

**Responsiveness Summary
for the
Federal Fiscal Year 2025 / State Fiscal Year 2027 Draft Documents**

This document provides details regarding comments received and actions taken by Maryland Water Infrastructure Financing Administration (MWIFA) in response to those comments, and any other changes/corrections made by MWIFA to the following draft documents that were available for a public comment period in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act:

Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Water Quality Project Priority List (PPL)
Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Drinking Water PPL

Draft FFY 2025 Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund Intended Use Plan (IUP) Document
Draft FFY 2025 Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund IUP Document

Draft FFY 2025 Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund IUP Table 1
Draft FFY 2025 Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund IUP Table 1

Each IUP document contains details regarding the respective public comment periods.

Comments Received

The Department received the following comments during the comment period:

1. Erin Braband of the Town of Trappe, MD noted that their project “Main Street Water Main Replacement” did not appear on the Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Drinking Water PPL and asked whether the application was received or if MWIFA had any other feedback.

MWIFA Response: MWIFA was unable to find the email submission for this project in any of the inboxes maintained by our division, including spam and deleted folders, at the time of Erin Braband’s inquiry. We appreciate the additional documentation provided by the Town of Trappe that indicates the application was submitted, although it remains unknown why the application was not received by MWIFA. MWIFA encourages the Town of Trappe to re-apply in future funding cycles and will be available to the Town for any future inquiries. Correspondence was sent to the commentor to address the question raised.

2. Vicky Wan of Montgomery County, Maryland’s Department of Environmental Protection noted that the Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Clean Water PPL had a dollar figure of \$46.22 million next to their project, “Montgomery County MS4 Permit – Water Quality Improvement Projects”, while the Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Clean Water IUP indicated the project received \$25 million in funding.

MWIFA Response: The \$46.224 million figure in the Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027

Clean Water PPL represents the total amount of funding requested for the project by the project applicant; the \$25 million figure in the Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Clean Water IUP represents how much and what kinds of funding the project was selected to receive. The “Montgomery County MS4 Permit – Water Quality Improvement Projects” project will thus receive \$25 million in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) general loan funding as a result of this funding application cycle. Correspondence was sent to the commentor to address the question raised. Correspondence was sent to the commentor to address the question raised.

3. Timothy Cox of Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC Water) noted that in the Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Drinking Water PPL, the requested funding total for the project “Lead Service Line Replacement - WSSC” was incorrectly represented as \$12,796,399. The actual amount requested was \$127,963,994.

MWIFA Response: MWIFA acknowledges the error and appreciates the correction. The change has been made within our internal systems and will be reflected in the updated Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Drinking Water PPL.

4. Katherine McAllister of George, Miles & Buhr, LLC, on behalf of the City of Fruitland, Maryland, noted that according to the Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Clean Water PPL, their project “City of Fruitland WWTP Headworks and SBR Upgrade” was bypassed for funding due to being inconsistent with the Priority Funding Law. She asked what part of the project was inconsistent with the priority funding area (PFA), given that the project involves an existing wastewater treatment plant, and the upgrades are mainly geared towards existing failing equipment to serve existing residents. She also said that the project is being undertaken by the City of Fruitland, not the City of Salisbury, and should be changed as such in the Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Clean Water IUP. She added that the city of Fruitland would like to discuss options for using Bay Restoration Fund (BRF) state grants for funding refinements of the facility in the future, as the equipment has been failing in recent years.

MWIFA Response: MDE technical staff have determined that the project includes an expansion of the wastewater treatment plant in question, and the Fruitland sewer service area is larger than the priority funding area. Therefore, the service area isn’t entirely in a PFA. We have corrected the applicant name to “City of Fruitland” in the revised draft the Draft FFY 2025/State FY 2027 Clean Water IUP. Correspondence was sent to the commentor to address the question raised.

5. Dallas Baker of the Worcester County, Maryland Department of Public Works asked whether MDE had used the most up-to-date information when determining that their projects “Worcester County – Herring Creek Water Main Interconnect” and “Worcester County – Mystic Harbor Wastewater Effluent to Riddle Lagoon” were not consistent with the local Water and Sewer Plan and priority funding area. He supplied updated documents and said that the former project should have been classified as a categorical exception, and that the latter project would not add any new users or increase the area of service, therefore making it eligible.

