

Delaware Health and Social Services

Intended Use Plan

2021 Federal Allocation

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021

State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022

Background

The Intended Use Plan (IUP) is a document that Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) submits annually as part of the grant application to US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to request the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) Capitalization Grant under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

DHSS is eligible for \$11,100,000 in federal capitalization grant funds. DHSS will allocate \$7,658,790 in federal funds plus \$2,220,000 in state funds (20% required state match) for infrastructure improvement projects and subsidy requirements. \$3,431,210 will be used for Set-Aside activity support.

Long Term Goals are to:

- Assist Public Water Systems (PWSs) with achieving affordable compliance and public health protection through DHSS staff strategies and contracted Set-Aside activities
- Maintain the DWSRF in perpetuity by thoughtful use and management of the assets by expecting an adequate rate of return and positive cash flow trend
- Utilize resources and funds to target the most significant public health and compliance problems facing the State's drinking water resources

Short Term Goals are to:

- Collaborate with the DHSS Cap Dev program to assist PWSs to develop and implement asset management plans (per AWIA 2018) via training or support from our technical assistance providers. The DWSRF program is currently considering the option of requiring proof of an implemented asset management plan from PWSs for consideration of DWSRF financial support.
- Collaborate with DNREC Environmental Finance (EF) to transfer DWSRF program-specific (non-loan) duties over to DHSS
- Collaborate with DNREC EF to transfer Water Infrastructure Advisory Council (WIAC) approved allotment of Non-Fed Admin (NFAA) grant funding to DHSS at the start of the fiscal year
- Manage the NFAA account judiciously, including reallocation of WIAC approved DWSRF grant allotments by December, as need dictates
- Provide funding to upgrade infrastructure for eleven PWS projects in Delaware
- Decrease public health risks in drinking water in 2021-2022 for about one third of Delaware residents
- Meet the Program Activity Measure of 96% of fund utilization rate, as negotiated with EPA by continuing to encourage quick spending with loan recipients and sub-grantees
- Contract with Delaware Rural Water Association (DRWA), to provide technical

assistance, training, along with strategies to small and mid-size municipalities to maintain and return to compliance with state and federal regulations

- Provide operator education through contracts with Delaware Technical and Community College (DTCC)
- Offer Sustainability and Rate Analysis Assessments to PWSs through a contract with Kash Group LLC
- Utilize Set-Aside funds as outlined in the Work Plans
- Hold quarterly meetings with Set-Aside recipients to monitor activity progress and evaluate expeditious spending
- Provide support to the DNREC Water Supply Section (WSS) for their per and polyfluoroalkyl substances sampling plan
- Provide support to the DNREC Source Water Protection (SWP) Crop Cover Ag Strategy
- Provide support to the DNREC Underground Injection Control (UIC) in the implementation of two new technologies in the: EQuIS and PFAS Tracing.
- Utilize resources in the DHSS Office of Engineering (OE) to ensure borrowers are following crosscutter requirements on construction projects
- Monitor the Drinking Water to Clean Water Transfer, with EPA assistance

PER Action Items

The review covered the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. EPA did not conduct an on-site review because of travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. EPA completed its desk review and conference calls during July, August, and September of 2020.

The following represents a current reflection of each of the PER action items.

1. *Action Item:* EPA requests that DHSS draw grant funds according to EPA's first-in first-out (FIFO) policy.
Response: DWSRF is currently working to address the noted discrepancy and has been striving to meet FIFO goals. Additionally, the program spent down and closed out the 2017 grant that had caused the concern for the request.
2. *Action Item:* Over the last five years through SFY 2019, DHSS's pace has been on a declining trend. Although there was a 1% increase from SFY 2018, 88% cumulative pace for SFY 2019 is well below the 101% rate from SFY 2015. Additionally, Delaware's undisbursed ratio has significantly risen to 13.1; the ratio States are expected to work towards is 2.0. EPA encourages DHSS to create a plan to use funds timely and expeditiously and to market the program so there is a pipeline of shovel-ready projects.
Response: DWSRF will work closely with the Office of Engineering to determine construction phases of various projects and remind borrowers of the need to submit timely disbursement requests. The program has \$19,958,610 already in the pipeline for FFY 2021 projects.
3. *Action Item:* Since 2017, DHSS has expressed interest in working with DNREC to modify the Operating Agreement (OA) to give DHSS more control over the loan closing process. Per EPA and DHSS's discussion on September 15, 2020, there has been

movement to modify the OA. EPA requests DHSS to continue to update EPA throughout the process.

