



*16<sup>th</sup> Annual SESWA  
Regional Stormwater  
Seminar*



**Getting to the  
Green**

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**Maximizing Grant Funding  
for Stormwater Projects**

**April 23, 2021**

# Getting to the Green: *Presentation Overview*



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Funding Needs

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Current State of Funding Sources

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General Overview of Primary Funding Sources

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Funding Source Highlights

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What to Watch for Future Funding

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The Art of Funding

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Funding Success Tips

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# Getting to the Green: *Needs by the Numbers*

**\$8.5B**

Stormwater Funding Gap

**86%**

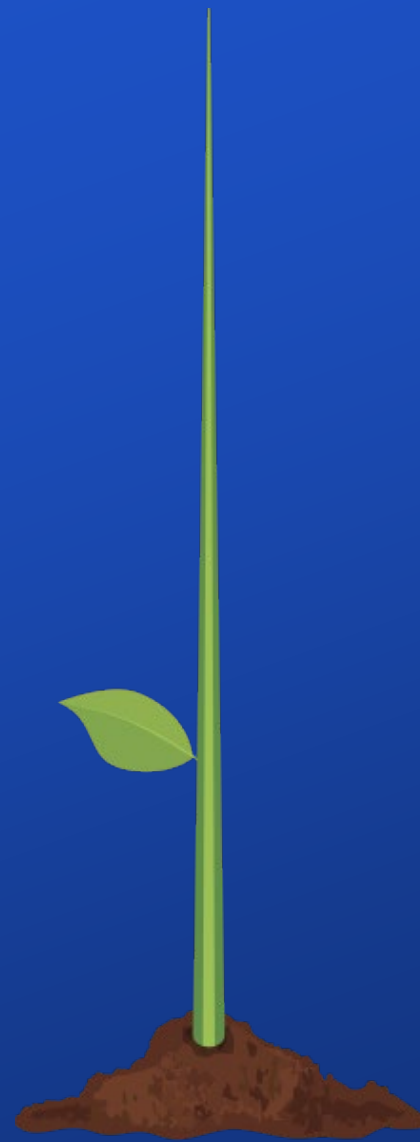
Increase in Annual Budget

**70%**

Need Funding

# Getting to the Green: *State of Stormwater Funding*

- *Limited BUT increasing*
- *Growing recognition of need*
- *Increased frequency & severity of rain events driving support*
- *Increased focus on resiliency & climate change driving funding*



# Getting to the Green: *Funding Sources*

## Taxes / General Funds

- *Largest revenue source*
- *Understood mechanism*
- *Reliable funding stream*
- *Competing uses*
- *Potential inequity*



# Getting to the Green: *Funding Sources*

## Special Assessments/ TIF Districts

- *Alternative taxing mechanism*
- *Can be targeted to specific areas*
- *Can be dedicated to certain activities*
- *May require vote to assess*
- *Stable revenue source for the included areas/activities*



# Getting to the Green: *Funding Sources*

## Stormwater Utility

- *Establishes stormwater as a utility service*
- *Separate enterprise fund*
- *User fees (equity)*
- *Challenges with non-payment*
- *Lack of public understanding*
- *Reliable revenue stream once fully implemented*



# Getting to the Green: *Funding Sources*

## Credit & Incentive Programs

- *Part of stormwater utility fee structure*
- *Can drive change in behaviors & practices*
- *Can have impact on water quality*
- *Can allow for financing of improvements on private property*
- *Can be used for new development and retrofits*
- *Intermittent funding stream*





# Getting to the Green: *Funding Sources*

## Conservation/Mitigation Banks

- *Can be leveraged for land purchases*
- *Can be used to add flexibility for large projects*
- *Can increase private investment in regional solutions*
- *Not widely used & understood*
- *Can have implications with other funding*
- *Intermittent/Project-specific funding source*



# Getting to the Green: *Funding Sources*

## State & Local Grants

- *Very competitive*
- *Smaller awards*
- *Many state/local grants still targeted on quality improvements*
- *Stormwater uses may not be eligible in some programs*
- *Can be a funding gap filler*
- *One-time/Project-specific funding source*
- *Possible limit on number/frequency of awards to a single entity*



# Getting to the Green: *Funding Sources*

## Federal Loan & Grant Programs

- *Inclusion of stormwater/resiliency projects increasing*
- *CWSRF still focused on quality improvements*
- *WIFIA can be used for very large projects*
- *FEMA's new **Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities** program offer exciting possibilities*
- *Potential new infrastructure stimulus funding in 2021*
- *Mostly loan but some grant/principal forgiveness or reduced rates*



# Getting to the Green: *Funding Sources*

## Bonds

- *Municipal/Revenue bonds – traditional*
- *Green bonds – newer*
- *Can accelerate project implementation*
- *May not be available for use by all entities*
- *May require vote/approval for each issuance*
- *Must have dedicated repayment stream*



# Getting to the Green: *Funding Source Highlights*

Potential Stormwater/Green Infrastructure Funding Sources					
Source	Primary Focus	Funding Ceiling	Match Requirements	Application Deadline	Other Details
<b>BRIC (FEMA)</b>	Rebranding of pre-disaster mitigation programs with specific annual funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total allocation = 6% from each declared disaster</li> <li>Project specific ceiling based on BCA</li> </ul>	25% Local Match	Application period opens with new federal fiscal year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Still requires alignment with local Hazard Mitigation Plan</li> <li>Still must meet BCA thresholds</li> <li>Submittal process through state for initial approval</li> <li>Federal procurement/conditions apply</li> <li>FEMA may use internal process to shift more funds into BRIC</li> </ul>
<b>NFWF Coastal Resilience Fund</b>	Targeted to building resilience in coastal communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific ceiling</li> <li>Average funding between \$125,000-\$5M depending on type</li> </ul>	1:1 Match (Non-Federal)	Expect to inaugural year with pre-applications due in April and full applications in June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dependent on annual funding</li> <li>Focused on coastal areas</li> <li>Could be used throughout the project for various phases/components</li> </ul>
<b>Clean Water SRF</b>	Water quality improvements (Green Infrastructure)	No specific ceiling/state-specific	No match required – only loan closing fee	State-specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly primarily loan (20-yr term)</li> <li>Standard rate</li> <li>Projects could qualify for targeted green rate</li> <li>Can include land acquisition costs</li> <li>Can include planning &amp; design costs</li> <li>There is a Green Project Set</li> <li>Federal conditions apply</li> </ul>

# Getting to the Green: *What to Watch*

## EDA - PWEAA

- Infusion of an additional \$3B from the ARPA Act.
- Must have link to economic development & COVID-19 impacts.

## Infrastructure Stimulus

- Water Quality & Job Protection Act of 2021 introduced.
- Will use existing funding vehicles & may also prioritize “shovel-ready”.

## CWSRF/DWSRF/ Other Federal Programs

- Language in current bills in Congress puts emphasis on resiliency/green infrastructure projects.

# Getting to the Green: *The Art of Funding*



## Funding Ceiling

What is the maximum amount that can be leveraged per applicant?



## Match Requirement

What level of match is required and are there source stipulations?



## Application Deadline

What is the normal application cycle deadline?



## Primary Focus of Funder

What are the specific goals and objectives for the funding organization?

# Getting to the Green: *Funding Success Tips*



Begin with the end in mind



Projects with strong funding focus nexus



Highlight multi-layer benefits



Include partners where it makes sense



**LEVERAGE!**



Don't count on grant dollars for every project



Get outside the box!



Know your funder




# Thank You

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