



DOA Local Government Report

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Aid for Disasters

The summer of 2012 has brought many varying weather related events that have qualified for disaster assistance. Listed below are the disaster assistance programs that are available to governments and/or individuals.

For comprehensive information and resources relating to the 2012 flooding, drought, and heat wave, go to www.ready.wi.gov. This web site also allows you to receive cell phone alerts for weather related events, and offers information to help families prepare themselves for emergency situations.

Flooding Assistance

Loans for Residents and Businesses

The U.S. Small Business Administration has announced that Wisconsin residents and businesses that were affected by the June floods will be able to apply for low-interest disaster loans.

The loans were made available as a response to Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker's disaster declaration. The declaration covered the Counties of Douglas, Bayfield, Burnett, Sawyer, and Washburn in Wisconsin.

Individuals who need assistance may find out information by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 or by sending an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical damage is September 25th, 2012.

Assistance for Governments

A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) major disaster declaration for Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas Counties as well as the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has been approved. This declaration allows local governments affected by the June floods to apply for assistance, which will help communities recover some of the costs incurred through fighting the floods and repair infrastructure

Under the program, FEMA provides 75 percent of eligible costs, while state and local agencies each share 12.5 percent of the costs.

For information on how to apply for these funds, please contact your County Emergency Management Director (http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/counties/county_directors.asp).

Drought Assistance for Farmers

Governor Scott Walker has declared a state of emergency in 42 Wisconsin counties due to drought or abnormally dry conditions, allowing expedited permits for farmers to temporarily use stream or lake water for irrigation.

The declaration covers these counties: Adams, Brown, Buffalo, Calumet, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond Du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, LaCrosse, Lafayette, Marquette, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Monroe, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, Wood, and any county contiguous to the named counties at the discretion of the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and upon written notification to the Governor.

During a state of emergency, the Department of Natural Resources can expedite requests from farmers to divert water from streams and lakes for irrigation. The DNR must inspect the stream or lake in question within 72 hours of the request, to assure that fish and other aquatic life will not be harmed by the diversion.

Farmers are encouraged to report crop conditions to their local U.S. Farm Service Agency office. The FSA compiles this information. Information gathered would provide the basis for the Governor to request a disaster declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, which could make low-cost emergency loans and other assistance available to farmers.

Farmers can also turn to the Wisconsin Farm Center, housed in the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The Farm Center staff can provide referrals and information about available services, including such things as finding feed, financial planning assistance, and mediation between farmers and creditors. Farmers can call the center toll-free at 1-800-942-2474, or email farmcenter@wisconsin.gov. The center is staffed 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Farmers can harvest hay from approximately 11,500 acres of selected state-owned lands, Governor Scott Walker announced today. Farmers may also graze cattle on state-owned land, although they will be responsible for setting up temporary electric fencing and watering tanks to facilitate the grazing.

The special harvest ends August 10 for prairie grasses and August 30 for cool season grasses. DNR is limiting haying and grazing to this time period to allow for adequate regrowth of the grass to provide habitat for wildlife and hunting cover to sportsmen and women in the fall. Only one cutting of hay will be allowed during the harvest window.

Farmers participating in the program will be required to sign an agreement specifying that the hay taken from state-owned property will be used for livestock and not sold. Areas authorized for harvesting do not include nor in any way affect land to be used for or previously sold under hay sale agreements with the department.

Farmers looking for more information can call toll free 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463), seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Or, type in the word DROUGHT in the search box at <http://dnr.wi.gov/>.

Farmer to Farmer Network

The Farmer-to-Farmer network encourages farmers in Wisconsin and the region that are less affected by the dry conditions to replant crops and make them available for feed by posting on the UW-Extension website <http://farmertofarmer.uwex.edu/>.

The Farmer-to-Farmer list is free of charge to both buyers and sellers. Users can list or search for hay, alfalfa haylage, corn silage, high moisture corn, corn grain, or other forages. All transactions and negotiations are handled directly between buyers and sellers.

WEDC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's (WEDC) division of Economic and Community Development (ECD) assists Wisconsin communities to enhance their vitality by undertaking public investment that contributes to overall community and economic development. Eligible projects include the expansion jobs, business development, tax base and the reuse of vacant land or building and related activities. Listed below are some of the programs WEDC has for communities.

Brownfield Grants

WEDC will grant funds to local governments, businesses, non-profits and individuals for redeveloping commercial and industrial sites that have been adversely affected by environmental contamination. Generally, WEDC will provide assistance for redevelopment activities that are extraordinarily costly and difficult to finance through the private sector.

