

March 2007



MINNESOTA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

The Technical Assistance Times

Minnesota Governmental Agency Finance Group Long Term Financing Program

The Next Deadline for Applications is May 1, 2007

Call Today About This Financing Option for Community Improvement Projects



MGAFG was established to assist communities in obtaining financing for water, wastewater, gas, streets, and community facilities projects.

This program is not designed to compete with Rural Development, the Drinking Water Revolving Fund, or the Wastewater Revolving Fund; it is designed to help those entities that have projects which will never be eligible for these well established programs.

Program Sponsored by Minnesota Rural Water Association and Financial Advisor David Drown Associates, Inc.

Specifics:

- ♦Low, fixed tax-exempt interest rates.
- ♦Short-term and long-term finance structures- 1 to 25 years depending on the project.
- ♦Participants do not borrow a debt service reserve, but they have access to a Program level reserve in the event of a default. (Maintaining the debt service reserve at the program level helps to reduce the costs of borrowing.)
- ♦Long-term, underlying bond rating of "AA-" from Standard & Poor's, regardless of borrower's credit rating.
- ♦No cross liability for individual borrower's.
- ♦No minimum size requirement for the issuer or for the amount borrowed.
- ♦Security--bonds secured by revenues of the system or general obligations of the community.
- ♦Tax-exempt bonds may be used in conjunction with other funding sources.
- ♦Low costs of issuance--the Program passes on economies of scale.
- ♦Refundings of existing debt and lease permitted in the Program.

Pre-Application form and additional information are available at: www.mrwa.com (Use the financing drop down menu.) Please submit completed pre-application to the Program Sponsor or Financial Advisor at the following addresses:

Program Sponsor

Ruth Hubbard
Minnesota Governmental Agency Finance Group
217 12th Avenue SE
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
Phone (218) 685-5197 | Fax (218) 685-5272
Email: mrwa@mrwa.com

Financial Advisor

David Drown, President
David Drown Associates, Inc.
5122 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419-1126
Phone: (612) 920-3320 | Fax (612) 605-2375
Email: david@daviddrown.com

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Last Chance to Register!

Don't miss the upcoming
23rd Annual MRWA Water & Wastewater Technical Conference: March 6-8, 2007
at the St. Cloud Civic Center.

Conference Details

MRWA 23rd Annual Water & Wastewater

TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

March 6-8, 2007

Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

- 8:45am Opening Session: Quality on Tap! Our Commitment, Our Profession
- 9:00am MDH & MPCA Updates: Operator Certification, Groundwater Rule Impact, and Need to Know Update
- 9:45am Craig Johnson, League of Minnesota Cities: Legislative Updates
- 10:30am Exhibit Hall Opens - *Enjoy the latest innovations, technology, and new products in the industry!*
- 12:00 pm Luncheon - Presentation of Awards.

Mini-Sessions Begin

- 1:00pm Topeka Shiner, An Endangered Species
- 1:30pm Pre-Planning for New Infrastructure
- 2:00pm Poly Piggling Your Water Mains
- 2:30pm Elevated Storage versus Booster Stations
- 3:00pm Troubleshooting Your Water or Wastewater SCADA System
- 3:30pm Calibrated Your Well Meter or Flume Lately?
- 4:00pm Refreshments, Door Prizes, Exhibit Gift - Last Chance to Tour Exhibit Hall!
- 5:00pm Exhibit Hall Closes - Meet and Greet Begins in Glen Carlson Hall
- 5:30pm Sports Raffle

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

- 8:30am Opening Session
- 8:45am Keynote Speaker: Mark Mayfield, CSP, CPAE -
Can I Have a Side Order of Bad Service With That?

Concurrent Sessions Begin

Water Operation & Maintenance Session

- 10:00am Disinfection By-Products Rule - Treatment/Distribution
- 11:00am Ammonia in Source Water
- 12:00pm Luncheon
- 1:00pm Everything You Wanted to Ask the State Plumbing Inspector
- 2:00pm Brass Fittings for Water Service Pipe & Tubing
- 3:00pm Wireless AMR - A Case Study
- 4:00pm Line Stop, Hot Tapping, and Instant Valve Insertions

Wastewater Operation & Maintenance Session

- 10:00am Control Panels - SCADA Remote Monitoring
- 11:00am Solutions in Sludge Pumping
- 12:00pm Luncheon
- 1:00pm Use of BioAugmentation in Your Wastewater Facility - Case Studies
- 2:00pm Lift Station Maintenance & Troubleshooting
- 3:00pm Wireless Communication in Your Wastewater Utility
- 4:00pm Screening & Washing Technologies

Management Session

- 10:00am Municipal Geographic Information Systems
- 11:00am Cost of Service - Utility Financial Planning
- 12:00pm Luncheon
- 1:00pm Mark Mayfield - (1:00pm - 4:00pm) *Momma Told Me There'd Be Days Like This & The Glass Ain't Half Empty, It's Just Too Big*

Current Source Water Protection Efforts for Source Water Intakes

Tuesday, March 6, 2007
1:00pm - 2:00pm

An overview of surface water intake protection programs in Minnesota and how they impact other aspects of watershed management.

