



SUMMARY OF External Stakeholder Urban Non-point Source & Storm Water Survey

Background

In fall of 2022, DNR contracted with UW-Madison’s Division of Extension to conduct two surveys for the Urban Non-point Source & Storm Water (UNPS & SW) Management Grant Program. The objective of the study was to understand applicant and grantee educational needs and potential grant process improvements. An internal WDNR staff survey was completed in October 2022, and the responses from that survey were used to inform the external survey questions. This report summarizes the results of the external survey.

Method

External stakeholders (applicants and potential applicants of UNPS & SW funding) were sent an online survey in December 2022 using the GovDelivery email list for distribution. Overall, fifty-five people completed some or all of the survey. Response rates varied by individual question.

Summary of Questions and Responses

1 RESPONDENT ROLES

How would you describe your role?

Who responded n=50

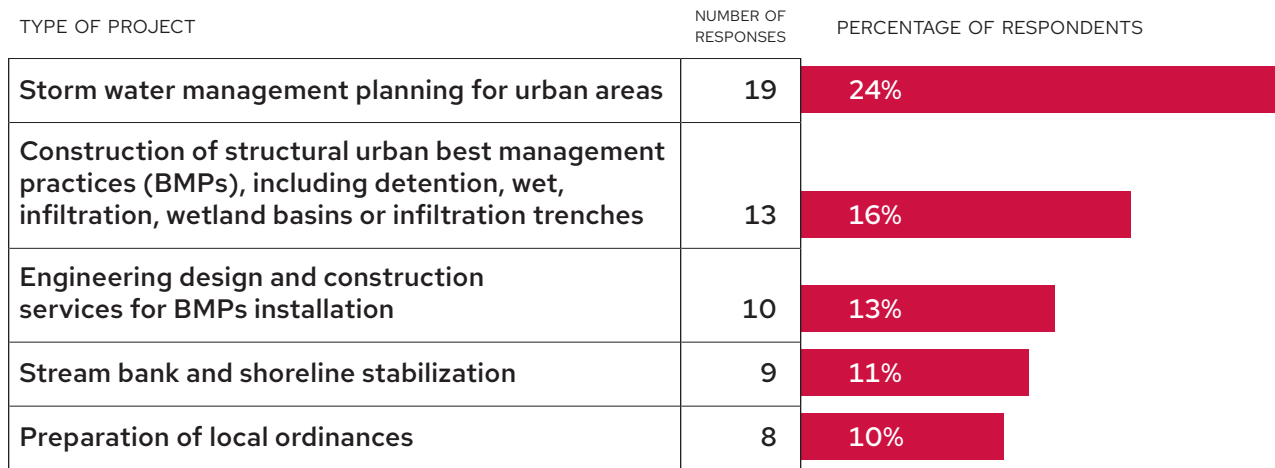
DESCRIPTION OF ROLE	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
Municipal storm water staff	14	28%
Consultant	11	22%
Land and Water conservation staff	7	14%
Municipal planning & zoning staff	4	8%
Sewerage district employee	1	2%
School district employee	0	0%
Other*	13	26%

* Other responses: environmental scientist, nonprofit, someone who cares, nonprofit conservation organization, town board chairman, land conservation staff, homeowner, municipal engineering staff, DPW, local official

2 FUNDED PROJECTS

Which types of projects have you had funded in the last 6 years?

