

Sebago Clean Waters: The Future is Clear

Paul Hunt
Portland Water District
phunt@pwd.org

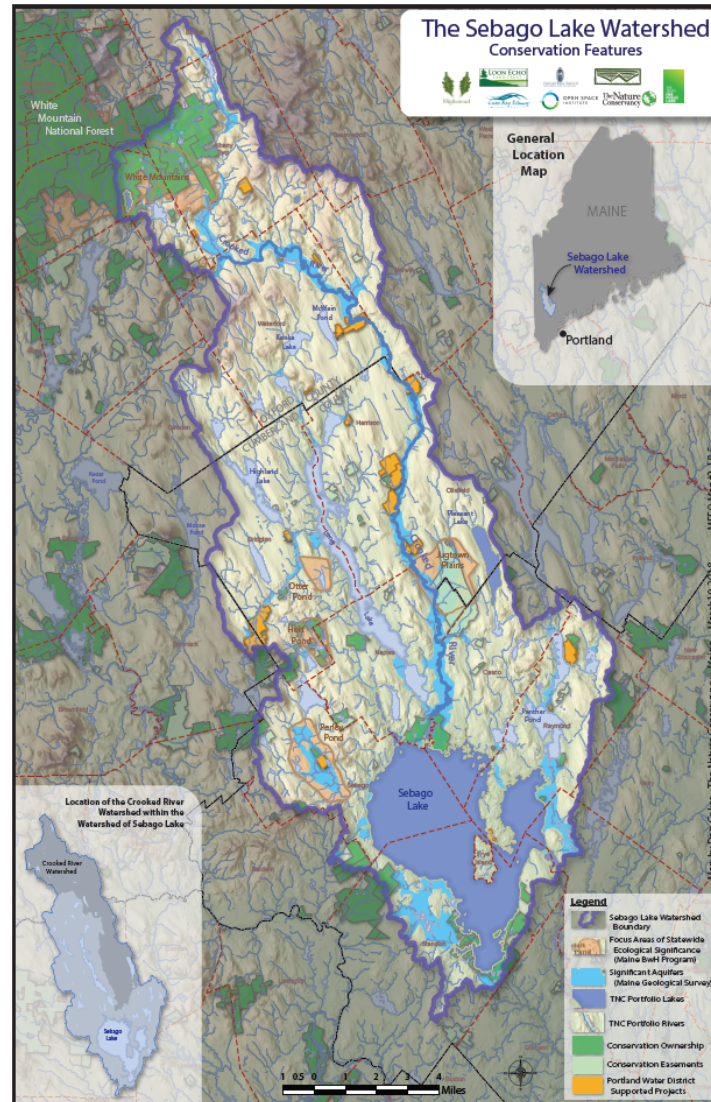
Spencer Meyer, Ph.D.
Highstead Foundation
smeyer@Highstead.net



The Partners



Portland Water District
FROM SEBAGO LAKE TO CASCO BAY



The Watershed

- Municipal water source since 1869
- Supplies water to 1/6 of Maine's population and its fastest growing businesses
- EPA Filtration Avoidance Waiver
- 6.5B gallons in 2016
 - 52% residential users
 - 22% largest water users



Safeguarding the Source...

... that Sustains Maine.

Every \$1 invested in Sebago land conservation = \$8 in benefits.

The forests in the **234,000-acre** Sebago Watershed act as a natural filter for the drinking water that provides multiple benefits to more than **200,000** users.

The watershed supports businesses, jobs, public health and recreation, as well as abundant wildlife habitat. But as little as an **8%** reduction of these forests could trigger an increase in water treatment costs, while a **10%** reduction could degrade the entire watershed.

A Rare Resource

Sebago Lake is exceptionally pure:

Top 2% in U.S. for clean water production

Top 1% in Maine for lake clarity

1 of only 50 US water supplies needing no filtration




— Watershed Boundary
■ Conserved Land
■ Businesses & Households Using Sebago Lake Water

The benefits for conserving these forests + the cost of inaction = the need for action now!