Brownfield Site Assessment Grant Program

WEDC will grant funds to local governments to perform environmental investigations; demolition of structures; and removal of abandoned containers and underground tank systems. The primary purpose of the program is to identify and quantify the degree and extent of soil and groundwater contamination.

Community Development Block Grant Programs

Generally, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects must meet one of the national objectives of benefitting low and moderate income persons; addressing an urgent local need; or preventing or removing slum or blight.

Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities Economic Development (CDBG-PFED)

CDBG-PFED funds are available to local governments to increase the capacity of local infrastructure systems when project implementation will result in full-time job creation or retention, and local investment by local businesses.

Community Development Block Grant – Public Facilities (CDBG-PF)

CDBG-PF funds are available to local governments to increase the capacity of local infrastructure systems; expand services offered to local citizens through construction or expansion of eligible public facilities; or prevent or remove slum and blight.

Community Development Block Grant – Planning Grants (CDBG-PLNG)

CDBG-PLNG funds are available to local governments for slum and blight elimination planning; community-wide economic development plans; or local business promotion planning.

Downtown Development

WEDC manages the Wisconsin Main Street Program, providing assistance in planning, managing and implementing strategic development projects in downtowns and urban neighborhood business districts. WEDC selects communities to join the program. These communities receive technical support and training needed to restore their Main Streets as centers of community activity and commerce. Contact: Jim Engle, 608-210-6840 or James.Engle@wedc.org.

For more information on any these programs go to the WEDC web page at: <http://wedc.org> or contact:

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2013 Coastal Management Program Grants Available

Wisconsin enjoys nearly 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. Continuing the state's efforts to enhance Wisconsin's coastal resources, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) at the Department of Administration (DOA) is accepting proposals for its 2013-2014 grant program. Up to \$1.5 million will be available for coastal land acquisition, wetland protection and habitat restoration, nonpoint source pollution control, coastal resource and community planning, Great Lakes education, public access and historic preservation. Projects must be located in one or more Wisconsin counties on the shores of Lake Superior or Lake Michigan.

Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, state agencies, colleges and universities, regional planning commissions and nonprofit organizations are all eligible to apply. The application deadline is Monday November 5, 2012 and projects may begin no earlier than July 1, 2013. To assist grant applicants, the WCMP will provide free grant workshops throughout the state:

Wednesday, August 29, 2012 in Milwaukee, 1:30 p.m. Port of Milwaukee

Thursday, September 6, 2012 in Green Bay, 1:30 p.m. Bay Lake Regional Planning Commission

Monday, September 10, 2012 in Ashland, 1:30 p.m. Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

Application materials and the Request for Proposals are available on the WCMP website at <http://coastal.wisconsin.gov>. Applicants are encouraged to contact WCMP staff early to discuss ideas for project proposals and application requirements.

Contact Mike Friis at the DOA WCMP, (608) 267-7982 or coastal@wisconsin.gov.

Department of Natural Resources Funding Opportunities

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers a variety of grant and loan programs. DNR has recently updated their web page to help to make it easier to find programs of interest. To find more information about these programs, go to the following DNR web page at <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/>.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Wisconsin DNR website. The page title is "Grants and loans - financial assistance". The navigation menu includes Business, Licenses & Regulations, Recreation, Education, Topics, Contact, and Join Us. The main content area features a "Find Grants" button with the text "Grants and reimbursement programs." and a "Find Loans" button with the text "Information on the Clean Water Fund, Safe Drinking Water, forestry and brownfields loan programs." Below this, a paragraph states: "The DNR administers many grant and loan programs. We work closely with interested local governments, organizations and private landowners to develop and support projects that protect public health, the environment and outdoor recreation." There are three columns of links: "Funding by category" (Conservation & wildlife, Forestry, Loans, Recreation, Recycling, Remediation, Vehicles, Water), "Resources" (Community Financial Assistance staff, Grant awards, Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF) reference guide, Creating conservation easements, Council, commission and committee meetings), and "Other funding sources" (Additional funding sources, Water and wastewater funding sources, Wisconsin Catalog of Community Assistance [exit DNR]). A photo of people in a field is shown with the caption "Participants on a landowner incentive program field trip." Contact information is provided: "Community Financial Assistance 608-266-7555". The footer indicates "Last revised: Monday April 16 2012".