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# The Loan Arranger

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Summer 2016

Revolving Loan Section  
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality



## Project Highlight: City of Ann Arbor Geddes Road Reconstruction Concerns Addressed

*by Karol Patton*

The Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission (WCWRC) applied for SRF funding to implement a number of stormwater management practices in conjunction with the city of Ann Arbor's Geddes Road reconstruction project. Geddes Road is a hilly, winding, tree-lined street that experiences high-traffic volumes and excessive speeds, resulting in inadequate and unsafe conditions for pedestrians. In addition, the majority of the roadway runoff goes directly into the Huron River, adding sediment and other road-related pollutants to the river.

The road reconstruction included the addition of a bike lane on one side of the street, construction of an ADA-compliant sidewalk, and pedestrian crossings. The stormwater practices included a series of drainage swales with underground infiltration beds beneath the roadway, storm sewers to carry a portion of the flow to a pollutant control unit, and an energy dissipation structure on one of the storm sewer outlets. The stormwater practices will infiltrate and treat an estimated 27,978 cubic feet of stormwater runoff, which is up to 255 percent of the first flush volume. The practices are expected to remove 800 pounds of sediment and 0.8 pounds of phosphorus a year, as well as provide a significant reduction in E. coli.



*Geddes Road before Tree Removal*

Prior to the SRF loan award, a proposed project undergoes a series of environmental agency reviews, as well as an assessment of environmental impacts and compliance with various federal laws. This review culminates with the publication of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), which is sent to state agencies and members of the public for a 30-day comment period.

If comments are received during the public comment period, RLS staff work to obtain answers and address concerns. Nonpoint pollution control projects funded with the SRF rarely receive com-

ments. For the Geddes project, however, numerous concerns were expressed by the public. Tree removal and its impact on habitat, traffic calming, stormwater uptake, and area aesthetics received a number of negative comments. Other concerns expressed include damage to the remaining trees from construction, the amount of stormwater runoff after the project and the ability of the proposed system to handle high flows, the impact of the system to improve the water quality of the Huron River, and traffic speed and safety of residents and pedestrians. Although the majority of the trees were being removed due to sidewalk construction and other non-SRF funded portions of the project, those concerns were considered along with impacts directly related to the funded project.

When comments are received, the first step is to request information from the loan applicant and any appropriate experts. In addition to collecting information, it was felt that a discussion of the concerns on-site was necessary. RLS staff met on-site with WCWRC staff, Ann Arbor engineering staff, the Ann Arbor city forester, and the consulting design engineer. The group walked the construction route to look at the trees and discuss which ones would be removed, the reason for the removal, as well as areas where the sidewalk or stormwater practices were adjusted to preserve trees. Drainage paths and placement of stormwater practices to address the stormwater flow were discussed.

Through the site visit and information gathering, it was determined that the city was taking extensive efforts to reduce impacts of the construction. Of the 415 trees in the right-of-way, 126 were slated for removal. Only 14 of those are directly related to construction of the stormwater practices. Hand or small equipment excavation is required in certain areas of the project. Two certified arborists will be on site during this phase of construction to evaluate tree roots to determine if the tree can be protected and saved. Approximately 96 replacement trees will be planted.

Other information gathered established that the stormwater practices were designed to address runoff volumes as cost-effectively as possible. The sidewalk will be placed in a location that will increase the safety of pedestrians. Pre- and post-traffic counts and speed data collection were planned by the city.

Based on all the information gathered, it was determined the WCWRC and the city of Ann Arbor had mitigated any adverse impacts due to the construction of the project and that the stormwater practices will help improve the water quality of the Huron River. The FNSI issuance was appropriate, so the Geddes Road stormwater practices project received an SRF loan. Construction started in the fall of 2015.



*Geddes Road after Tree Removal*

**Michigan Finance Authority (MFA)/Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)**

**FY 2017 FINANCING SCHEDULE  
for the State Revolving Fund (SRF), the  
Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) and the  
Strategic Water Quality Initiatives Fund (SWQIF)**

	<b>QUARTER 1</b>	<b>QUARTER 2</b>	<b>QUARTER 3</b>	<b>QUARTER 4</b>
Rate Methodology Approved	<b>08/29/2016</b>	<b>11/30/2016</b>	<b>02/13/2017</b>	<b>05/12/2017</b>
EAs Published No Later Than	<b>08/19/2016</b>	<b>12/05/2016</b>	<b>02/21/2017</b>	<b>05/12/2017</b>
Part I and Part II Application Due	<b>09/01/2016</b>	<b>12/15/2016</b>	<b>03/01/2017</b>	<b>06/01/2017</b>
FNSI Clearance Plans & Specs Approved	<b>09/19/2016</b>	<b>01/04/2017</b>	<b>03/23/2017</b>	<b>06/12/2017</b>
Bid Ad Published No Later Than	<b>09/19/2016</b>	<b>01/04/2017</b>	<b>03/23/2017</b>	<b>06/12/2017</b>
Part III of Application Due Bid Data Submittal (With Tentative Contract Award)	<b>11/03/2016</b>	<b>02/16/2017</b>	<b>05/02/2017</b>	<b>07/21/2017</b>
DEQ Order of Approval Issued*	<b>11/18/2016</b>	<b>03/14/2017</b>	<b>06/01/2017</b>	<b>08/23/2017</b>
Borrower's Pre-Closing with the MFA	<b>12/02/2016</b>	<b>03/30/2017</b>	<b>06/13/2017</b>	<b>09/01/2017</b>
<b>MFA CLOSING</b>	<b>12/12/2016</b>	<b>04/10/2017</b>	<b>06/23/2017</b>	<b>09/15/2017</b>
Notice to Proceed Issued No Later Than	02/10/2017	06/09/2017	08/22/2017	11/14/2017