-  Provides 22M gallons of water daily from Sebago Lake
-  Delivers high-grade water for industries and health care
-  Supplies pure drinking water for one-of-six Mainers
-  Ensures clean air & water quality to support good health
-  Supports Outdoor, Recreational, and Tourism industries
-  Reduces risk of flooding & manages storm water runoff

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Conservation = Big Benefits for Businesses & Communities

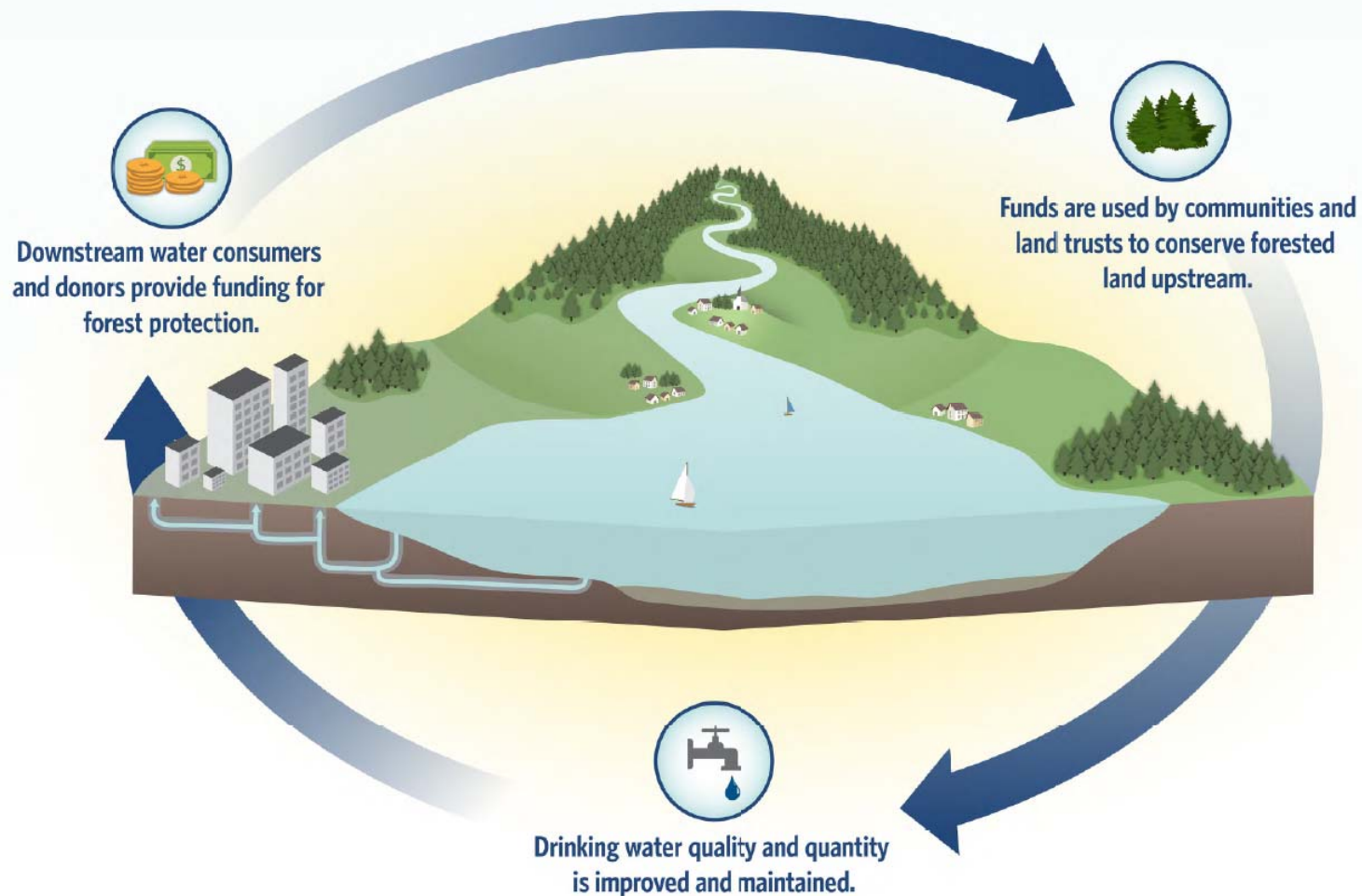
-  Lose water quality, which declines with just 8% forest loss
-  Spend possible \$150M+ for filtration plant for degraded water
-  Pay the 84% rate increase that unprotected lands could spark