MWIFA Response: MWIFA will double-check these two applications and assess whether any changes are warranted and/or possible. The commentor will be contacted to obtain further information.

6. Calvin A. Bonenberger, Jr., Town Administrator of the Town of Rising Sun, Cecil County, corresponded to alert MWIFA that two projects which were bypassed on the CW IUP, namely the West Nottingham Academy and the Plumpton Park Zoo sewer projects, were actively being annexed into the Town's PFA boundary.

MWIFA Response: MWIFA acknowledged the importance of the completion of the process as a condition precedent to programming funding. After a conference call in July 2025, MWIFA learned that the annexation was scheduled to be on the Mayor and Commissioners' agenda for their July 15th meeting and the completion of the public process was pending sometime in mid-September 2025. No decision was able to be reached and therefore MWIFA recommended that the projects be re-submitted in the next solicitation beginning December 2025.

Changes Made Subsequent to the Public Comment Period (other than any specified above)

1. In response to review comments from EPA Region 3 and MWIFA's refinements and rebalancing of available funding sources according to capacity, several changes were made to the IUPs in order to address public health and environmental goals, including:
 - + City of Taneytown (Carroll County) Well #14 PFAS project was added to the DW IUP
 - + Town of Grantsville (Garrett County) was added to the DW IUP
 - + Garrett County Sanitary District (Garrett County) source water project was added to the DW IUP
 - + Town of Thurmont (Frederick County) Flood project was added to the CW IUP
 - + Rockville (Montgomery County) Orangeburg project was added to the CW IUP
 - + Minor corrections were made to the PPL documents, e.g., date entry omissions or errors.
 - + WQ & DW IUP Documents were updated with corrected comprehensive Sources and Uses tables based on the latest financial date available.
2. In general, projects were bypassed, i.e., not selected for funding, for two basic reasons: a) there was insufficient documentation to show at the time of application that they were consistent with priority funding area laws, and b) there was insufficient documentation to show at the time of application that they were consistent with the county water and sewer plan, as approved by MDE. Failure to meet these two requirements stops MWIFA from proceeding with evaluating the application. The process to cure these defects is described online [here](#) and [here](#).
3. In general, MWIFA requests that projects are ready to proceed within a reasonable timeframe. Some projects, although they scored well, were bypassed due to their late start date for construction. A reasonable timeframe for construction to begin is anytime within one year but no later than 18 months. Thus, projects which had construction start dates before February 2027 (from 8/25-2/27) were considered for funding. This decision is

based on need to implement the most efficient use of the federal and state dollars in a timely and expeditious manner.

Attachments

Comments received by email from Erin Braband, Vicky Wan, Timothy Cox, Katherine McAllister, Dallas Baker and Calvin Bonenberger. Copies are attached to this Responsiveness Summary.

Copies of all records pertaining to this public process are available at the offices of MDE, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21230. Inquiries may be made to Paul Emmart at paul.emmart@maryland.gov.

Maryland Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and State Grant Intended Use Plans (IUPs) and Project Priority Lists (PPLs)

Public Comment Compilation Document *Federal Fiscal Year 2025/State Fiscal Year 2027*

Maryland Water Infrastructure Financing Administration (MWIFA)
Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

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On Tue, Jul 1, 2025 at 12:47 PM Erin Braband <clerk@trappemd.net> wrote:

Good afternoon

I received the MWIFA funding documents and after reviewing them had a quick question. The Town of Trappe (through Davis, Bowen and Friedel) submitted an application on January 31st for grant funding to help replace some of the lead lines that we have in Town but I do not see our project on the PPL. I wanted to confirm that our application was received and ask if there is anything that you could suggest that we could improve as we prepare to resubmit next year. This line services our Elementary School so it is our number one priority to get replaced as soon as possible.

Thank you for your help and I look forward to your response.