Response: As of the writing of this IUP, DHSS and DNREC are working through a collaborative effort, spearheaded by the SRF and Environmental Finance Program Administrators, and supported by their respective leadership, to continue to align program responsibilities back into the control of DHSS.

DHSS is making every effort to comply with Action Items identified for the SFY 2020 Annual Review.

Project Selection and Loan Activities

In February 2021, Notice of Intent (NOIs) were ranked and placed in priority order, based on public health protection and SDWA compliance. All projects listed on the PPL are considered equivalency projects. Projects have not yet had financial reviews. Subsidies are based on historical data only and are subject to change. Full applications are due on May 1, 2021. Financial reviews will be performed at that time.

Listed below are projects that are ready to proceed as of May 1, 2021. The Comprehensive and Ready to Proceed Project Priority Lists (PPLs) are attached.

DHSS will use all of the required subsidies plus an unknown amount of additional subsidy. The exact amounts and projects for which those amounts will be applied will be known after **July 1, 2021** once the State budget is final. DHSS has requested state funds to help supplement disadvantaged communities' financial burden.

The DWSRF program must express a concern for fund perpetuity in trying to meet all of the subsidy requirements in the grant conditions. Future cash flow modeling did substantiate this claim.

Subsidies listed below are estimates only, based on historical affordability indicators.

1. City of Wilmington—Small Mains Water Distribution Improvements

Total project cost: \$7,500,000
Population: >100,000
Description: Main Upgrades
Source: Surface water
Subsidy: \$523,460
Small system status: No
Disadvantaged system status: Yes/[Partially]

2. Town of Smyrna—South Mains Street Utility Replacement Project

Total project cost: \$294,400
Population: 11,813
Description: Main Upgrades
Source: Ground water
Subsidy: \$294,400
Small system status: No
Disadvantaged system status: No

3. Town of Greenwood—Meter Replacement
 - Total project cost: \$136,600
 - Population: 973
 - Description: Inventory, pressure and leak control project
 - Source: Ground water
 - Subsidy: \$136,600
 - Small system status: Yes
 - Disadvantaged system status: Yes

4. *Artesian Water Co.—Stahl Water Main Renewal
 - Total project cost: \$2,229,592
 - Population: 208,875
 - Description: Main Upgrades
 - Source: Ground water
 - Subsidy: \$237,275
 - Small system status: No
 - Disadvantaged system status: No

5. *Artesian Water Co.—Willow Run Phase 2 Water Main Renewal
 - Total project cost: \$1,194,292
 - Population: 208,875
 - Description: Main Upgrades
 - Source: Ground water
 - Subsidy: \$0
 - Small system status: No
 - Disadvantaged system status: No

6. *Artesian Water Co.—Churchman’s Road Phase 2 Water Main Renewal
 - Total project cost: \$1,047,132
 - Population: 208,875
 - Description: Main Upgrades
 - Source: Ground water
 - Subsidy: \$0
 - Small system status: No
 - Disadvantaged system status: No

7. *Artesian Water Co.—Willow Run Phase 1 Water Main Renewal
 - Total project cost: \$1,042,695
 - Population: 208,875
 - Description: Main Upgrades
 - Source: Ground water
 - Subsidy: \$0
 - Small system status: No

8. *Artesian Water Co.—Churchman’s Road Phase 1 Water Main Renewal
 - Total project cost: \$955,434
 - Population: 208,875
 - Description: Main Upgrades

Source: Ground water
Subsidy: \$0
Small system status: No
Disadvantaged system status: No

9. Municipal Services Commission – Meter Conversion

Total project cost: \$1,008,465
Population: 6,000
Description: AMI Meter Upgrade
Source: Ground water
Subsidy: \$622,870
Small system status: Yes
Disadvantaged system status: No

10. Town of Selbyville – Water Treatment Facility Backwash Improvements

Total project cost: \$1,250,000
Population: 2,157
Description: Treatment Upgrades
Source: Ground Water
Subsidy: \$622,870
Small system status: Yes
Disadvantaged system status: No

11. Town of Selbyville – Elevated Water Storage Tank

Total project cost: \$3,300,000
Population: 2,157
Description: Storage, Pressure, Flow Upgrades
Source: Ground Water
Subsidy: \$0
Small system status: Yes
Disadvantaged system status: No

**Note: Tied in ranking in Ready to Proceed PPL*

Subsidy Requirements

DHSS will meet minimum subsidy requirements by providing principal forgiveness to:

- Communities identified as Disadvantaged based on affordability criteria, adopted in January of 2021
- The next most ‘in need’ communities as identified by the financial review and affordability criteria mentioned herein and based on project priority
- Applicants who meet the 2021 Additional Subsidy Provisions, Part 1) Congressional Additional Subsidy Authority

State Match

The State Match will be made using State of Delaware Bond Bill funds.