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Inaction = Risk of High Cost for Inferior Water Supply



WATERFUNDS AT WORK




Portland Water District

- Drinking water since 1908
- Wastewater treatment since 1978
- 200,000 consumers in 11 communities
- 22 Million GPD

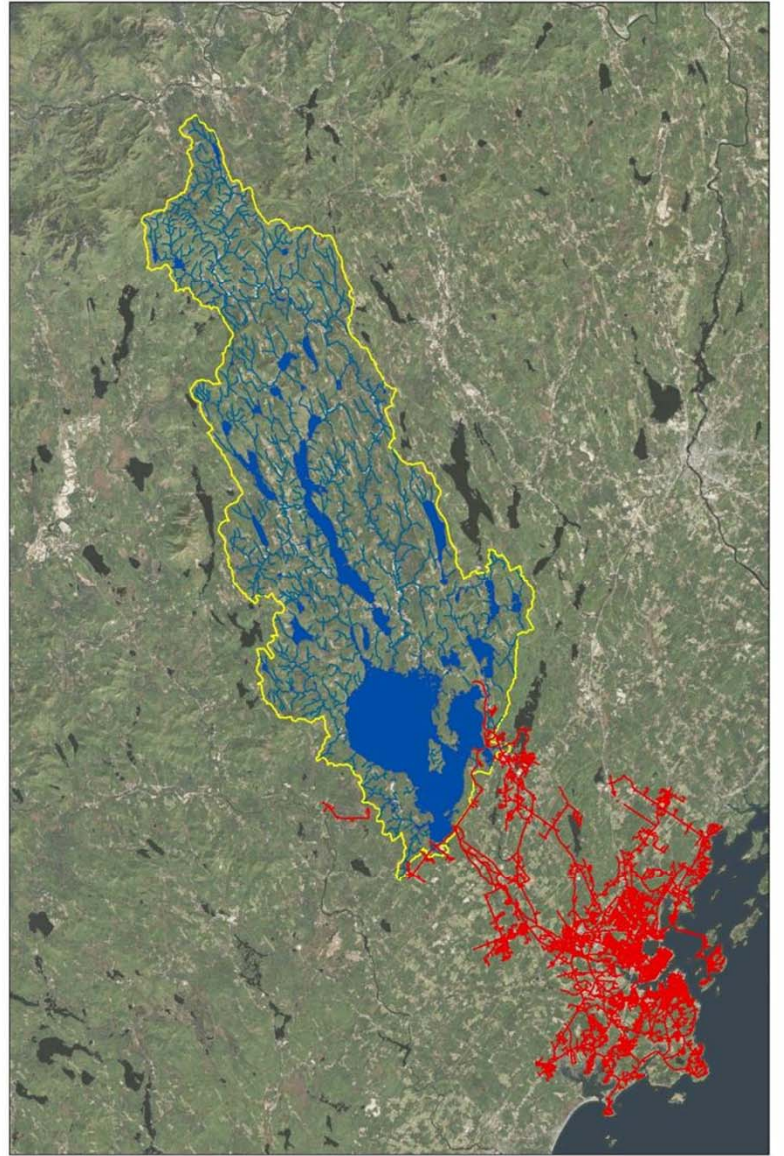


SEBAGO LAKE



100 gallons
for every
human
being on
Earth.

So clean it's
exempt from
filtration.





