

TENTATIVE AGENDA
WATER PROVIDER LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development
Senate Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs
Senate Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs
House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development
House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs
House Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs
Meeting Jointly

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

1:00 PM

Room A, MAC

Little Rock, Arkansas

Sen. Ronald Caldwell, Chair
Sen. Alan Clark, Chair
Sen. Uvalde Lindsey, Vice-Chair
Sen. Gary Stubblefield, Vice-Chair
Sen. John Cooper, Vice-Chair
Sen. Stephanie Flowers
Sen. Missy Irvin
Sen. Jonathan Dismang
Sen. Jane English
Sen. Bruce Maloch
Sen. Jim Hendren
Sen. Bart Hester
Sen. Eddie Cheatham
Sen. Bryan King
Sen. Scott Flippo
Sen. Terry Rice
Sen. Blake Johnson
Sen. Linda Collins-Smith
Sen. Trent Garner
Sen. Lance Eads
Sen. David Wallace
Sen. Will Bond
Sen. Ricky Hill

Legislative Members

Rep. Bob Ballinger, Chair
Rep. Dan M. Douglas, Chair
Rep. Tim Lemons, Chair
Rep. Fredrick J. Love, Vice-Chair
Rep. David Hillman, Vice-Chair
Rep. Jack Ladyman, Vice-Chair
Rep. Stephen Meeks
Rep. Lane Jean
Rep. Matthew J. Shepherd
Rep. Gary Deffenbaugh
Rep. Jeff Wardlaw
Rep. Kim Hammer
Rep. Jon S. Eubanks
Rep. David Fielding
Rep. Bruce Cozart
Rep. Douglas House
Rep. Scott Baltz
Rep. Charlotte V. Douglas
Rep. Mark D. McElroy
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Rep. Josh Miller
Rep. Richard Womack
Rep. Ken Bragg
Rep. Mike Holcomb
Rep. George B. McGill
Rep. Andy Davis
Rep. David Whitaker
Rep. Warwick Sabin
Rep. Kim Hendren

Non-Legislative Members

Judge Rick Davis
Mr. Mark Bennett
Mr. Jack Critcher
Mr. Daniel Dawson
Mr. Alan Fortenberry
Mr. Tom Fox

Rep. Ron McNair
Rep. Trevor Drown
Rep. Mary Bentley
Rep. Michelle Gray
Rep. Dwight Tosh
Rep. Jana Della Rosa
Rep. Justin Gonzales
Rep. Rick Beck
Rep. Kenneth B. Ferguson
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Rep. Lanny Fite
Rep. Bob Johnson
Rep. Nelda Speaks
Rep. Karilyn Brown
Rep. Mathew W. Pitsch
Rep. James Sturch
Rep. Brandt Smith
Rep. Jack Fortner
Rep. Fred Allen
Rep. Andy Mayberry
Rep. Jimmy Gazaway
Rep. Johnny Rye
Rep. Jeff Williams
Rep. Roger D. Lynch
Rep. Aaron Pilkington
Rep. Carol Dalby
Rep. Sarah Capp
Rep. Donald Ragland

Mr. Barry Haas
Mr. Dale Kimbrow
Mr. Dennis Sternberg
Mr. Barry Weathers
Ms. Jennifer Enos
Ms. Jean Noble

Note: All exhibits for this meeting are available by electronic means and are accessible on the General Assembly's website at www.arkleg.state.ar.us

Notice: Silence your cell phones. Keep your personal conversations to a minimum. Observe restrictions designating areas as *'Members and Staff Only'*.

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

B. Opening Comments by Water Provider Legislative Task Force Co-Chairs

--Senator Alan Clark

--Representative Tim Lemons

C. Comments and Introductions of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Personnel

--David Branscum, Arkansas State Director, Rural Development, USDA

D. Overview of the USDA Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program

--Dr. Carrie Castille, Louisiana State Director, Rural Development, USDA

E. Overview of the Arkansas USDA Community Programs: Water/Wastewater & Community Facility

1. David Branscum, Arkansas State Director, Rural Development, USDA

2. Steve Lagasse, Arkansas Program Director, Rural Development, USDA

F. Closing Remarks

G. Adjournment



Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program in Arkansas Program 101

Program Fact Sheet

Are applications currently being accepted: YES

What does this program do?

This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas.

Who may apply?

This program assists qualified applicants who are not otherwise able to obtain commercial credit on reasonable terms. Eligible applicants include:

- Most state and local governmental entities
- Private nonprofits
- Federally-recognized tribes

What is an eligible area?

Areas that may be served include:

- Rural areas and towns with populations of 10,000 or less -- check eligible addresses
- Tribal lands in rural areas
- Colonias

What kinds of funding are available?

- Long-term, low-interest loans
- If funds are available, a grant may be combined with a loan if necessary to keep user costs reasonable.

How may the funds be used?

Funds may be used to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of:

- Drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and distribution
- Sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal
- Solid waste collection, disposal and closure
- Storm water collection, transmission and disposal

In some cases, funding may also be available for related activities such as:

- Legal and engineering fees
- Land acquisition, water and land rights, permits and equipment
- Start-up operations and maintenance
- Interest incurred during construction
- Purchase of facilities to improve service or prevent loss of service
- Other costs determined to be necessary for completion of the project
- See 7 CFR Part 1780.7 and 1780.9 for a complete list

What is the loan term and rate?

- Up to 40-year payback period, based on the useful life of the facilities financed
- Fixed interest rates, based on the need for the project and the median household income of the area to be served

Contact us for details and current interest rates applicable for your project

Are there additional requirements?