Bypass Procedures

Upon written notice, DHSS can bypass a project on the fundable portion of the PPL based on the following:

- Project is withdrawn by the applicant
- Project is not ready to proceed
- System is unwilling to address any Significant Non-Compliance (SNC) issues
- System is lacking technical, managerial, or financial capacity
- System is out of compliance and demonstrates unwillingness to correct A133 Audit, Davis Bacon, or Buy American Iron and Steel issues
- System is not current on loan repayments from prior closed loans
- An emergency project is approved

DHSS will provide applicant written notice if their project(s) will be bypassed. DHSS will reinstate bypassed projects if funds become available and the project meets all criteria above. Funds that become available due to project bypass will be offered to the next project on the PPL.

Emergency Project Requirements

EPA allows States to establish procedures to identify and prioritize Emergency Projects under consideration for DWSRF funding. Projects necessary to alleviate emergency situations that result in an imminent threat to public health can be immediately elevated to the top of the PPL upon recommendation by DHSS and the concurrence of the Cabinet of State Planning Issues. As of April 15, 2021, DHSS has not received any emergency project applications.

Loan Guidelines

DHSS proposes to use a total of \$9,878,790 of federal and state funds in addition to other sources to provide low interest loans to public water systems for infrastructure improvement projects.

Interest Rate Policy:

The criteria and interest rates, effective January 2021, apply to new public, private/public use, investor-owned, and private/private use WPCRF and DWSRF loan applications. Applicants may be able to obtain a lower interest rate based on projected residential user rates as a percentage of Median Household Income (MHI) above 1.5 percent, and 3.0 percent for wastewater and drinking water user rates combined.

Criteria:

- Interest rates shall be set at 1.0 percent per annum.
- Administrative Fees shall be set no lower than 1.0 percent per annum.
- A lower interest rate may be made available based on projected residential user rates as a percentage of Median Household Income (MHI) above 1.5 percent, and 3.0 percent for wastewater and drinking water user rates combined only after other alternatives such as extended repayment terms, principal forgiveness or supplemental grants are exhausted.
- Should any municipal applicant demonstrate that the municipal bond rate available to its organization is lower than the collective interest rate and administrative fee set by this policy, then DNREC/DHSS may match the lower bond rate by adjusting the interest rate.
- Should US Tax Reform (or other regulatory changes) have an impact on the pricing of tax-exempt bonds and their relative value to taxable bonds, this policy will be reviewed and adjusted.

Disadvantaged Community Program

A community considered for the DWSRF Disadvantaged Community Program may receive additional loan subsidies.

Possible DWSRF Administrative Loan Fees

DWSRF Administrative Loan Fees have been waived for the 2021 PPL/applicants.

Other Project Information

Tie-breaking procedures

The project with the greatest number of points under the Quality Deficiencies will receive the higher ranking. If there is still tie, the system with the greater population will receive the higher ranking, or, if the tie occurs with the same borrower, the borrower will be consulted before any decisions are made.

Public Review

Due to COVID-19, and the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, a virtual public meeting was held on April 14, 2021. DHSS posted the Ready to Proceed PPL and IUP online for public comment for 30 days. DHSS advised the EPA that this comment period occurred and plans to share any meaningful public comment that is received.

Leveraging

DHSS does not anticipate the need to reserve the right to transfer Capitalization Grant and loan repayments monies between the State's Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (WPCRF) and Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund programs as necessary to ensure the full utilization of the federal assistance during this grant year.

Cross Collateralization between SRF programs—Transfer Use

As of May 1, 2021, there is \$31,161,802 available for drinking water project loans and current loan disbursement. This 'transfer back' to the DWSRF may begin in calendar year 2021. DHSS will coordinate with DNREC to receive regular account summaries. Those summaries will be reported in the next corresponding Annual Report.

Cross Collateralization between SRF programs

The DWSRF program transferred \$27,050,178 in Federal funds and \$5,410,035 in State funds to the CWSRF program. Of this, \$1,298,408 was used for administrative costs (4% from both Federal and State). This leaves \$31,161,802 available for project loans.

