

Cumberland County

Municipal Water & Sewer Action Plan

Water infrastructure is the backbone of our lives and livelihoods. From turning on the tap in the morning to take a shower, to preparing the food we eat, to the proper drainage of our roads, to having sufficient clean water and wastewater treatment capacity to support business and industry water infrastructure touches every facet. The challenge is, water infrastructure is often out of sight and therefore out of mind. As a result, the pace of investment in these assets has not kept pace with the need.

In November of 2022, County Commissioners approved investing \$3,500,000.00 in ARPA funding towards addressing our regions current unmet needs and reduce future costs through strategic investment in new and existing municipal Water & Sewer infrastructure. County ARPA funds will support investments in infrastructure assets essential to high quality waters, vital to Cumberland County's economy and economic recovery.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was designed to address immediate needs related to the pandemic, with a specific focus on addressing historically disparate outcomes across race, class, and geography that were further exacerbated by the pandemic. Water and sewer infrastructure investments marked one of the six ways that funds could be used for recovery and to address climate change impacts. Guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury identified drinking water infrastructure projects as eligible if they met the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) projects eligibility criteria. All projects must be deemed necessary investments. Necessary Investments are defined by Treasury if it is:

1. Responsive to an identified need to achieve or maintain an adequate minimum level of service, which may include a reasonable projection of increased need, whether due to population growth or otherwise,
2. A cost-effective means for meeting that need, taking into account available alternatives, and
3. For investments in infrastructure that supply drinking water in order to meet projected population growth, projected to be sustainable over its estimated useful life.

Cumberland County released the Municipal Water and Sewer grant application following the commissioner's approval of the Tranche 2 Action Plan for in November, and received eight applications totaling \$8,250,000.00 in requested funding. Projects were reviewed and scored by the ARPA Advisory committee and County Manager. Scores were based off of applicant's responses to the following project elements:

1. Project Description, Eligibility/ Project Evaluation
2. Ready to Proceed

3. Project Severity and Needs
4. Community Benefit / Community Partnerships
5. Resilience
6. Evidence of sustainability
7. Due Diligence companion funds - matching funds and sources of funds to include financial support to allow for more points to groups that demonstrate significant financial support from other sources.

Though all of these projects are infrastructure in nature, The County must also view projects with an equity lens and keep in line with the Executive Order 13985, “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government.” The ARPA Advisory Committee holds in regard the spirit of the ARPA funding when selecting projects to be awarded funding.

ARPA does require data on community benefit and specifically the percentage of low income population that the project will served. Before you today are the recommendation of the ARPA Advisory Committee and the County Manager, along with project descriptions of all the applications received and reviewed.

Recommendations For the Cumberland County Municipal Water and Sewer Grant Program

Applicants	Project	Average	Request	Review Team Recommendation	County Manager Recommendation	FINAL Recommendation	
Municipal Water & Sewer Grant Program Application Review 2023							
Town of Bridgton	Bridgton Sewer Maine Extensions Project	80.00	\$ 450,000.00	\$450,000.00	\$450,000.00		
Town of Brunswick	Bay Bridge Public Water Supply Project	90.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00	\$1,500,000.00		
Gray Water District	Lewiston Road	57.50	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Town of Pownal	PCWA Infrastructure	90.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00		
Town of Windham	North Windham Wastewater Treatment System	85.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$1,530,000.00	\$1,530,000.00		
Yarmouth Water District	Yarmouth Water District- Meter Replacement	78.00	\$ 480,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Yarmouth Water District	Pleasant, Smith, Sunset Point, and York Watermain Replacement	60.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Yarmouth Water District	Rt. 88, Baker Street, and Bridge Street Water Main Replacement	60.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$0.00	0		
			Total:	\$ 8,250,000.00	\$3,500,000.00	\$3,500,000.00	\$0.00

*Total Available: \$ 3,500,000.00
 Remaining Available: \$0.00
 \$ -

Scoring Categories and Point Distribution	
Applications will be rated and ranked on the basis of their responses to the application elements	
1. Project Severity & Needs.....	20 Points
2. Ready to Proceed	20 Points
3. Resilience.....	20 Points
4. Evidence of Sustainability	10 Points
5. Due Diligence and Companion Funds.....	10 Points
6. Project Description & Over all Evaluation of the project.....	20

Description of the Projects

Town of Bridgton, Bridgton Sewer Main Extensions Project.

The Town of Bridgton requested funding to support the Sewer Main Extensions Project, which is ancillary to the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) and Collection System project currently under construction in Town. The Town of Bridgton is expanding the public wastewater system to not only remediate environmental impacts of failing-septic systems on their watersheds causing elevated levels of E.coli, but also to provide an affordable alternative for homeowners. The two census tracts associated with this extension project show a 56.02% and 40.79% low-to-moderate income (LMI) population, and a recent income survey yielded a median household income of \$24,000.00. The town has additional funding supporting this project from Environmental protection agency, Maine Revolving Loan fund and Rural Development.