\*In addition to MFA requirements, all municipal bond sales must be reviewed and approved by the Local Audit and Finance Division of the Michigan Department of Treasury before an Order of Approval can be issued.

**AN APPROVABLE APPLICATION FOR A REVOLVING FUND LOAN MUST INCLUDE:**

1. A completed revolving fund application (Parts I, II, and III) including all required application information and assurances.
2. A detailed project description, cost breakdown, and project schedule.
3. Financial documentation to demonstrate ability for timely repayment of the loan and other assurances required by the application. (Part I)
4. If applicable, all executed intermunicipal service agreements. (Part II)
5. An approved User Charge System. (Part II)
6. An approved Project Plan. (Part II)
7. A set of plans and specifications suitable for bidding, including DEQ construction permit. (Part II)
8. A certified resolution from the applicant designating an authorized representative. (Part II)
9. Verification that the project has been advertised for bids or other appropriate procurement action. (Part II)

# Comings and Goings

## *Retirement Rocks!*

After 37+ years with the Revolving Loan Section, Ms. Sue Casler decided it is time to climb rock piles and travel north across the bridge to hang out with Yoopers full time. Sue has been a staple around the office providing historical data and guidance to her coworkers and endless assistance to her loan and grant communities. While her office may finally be empty, the void her retirement creates will be noted for years to come.



*Sue Casler and Kelly Green*



## *Welcome Aboard!*

**The Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance** welcomes Bryce Feighner as its new Office Chief. You may have worked with him in the past, as he has a broad background working with multiple divisions and programs within the DEQ and the Department of Public Health, and has served as the Chief of two other DEQ divisions. Recently, he has been assigned as Special Advisor on Drinking Water, assisting the department with the recovery efforts in Flint. Bryce is both a licensed professional engineer and a licensed minister. We look forward to having Bryce at our helm!



*Bryce Feighner*



***Pop the popcorn and roll out the red carpet, RLS is hitting the big screen!***

A four-part video series detailing SRF and DWRP project planning is in the final editing stages and will be released on Youtube in the near future! Stay tuned for a GovDelivery message announcing viewing availability. We're getting ready to break the internet!



## ***Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) Update***

Communities and their consultant engineers will soon hear from Revolving Loan project managers regarding the next round of SAW funding as another \$97 million was appropriated by the Michigan legislature for FY2017. New funding allows additional grant applicants who applied for SAW funding in December 2013 to receive funding. To date, \$288 million has been awarded in the SAW program. This amount includes three loans and 345 grant awards to various cities, townships, villages, counties, and other municipal entities. The listing of SAW grant applicants, in lottery order, will be updated by November 2016 once the FY2017 funding round is complete. As of August 8, 2016, \$107 million has been expended on various SAW activities including planning, design, construction, asset management plans, and stormwater management plans. The first round of SAW applicants that received asset management plan funding will soon be submitting grant deliverables to our office. Contact information regarding completed asset management plans will be posted to the DEQ Web site as the information is received.



**Public Hearings** regarding the **draft Fiscal Year 2017 Project Priority Lists and draft Intended Use Plans for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund, the State Revolving Fund, and the Strategic Water Quality Initiatives Fund** will be held on September 21, 2016, beginning at 1:30 p.m. (for project plans received or post-marked by July 1, 2016).

Both public hearings will be held on the Atrium Level of Constitution Hall, in the Edward Hutchinson Conference Room, at 525 W. Allegan in downtown Lansing.

The draft Intended Use Plans explain how the DWRP, SRF, and SWQIF funds will allocate funding for FY 2017. The interest rates established for the revolving fund programs for FY 2017 will be announced at the public hearing. The public hearing will allow public comment on the process and projects seeking funding. If you are unable to attend the public hearing in person, you may submit written comments to our office until September 28, 2016, at 5 p.m.

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If you know someone, who would like to be added to **THE LOAN ARRANGER** mailing list, have an address change, or would like to receive **THE LOAN ARRANGER** electronically, please e-mail a request to the editor, Ms. Carla Winegar, at [WinegarC@michigan.gov](mailto:WinegarC@michigan.gov).

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