a homeowner may be reluctant to pay for a new system, only to abandon that system and hook up to Town sewer a few years later. To deal with these situations, some towns have been successful in utilizing escrow accounts. If there is no imminent threat to public health, a failing system could be given a temporary variance or be allowed to make limited repairs to the system until Town sewer is installed. The homeowner would be required to put money into an escrow account and then connect to the sewer when the collection system is installed. Two other Cape Cod towns, Provincetown and Yarmouth, have had success with such a program.

Additionally, some properties within the PPA may have established Wastewater Escrow Accounts as required by the CCC's Development of Regional Impact permitting process.