MONITOR



INSPECT



EDUCATE



PATROL

**YOU
DO
MANY
THINGS**



CONSERVE

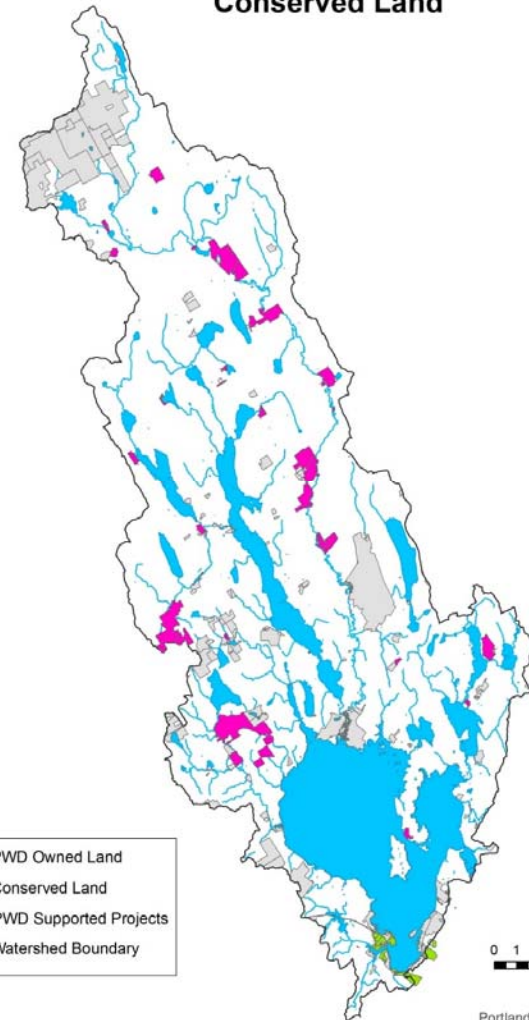
Sebago Lake Watershed Conserved Land



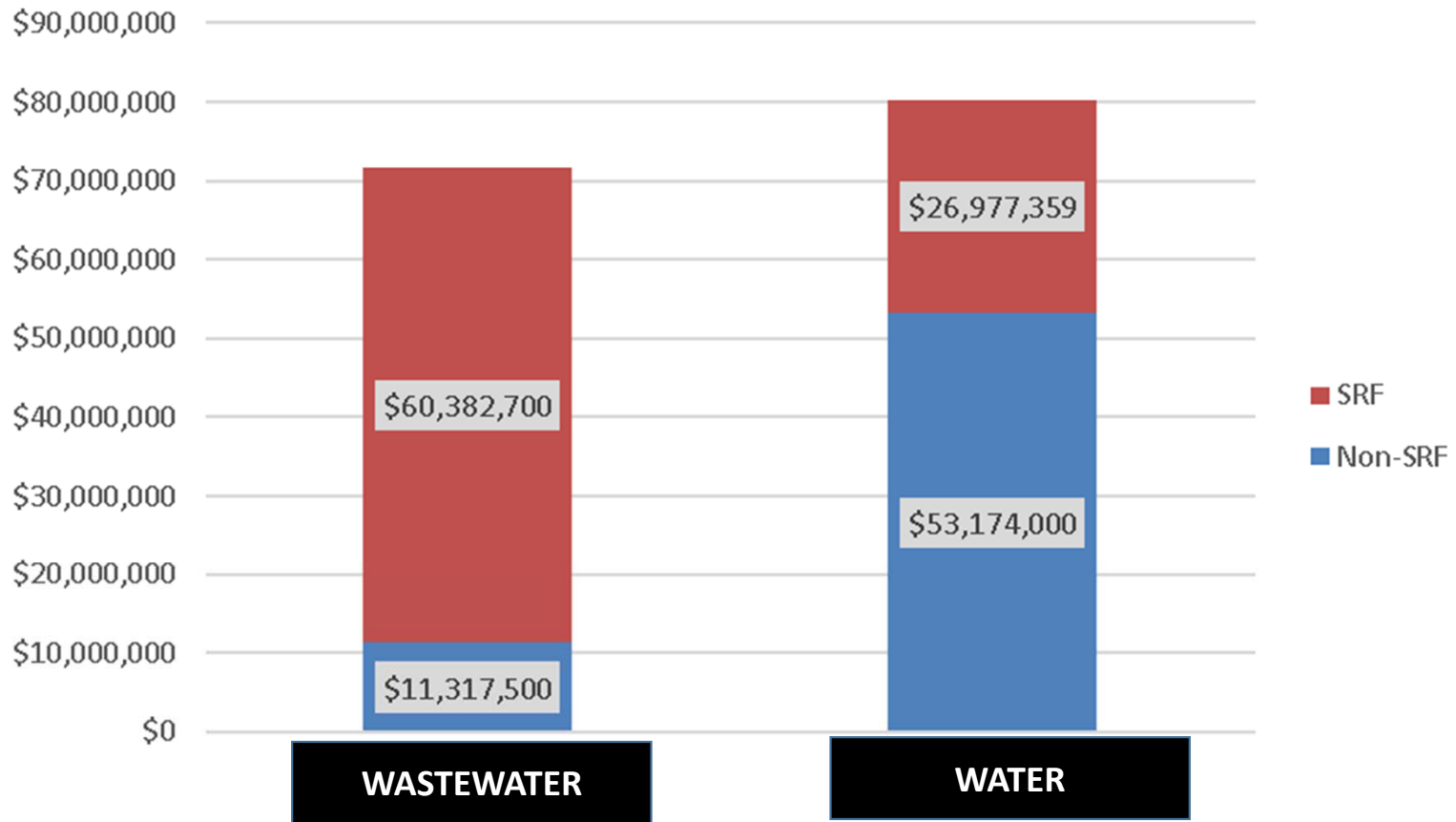
Sebago Lake Watershed Conserved Land



Sebago Lake Watershed Conserved Land



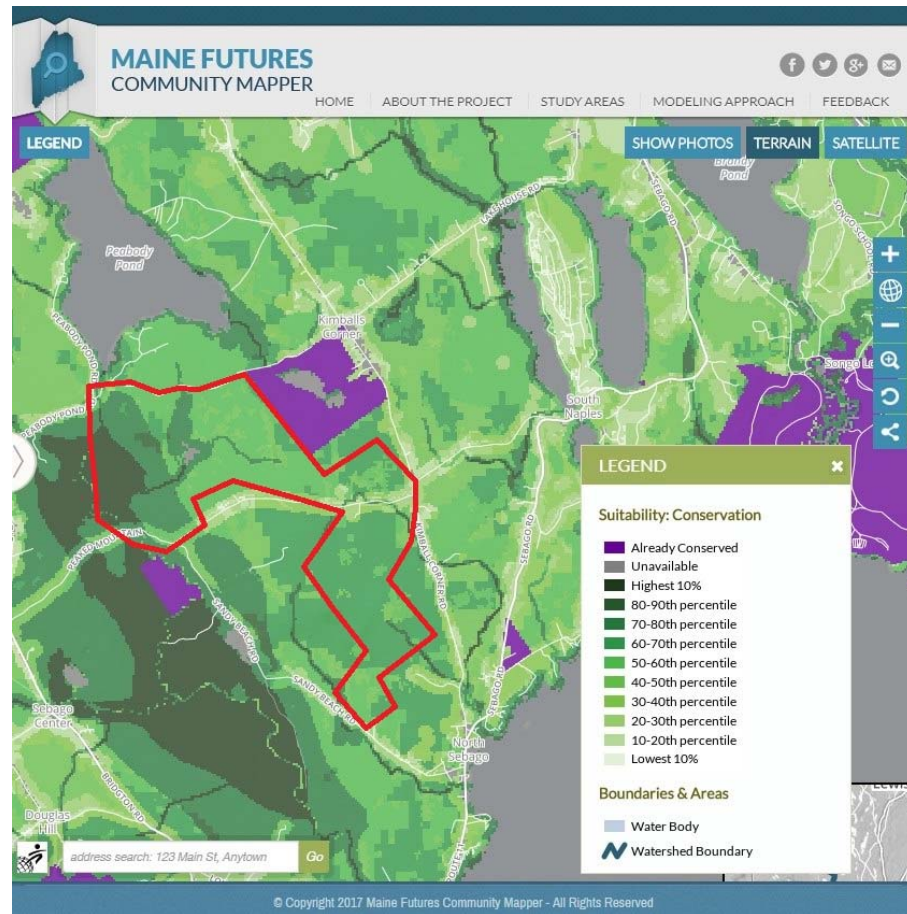
PWD BONDING HISTORY, 2003-PRESENT



Drinking Water SRF Loan

Tiger Hill Community Forest

- 1,400 acres
- Permanently conserved
- Owned by Loon Echo Land Trust
- Managed by community members
- \$1.8 million total project
- \$345,000 SRF loan
- \$50,000 principal forgiveness
- Other public and private grants



