The Minnesota Legislature has created the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Grant Program under Minnesota Statutes, Section 446A.073 (2005, and amended in 2006) to assist municipalities with the cost of wastewater or stormwater projects needed to meet wasteload reductions under a TMDL study required by the Federal Clean Water Act. The program is administered by the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The MPCA is responsible for identifying eligible projects, determining eligible costs including calculating the essential project component percentage, reviewing project plans and specifications, and certifying approved projects to the PFA. The PFA is responsible for managing the application process and awarding the grants. The PFA will publish a notice regarding open application periods for these grants. For more information on the application process, see the PFA Web site at www.deed.state.mn.us/Community/assistance/pfa.htm.

Eligible Project Costs

An eligible wastewater or stormwater project may receive a grant for up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of the project. In general, the individual receiving water TMDL implementation plans will dictate the possible eligible wastewater collection, transmission, treatment and disposal components made necessary by the TMDL. Contact your regional MPCA review engineer for additional detail. Applicants must provide an initial estimate of the project cost to comply with the wasteload allocation at the time of application. The eligible cost will be further determined by the MPCA calculation of the essential applicant must indicate to the MPCA and PFA under which EPA approved TMDL their municipal wastewater or stormwater project is listed. If the proposed municipal wastewater or stormwater project is not listed under an EPA approved TMDL, the applicant must confirm that their proposed project is located within a basin covered by an approved TMDL. In addition, the applicant must attach a letter of justification stating the reasons that implementation of the proposed project would achieve a wasteload reduction that would result in improvements for the water quality impairment identified for this TMDL. MPCA will maintain a current list of municipalities that are included in MPCA certified and EPA approved TMDL’s on the MPCA Web site (Financial Assistance Section) at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/wastewater.html#Financial.

Project Eligibility

The proposed municipal wastewater or stormwater project must be made necessary by wasteload reductions identified in a TMDL study or implementation plans required under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, United States Code, title 33, section 1313(d). TMDL studies must be certified by the Commissioner of MPCA to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and EPA must have approved the TMDL study. To be eligible, the project applicant must indicate to the MPCA and PFA under which EPA approved TMDL their municipal wastewater or stormwater project is listed. If the proposed municipal wastewater or stormwater project is not listed under an EPA approved TMDL, the applicant must confirm that their proposed project is located within a basin covered by an approved TMDL. In addition, the applicant must attach a letter of justification stating the reasons that implementation of the proposed project would achieve a wasteload reduction that would result in improvements for the water quality impairment identified for this TMDL. MPCA will maintain a current list of municipalities that are included in MPCA certified and EPA approved TMDL’s on the MPCA Web site (Financial Assistance Section) at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/wastewater.html#Financial.

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project component percentage in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 116.182. Confirmation of final eligible costs will occur through the project bidding process. In order for MPCA to have the required information to certify the final eligible project capital costs to PFA, MPCA will require the municipality to submit TMDL Grant Program project specifications that use either line item bid documents that identify specific TMDL Grant Program eligible projects components, or a separate lump sum TMDL Grant Program eligible project components listing to assist in determining the portions of a projects construction costs that will be eligible for TMDL Grant Program funding.

**Project Priority**

PFA will reserve money for projects first in the order that their TMDL study was approved by the EPA, and secondly, in the order that their applications are received. If you have any questions regarding project priority, contact PFA at (651) 296-3562.

**Additional Project Information**

The project is not required to be on the Project Priority List or the Intended Use Plan (IUP) unless the applicant is seeking other state funds for the balance of the project costs. If State Revolving Fund (SRF) financing is needed to supplement the TMDL Grant, the project must follow the SRF application process, including meeting the requirements of Minnesota Rules Chapter 7077.

Minn. Stat. 446A.073 does not require a Facility Plan to be submitted for projects requesting TMDL Grant Program funding, however, if a Facility Plan is available for the project, please submit it to MPCA to assist with the project review process. In addition, depending on the extent of the project, a mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheet and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or State Disposal System (SDS) permit may need be completed and issued before the project plans and specification are reviewed and approved by the MPCA and the project certified to PFA for funding.

**Questions?**

If you have questions about the TMDL Grant Program, please contact one of the following MPCA staff:

- **Randy Thorson**, (651) 296-7150 or randy.thorson@pca.state.mn.us
- **Bill Dunn**, (651) 282-2663 or bill.dunn@pca.state.mn.us