Applicants Funding Request \$450,000.00

County Manager Recommendations \$450,000.00

Town of Brunswick, Bay Bridge Public Water Supply Project

The Town of Brunswick is seeking funding to install a new 12" diameter water main from Maplewood Park on Old Bath Road to Bay Bridge Estates, a distance of 11,100 feet. The Bay Bridge Water Access project is an initiative to provide over 1,300 people, most of whom live in 490 mobile homes, access to a reliable water source. This water infrastructure project will bring a reliable supply to hundreds of vulnerable Brunswick residents who live in Bay Bridge Estates. This project is a response to the water crisis that occurred in 2018 in their neighborhood. It will also enhance public safety for these and other area residents as a public water supply will include the addition of hydrants and reduce the need for fire tankers to ferry water long distances. The town has secured additional funding supporting this project from Congressional funds, and the Towns own ARPA money. The town is also seeking funds from the Maine DECD.

Applicants Funding Request \$1,500,000.00

County Manager Recommendations \$1,500,000.00

Town of Gray, Lewiston Road project

The gray water district is seeking funding to install approximately 5200 linear feet of 12" water main to replace the existing 6" cast Iron main. Due to the age of the cast iron main, water quality issues are becoming severe for the commercial customers who use the public water supply in their processes. This project would serve 23 residents and 12 commercial services. No other funding sources were presented in support of this project, and thereby would require 100% of ARPA funding to proceed and complete the project. The median household income for this service area is \$65,100.00

Applicants Funding Request \$1,300,000.00

County Manager Recommendations \$0

Description of the Projects

Town of Pownal, PCWA Infrastructure

The Town of Pownal is seeking funding to support the purchase of a backup diesel generator, and installation of fuel tanks with security pad for the Pownal center water association. The current Pownal Center Water Association well supplies water to several businesses and residential homes in the village district. When power is interrupted the current generator is not suitable to continue the operation of the pump, leaving the Town Office, Fire Department, and Public Works to shut down when water service is interrupted. By upgrading the existing backup generator Pownal can better serve those already tied to the water and plan for future village development. The median household income for this service area is \$45,000.00 a year.

Applicants Funding Request \$20,000.00

County Manager Recommendations \$20,000.00

Town of Windham, North Windham Wastewater Treatment System

The Town of Windham is seeking funding to support improvements to their wastewater treatment system. This project is Windham's top priority for environmental, economic, and social/ health reasons for all residents and visitors to the lake region. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection recently ranked the sewer project the second most important of 77 applicants statewide, awarding the town \$40.6 million in CWSRLF funding and \$2.25 million in debt forgiveness. This solution for North Windham not only demonstrates a realistic solution for Windham but also for the other Towns surrounding Sebago Lake which have direct impacts to the public water supply for Cumberland County. The new wastewater treatment system will benefit the community by:

- Supporting new housing options including multi-family workforce, senior, and affordable units;
- Allowing existing businesses to expand their building footprint;
- Supporting new office, retail, hospitality, restaurants, brew pubs, and small-scale manufacturing businesses;
- Adding new jobs created from business growth;
- Allowing business growth which broadens the tax base;
- The new system is modular allowing for future expansion;
- Supporting tourism by improving and maintaining clean, beautiful lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams; and
- Having a public wastewater treatment system and a clean aquifer as a long-term goal represents Windham's commitment to proper climate action.

Applicants Funding Request \$1,500,000.00

County Manager Recommendations \$1,530,000.00

Description of the Projects

Town of Yarmouth, Yarmouth Water District - Meter Replacement

The Yarmouth Water District (YWD) is seeking funding to support a town wide meter replacement program. Maine PUC requires residential 5/8” – 1” water meters over eight years old to be tested or replaced. Larger meters need to be tested at a shorter frequency. YWD currently has 3,340 meters in service and 70% of those meters are eight years or older and scheduled to be replaced. The service area has an average household income of 120,640.00, YWD was not able to provided data on if or how many low income/ senior household could benefit from this project. No companion funds are included with this project and it would use 100% ARPA funding. The YWD does not currently charge for meter replacement to customers regardless of funding.

Applicants Funding Request \$480,000.00

County Manager Recommendations \$0

Town of Yarmouth, (YWD) – Pleasant, Smith, Sunset Point, and York Street Water main Replacement

The Yarmouth Water District (YWD) is seeking funding to support water main replacements at Pleasant, Smith, Sunset Point and York Street in Yarmouth. The Yarmouth water distribution system consists of several early 1950’s vintage cast iron water mains with history of main breaks, poor water quality, and hydraulic deficiencies. No companion funds are included with this project and it would use 100% ARPA funding. The Median household for this service area ranges from between- \$70,300- 170,980.00.

Applicants Funding Request \$1,500,000.00

County Manager Recommendations \$0

Town of Yarmouth, (YWD – Rt.88 Water main Replacement

The Yarmouth Water District is seeking funding to support water main replacement on Rt.88, Baker Street, and Bridge Street in Yarmouth. The Yarmouth water distribution system consists of several early 1950’s vintage cast iron water mains with history of main breaks, poor water quality, and hydraulic deficiencies. No companion funds are included with this project and it would use 100% ARPA funding. The Median household for this service area ranges from between- \$70,300- 170,980.00.

Applicants Funding Request \$1,500,000.00

County Manager Recommendations \$0