

DNR Grant Programs

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announces the availability of applications for two cost-sharing programs:

- ◆ Targeted Runoff Management (TRM); and
- ◆ Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management (UNPS).

Since these programs began in 1999, DNR has awarded a total of 590 grants to 202 different governmental units in the following amounts:

TRM: \$23.99 million

UNPS: \$34.51 million

The purpose of this announcement is to inform you that the DNR will be accepting grant applications for TRM and UNPS projects to be initiated in 2010. Although DNR will not be certain of its budget for funding these grants until after the applications are due, the DNR will accept applications in anticipation of funds being available. Please keep this uncertainty about funding in mind when deciding whether or not to prepare an application.

Applications will be available at the following DNR website beginning January 16, 2009:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/runoff/financial.htm>

Applications for work starting in 2010 must be postmarked no later than Wednesday, April 15, 2009. In addition, refer to the above website for announcements regarding any grantwriting workshops that the DNR may schedule.

Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) Program

TRM grants are competitive cost-share awards to support small-scale, 2-year projects sponsored by local governmental units. Projects may be either urban or rural in nature. Under this grant program, the DNR reimburses 70% of actual installation costs up to a maximum award of \$150,000. Project selection is based on geographical water quality priorities, local support for the project, ability of the project to control nonpoint pollution, and other factors. Municipalities required to obtain a storm water permit under ch. NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, **are not eligible** for TRM grants. Livestock operations required to obtain a storm water permit under ch. NR 243, Wis. Adm. Code, are also **not eligible** for TRM grants.

Urban Nonpoint Source and Storm Water Management (UNPS) Program

UNPS grants are competitive cost-share awards to support small-scale, 2-year projects sponsored by local governmental units in urban areas. All municipalities--including those needing storm water permits under ch. NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code--**are eligible** to apply under this program. UNPS grants are available in two categories: planning and construction.

Eligible **construction** projects are site-specific, serve areas generally smaller in size than a subwatershed, and are targeted to address high-priority nonpoint source pollution problems. Under this grant program, the DNR reimburses 50% of the actual construction cost up to a maximum award of \$150,000. In addition, the department may award up to an additional \$50,000 for land acquisition that may be necessary to site an urban best management practice.

Eligible **planning** projects can include municipal storm water planning, storm water and construction site erosion control ordinance development, development of local storm water management financing options (such as stormwater utilities) and information and education efforts. Planning projects must be conducted in an existing urban area or an area expected to become urban within 20 years. Under this grant program, the DNR reimburses 70% of the actual planning costs up to a maximum award of \$85,000.

For both urban construction and urban planning grants, an “urban project area” must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for funding:

- Have a residential population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile;
- Have a commercial or industrial land use;
- Be a portion of a privately owned industrial site not covered by a WPDES permit issued under ch. NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code; or
- Be a municipally-owned industrial site (regardless of ch. NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, permit requirements).

Presuming the grant funds are available, the DNR will notify successful 2010 applicants in the fall of 2009 and will distribute grant agreements shortly thereafter, but no later than December 31, 2009. Projects will begin in January 2010.

Both the TRM and UNPS grant programs are operated on a reimbursement basis. This means grantees must pay all project costs first, and then request reimbursement from DNR. Supporting financial documentation must be submitted to DNR with reimbursement requests. Reimbursement rates may vary depending upon the project type and special conditions; these details will be specified in the grant agreement that successful applicants receive.

Additional details for both programs are available at the web address above. You may also call Kathleen Thompson at (608) 267-7568 with questions or to request a printed version of either application.