Management strategies that St. Cloud, Minneapolis, and St. Paul are using to protect surface water quality.

Mark Mayfield, CSP, CPAE
Solid Business Wisdom....



Brilliant Comedic Style

If you want to learn about change, or teamwork, or stress, or customer service for example: why not have a great time doing it?

Mark Mayfield
Management Session
Wednesday, March 7
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Wednesday, March 7, 2007 (continued)

Groundwater Session

- 10:00am Source Water Protection Case Studies - What Works and What Doesn't
- 11:00am Resources for Addressing Aggregate Mining Issues and Concerns
- 11:30am Source Water Protection - What Can MDA Bring to the Table?
- 12:00pm Luncheon
- 1:00pm Ethanol Production - Why Should Public Water Suppliers Be Concerned?
- 2:00pm DNR Update - Water Appropriations and Conservation Concerns
- 3:00pm Tools for Source Water Protection
- 4:00pm Stormwater - Why Public Water Suppliers Should Be Concerned

Finance Session - This session will run from 1:00pm - 4:00pm

- 1:00pm Rural Development Loan & Grant Program
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund
- Small Cities Development Program
- Environmental Infrastructure Assistance Program: Section 569
- Clean Water Legacy Act & Clean Water Revolving Funds
- Minnesota Governmental Agency Finance Group
- Minnesota Rural Water Finance Authority

Exam Refresher Sessions - These sessions will run 10:00am - 5:00pm

- 10:00am A&B Water Operator Certification Exam Refresher
- 10:00am C&D Water Operator Certification Exam Refresher
- 10:00am Wastewater Operator Certification Exam Refresher

Theme Party

- 6:00pm Social Hour
- 7:00pm Dinner
- 8:00pm Entertainment: Sami Dare, Hypnotist

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Water Operation and Maintenance Session

- 8:30am Proper Applications for Chemical Feed Pumps
- 9:15am Wells, Wells, Wells: The Importance of Well Records
- 10:00am Break
- 10:15am OSHA
- 11:00am CDL Rule - What You Need to Know
- 11:45am Wrap-Up and Drawings
- 1:00pm Annual Meeting

Wastewater Operation and Maintenance Session

- 8:30am Benefits of HDPE Pipe
- 9:15am Emergency Equipment to Maintain a Wastewater System
- 10:00am Break
- 10:15am CDL Rule - What You Need to Know
- 11:00am Utilizing Televising Equipment for Sewer Line Replacement
- 11:45am Wrap-Up and Drawings
- 1:00pm MRWA Annual Meeting

Very Small Water Systems Session

8:00am - 5:00pm

(NonMunicipal/NonTransient NonCommunity)

Morning Session: 8:00am - 12:00pm

Topics covered include: Minnesota Groundwater, Wells and Well Maintenance, Storage Tank Operation and Maintenance, and MDH Drinking Water Protection Web Site.

Afternoon Session: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Topics covered include: Trenchless Technology, Chemical Addition and Safety, Cross Connections and Backflow Prevention, and Arsenic Treatment Update.

4 water certification hours awarded for morning session attendance. 8 water certification hours awarded for full day attendance.



Stage Hypnotist, Sami Dare's show is hilarious fun for everyone. It's safe, funny, and guaranteed to please. Sami's stage hypnosis show is the ultimate reality show - the audience helps provide the entertainment!

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Water and Wastewater Exams will be given at 8:30am.

Exam Prep Refresher Session Offered at Technical Conference

The Minnesota Rural Water Association will be sponsoring an Exam Refresher Session on Wednesday, March 7, 2007, as part of the MRWA Technical Conference. The exam refresher session will give the attendee an opportunity to review information that will be part of the certification testing. The certification test will be given Thursday, March 8, 2007, at 8:30am.