It is the understanding between both DNREC and DHSS that these funds will be made available back to DHSS for payments on existing loans and to make additional loans when needed by the DWSRF program on a cash flow basis.

Funds for both new and existing DWSRF loans will be used in the following order: first from the Federal capitalization grants, second from the DWSRF repayment & interest fund, then when these funds are exhausted, from the previously transferred funds to the CWSRF program.

An accounting of these funds will be included in the Sources and Uses table for both the IUP and Annual Report for both SRF programs.

To date, no funds have been transferred back to the DWSRF program.

DWSRF Coordination of funding priorities with State Drinking Water Enforcement Agency

The DWSRF program coordinates with the Office of Drinking Water by performing a Capacity Development review. In addition, offices collaborate throughout the year to offer technical assistance through DRWA systems that are on Public Notice.

Davis Bacon Compliance

DHSS agrees to comply with Davis Bacon requirements as outlined in guidance distributed by

EPA. Additionally, DHSS performs site inspections during construction.

Green Project Reserve

DHSS is not participating in Green Project Reserve for 2021, as it is not in federal grant requirements.

Sustainability Policy Description

Fix It First

DHSS does not fund projects that are primarily for growth. Applicants are encouraged to study existing infrastructure to determine most critical needs, and then base their DWSRF applications on those needs.

Capacity Development for Loan Applicants

The DWSRF program requires the Capacity Development Program, housed in the Office of Drinking Water, review the Capacity Development portion of each full application, work with systems to increase technical, managerial, and financial capacity; ensure creation and maintenance of asset management plans; and report any serious, outstanding problems to the DWSRF program so that they may be addressed before loan closing.

Asset Management

DHSS will begin to require Asset Management Plans (AMPs) for DWSRF consideration and financial support. To date, 17 systems have started an AMP. The NFAA has funded the AMP Grant program. The maximum grant amount is \$100,000. In the near future, the Dev Cap program will begin reviewing submitted AMPs as a new initiative.

Program Management

DHSS designates all loans to requirements of Single Audits, DBE, Crosscutters, Davis Bacon, FFATA, and Buy American Iron and Steel.

DBE Participation

Loans using the capitalization grant and state match funds will conform to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) steps as outlined by EPA. Borrowers must document and demonstrate good faith efforts consistent with federal regulations.

Davis Bacon Act Participation

All DWSRF-assisted projects capitalization grant and state match funds will conform to Davis Bacon wage determinations, wages, and activities as outlined by EPA. Borrowers must document and demonstrate efforts consistent with federal regulations. Davis Bacon Act Participation.

Efficient Expenditure

- Loans- the DWSRF program will use a “First in-First Out” approach when making loan payments
- Set-Asides- the DWSRF program will prepare one-year set-aside budgets. During the second year of the grant, the program will review expenditures and re-budget set-aside funds for additional set-aside work or project loans per EPA approval. All funds will be expended by the end of the third of the grant.

Policy to Assure Competency of Organizations Generating Environmental Measurement Data

Use of the 10% Set-Aside for laboratory analysis is of similar nature of the scope of work for the use or generation of environmental data in previous grant awards.

- DHSS has a Quality Management Plan that is currently under review by EPA Region 3 and should be completed by September 30, 2021.

Reporting

DHSS will make all efforts to report all applicable information to: FFATA, Projects Benefits, Report, and NIMs in accordance with applicable due dates set forth by EPA.

Ag Strategy

Please refer to the 15% Set-Aside for information on the Cover Crop Program to learn how DHSS DWSRF Administration is meeting EPA's Ag Strategy recommendations.

Set-Aside Activities

The SDWA allows states to use part of the Capitalization grant to support Set-Aside activities. DHSS proposes to use \$3,431,210 from the grant to fund the following Set-Aside activities.

Small Systems Technical Assistance (2%)

Provide assistance to small systems through contractor personnel. Funds provide technical assistance to public water systems serving less than 10,000 people. Contracts with DRWA and DTCC continue to provide technical assistance and training.