Erin Braband, CPM
Town Administrator

Town of Trappe
PO Box 162, Trappe, MD 21673
410-443-0087



Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 11:45 AM
Subject: Public Comment Period for MWIFA Draft Funding Documents

[Quoted text hidden]

Wan, Vicky <Vicky.Wan@montgomerycountymd.gov>
To: MDE Water Quality Financing Administration Announcement -MDE- <mde.wqfa_announcement@maryland.gov>

Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 11:32 AM

Hi Paul,

Can you help us understand whether Montgomery County is preapproved for \$25 million or the entire \$46.224 million amount?

This link has the \$46.224 number https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WQFA/Documents/CW%20PPL_30Jun2025.pdf but the PDF shows funding of \$25 million from IIJA.

Thanks and have a great 4th of July Holiday!

Vicky

Vicky Wan

Chief, Strategic and Administrative Services Division

mobile: 240-328-2286



From: paul.emmart@maryland.gov <paul.emmart@maryland.gov> **On Behalf Of** MDE Water Quality Financing Administration Announcement - MDE-

Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 11:45 AM

Subject: Public Comment Period for MWIFA Draft Funding Documents

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

[Quoted text hidden]



For more helpful Cybersecurity Resources, visit: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cybersecurity>



Garon Lizana -MDE- <garon.lizana@maryland.gov>

Small Error in Draft Drinking Water Project Priority List

Cox, Timothy E <Timothy.Cox@wsscwater.com>

Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 4:18 PM

To: Paul Emmart -MDE- <paul.emmart@maryland.gov>, Garon Lizana -MDE- <garon.lizana@maryland.gov>

Paul and Garon,

I'm not sure who to mention this to, but there is a small error in the draft Drinking Water Project Priority List that was sent on 7/1. On page 17, the draft PPL indicates that WSSC Water requested \$12,796,399 for the LSLR program, but we actually requested \$127,963,994 for the program. Would you please share this message with the appropriate person at MDE?



Tim Cox, PhD
Temporary Consultant

Finance Department

301.206.8765

timothy.cox@wsscwater.com



FFY 2025 WQSRF Fund IUP

1 message

Katherine McAllister <KMcAllister@gmbnet.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 9:22 AM

To: "mde.wqfa_announcement@maryland.gov" <mde.wqfa_announcement@maryland.gov>

Cc: Elaine Dietz -MDE- <elaine.dietz@maryland.gov>, Sunita Boyle -MDE- <sunita.boyle@maryland.gov>, "M Gibbons (mgibbons@cityoffruitland.com) (mgibbons@cityoffruitland.com)" <mgibbons@cityoffruitland.com>, Marc Henderson <mhenderson@cityoffruitland.com>, Steven Doutht <sdoutht@cityoffruitland.com>, "Andrew R. Scalese" <aScalese@gmbnet.com>

Hi good morning –

I am inquiring about the City of Fruitland WWTP Headworks and SBR Upgrade project funding application submittal. The project ranking was #37 with 50 scoring points but was not allocated any funding due to "Not consistent with Priority Funding Law". Would you be able to clarify what area of the application was inconsistent with the PFA? This is an existing WWTP, and the upgrades are mainly geared toward existing failing equipment to serve existing residents.

The City of Fruitland would like to discuss any options with MDE to use BRF funds for refinement of the BNR portions of this facility. This equipment has been operational since 2000 and is failing which has impacted the ENR equipment installed in 2017.

Thank you for any feedback or assistance with this project.

(FYI – The IUP table references applicant as "City of Salisbury" for this project but it is City of Fruitland.)