The Water Quality Business Pitch

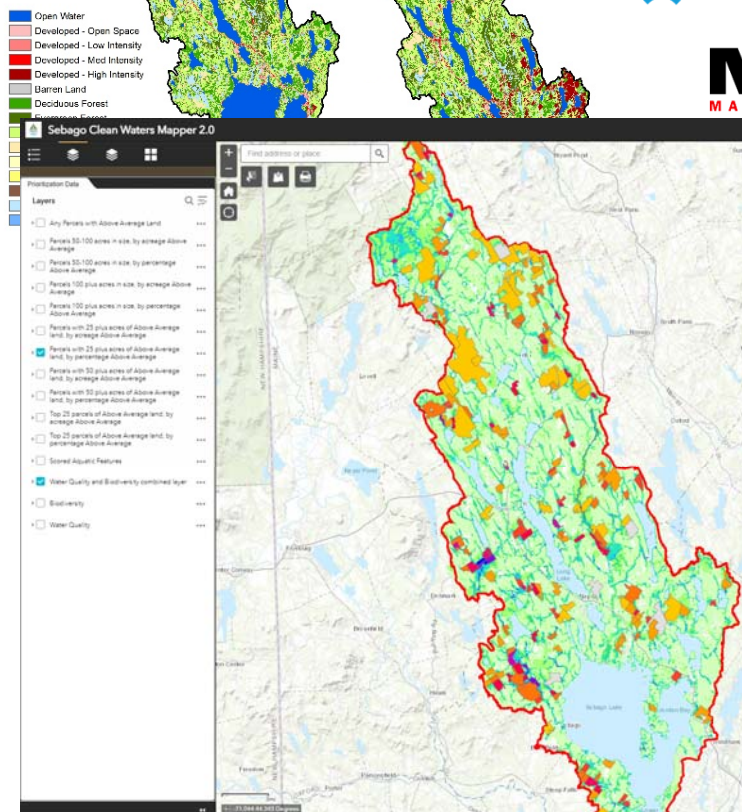
- Protection: Costs \$950/ac; Benefits \$800/ac PER YEAR
 - Water quality, air pollution and climate regulation, in particular
- Losing 8% of the forest cover could trigger minimum 40% increase in sediment and nutrient pollution.
- Would require \$150M treatment plant => \$13M/yr capital costs
- Water rates could increase 84% or \$2.4M/yr for top 50 users; \$15 M/yr for all PWD customers.
- Investing 10% of these savings in a \$15M water fund could finance 25% protection goal in just 10 years.



1% Forest Loss

8% Forest Loss

Development Risk vs Conservation Priorities



Maine Conservation Coalition Awarded \$8M To Preserve Forestland In Sebago Lake Watershed

By CAITLIN TROUTMAN • SEP 20, 2020



With the grant funds, Sebago Clean Waters can conserve more land near the Crooked River, Sebago Lake's largest tributary.

JERRY MONKMAN / ECOPHOTOGRAPHY.COM VIA THE PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT

SCW Accomplishments

- \$350,000 Healthy Watersheds Consortium grant (2018)
- Awarded \$8M NRCS RCPP AFA Grant (\$18.5M project; 2021)
- Conserved ~2,000 acres high priority forestland
- Increased visibility (press coverage, likes/follows) & media collateral (logo/brand, website, videos, brochures, etc.)
- Increased coalition and land trust partner capacity
- Developed mapping tool for land prioritization/evaluation
- Engaged business partners