Who responded n=80. Top 5 project types are included in the chart.*

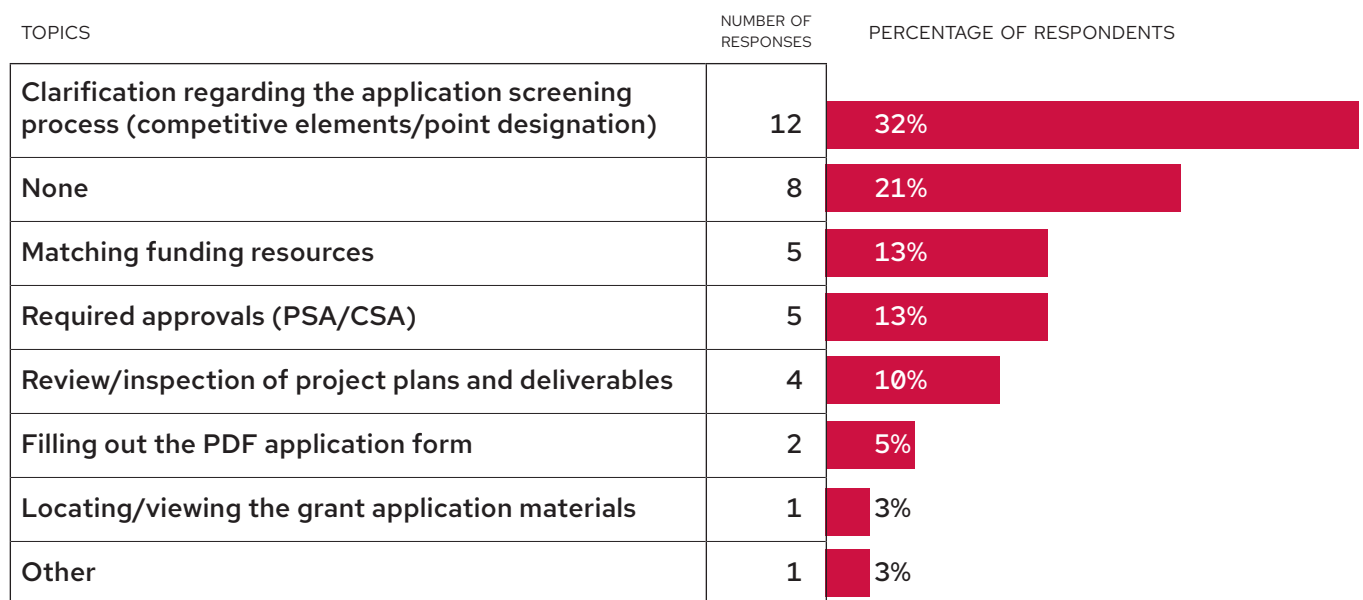


*A total of 21, or 26% of respondents, chose "Other" as their response.

3 GRANT PROCESS AND MANAGEMENT

3a. Which of the following topics have you had questions about during the APPLICATION process?

Who responded n=38.



3b. Which of the following topics have you had questions about during grant IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING? Who responded n=50.

TOPICS	NUMBER OF RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
Final Report preparation	13	26%
Reimbursement requests	11	22%
Required approvals (PSA/CSA)	9	18%
Review/inspection of project plans and deliverables	7	14%
None	6	12%
Matching funding resources	4	8%
Other. Please list.	0	0%

3c. Please group then rank the barriers you have encountered when applying for this funding.

Respondents were asked to group barriers as either **are barriers** or **are not barriers** and then rank their identified barriers in order of importance. Responses marked as a "1" are considered of MOST importance.*

BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED WHEN APPLYING FOR FUNDING	RANK—IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Definition of urban n=2	50% 1	50% 1	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0
Non-permitted municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) n=5	20% 1	40% 2	20% 1	0% 0	20% 1	0% 0	0% 0
Practice/project eligibility n=11	55% 6	18% 2	18% 2	9% 1	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0
Grant funding caps for planning n=9	0% 0	67% 6	22% 2	0% 0	11% 1	0% 0	0% 0
Grant funding cap for construction n=11	46% 5	0% 0	18% 2	36% 4	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0
Off-cycle year needs (Planning vs. Construction grant) n=9	22% 2	22% 2	22% 2	22% 2	12% 1	00% 0	0% 0
NR 151/NR 155 code issues n=6	0% 0	50% 3	17% 1	0% 0	17% 1	16% 1	0% 0

* In reading the above table, "n" shows the number of respondents that identified that issue as a barrier. The numbers under each column indicate the number of respondents that ranked each issue along that scale of 1 (biggest barrier) to 7 (smallest barrier). The arrows point to the top 3 issues.

3d. Please group then rank these barriers you have encountered when implementing your grant.

Respondents were asked to group barriers as either **are barriers** or **are not barriers**, and then rank their identified barriers in order of importance. Responses marked as a “1” are considered of MOST importance.**

BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED WHEN IMPLEMENTING GRANT	RANK— IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE				
	1	2	3	4	5
→ Professional Service Agreements (PSAs) n=5	60% 3	40% 2	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0
→ Construction plan approval process n=8	50% 4	25% 2	25% 2	0% 0	0% 0
→ Reimbursement process n=8	24% 2	38% 3	38% 3	0% 0	0% 0
Final report n=5	20% 1	40% 2	20% 1	20% 1	0% 0
Other* n=2	100% 2	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0

* Other Responses: “None,” and “DNR review time for deliverables.”

** In reading the above table, “n” shows the number of respondents that identified that issue as a barrier. The numbers under each column indicate the number of respondents that ranked each issue along that scale of 1 (biggest barrier) to 5 (smallest barrier). The arrows point to the top 3 issues.

3e. Rank the following in how they would most improve future program direction.

Respondents were asked to rank, in order, all the identified opportunities for program improvement.

Responses ranked as “1” are considered opportunities of greatest improvement.** **Who responded n=22**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT	RANK—IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
→ Increased eligibility for non-permitted municipalities	31% 7	9% 2	23% 5	23% 5	5% 1	9% 2
→ Expanded list of eligible practices	14% 3	41% 9	35% 8	5% 1	5% 1	0% 0
Changing the definition of urban	5% 1	17% 4	23% 5	45% 10	5% 1	5% 1
→ Increased eligibility for meeting Total Maximum Daily Load requirements	23% 5	23% 5	18% 4	27% 6	9% 2	0% 0
Other #1 - please specify*	23% 5	5% 1	0% 0	0% 0	67% 15	5% 1
Other #2 - please specify*	5% 1	5% 1	0% 0	0% 0	9% 2	81% 18

* Text responses addressed the following issues: potential of non-permitted municipalities in improving water quality but not a ranking priority, limit on the types of practices recognized, funding caps not increasing with inflation, and TMDL requirements being cost-prohibitive to municipalities.

** The numbers under each column indicate the number of respondents that ranked that issue from “1” (improve the most) to “6” (improve the least). The arrows point to the top 3 issues.

