

# Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program



# WQIP Overview - 2023

- Competitive, statewide implementation grant
- Improves water quality or aquatic habitat
- Protects a drinking water source
- At least \$75 million available in 2023



# Funding Overview

- Dollar amounts available each year is based on NYS Budget
  - ❖ Clean Water Infrastructure Act
  - ❖ Environmental Protection Fund
- Maximum awards differ by project type
- Ranges from \$100,000 - \$15 million
- Match is based on award amount – not total project cost

# Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities (*ECL §56-0101*)
  - Includes municipal corporations and Indian Nations
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Not-for-profit corporations
  - Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection, Aquatic Connectivity Restoration, Marine District Habitat Restoration

# Eligible Activities - 2023

- Wastewater Treatment Improvement
- Non-agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control
- Vacuum Trucks in Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Areas
- Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection
- Salt Storage
- Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation
- Aquatic Connectivity Restoration
- Marine District Habitat Restoration



# Wastewater Treatment Improvement

## Primary Priority (25% match)

- Wastewater Effluent Disinfection for Facilities Without Disinfection
- Watershed Plan Implementation of Phosphorus Reduction

## Secondary Priority (25% match)

- Combined Sewer Overflow/Sanitary Sewer Overflow (CSO/SSO)
- Watershed Plan Implementation

## Tertiary Priority (25% match)

- Municipal Systems to Serve Multiple Properties with Inadequate On-Site Septic Systems
- Wastewater Treatment Facility Nitrogen Abatement for Shellfishing Waters

## General Wastewater (25% match)

- Other wastewater infrastructure improvements



# Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source

## Eligible practices (25% match)

- Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facilities for Failing On-Site Treatment Systems
- Green Infrastructure Practice
- Stormwater Retrofits
- Streambank/Shoreline Stabilization and Riparian Buffers
- In-Waterbody Controls for Nutrients
- Bathing Beach Restoration
- Stream Culvert Repair and Replacement
- Vacuum Trucks in MS4 Areas
- Nonpoint Source Programs



# Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source (cont.)

## New eligible practices (25% match)

- Riparian Buffers
- Floodplain Creation/Restoration/Reconnection
- Berm Removal
- Wetland Creation/Restoration





# Vacuum Trucks in MS4 Areas

## Eligible projects (25% match)

- Projects to purchase one vacuum truck to be used in an MS4 area

## Other information

- Eligible applicants include:
  - Municipality Regulated by the MS4 General Permit
  - Soil and Water Conservation Districts

# Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection

## Eligible projects & programs (25% match)

- Protect surface public drinking water supplies
- Protect groundwater public drinking water supplies
- Must include land acquisition; either land purchase or easements

## Other information

- Municipalities, soil and water conservation districts and not-for-profits, such as land trusts, are eligible
- Apply under the category of “project” or “program”



# Salt Storage

## High Priority Projects (25% match)

- Construct a new structure to enclose an exposed salt or salt/sand mixture storage pile that is currently located near a public drinking water source or within a primary, sole source, or principal aquifer

## Low Priority Projects (50% match)

- Replacement structures
- Capacity expansion

\*All projects must comply with Office of General Services salt storage specifications



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# Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation

## Primary Priority (25% match)

- Repair of high hazard dams (Class C) assigned the condition rating of “unsafe” or “unsound”

## Secondary Priority (25% match)

- Repair of intermediate hazard dams (Class B) assigned the condition rating of “unsafe” or “unsound”

## General Projects (25% match)

- Other repair of high or intermediate hazard dams



# Aquatic Connectivity Restoration

## Eligible Projects (25% match)

- Improves aquatic habitat connectivity at road/stream crossings or dams
- Restores the natural movement of organisms
- Focus is on culverts, bridges or dams that are causing obstructions

## Other Information

- If total cost of project > \$250,000, must demonstrate that additional funding has been secured
- If your project is to repair or replace a culvert and the main concern is stream erosion, not aquatic connectivity, you should apply under the nonpoint source category.

**Non-Agricultural  
Nonpoint Source  
Planning & MS4  
Mapping Grant (NPG)**



# Overview - 2023

- Grants to help pay for:
  - ❖ Planning reports needed for nonpoint source projects
  - ❖ Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) mapping
- Up to \$3 Million Available in 2023
- 10% local match



# Nonpoint Source Planning Reports

- Eligible Applicants:
  - ❖ Municipalities (*ECL §56-0101*), including Indian Nations
  - ❖ Soil and water conservation districts
- Maximum awards:
  - ❖ Up to \$50,000 for planning reports
  - ❖ Up to \$75,000 for comprehensive stream corridor studies



# Nonpoint Source Planning Reports Cont'd

## Categories:

- Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Facilities for Failing On-Site Treatment Systems
- Green Infrastructure
- Stormwater Retrofits
- Streambank/Shoreline Stabilization
- Comprehensive Stream Corridor Assessment
- Stream Sediment and Debris Management Plans
- In-Waterbody Controls for Nutrients
- Bathing Beach Restoration
- Stream Culvert Repair & Replacement

## New Plans Added in 2023:

- Berm Removal
- Floodplain Creation/Restoration/Reconnection
- Wetland Creation/Restoration
- Coastal Storm and Erosion Risk Management
- Dam Safety



# MS4 Mapping

- Eligible applicants:
  - ❖ Municipalities regulated by the MS4 General Permit
  - ❖ Soil and Water Conservation Districts on behalf of regulated MS4 Operators
- Maximum awards:
  - ❖ If applying as a municipal collaborative: Up to \$60,000 per municipality, with up to \$400,000 per collaborative
  - ❖ If applying alone, maximum of \$75,000



# MS4 Mapping Cont'd

- Final deliverables:
  - ❖ Final map product
  - ❖ Final summary report
- Applicants encouraged to cooperate with other regulated municipal MS4 operators
- Mapping must meet MS4 permit requirements
- Must create, use, or expand on electronic/GIS mapping
- Basic mapping must be done before other mapping



# General Information and Tips

# Projects Affecting Water Quality in Potential Environmental Justice Areas and/or Disadvantaged Communities

- DEC is committed to serving underserved and vulnerable populations
- Review points added for a proposed project that:
  - Demonstrates it improves water quality or positively impacts drinking water serving an Environmental Justice (EJ) community or disadvantaged community (DAC)
  - Protects EJ or DAC areas that are within a dam failure inundation area
- Review points added for applicants that are municipalities serving a DAC population

# Flood and Climate Resiliency

- DEC encourages
  - projects that will reduce flood risk or enhance flood resiliency
  - projects that will increase resiliency from the effects of climate change
- Review points added for a proposed project that meets specific criteria for climate resilience and/or flood resilience
- Updated flood resilience requirements for awarded projects within the 100 and 500-year floodplains

# General Application Tips

- Start early
- Review entire Program Overview
- Attach everything required
  - ❖ DEC will not contact you if something is missing or if a form is not filled out correctly
- Make the connections to water quality
  - ❖ Show how your project fits the grant
- Self score your application
- Fill out and attach expenditure-based budget
  - ❖ Include only costs to be reimbursed

# Thank You

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Water Assessment and Implementation

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On the web:

WQIP: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>

NPG: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/116725.html>



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