



Watertown City Council
Work Session
January 26, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Mayor Steve Washburn
Deborah Everson
Lindsay Guetzkow
Adam Pawelk
Michael Walters

1. Call To Order And Roll Call
2. New Business
 - 2.I. Governmental Relations Consultant

Documents:

[WORK SESSION MEMO 1.26.21.PDF](#)

3. Adjournment

309 Lewis Avenue South; P.O. Box 279, Watertown, MN 55388



To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Shane Fineran, City Administrator
Date: January 26, 2021
Re: Government Relations Consultant

In the 5th Special Session of 2020 the Minnesota Legislature passed a [\\$1.9 billion dollar bonding bill](#) that funded numerous capital projects and programs at the state level. The City has been applying for various state funding sources for the expansion of the waste water treatment plant. The programs offered through Minnesota DEED and Public Facilities Authority (PFA) include the [Clean Water Revolving Fund](#) and [Point Source Implementation Grant program](#) (PSIG). The City is eligible for low interest bond financing through the PFA and eligible for \$7 million dollars through the PSIG.

The City Council has been advocating through its legislative priorities adequate funding for these state programs with its legislators. Last year the City Council hosted an information session for legislators, arming them with information about the project and state programs that needed to be adequately funded. In addition, a targeted mailer with the support of local legislators went to other state legislators who had communities on the Point Source Implementation Grant program list. The request in 2020 was for the program to be funded to a \$100 million dollar level.

The passed bonding bill provided for \$269 million dollars in state investment in water and waste water infrastructure funding programs and special appropriation for local projects. Of the \$269 million, \$44 million went to the PSIG program and \$111 million went to other state funding programs for water and waste water projects. That left \$113 million that was provided via ear mark to local projects.

Of the 31 local projects that received funding, 20 of those are on the MPCA Clean Water Project Priority List of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, with only three of those ranked higher than our project. 8 of the local projects appear on the Part B portion of the Intended Use Plan of the PFA, which we also appear.

Local projects are included for funding through special legislation or bills that are supported and then brokered through the legislative process. One strategy that the City Council could consider to further our desire to see additional state funding for the programs for which we qualify and desire to access, or to receive special legislation, is to work with a government relations firm, or otherwise known as lobbyist. Staff has invited representatives from Lockridge Grindal Nauren PLLP to discuss with the council how this strategy works, pros, cons, etc.