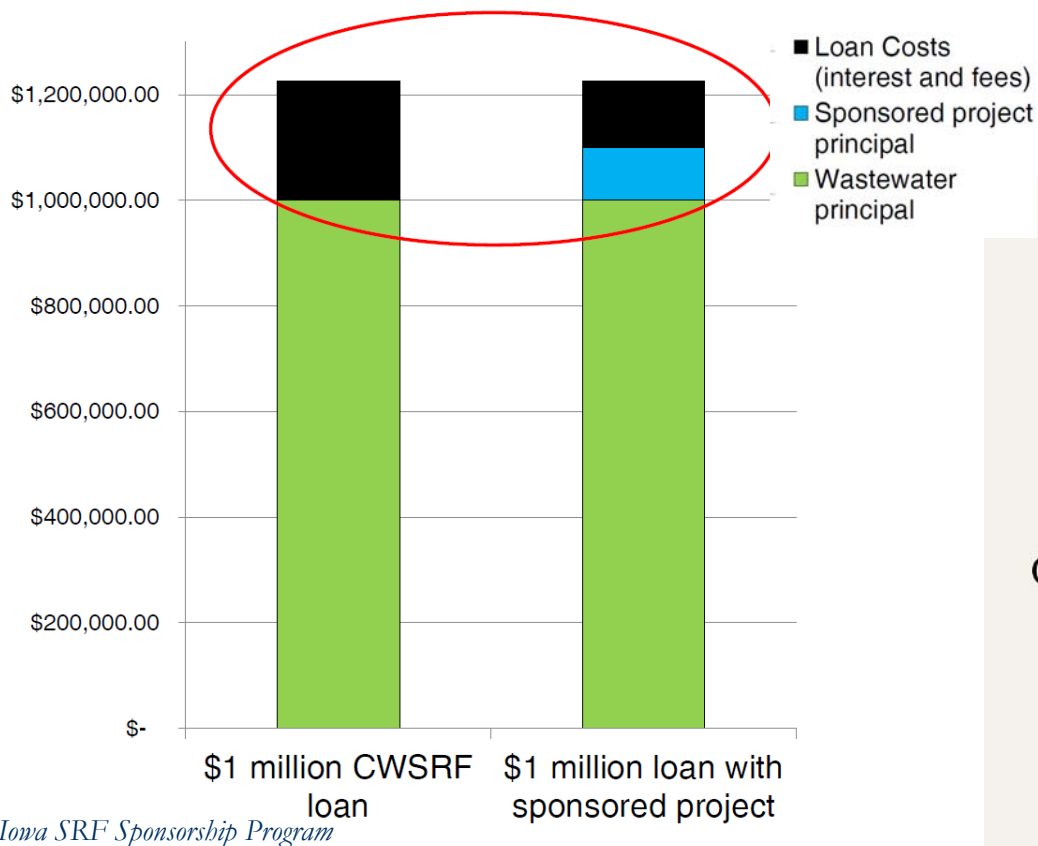
Early Adopters



smeyer@Highstead.net
phunt@PWD.org
www.SebagoCleanWaters.org



Finance Green Infrastructure with State Revolving Funds



USING STATE REVOLVING FUNDS FOR LAND CONSERVATION

Maria Martinez



State revolving funds (SRFs) have been used for decades as a source of low-cost financing for a variety of water-infrastructure projects. For example, if a local public water system needs new storage tanks, is looking to implement a project to recapture stormwater, or requires funding for other gray infrastructure projects that help meet water quality standards, borrowers can apply for loans through a state's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). Each state also has a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) that works similarly to the CWSRF but is focused on financing safe drinking-water systems.

While SRFs have conventionally been used to fund traditional graywater municipal wastewater treatment and drinking-water projects (like the ones above, SRFs can also serve as a finance source for nontraditional projects such as green infrastructure to control nonpoint source pollution (NPS) and protect source-water areas.

Beyond expanding the scope of uses for SRF funds, states can also apply an emerging and innovative use of SRFs known as "sponsorship" that allows public, nonprofit and private entities access to financing necessary to implement land conservation and restoration projects that benefit local water quality.

To date, all of these sponsorship programs—those which pair a traditional public water system with a nontraditional NGO or private partner to develop a green infrastructure project—have been accomplished through the CWSRF.

As explained below, due to the large discretion given by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to states in how they manage and use SRF funds, it is possible for states to use SRFs in a variety of ways that allow them to meet water-quality standards by investing in green infrastructure.

Use of SRFs for investing in green infrastructure, while proven in some places, is still a new concept in conservation finance. Emerging finance tools may sometimes be controversial and require customization. They require time and consideration to ensure this use best meet the needs of a state.

www.conservationsfinancenetwork.org