

## **APRIL 2022 SMALL COMMUNITY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE EXCHANGE (SCWIE) E-MAIL NEWSLETTER**

### **Council of Infrastructure Financial Authorities (CIFA) 2022 Annual Water Infrastructure Summit**

The summit will take place in Washington, D.C. from April 19 – 22, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW. You are invited to join at this crucial time in our nation's history in a national conversation on the future of water infrastructure, It is still not too late to register at: <https://www.cifanet.org/water-infrastructure-summit>

### **Update on USEPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF Programs**

While there is much activity at USEPA Headquarters on both programs, no new publications have been issued at this time, It is anticipated that there will be significant publications in the near future.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, however, there was a DWSRF and Capacity Building in Action: Advancing Water Equity Webinar. While the United States enjoys one of the world's most reliable and safest supplies of drinking water, the webinar focused on some communities across the country that face the challenge of aging or inadequate drinking water infrastructure. Many marginalized and underserved communities lack crucial access to clean and safe water and are the most vulnerable to contaminant exposure and have a harder time to overcome capacity challenges. The webinar on April 7th focused on how states could use their DWSRF set-asides for activities that identify and prioritize water infrastructure and capacity building projects for underserved communities. Several state presenters discussed their efforts to build capacity and advance water equity. An effort will be made to post the webinar on SCWIE's website in the near future.

### **Rural Community Assistance Partnership's (RCAP) Capital Hill Briefing- Big Ideas for Water regionalization Policy**

A webinar was held last month on the important subject of Regionalization. For those who did not have the opportunity to participate on it, below is a recording of the webinar.

To view it, go to:

<https://vimeo.com/686455694>. The password is 27thState. **Note, the period is part of the password**

The three attachments to the webinar can be found on SCWIE's website on the Newsletter page

### **Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Update**

USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program (WEP)'s regular loan and grant program (communities of <10,000), guaranteed loans (communities <50,000), predevelopment planning grants, and SEARCH grants are open year-round. Solicitations for the Decentralized Water System grants, Revolving Fund program and Regional Wastewater Treatment Solutions grants will open later in the spring of 2022 via Grants.gov. The Solid Waste Management Grants and Technical Assistance and Training Grants solicitations recently closed, applications are being reviewed with awards forthcoming.

WEP is awaiting guidance from the Office of Management and Budget on implementation of the Build America, Buy America domestic preference requirements that were part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The requirements go into effect on May 14, 2022. Once the WEP receives guidance from OMB, program-specific guidance will be issued and training will be provided as quickly as possible.

### **Regionalization\***

As I have spoken with some of you in the few past months, I recognize the obstacles and challenges that many of you face. The huge increase in infrastructure funding has presented great opportunities, especially to small communities. Many of you are dedicated to working with the governmental leaders of small communities throughout the country. Success stories on regionalization can be found on USEPA's and RCAP's materials as well as SCWIE's website.

\*Regionalization has many names and varying forms: partnership, shared resources, and consolidation all are examples of regionalization.

I learned a long time ago, one needs to hear something seven times in different ways before a concept catches on. Some form of regionalization should impact the clean and drinking water world we live and work in. We all can site examples of drug stores, food stores, banks, hospitals and many other industries where regionalization has occurred. Our quarterly Webex meetings is just one place where discussions can occur. I would like to encourage everyone to figure out how to use our Webex meetings as well as every other media to stimulate our thinking.

### **Other Items**

If your state is doing something that you wish to share with the rest of the country, **please** e-mail or text me,

This e-mail newsletter is sent to all water funding officials currently listed on the SCWIE website ([www.scwie.org](http://www.scwie.org)). It is sent to all those who have requested that they wish to participate on the quarterly SCWIE Webex Meeting as well as those who have requested that they wish t receive it. In addition, it is posted on the scwie website under Newsletters.

Please review the contact for state page for your state on the website and provide any updates.

If your state does not have a statewide support group (please see the SCWIE website's Statewide Support Groups page) and you wish to create one, please let me know. Please note that vacancies for the key contact in California, Hawaii and North Carolina currently exist. If you or someone you know would like to be the contact, please let me know and/or have that person contact me.

Please feel free to call or text me at 614-668-9597 or e-mail me at [scwiecoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:scwiecoordinator@gmail.com) with respect to any item mentioned in this newsletter.

Steve Grossman, SCWIE Coordinator