- YES, I will be attending the WATER Exam Refresher A&B, March 7, 2007, from 10:00am - 5:00pm.
- YES, I will be attending the WATER Exam Refresher C&D, March 7, 2007, from 10:00am - 5:00pm.
- YES, I will be attending the WASTEWATER Exam Refresher Class, March 7, 2007, from 10:00am - 5:00pm.
- YES, I will be attending the entire Technical Conference

(If not, please fill out the registration information below)

- Yes, Please send me an exam application - circle one: Water or Wastewater
- Yes, Please send me a Minnesota Department of Health **Class D** WATER Study Guide.

There is no charge for this session if you are attending the Technical Conference (See Technical Conference registration form.)

There is no charge to come and only take the test on Thursday, March 8. However, if you are not attending the Technical Conference, there is a fee of \$55.00 and the following registration is required:

WEDNESDAY EXAM REFRESHER ONLY: Includes Refresher Class & Luncheon - \$55.00

Please make check payable to Minnesota Rural Water Association

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Employer _____

E-mail: _____

If you have any questions, call 800-367-6792, fax 218-685-5272, or e-mail: mrwa@mrwa.com. Register online at www.mrwa.com (use the training button)

*You **MUST** fill out and mail an exam application to the Minnesota Department of Health (Water Exam) **OR** the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (Wastewater Exam) **15 days prior to the exam date**. The exam fee, payable to MDH or MPCA, is \$32.00. Exam applications can be downloaded at: www.mrwa.com. (Use the water or wastewater resources link.)

Taste Test: March 6, 2007

MRWA is looking for the best tasting water in the state!

In an effort to bring national attention to the high quality of water provided by small and rural water utilities, the National Rural Water Association is sponsoring a nationwide taste competition among entries from its 48 member state associations.

The Minnesota TASTE TEST will be held March 6, 2007, as part of the 23rd Annual Water & Wastewater Technical Conference. We hope to have several entries from across the state. This is a good way to showcase the pride we have in the work that our utilities do. MRWA will choose the best of the best to represent the Minnesota Rural Water Association in Washington, DC at the NRWA Rally, April 29 - May 1, 2007.

This will be great fun! Remember, if you are attending the Technical Conference.....Please **BRING A ONE QUART WATER SAMPLE** in a glass container if you wish to participate. (Please, no pickle or herring jars!)

MRWA PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

This form must be received no later than **February 23, 2007**, for pre-registration rates to apply.

Mail to: Minnesota Rural Water Association, 217 12th Avenue SE, Elbow Lake, MN 56531.

Please complete one form for each registrant. Guests may use the same registration form.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| First Name | Last Name | |
| System or Company Name | | |
| System or Company Address | | |
| City | State | Zip |
| E-mail | Phone | |
| Guest's Name (if registering) | | |

Don't Miss This Special!
 \$15.00 discount registration for Mayors, Clerks, Board Members, or Councilpersons attending for the first time. Must be accompanied by system operator or manager.

Please check one of the following:

Manager/Operator _____ Council/Board Member _____ Mayor _____
 Administrative/Clerk _____ Industry _____ Guest _____ Other _____

Full Registration

Includes access to all sessions, Exhibit Halls, luncheons, and theme party.

Postmarked prior to February 23, 2007

On-site Registration

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| \$ _____ MRWA Associate Member | \$125.00 (per person) | \$150.00 (per person) |
| \$ _____ Non-Member | \$150.00 (per person) | \$175.00 (per person) |
| \$ _____ Guest (meal package only) | \$ 45.00 | \$ 50.00 |
| \$ _____ Total Due (make checks payable to: Minnesota Rural Water Association) | | |

Copy registration form and mail with payment to the MRWA Office.

Register online at: www.mrwa.com (use the training button).

Payment Method

Check VISA MasterCard

Credit Card #: _____

Cardholder Name: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Address of Cardholder: _____



Cancellation Policy: Fees will be refunded if written request is received prior to February 23, 2007.

Do you need funding for public water projects?

Application deadline approaching

Don't wait another day if you have costly problems with your public drinking water, wastewater or stormwater system. There's state money available for 2008, but to be eligible, you must submit an application soon.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Department of Health (MDH), and the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) invite you to apply for low-interest loans to repair or build municipal water systems.

How you can use the money

Typical projects include new wastewater, stormwater or drinking water treatment systems, retrofits of existing systems, and septic-system construction or replacement. Funds are not available for privately owned systems.

Since its inception, the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund has made over 300 wastewater loans totaling \$1.6 billion dollars to Minnesota municipalities. Low interest rates on these loans saved recipients over \$470 million dollars. In addition, the Drinking Water Revolving Fund made over 180 loans totaling \$346 million dollars, with interest savings of \$81 million.