Katherine McAllister, P.E.
Sr Vice President/Project Director
206 West Main Street | Salisbury, MD
| 21801
410.742.3115 | www.gmbnet.com |
[Find us on facebook](#)

CW FFY25 IUP Table 1_30Jun2025.pdf
155K



Public Comment Period for MWIFA Draft Funding Documents

Dallas Baker <dbaker@worcestermd.gov>

Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 2:00 PM

To: MDE Water Quality Financing Administration Announcement -MDE- <mde.wqfa_announcement@maryland.gov>

Cc: "kmcallister@gmbnet.com" <kmcallister@gmbnet.com>, "Charlene A. Sharpe" <csharpe@worcestermd.gov>, Robert Mitchell <bmmitchell@worcestermd.gov>, Chris Clasing <cclasing@worcestermd.gov>, Tony Fascelli <tfascelli@worcestermd.gov>, "Weston S. Young" <weston.young@worcestermd.gov>

Good afternoon MDE,

Worcester County Public Works would like to provide additional information on two of the projects listed on the recent IUPs:

-

From DW FFY2025 IUP Table 1:

- Worcester County – Herring Creek Water Main Interconnect – **“Not consistent with MDE approved Water & Sewer Plan or PFA”**

From CW FFY2025 IUP Table 1:

- Worcester County – Mystic Harbour Wastewater Effluent to Riddle Lagoon – **“Bypassed because not consistent with Water & Sewer Plan”**

It appears MDE did not have the most up to date information when scoring these projects as both are consistent with the Water & Sewer Plan. Attached you will find copies of the County Commissioner approved resolutions amending the Water & Sewer Plans to include both projects. In addition, amended maps, and excerpts of the language that was added to the amended plans are also included in the attachments.

The interconnections should have been classified as categorical exceptions (#2). This has been stated in the resolution for the amendment and the plan inserts for the Plan. For water, the intent of the interconnection is not to add new users or increase the service areas of either sanitary area. For sewer, the line will exclusively be for treated effluent transmission and will be a denied access line that will have no connections along the planned route. The intent of the interconnection is not to add to the new users or increase the service areas of each sanitary area. These are not growth supporting plan amendments, they are to serve existing services areas. We have the language as well that: “Any future amendments to *The Plan* should be carefully examined to decide whether existing or planned development would be appropriate to be served by the interconnected systems.” That is where any PFA exemptions would be granted on future amendments. We are restricting the lines and connections to them to previously approved and vetted sanitary areas and only for the S1/W1 existing connections.

Worcester County hopes MDE will take this additional information into consideration. We are requesting MDE revisit the scoring on both projects to include the fact that they are both consistent with the Water & Sewer Plan.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you,

Dallas

Dallas Baker Jr., P.E.

Director of Public Works

Worcester County



Paul Emmart -MDE- <paul.emmart@maryland.gov>

W. Nottingham Academy Sewer Project

2 messages

Paul Emmart -MDE- <paul.emmart@maryland.gov>
To: tabonenberger@risingsunmd.org

Tue, May 27, 2025 at 7:47 AM

Good Morning Mr. Bonenberger,

We are in the process of reviewing water quality project applications and this project was flagged for being outside of the PFA, as described in the attached letter. There was a possibility that the Town may annex the School property which may extend the PFA to the school, but I am not 100% sure of the process. I am writing to ask if you could confirm whether any changes have occurred since January 2025 which would make the project compliant with our PFA requirement?

Please confirm either way.

Thank you,
Paul

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**PAUL EMMART**

Division Chief
Maryland Water Infrastructure Financing Administration
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230
paul.emmart@maryland.gov
(410) 537-3908 (O)

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**Attachment #10 - Letter from Town of Rising Sun to MDE.pdf**
578K

Calvin Bonenberger <tabonenberger@risingsunmd.org>
To: Paul Emmart -MDE- <paul.emmart@maryland.gov>

Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 4:25 PM

Dear Paul,

Thank you for reaching out, and I apologize for the delay in responding—I've been away from my desk the past few days.

Yes, we've completed the preliminary site work and legal review, and the annexation is scheduled to be on our Mayor and Commissioners' agenda for July 15th.

The Town is genuinely excited about the opportunity to support West Nottingham Academy. We recognize the importance of preserving this historic and educational landmark, and we're proud to play a role in helping ensure its continued vitality

and sustainability for future generations.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything further as we move forward.

Best regards,



Calvin A Bonenberger Jr
Town Administrator

1 East Main Street • PO Box 456 • Rising Sun, MD 21911

Tel: 410-658-5353 • Email: tabonenberger@risingsunmd.org

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