

THE BLUEPRINT

Fall 2014



Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson
Engineers and Land Surveyors

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Town of Bernice 2013 Wastewater System of the Year— North Louisiana

Meyer, Meyer, LaCroix & Hixson would like to congratulate Mayor Bill Mitcham and the Town of Bernice for being awarded the Louisiana Rural Water Association Wastewater System of the Year—North Louisiana for 2013. In July 2011 ground was broken on a MML&H project to upgrade all areas of the town's wastewater system and increase the capacity of the treatment plant from 0.24 MGD to 0.603 MGD. The \$2.1 million project provided for new influent debris removal and a flow separation structure, a new clarifier with two upgraded clarifiers, and a new bentonite lined equalization basin and pump station to handle peak flows at the plant and stabilize flows in the treatment plant. This construction project also addressed the collection system. A sewer system evaluation was conducted with closed circuit TV. Issues discovered with the video inspection were corrected by lining the gravity sewer mains and trimming sewer service connections if required. Five lift stations were also upgraded as part of the construction. Improvements were completed in September 2012.



Pictured above: Clarifier

Pictured right: Influent screw screen and compactor

MML&H would also like to congratulate **Debbie Robinson** with EMC Water System, Inc. on being awarded LRWA's Water System Operations Specialist of the Year—North Louisiana.



Mayor Bill Mitcham (left) accepted the award for Bernice given by Patrick Credeur, LRWA Executive Director in July 2014



Funding Solutions

Have you passed out one too many trihalomethane (THM) notification flyers for your water system? Are low pressure problems causing too many complaints? Do your Discharge Monitoring Reports cite too many non-compliance issues? Are you looking for a local match for a federally funded sidewalk project you would like to pursue?

There are loan and grant programs available to provide the funding for infrastructure improvements and system expansions. Page 3 lists some of the available funding programs for public works projects. Identifying the best funding resources to implement a plan for infrastructure development involving planning, engineering, permitting, and construction can be challenging. Under some situations, leveraging funds from more than one program can be a creative and viable approach to meet your needs. Contact either of our offices if you would like to obtain additional information regarding available funding opportunities.

EPA - Green Project Reserve

The Green Project Reserve (GPR) requires the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program in Louisiana to use grant funds for projects that address green infrastructure, water efficiency, energy efficiency, or other environmentally innovative activities. This is a federal program managed in Louisiana by DEQ. Green Projects are those that demonstrate new and/or innovative approaches to managing water resources. These may prevent or remove water pollution using decentralized treatment or alternate power supplies such as solar. Wastewater treatment systems are energy intensive facilities and these facilities have the potential to achieve 15 to 30 percent energy savings annually by using conservation measures. These measures reduce long-term energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions at treatment facilities.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Offers:

Low Interest Rates, Flexible Terms—A CWSRF funded project would cost 17 percent less than projects funded at the market rate. CWSRF can fund 100 percent of the project cost and provide flexible repayment terms up to 20 years.

Significant Funding for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control and Estuary Protection—To date, the CWSRF has provided nearly \$4.2 billion nationally in funding for nonpoint source projects and estuary management projects.

Assistance to a Variety of Borrowers—The CWSRF program has assisted a range of borrowers including municipalities, communities of all sizes, farmers, homeowners, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations.



If you are interested in this program, contact MML&H for more information. November 1, 2014 is the deadline for submitting pre-applications for green projects in this funding year.

Fun Water Facts

Did you know it takes 7 1/2 years for the average American residence to use the same amount of water that flows over the Niagara Falls in one second (750,000 gallons per second)?

More than 25% of bottled water comes from a municipal water supply, the same place tap water comes from.

http://water.epa.gov/learn/kids/drinkingwater/water_trivia_facts.cfm

We hope that you find the first edition of THE BLUEPRINT informative and useful. Your feedback is important to us and we welcome your suggestions or comments for future editions addressed to jennifer.riser@mmlh.com.

THE BLUEPRINT will be printed periodically and will include information on funding sources, project updates and ideas, as well as interesting facts.

Funding Source	Loan	Grant	Types of Projects	Special Qualifications	Approx Interest Rate	Terms
Government Capital Corporation (endorsed by LRWA)	✓		Automatic Meter Reading and Utility Metering Systems, Vehicles and Heavy Equipment, Etc.		2.5% - 4.5%	5 years - 20 years
DHH (EPA) - Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWRLF)	✓	✓	Water and Wastewater		3.45%	20 Year Long-Term Financing
DEQ-Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)	✓	✓	Wastewater		0.95%	20 Year
USDA - Water and Waste Revolving Loan Fund Grants (RFP)	✓	✓	Water and Wastewater	Population <10,000	2.375% - 4%	
USDA Community Facilities	✓	✓	Development of Essential Community Facilities	Population <20,000	2.375% - 4%	
Community Resource Group - Water & Wastewater Loans	✓		Water and Wastewater	Population <20,000	3.5% - 5.9%	Up To \$500,000 Loans Up To 15 Years
Community Resource Group - Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)	✓		Water and Wastewater	Population <2,500, Rural	3.5% - 5.9%	Up To \$500,000 Loans Up To 15 Years
LA Office of Community Development - Urgent Needs		✓	Water, Wastewater, and Gas			
LA Office of Community Development - Economic Development		✓	Sewer, Water, and Street/Road Access			
LA Office of Community Development - Small Towns Environment Program (LaSTEP)		✓	Water and Wastewater	Low and Moderate Income		
Delta Regional Authority - State Economic Development Assistance Plan (SEDAP)		✓	Critical Development: \$300 Million Investment, 350 or More Jobs Created and/or Retained. Emergency/Contingency Funding: Emergencies Which Present Health and/or Safety Risks to Communities			
LA Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG)		✓	Water, Wastewater, Fire Protection and Street Rehabilitation			

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