



Emergency Water System Funding

By: Don Craig, Deputy Director

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**Water
Systems
Association
of
Illinois**

This past month of November, will be one that won't be forgotten over the years to come. On Sunday, the 17th of that month, a large amount of severe storms, including deadly tornados, blanketed not only Illinois, but many states throughout the Midwest. From that following day, our staff worked to contact systems, directly and possibly indirectly affected by the onslaught... to offer any assistance they could possibly help with. Over the following few days, a total of 32 communities were contacted in some form, by IRWA personnel, in regard to their overall status after the storms, and to offer any assistance, if needed.

Unfortunately, communities such as Washington near Peoria, and Gifford north of Champaign, were slammed hard by EF-4 and EF-3 tornados, respectively. But, others, such as Brookport and New Minden, in southern Illinois, were also hit as well. And, there were more.

In Gifford, we had one of our Circuit Riders, Evan Jones, on hand for many days. He assisted Superintendent Jess Childress and the hard hit town, in getting their water system back up and running, as the water treatment facility building was directly hit and destroyed. Other communities in the area also helped out with mutual aid in the form of manpower, pumps, generators, etc. Some of these were, but not limited to, Rantoul, Paxton, and Gibson City. All of these people, and others, helped play an important part in getting the situation with the water utility, 'stabilized' and back on its feet, so to say.

At the time of writing this article, the town is moving ahead to rebuild the plant, and possibly build a new water tower, as the old existing one suffered structural damage in the storm. Please look for a follow-up article and pictures about Gifford, in our next quarterly magazine issue of Water Ways, from Circuit Rider, Evan Jones.

Some of the assisting information we have been passing along to affected systems, and personnel in each; is emergency and other funding available through the USDA's office of Rural Development. We encourage to any and all storm affected rural water systems in Illinois, to contact their re-

gional office of Rural Development for more information. The following is information relating to ECWAG money possibly available to some systems.

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

Purpose –

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG) were authorized under Section 306A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. The objective of the ECWAG Program is to assist the residents of rural areas that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of water, or in which such a decline is considered imminent, to obtain or maintain adequate quantities of water that meets the standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This significant decline must be due to the occurrence of an incident such as, but not limited to a drought; earthquake; flood; tornado; hurricane; disease outbreak; or chemical spill, leakage, or seepage.

Maximum Funding –

- Funding limits are \$500,000 and \$150,000 respectively.
- Grants not to exceed \$500,000 may be

made to alleviate a significant decline in quantity or quality of water available to a rural area that occurred within two years of filing an application with the Agency, or to attempt to avoid a significant decline that is expected to occur during the twelve month period following the filing of an application.

Grants not to exceed \$150,000 may be made for repairs, partial replacement, or significant maintenance on an established system to remedy a significant decline in the quantity or quality of potable water, or an anticipated acute shortage or significant decline.

Eligibility –

- A disaster designation is not required.
- Grants can be made for 100% of the eligible project costs.
- Applicant eligibility is generally the same as for the regular water and wastewater program.

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IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

“Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance”



By: Bill Dowell, Wastewater Training Technician

Checking for infiltration/inflow can be an intimidating and expensive endeavor. We have developed the following list, added suggestions, and offer it as an aid in tackling those issues.

Collection System Evaluation

1. Infiltration - (Groundwater entering sewer collection system.)

A. Sewer Main Problems or Defects

- Broken or cracked pipes
- Broken or cracked joints or connections.
- Improperly constructed joints.
- Root intrusion or damage.
- Damage to pipe from repair or construction of other infrastructure.

The only way to confirm and record these items is by video inspection.

B. Manhole Problems or Defects

- Lids and rings not sealed.
- Section joints not sealed.
- Lifting holes not plugged.
- If brick, not mortared, or deteriorated mortar joints.
- Deteriorated walls and/or floors.
- Damaged joints around pipe stubs.
- Root damage.
- Settling damage.

Do visual inspection, and a digital camera, (with flash for the interior work), will usually take excellent photos to record your findings.

C. Service Laterals

- Damaged or improper tap joint at sewer main.
- Damaged connection at house foundation.

- Damaged or deteriorated pipe material.
- Root damage or intrusion.
- Settling damage.

(The best way to confirm and record these items is by video inspection, owner's expense.)

- Open pipe at abandoned or demolished buildings.
- Open pipe at new connection, new sewer or subdivisions.

Smoke and/or dye-testing are inexpensive ways to detect these issues.

2.) Inflow - (Surface water from streams, drainage ditches, etc., entering the sewer collection system. Direct connection to sewer system of field tiles, storm sewers, roof drains, downspouts, sump pumps, etc.)

Aside from detection of connections made directly to the system, by smoke and/or dye testing, the same basic areas enumerated in the Infiltration section will need to be inspected.

Once problem areas are determined, options for corrective action are pretty much limited, as follows:

Pipeline or manhole repairs, (small areas)

Pipeline or manhole replacement

Pipeline or manhole lining

A side-issue, sump pump detection, is best accomplished by visual, on-site inspection. No other method can provide positive confirmation.

Good hunting!!