DRWA contracts:

- Provide on-site technical assistance visits to community water systems and municipal water systems; visits can include technical, financial, and managerial assistance along with promotion of the DWSRF program and 1:1 application/loan process help
- Coordinate with ODW, OE, and DWSRF to identify systems in need of priority technical assistance. Such as: community, non-transient non-community (NTNC), transient, and/or seasonal systems in need of assistance due to non-compliance or potential non-compliance
- Will assist Community State Revolving Fund compliant systems in addressing potential contamination prevention from back-siphonage, backflows, cross-connections and the need to prevent contamination of Delaware's drinking water systems
- Provide assistance to systems required to perform Public Notice, critical Sanitary Survey violations, systems with contamination exceedances and Emergency Response Planning
- Provide assistance and training for contamination prevention, compliance education, water operator training, and preventive maintenance planning
- Provide surveying technical assistance with operators, to managers in identifying potential contamination sites around the treatment facilities and wellhead protection areas
- Deploy, upon request, the mobile on-site training unit to demonstrate specific compliance needs to SRF systems

DTCC contracts:

- Certify and provide continuing education to Operators-In-Training and licensed water operators of small public water supply systems (non-profit)

- Provide tuition assistance for Base Level Water Operators Course to approximately 26 new operators
- Provide Base Level Water Operators with a basic math course if the student is in need
- Recruit students through advertisement in the local press to enter the Drinking Water Training program
- Administrative Support and Oversight - Administrative salary funding will be utilized for the following: to plan operations; recruit and interview prospective students; counsel students regarding course schedules; work with industry leaders to offer courses that meet the needs of operators; identify new courses needed; assist with tutoring needs; development of job building skills; assist with employment opportunities; and market program and courses to industry via varying methods. In addition, staff will assist with registering students, and will report and track the funding for students enrolled in this program

DWSRF Program Administration (4%)

The 4% Set-Asides will be used to fund the salaries of 4.45 DHSS DWSRF FTEs and audit fees.

State Program Management (10%)

The Public Water System Supervision (PWSS), Operator Certification, and UIC programs will be funded through this Set-Aside as follows:

Operator Certification

Operator Certification expenses are absorbed by funding positions with the PWSS grant, with the exception of \$5,000 to proctor two sets of Operator Base Level tests. Should Operator Certification expenses become burdensome on the PWSS grant, DHSS has the ability to use the DWSRF grant as a source of funding. Proposed activities include:

- Monitor, track, and report water operator licensures
- Communicate with operators in providing assistance, training opportunities, industry and regulatory updates, and other information pertinent to drinking water
- Provide regulatory-related trainings to water operators by ODW staff
- Provide administrative review and processing of water operator licenses renewals
- Provide support and proctoring assistance to DTCC for Drinking Water Operator examinations
- Ensure public water systems that are required to have a licensed water operator do so, either by directly employing an operator or by contracting with an operator
- Assist licensed water operators in obtaining the proper endorsements for the water systems they operate
- Maintain licensed water operator data in a database
- Plan and prepare for updating aging database

Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS)

- Monitor, track, and report compliance for approximately 470 Public Water Systems
- Upgrade from SDWIS/State 3.3 to SDWIS/State 3.4
- Develop a plan for private drinking water labs to submit their drinking water sample results electronically

- Continue to utilize EPA reporting under the Enforcement Response Policy and Enforcement Tracking Tool (ETT)
- Facilitate posting of all relevant public water systems information and sample results to Delaware’s Drinking Water Watch public-facing webpage

Delaware Public Health Laboratory

- Continue analyzing samples for the presence of Legionella
- Purchase supplies and reagents to maintain higher levels of operational efficiencies and cost effectiveness
- Cross train for continuity of operations in the event of emergency situations, including flooding and other weather-related events
- Purchase benches on wheels to help in moving instruments in case of an emergency
- Continue to perform audits for the certification of drinking water testing laboratories within Delaware
- Purchase LIMS (Labwear) to reduce manual entry of sample results, will generate automated upload from instrument to LIMS
- Continue to perform in-house testing to include test samples for chemical analysis and bacteriological

Underground Injection Control

- Continue to work with DHSS and provide technical support as needed on identifying and managing potential impacts to groundwater from operations of major wastewater treatment and disposal facilities
- Develop and implement EQuIS data management application so facilities can submit data electronically and continuous monitoring data can be collected and reported in real-time
- Develop and implement real-time/contemporary web-based groundwater monitoring and UIC program management tools using MS Power BI
- Continue to perform inspections of Class V wells in Delaware
- Continue the pilot PFAs “Tracer” project

Local Assistance and Other State Programs (15%)

The Capacity Development and Source Water Protection Programs will be funded through this Set-Aside as follows:

Capacity Development

- Provide assistance to all proposed public drinking water systems to ensure that the water system owner/operator has demonstrated adequate TMF capacity, and that the water meets all applicable SDWA requirements prior to operating
- Monitor and assist new public water systems in Lead and Copper Rule compliance
- Report the name of new and proposed PWSs for the Semi-Annual DWSRF Set-Aside reports

- Assist new CWSs and NTNCWs in their compliance with the requirement to operate under the supervision of a Delaware licensed water operator
- Provide in-depth training in CCR report creation to technical and managerial staff of CWSs in Delaware to increase compliance with the CCR
- Provide assistance to existing PWSs with an ETT score of 11 or higher or that are identified as being in need through routine regulatory activities conducted by ODW
- Evaluate and report the TMF capacities of at least one-third of Delaware's water systems
- Monitor, evaluate, train, and assist PWSs and operators in LCR compliance, schedules, and reporting
- Track and report existing PWSs appearing on the ETT report with scores between 5 and 10 to third-party assistance providers to facilitate achieving compliance

DRWA and DTCC Contracts through Capacity Development

- Provide small municipalities (population under 1000), municipal communities (population under 10,000), non-municipal communities, and seasonal water systems with 1:1 GIS technical assistance
- Conduct specialized emergency response training classes
- Conduct municipalities with Emergency Response Plans
- Create new online courses for Delaware water operators
- Revise and update existing online water operator courses
- Develop, host, and market webinars, topics include: Addressing AWIA; Emerging Technologies; Drone Usage; and Addressing an Aging Workforce
- Assess and Purchase New Automated Training Devices – DTCC shall research, assess, and purchase training equipment, textbooks, curriculum, and/or software pertaining to water quality control and processes to enhance classroom instruction and improve field skills

Sustainability 1:1 Assistance and Cyber Security Programs

The DWSRF Program will continue to work with Kash Srinivasan Group, LLC to provide support to the Capacity Development and DWSRF programs by assisting Delaware's public water systems (PWSs) with resources to meet EPA's Financial capacity requirements, which in turn will assist PWSs achieve and maintain long-term sustainability and compliance with the national safe drinking water regulations.

Source Water Protection

- Source Water Assessment, Characterization and Monitoring – This includes providing assessments for any new system, revising and updating existing source water assessments (e.g. delineation, contaminant sources, susceptibility assessment), providing technical assistance to solve source water problems including recommendations for potential DWSRF funded monitoring network/systems development, and resource characterization activities. The SWAP will continue the development of a statewide ambient groundwater monitoring program, including the deployment of long-term monitoring equipment with real time data telemetry capabilities, while utilizing existing DGS and DNREC Water Supply Section monitoring well infrastructure, and the Water Allocation Branch permitting process. For this grant cycle, contractual support will be utilized for miscellaneous groundwater sampling including raw water sampling of public water systems, as well as PFAS related sampling in collaboration and with guidance from the PFAS Steering Committee.

- Prioritization of State SWP activities – This includes support of local efforts to develop SWP ordinances and comprehensive plans or other local approaches, support to SWP-related UIC activities, and related needs.
- Integration of SWAPP with other state, federal, and local programs – This includes work with the federal, state agencies, private organizations, and local governments with regards to source identification, characterization, and prevention.
- Motivating Local SWP activities – This includes technical assistance, committee representation, information dissemination; review of local development plans and comprehensive land use plans as part of the Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) process.
- Managing Information – This includes data collection, data storage, and recovery; GIS development, web availability, state and federal data reporting capacity. Additionally, the SWAPP will work with systems to evaluate their needs for data management and operational enhancements (e.g. SCADA) that could benefit from potential DWSRF funding. For this grant cycle, contractual funding will be utilized to support the EQUIS Enterprise migration project which will be used by the Division of Water to store, share, and review analytical/permit data throughout the State including the Ambient Groundwater Monitoring project.

Ag Strategy Program

The Ag Strategy Program is expanding, including outreach to farmers who may not be in the Cover Crop program, exploration of expanded eligibilities, i.e., buffer zones, and pollinator plots. The program may also explore further incentives for farms that are close to municipal source water protection areas.

DHSS will continue work with DRWA and Sussex County Conservation District to improve upon and add GIS mapping layers.

Additionally, DHSS will explore opportunities to use existing monitoring well real-time data collection with DNREC partners which could provide beneficial data to public wells, i.e., contaminant alerts and flow in ground water.