

Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration (MDWQFA) began a 30-day public comment period on May 16, 2018 for

- The State's Draft State's DRAFT Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Intended Use Plan and DRAFT Federal Fiscal Year 2018/State Fiscal Year 2020 Project Priority List for the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund
- The State's DRAFT Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Intended Use Plan and Draft Federal Fiscal Year 2018/State Fiscal Year 2020 Project Priority List for the Maryland Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund

A public hearing was held on June 14, 2018. The public record remained open through the close of business on June 21, 2018.

This document provides details regarding the public hearing, comments received during the comment period, and actions taken by MWQFA in response to those comments.

The public hearing began at 10:00 AM, on June 14, 2018. Elaine Dietz, Acting Program Administrator and Chief of the Capital Planning and Financing Division for the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration (MWQFA) was the Hearing Officer.

AGENCY PRESENTATION:

Please refer to Attachment 1 for the hearing sign-in sheet for a list of all hearing attendees.

PURPOSE:

In accordance with the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act, the public hearing was held at the offices of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) located at 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, Maryland 21230.

The purpose of this hearing was to present documents and hear testimony concerning: (1) the State's DRAFT Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Intended Use Plan and DRAFT Federal Fiscal Year 2018/State Fiscal Year 2020 Project Priority List for the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund, and (2) the State's DRAFT Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Intended Use Plan and Draft Federal Fiscal Year 2018/State Fiscal Year 2020 Project Priority List for the Maryland Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE:

Documents available for viewing at the hearing included the draft Intended Use Plans and Project Priority Lists for the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund and the Maryland Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. These documents were referred to during the public hearing.

PUBLIC NOTICE/ADVERTISEMENT:

Notice of the public hearing was published on MWQFA's web page. In addition, an e-mail containing notification of the public hearing was sent to a contact list of over 600 individuals, including applicants who submitted a Federal Fiscal Year 2018/State Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Assistance Application and others requesting a copy.

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018 WATER QUALITY REVOLVING LOAN FUND INTENDED USE PLAN

The Draft Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund Intended Use Plan describes how the annual federal capitalization grant, matching State funds, and "recycled funds" (funds that return to the Revolving Loan Fund for new loans from loan repayments) will be used for the design and construction of water quality capital projects pursuant to Title Six of the Clean Water Act. A federal grant of \$38.82 million has been allotted for the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund, which must be matched by \$7.764 million (20%) in State funds. Including other funds (such as loan repayments, investment earnings, and sale of revenue bonds) in the net amount of \$281.2 million, the total capital funding under this IUP is \$327.695 million.

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018 DRINKING WATER REVOLVING LOAN FUND INTENDED USE PLAN

The Draft Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Intended Use Plan describes how the annual federal capitalization grant and matching State funds will be used for the design and construction of drinking water capital projects to implement the requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The State assumed a federal grant of \$20.808 million for the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund and set-asides, which would be matched with \$4.161 million (20%) in State funds. Final allocations have since been released to the states, with a federal grant of \$20.348 million allotted for the Maryland Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, which must be matched by \$4.07 million (20%) in State Funds. Including other funds (such as loan repayments, investment earnings, and sale of revenue bonds) in the net amount of \$7.852 million, and excluding federal set-aside funds in the amount of \$6.31 million, the total capital funding under this IUP is \$32 million.

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2020 PROJECT PRIORITY LISTS

The two Draft Project Priority Lists were developed using applications received from potential borrowers through the solicitation efforts undertaken in December 2017 through January 2018 for both the Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund and the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. Projects were rated and ranked based on public health and water quality benefits, consistent with two approved Project Priority Systems. With the exception of nonpoint source projects, projects for which loan funds are ultimately provided must be consistent with Smart Growth, local land use plans, and County Water and Sewerage plans; additionally, drinking water systems must have the financial, managerial, and technical capacity to maintain Safe Drinking Water Act compliance.

ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS/REQUESTS FOR FUNDING/COMMENTS

The Department acknowledged the following comments received and/or changes made to the Federal Fiscal Year 2018 and State Fiscal Year 2020 Clean Water and Drinking Water Project Priority Lists and Draft Intended Use Plans since the start of the public comment period:

Clean Water Projects

A Priority Funding Area exception was granted on June 8, 2018 for the Talbot County Region II Sewer System – Extension of Sewer (Resolution 250) Project at rank #49 with 43 points. The comment “Cannot fund – PFA issues” was deleted from the comments column in the Intended Use Plan and the Priority Funding Area code on the Project Priority List was changed from 3 to 5.

Several comments were received regarding Talbot County’s Region II Sewer System – Extension of Sewer (Resolution 250) Project at rank #49 with 43 points, which was shown in the draft documents as not funded due to a Priority Funding Area issue:

- R. Andrew Hollis (County Manager, Talbot County) requested reconsideration for project funding, should a Priority Funding Area exception be granted, and suggested that the County move forward in a phased approach, requesting funds only for Phase I at this time (either \$5.65 million for construction of the sewer line, pump stations, and connections to 113 homes within the area identified by Talbot Co as "Phase I" or \$4 million for construction of the sewer line and pump stations (no house connections) within in the area identified "Phase I."
- Jaki Mayer Hurwitz, Dana Watts, Jennifer Mummart, Natalie Lentz, John and Mercedes Rock, Pamela Chollet, Charles Schill, Mark McInturff, Michael and Dana Newman, Winifred Cowee, and Marie Zinninger sent emails in favor of the project and funding.
- A petition in favor of the project and funding signed by 61 individuals was submitted by Dr. Lynda Carlson, a resident of Neavitt.
- Kindall and Denis Rende and Wayne See sent emails against the project and funding.

Drinking Water Projects

No comments were received.

TESTIMONY

No formal testimony was offered.

The public hearing concluded at 10:11 AM.

ATTACHMENTS:

Hearing Sign-In Sheet

MWQFA Response to Comments:

MWQFA acknowledged all written comments upon receipt.

The Department thanks Mr. Hollis and interested parties for their comments regarding the Talbot County's Region II Sewer System – Extension of Sewer (Resolution 250) Project at rank #49 with 43 points project. With approval of the PFA exception as previously noted, MWQFA will allocate \$5.65 million on the FFY18 Intended Use Plan for construction of the sewer line, pump stations, and connections to 113 homes within the area identified by Talbot Co as "Phase I."

Copies of all records pertaining to this public process are available at the offices of MDE, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21230. Inquiries may be made to Elaine Dietz at (410) 537-3908 or elaine.dietz@maryland.gov.