Emergency Water System Funding—Continued from Page 1

- The Median Household Income (MHI) of the area being served with this project must be less than \$58,435. In the case of grants made to alleviate a significant decline in quantity or quality of water available, the applicant must demonstrate that the decline occurred within two years of the date the application was filed with the Agency.

Eligible Costs –

- For the \$500,000 grant, funds will be used for the construction of new wells, reservoirs, transmission lines, treatment plants, and/or other sources of water.
- For the \$150,000 grant, funds will be used for distribution waterline extensions, breaks or repairs on distribution waterlines,

operation and maintenance type items that remedy a significant decline in the quality or quantity of potable water.

Submit for Application –

- “Application for Federal Assistance,” SF Form 424
- Population and MHI of the area to be served.
- Description of project.
- Nature of emergency that caused the problem(s) being addressed by the project.
- Applicant’s certification of inability to obtain commercial credit or fund through their own resources.
- Copy of applicant’s most recent audit

By: Pat Gammill, Circuit Rider



Unfortunately we are all aware of the devastation caused by the recent tornadoes that hit our state this past November. Being the month of Thanksgiving I could not think of a better time to share a story from one of the victims. This story was actually forwarded to me from Kathy Rodgers, a former Source Water Protection employee of IRWA, who is now working with the Illinois State Water Survey. This woman knows Kathy through a class they both attend. One of the topics in the class was how to try and become more effective leaders based on the information learned in the class. This woman, Anne is a resident of Washington, Illinois, a town that got hit hard by the tornado. This is the response she posted on their discussion board.

Following the events I experienced this past Sunday, my answer to this question has changed. I live in the Devonshire Subdivision of Washington, Il. My street was wiped out by an EF-4 tornado, and while my family and I are fine physically, emotionally, we will never be the same. We are fortunate, despite the fact that we will most likely be bulldozing our home. At this time, my home is still standing, with many items still in tact.

I step outside what was my front door, and there is total destruction. But what I see that is amazing... is the ability of one person to make a difference. The smallest of deeds can make the biggest impact. I was attempting to retrieve items from 2 of my totaled vehicles, and a group of teenagers came by offering sandwiches and bottled water. This small gesture made my day, it made me feel as though we were not alone, and we could pull through this. These teenagers were given the ability to act. So, I will apologize for my long setup, but my practice that I am going to focus on will be enabling others to act. I now realize that my need for constant control does not outweigh others need to feel necessary.

I will take a step back, and allow others a chance to show their skills, and take control of their choices. I have already had

to put this in place, as I have been "cut off" from society for the past few days, and I have to have faith in my staff and coworkers that they are able to act while I deal with my personal situation. When I return to work, I will be able to see where the flaws are, and I can help that individual improve on the particular facet of their job.

My hope is that I have put enough trust in them in the past, that they are able to act without direct instructions, but my gut feeling is that I have let them down in this area.

Anne's last excerpt: I cannot express enough thanks to the police and National Guard units that are patrolling and maintaining my neighborhood. As sad as it is to say, a major concern right now is crime.

The National Guard is walking the streets at night, in 17 degree weather, in an attempt to ward off looters while we wait for FEMA to finish their assessment.

I have to show photo ID to enter or exit my street, and have had police escorts to my house more than once. We have police patrols from towns I have never heard of, and a volunteer special forces unit coming in this weekend to start more security shifts, as officers have to start heading back home. The way that all of these different organizations come together and work as one, with one shared vision, is really amazing!

This is just one persons story, but gives us all an idea of what these tornado victims have gone through these past weeks.

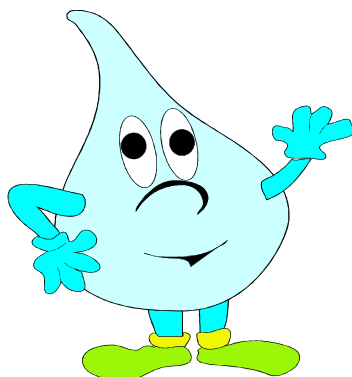
For those of us that were fortunate enough to still be living our lives as we normally do....we can all find reason to be THANKFUL and COUNT OUR BLESSINGS!

Have a Blessed Holiday,
Patricia Gammill/Circuit Rider

Thanks for sharing this story Kathy!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE IRWA BOARD AND STAFF AND BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



Remember to check out our website, www.ilrwa.org, for the latest training sessions to register for!!

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**IRWA's 32ND ANNUAL
TECHNICAL CONFERENCE—
FEBRUARY 18-20, 2014**

We will be in Effingham again this year at the Holiday Inn (formerly Hilton Garden Inn)/Keller Convention Center for our annual conference. This conference will feature 96 exhibitors (spaces are almost sold out) and sessions on water and wastewater. There will be 13 credit hours available at the conference.

As always, we will have a hospitality night on Tuesday, Casino night will return on Wednesday with prizes for the top 25 winners, Sportsman's raffle will be available with prizes donated by our exhibitors, and plenty of food, drinks, and good times to be had by all!

You should be receiving an agenda in the mail shortly, but all the information is posted on our website at www.ilrwa.org where you may print out a registration form and mail it in with your payment, or pay on-line by credit card.