How it works

Once a year, the state provides municipalities the opportunity to submit proposals for projects that will be built in the next five years. The Project Priority Lists (PPL) establishes the state's priorities for current financial needs. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency prepares the PPL for wastewater and stormwater projects. The Department of Health prepares the PPL for drinking-water projects.

Be sure to pay close attention to the deadlines listed below. Facility plans for wastewater and stormwater projects need to be submitted by **March 2, 2007** to give enough time for review and approval by MPCA. If your funding request is for a project prepared to begin in 2008 (and you've been added to the PPL list), apply for placement on the Public Facilities Authority's Intended Use Plan (IUP) list.

Apply to be eligible for additional funds



Photo: Cottage Grove Interceptor

Keep in mind that placement on the Project Priority Lists is also important for consideration in other water-infrastructure funding programs, including the USDA Rural Development program, the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Small Cities Development program and U.S. Corp of Engineers programs.

A timely application can have huge benefits to your municipality. Apply today, and get your project on the Project Priority List.



Photo: Two Harbors Equalization Basin

Important application deadlines

Wastewater or stormwater projects:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Facility plans to MPCA for priority review..... | March 2, 2007 |
| Request to MPCA for placement on the PPL..... | May 4, 2007 |
| Request to PFA for placement on the 2008 IUP list..... | June 8, 2007 |
| Facility plan preliminary approval by MPCA for 2008 IUP projects..... | July 2, 2007 |

Drinking water projects:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Request to MDH for placement on the PPL..... | May 25, 2007 |
| Request to PFA for placement on the 2008 IUP list..... | June 8, 2007 |

Further information on funding of public projects:

Wastewater and stormwater projects

Bill Dunn, Coordinator
Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund
Municipal Division
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
520 Lafayette Rd. N., St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-282-2663 or (toll-free) 800-657-3864
E-mail: bill.dunn@pca.state.mn.us
Web: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/wastewater.html#financial

Drinking water projects

John Schnickel, Coordinator
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Minnesota Department of Health, Environmental Health Division,
Section of Drinking Water Protection,
P.O. Box 64975, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0975
Phone: 651-201-4658
E-mail: john.schnickel@health.state.mn.us
Web: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/dwrf/index.html



Photo: Sewer Pipes

Intended Use Plans

Jeff Freeman, Assistant Director
Minnesota Public Facilities Authority
1st National Bank Building, Suite E200
332 Minnesota Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101-1351
Phone: 651-296-2838
E-mail: jeff.freeman@state.mn.us
Web: www.deed.state.mn.us/Community/assistance/pfa.htm

Article and photos courtesy of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

System Planning & Management Training

Is there a Wastewater and/or Water System in Your Future?

You are invited to take part in informational training sessions designed to help your community prepare and manage upcoming or recently completed wastewater and/or water projects. For more information:
www.mrwa.com/trainingcalendar.htm.

Who Should Attend?

Mayors, Operators, Clerks, Lake Association Members, Township Board Members, Council Members, Homeowners, and Other Interested Personnel.

To Register:

Call the MRWA office at 800-367-6792 or online via our Web site at: www.mrwa.com (Use the training calendar link.) Additional dates and locations for upcoming System Planning & Management Training Sessions can also be found online.

There is no charge for these sessions!

Session 1--Planning "So We Have To Do Something"

Session 2--Management "Managing and Operating Your System"

Presented by: Minnesota Rural Water Association, University of Minnesota Extension Service, USDA Rural Development, Midwest Assistance Program, and the Initiative Fund.

City of Byron

City Hall
680 Byron Main Court NE
Byron, MN

March 20, 2007

Session 1

8:30am - 12:00pm

Session 2

1:00pm - 4:00pm



Minnesota Rural Water Association
217 12th Avenue SE
Elbow Lake, MN 56531

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Cloud, MN
Permit No. 2650

23rd Annual MRWA Water & Wastewater Technical Conference

Sports Raffle

Don't miss your chance to win a Honda Rancher 4x4 Four Wheeler, guns, sporting equipment, and lots of other great prizes. Drawings will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 5:30pm.



Hotels

If you need a hotel room for the conference, a block of rooms has been held at the **Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites**. Call 320-253-9000 for reservations. Room block rate is \$72.95 - mention block name "MN Rural Water". A shuttle will be provided from the Holiday Inn to the Civic Center.



A block of rooms is also being held at the **Country Inn & Suites St. Cloud - West**. Call 320-259-8999 for reservations. A shuttle will also be provided for conference attendees.