- Borrowers must have the legal authority to construct, operate and maintain the proposed services or facilities.
- All facilities receiving federal financing must be used for a public purpose.
- Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private and nonprofit entities that offer financial assistance are encouraged.
- Projects must be financially sustainable.

How do we get started?



- Applications are accepted year round and may be filed electronically using **RD Apply**. The RD Apply Customer Help Guide is provided to help you get started and work through the application process
- Applications are also accepted through your local RD office.
- Program resources are available online (i.e., forms, guidance, certifications, etc.).

Who can answer questions?

- Contact the local representative who serves your area
- Participating nonprofits in your area may also offer assistance and training

What governs this program?

- Basic Program – 7 CFR, Part 1780
- Loan Servicing – 7 CFR, Part 1782
- Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act

Why does USDA Rural Development do this?

This program helps very small, financially distressed rural communities extend and improve water and waste treatment facilities that serve local households and businesses. Good practices can save tax dollars, improve the natural environment, and help manufacturers and businesses to locate or expand operations.

NOTE: Program details may change over time. Before you begin an application, please confirm you have the most current information by contacting a program specialist in your local RD office for assistance or consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled "*What Governs this Program?*"

Forms & Resources

NOTE: Please ensure that your state is selected in the dropdown menu above to find the state office contact information, and speak to a program specialist before attempting to fill out any forms or applications. This will save you time in completing your application.

Engineering

Key WEP Engineering Resource Page

Individual states will have particular requirements based on state and local regulations. Please contact the local RD office in the state where your project is located.

Environmental

RD 1970 Environmental Policies and Procedures.

7 CFR 1970 Benefits

Interest Rates

Current interest rates for 4st Quarter FY 2018, effective July1, 2018 to September 30, 2018

Poverty: 2.375%
Intermediate: 3.125%
Market: 3.875%

Contacts

AREA OFFICES

Forrest City Area Office

Ms. Betty Searcy, Area Specialist (Betty.Searcy@ar.usda.gov)

Ms. Flora Pruitt, Area Specialist (Flora.Pruitt@ar.usda.gov)

Phone: 870-633-3055 (Ext. 4)

Fax: 855-681-7082

USDA Service Center

4401 N. Washington

Forrest City, AR 72335

Counties served: Arkansas, Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Lonoke, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, Pulaski, St. Francis, White, and Woodruff Counties.

Fort Smith Area Office

Mr. Jamie Scott, Area Specialist (Jamie.Scott@ar.usda.gov)
Phone: 479-646-8300 (Ext. 4)
Fax: 877-504-6540
USDA Service Center
3913 Brooken Hill Drive, Suite 400
Ft. Smith, AR 72908-9289
Counties served: Conway, Crawford, Franklin, Faulkner, Johnson, Logan, Perry, Pope, Sebastian, Scott, Van Buren, and Yell Counties.

Harrison Area Office

Mr. Neal Hodges, Area Specialist (Neal.Hodges@ar.usda.gov)
Phone: 870-741-8600 (Ext. 4)
Fax: 855-681-7080
Federal Building, Room 219
402 N. Walnut
Harrison, AR 72601
Counties served: Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Fulton, Izard, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy, Stone, and Washington Counties

Hope Area Office

Mr. Keith Huskey, Area Specialist (Keith.Huskey@ar.usda.gov)
Phone: 870-777-8800 (Ext. 4)
Fax: 855-747-7792
USDA Service Center
300 W. Commerce Blvd., Suite D (Mail to P. O. Box 768)
Hope, AR 71802
Counties served: Clark, Garland, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Montgomery, Nevada, Pike, Polk, Saline, and Sevier Counties

Jonesboro Area Office

Mr. Justin Ladd, Area Specialist (Justin.Ladd@ar.usda.gov)
Phone: 870-972-4671 (Ext. 4)
Fax: 855-681-7081
USDA Service Center
3407 S. Caraway, Suite 4
Jonesboro, AR 72404
Counties served: Clay, Cleburne, Craighead, Green, Independence, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, and Sharp Counties.

Monticello Area Office

Ms. Billian Glasco, Area Specialist (Billian.Glasco@ar.usda.gov)
Phone: 870-367-8400 (Ext. 4)
Fax: 855-747-7791
USDA Service Center
419 W. Grimes Street, Suite 4
Monticello, AR 71655
Counties served: Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln, Ouachita, and Union Counties.

STATE OFFICE

Mr. Stephen Lagasse, Community Programs Director (Stephen.Lagasse@ar.usda.gov)
Phone: 501-301-3265
Fax: 855-747-7800



Programs & Services for Communities & Nonprofits

- Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program
- Circuit Rider Program - Technical Assistance for Rural Water Systems
- Community Connect Grants
- Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program
- Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program
- Community Facilities Relending Program
- Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant
- Delta Health Care Services Grant
- Economic Impact Initiative Grants
- Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants
- Farm Labor Housing Direct Loans & Grants
- Grants for Rural and Native Alaskan Villages
- Household Water Well System Grants
- Housing Preservation & Revitalization Demonstration Loans & Grants
- Housing Preservation Grants
- Intermediary Relending Program
- Multi-Family Housing Direct Loans
- Multi-Family Housing Loan Guarantees
- Multi-Family Housing Rental Assistance
- Mutual Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance Grants
- Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee
- Rural Business Development Grants
- Rural Community Development Initiative Grants
- Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program
- Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants
- Rural Housing Site Loans
- Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program
- SEARCH - Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households
- Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant
- Solid Waste Management Grants
- Strategic Economic and Community Development
- Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees
- Water & Waste Disposal Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands and Colonias
- Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program
- Water & Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees
- Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grants
- Water & Waste Disposal Revolving Loan Funds
- Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants