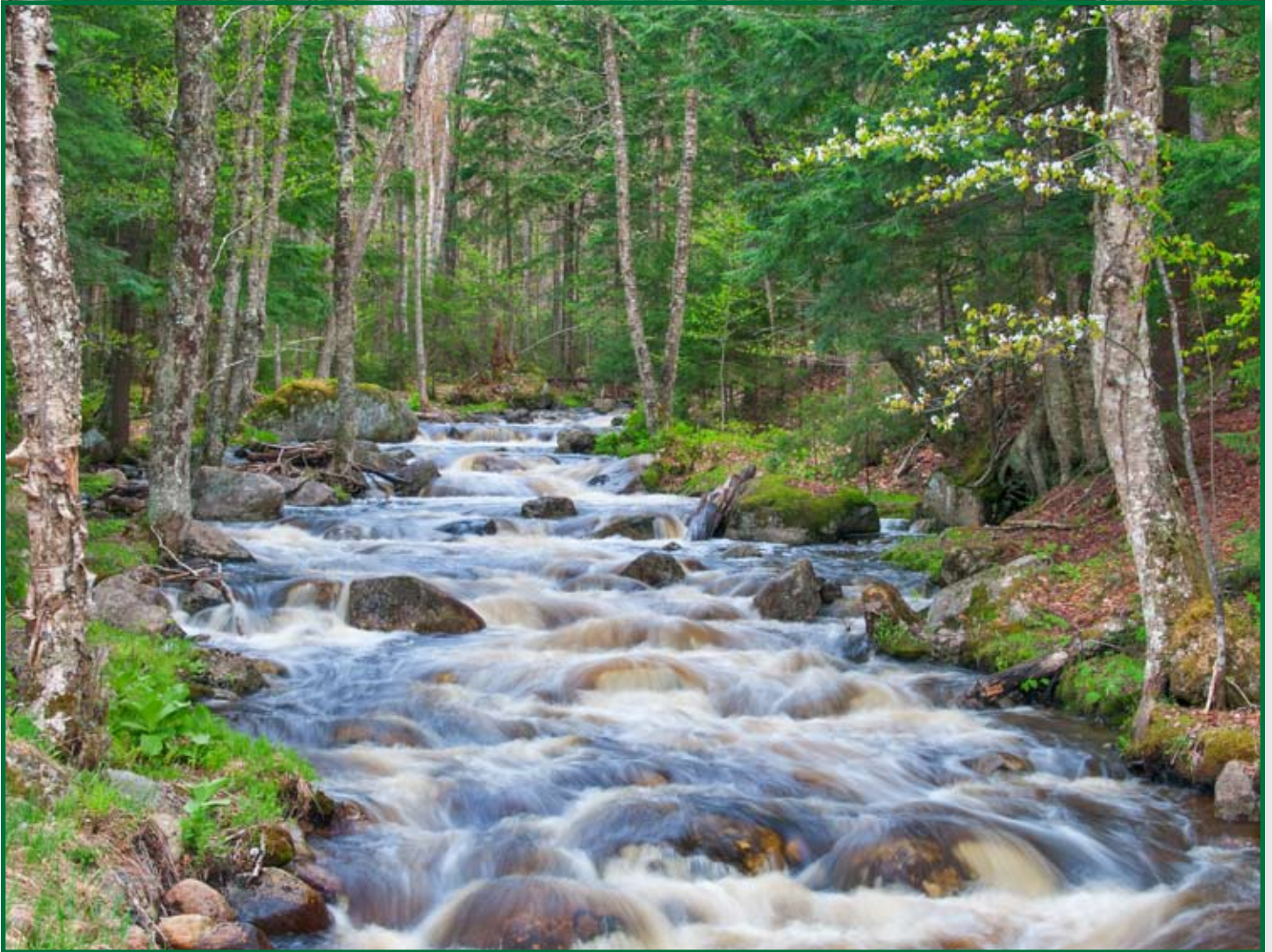

Clean Water Infrastructure in the Adirondack Park: *Crisis or Opportunity*



Report by the Adirondack Council: Fall 2016



Clean Water Infrastructure in the Adirondack Park: *Crisis or Opportunity*

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The mission of the Adirondack Council is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park for current and future generations. We envision an Adirondack Park with clean water and air and large wilderness areas, surrounded by working forests and farms and vibrant local communities.

Using science, we *educate* the public and policymakers; *advocate* for regulations, policies and funding to benefit the Park's environment and communities; *monitor* proposals, legislation and policies impacting the Park; and, when necessary *take legal action* to uphold constitutional protections and agency policies established to protect the Adirondack Park.

Cover: *Bear Brook*. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.





The Moose River. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

Clean Water Infrastructure in the Adirondack Park Crisis or Opportunity

The Adirondacks are known for its pure waters and abundant recreation, but both are threatened due to its aging wastewater infrastructure. With many of the communities' wastewater plants built decades ago, failing systems are allowing pollution to enter our pristine waterways. These plants and the collection systems are degraded and can no longer adequately treat the human effluent they receive.

This report provides not only an assessment of the crisis but also a road map to provide solutions. The Council's objective is to explore and help all the constituents understand the problem, figure out what work needs to be done to fix it, to help further develop funding sources to pay for it, and to ultimately make sure the work gets done. Beyond clean water, this work will bring construction jobs to our communities, protect the tourism and vacationing businesses that depend on clean water and permit hamlet centric development that requires associated infrastructure.

Now is the time to invest in clean water in a sustainable way to ensure all Clean Water Act violations are eliminated and clean water goals are achieved. We must work with communities while increasing state resources so the infrastructure needs of the Park are met and our water resources protected. Together, we can ensure these clean water facilities provide the benefits needed for all residents of and visitors to the Adirondack Park.

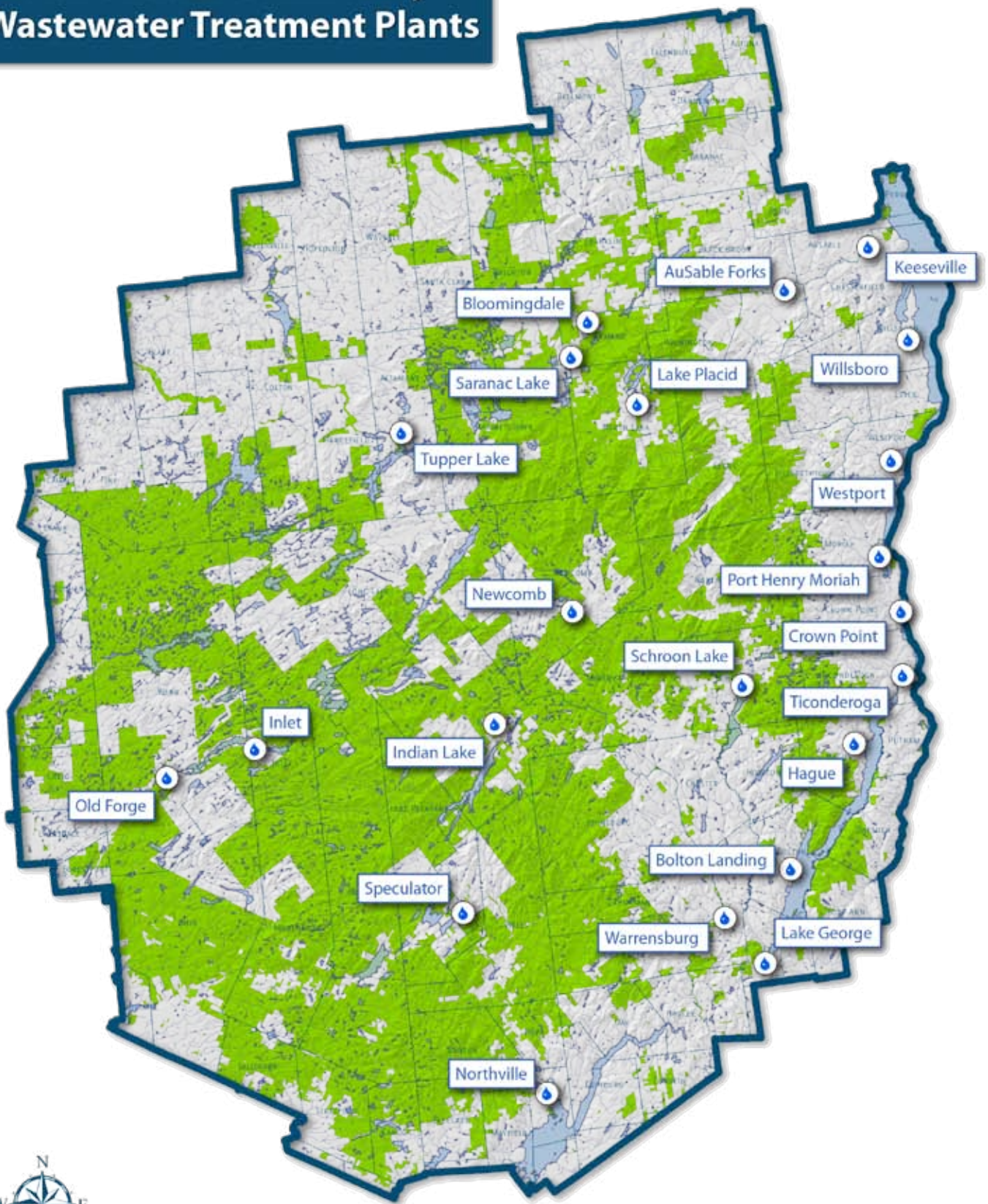


Thank you,

William C. Janeway
Executive Director



Adirondack Community Wastewater Treatment Plants



Introduction:

The clean water in and flowing from New York's globally unique six-million-acre Adirondack Park, including the Hudson and four other major rivers, is at risk. A commitment to the protection of Adirondack waters that generations of New Yorkers have made since the mid-19th century needs to be renewed. The Adirondack Clean Waters program will secure a new level of commitment to comply with the letter and spirit of the Clean Water Act and incentivize state and other investments of newly available funds in clean water infrastructure.



Community of Elizabethtown. Photo: Adirondack Council Staff

Adirondack waters are filtered at their source by the millions of acres of state lands constitutionally protected as “Forever Wild.” But the same waters are threatened by pollution from failing wastewater treatment systems, illegal discharges and the excessive use of road salt. All public and private facilities that discharge into the waters of the state should comply with their own Clean Water Act permits and restrictions.

Failing wastewater treatment plants, that in some cases were built decades ago, have put the pristine waters of the Adirondacks at risk. These plants are outdated and over capacity in some cases leading to violations in the Clean Water Act and resulting in impaired uses of the waterways in the Park. Not only are the Adirondack Park's ecological treasures threatened but also the tourism its communities rely on.

Aging infrastructure, a struggling upstate economy and a limited tax base have all placed financial burden on local government and small businesses to meet their responsibilities in protecting clean water. These waters of the Adirondack Park are the life blood of the Park's ecosystem, economy and deep-rooted culture, and their degradation cannot go unchecked. Any contamination of Adirondack waters threatens the Adirondack Park and communities that lie downstream. The goal is to ensure that all are in compliance with Clean Water Act requirements, Clean Water State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permits and where appropriate, compliance agreements.

Currently, there is an unprecedented opportunity for New York State to meet this challenge. When the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2015 was signed into law it provided grant funds to communities statewide for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure improvements. The program has a cap of \$5 million per municipality and/or county for wastewater capital projects to ensure that small rural communities get their fair share. When coupled with low interest loans and technical assistance, the Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC), the Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and in some instances the Department of Health (NYSDOH) are in the position to help Adirondack communities meet their infrastructure needs.

When Governor Andrew Cuomo announced increased clean water funding in his January 2016 budget proposals, the Council was there and stated: “The clean water grants will help to relieve the heavy burden of maintaining modern, multi-million-dollar wastewater systems in towns that have only a few hundred taxpayers. These grants can close the gap between what is needed to protect water quality and what local taxpayers can afford.” With the statewide Clean Water Infrastructure Fund already allocating \$250 million of the \$425 million available, the Adirondack Council's Clean Waters program will highlight these infrastructure needs in the Park and make them a priority for state and local government support and action.

Summary of Clean Water Infrastructure Needs in the Adirondacks:

In December of 2015 (Round One), New York State distributed \$75 million in its first Clean Water Infrastructure grants program statewide. In the Adirondack Park, the following grant and loan awards were given to two Adirondack communities. They received \$2,497,576 in grants and \$7,492,728 in NYS EFC low interest financing in Round One. This made for a total of \$9,990,304 in clean water infrastructure project costs.

Local Government	Grant	Financed Loan	Estimated Total Project Cost
Willsboro	\$746,326	\$2,238,978	\$2,985,304
Saranac Lake	\$1,751,250	\$5,253,750	\$7,005,000
Total Amounts	\$2,497,576	\$7,492,728	\$9,990,304

In Round Two of the program's funding cycle which ended in June of 2016, more Adirondack communities put forward applications to get the needed dollars for their clean water projects. In August of 2016, New York State distributed an additional \$175 million statewide and two more Adirondack communities received grants and financing for their Wastewater Treatment Plant applications. Combined they received \$2,426,250 in grants for projects with a total cost of \$9,705,000. They included:

Local Government	Grant	Financed Loan	Estimated Total Project Cost
Elizabethtown	\$2,137,500	\$6,412,500	\$8,550,000
Lake Placid	\$288,750	\$866,250	\$1,155,000
Total Amounts	\$2,426,250	\$7,278,750	\$9,705,000

In summary, Adirondack communities received a total of \$4,923,826 in grant funding and \$14,771,478 in state EFC financing for Wastewater Treatment plants and sewer systems from the first two rounds of the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act. These four community projects, when local capital funds were included, totaled \$19,695,304 in estimated total project costs. While the grants were essential in moving the projects forward, clean water grants for wastewater can only account for 25 percent of the total project costs.

In addition, three Adirondack communities received grants for drinking water facility projects totaling \$5,043,662. These communities also received an additional \$5,917,583 in low interest loans. In total, Adirondack communities received \$9,967,488 in clean water grants from Round One and Two of the program. The drinking water infrastructure portion of the program has a \$3 million cap for local projects up to 60 percent of the eligible project costs. Even with these grants awarded, the Adirondack Council found that these investments just scratch the surface of the overall need in the Park.

To gain a better understanding of the total need in the region, the Adirondack Council reached out to over twenty communities with wastewater treatment facilities in the Adirondack Park and surveyed their needs. The Adirondack Council asked communities if they applied in Round Two of the program, if they would apply in the future for additional needs and if they would like support to help them with their applications in the future. Four of these communities received wastewater grants as outlined above but many more applied and provided estimates of their need. Some communities like Lake Placid who received a modest grant in Round 2, have much more work ahead of them and expect additional grant applications. In addition, the Council turned to reports and documents of the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation including their Draft Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan to document further needs.

The Council found that in addition to the grants awarded to Adirondack communities in Round One and Two of the Clean Water Infrastructure program, there remains significant additional wastewater infrastructure needs in the region. For example, Lake George applied but did not receive a grant for \$4.5 million in Round Two for water treatment plant upgrades with a total cost of \$17.2 million for the project. They plan on applying again in 2017 during Round Three of the program and desperately need grant funds to move their project forward. For some communities, Round Three will be their first opportunity to apply, after the completion of the needed studies and other documentation for their application.

Based on this report’s findings, current total project cost estimates for wastewater treatment facility infrastructure investments needs for Adirondack communities exceeds \$100 million. While these figures represent current needs, it is important to note over the next five years estimates will continue to grow with new needs identified and capital planning completed. Below is a list of the communities and their current wastewater infrastructure needs.

Local Government	Future Needs/ Est. Project Costs	Grant Amount Requested
Lake George	\$17,200,000	\$4,500,000
Speculator	\$3,000,000	\$500,000
Ticonderoga	\$6,800,000	\$1,000,000
Keeseville	\$7,275,000	\$1,818,750
Old Forge (Webb)	\$7,000,000	\$875,000
Crown Point	\$2,461,187	\$428,000
Northampton	\$5,927,000	unknown
Saranac Lake	\$6,107,000	unknown
St. Armand	\$8,622,000	unknown
AuSable Forks (Jay)	\$4,740,000	unknown
Warrensburg	\$3,110,000	unknown
Inlet	\$975,000	unknown
Lake Placid	\$6,950,000	unknown
Port Henry	\$2,689,000	unknown
Moriah	\$7,130,000	unknown
Tupper Lake	\$5,092,000	unknown
Willsboro	\$6,850,304	unknown
Hague	\$2,102,000	unknown
Total Cost Estimates:	\$104,030,491	\$9,121,750

Communities such as Schroon Lake and Newcomb are without plans to apply for grants at this time or for the foreseeable future since they recently invested in new wastewater treatment systems. The Town of Elizabethtown recently received grant funds and financing to build its first wastewater treatment system. In addition, there are several other communities in the Adirondack Park that have not responded to requests for information. The Council will continue to reach out to all communities to understand their current and future Clean Water Infrastructure needs.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the New York State Clean Water Grant program is vital to protecting this national treasure, the Adirondack Park. For almost 50 years, the Clean Water Act has provided the parameters for fishable and swimmable waters as well as protecting resources that provide communities with drinking water. In the early days, communities had federal construction grant funds to create their wastewater treatment facilities, but now many of them are out of compliance and/or have aged beyond their effectiveness. In the Adirondack Park, there are currently seven communities under consent orders by the NYSDEC for violations in their wastewater facilities' operations, further demonstrating the need for assistance to communities in the Park. Additional complex issues threatening the water quality of the Adirondack Park range from acid rain to more localized non-point sources of contamination. Run-off concerns include salt contamination from use and storage facilities as well as decentralized treatment systems, all of which contribute to the impairments Adirondack waters face. Emerging issues such as invasive species also play a role in the health of Adirondack lakes, rivers and streams thus adding to the mix of complex management solutions.



Community of Inlet. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

Furthermore, several Adirondack communities also have drinking water infrastructure improvement needs which add to their local burden and to their need for state grant assistance and financing. Non-point issues like road salt application and management practices pose a threat to drinking water quality as well as to the Park's ecological systems. Programs at NYSDEC such as the Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) need adequate funding each year to help address these issues in the Park particularly in the area of capital investments for controls, best management practices, and restoration efforts.

Recognizing all of these issues, the primary focus of this clean water infrastructure report is on publically-owned wastewater treatment plants. As stated, many are in need of repair and in some cases replacement. To date, the overall projected needs for the planned and multi-year wastewater treatment projects currently identified for communities in the Adirondack Park exceed \$100 million. This is in addition to the close to \$20 million in projects that are already underway. There are also additional long-term wastewater and drinking water infrastructure needs in the Adirondack Park that the Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) 2014 Clean Waters Needs Assessment Report and NYSEFC's own Clean Water Infrastructure Report findings identified. Over the next five to ten years, these wastewater and drinking water infrastructure needs for Adirondack communities can be extrapolated well into the hundreds of millions of dollars. Adequate technical assistance and planning will be needed to help communities meet these needs before they become an environmental problem.

One of the issues that these assessments have crystalized is the need for on-going and increased capital planning and engineering assistance from the state to support small communities that do not have the capacity to do this critical work on their own. In order to garner a true understanding of the magnitude of need in the Adirondack Park, communities must obtain resources in order for their infrastructure projects to be project ready. Project readiness involves asset planning, engineering, environmental reviews, professional services contracts, and approved financing components; all of which take expertise and resources. It is critical that state programs for engineering assistance and new pilot state programs for adaptive wastewater facility planning and management be made a priority for these rural communities in the Park. More state resources are needed for these Adirondack communities so they will be able to move their projects forward and be considered for future infrastructure grants and financing.

The New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2015 and its annual appropriations is clearly the most important funding stream available today to help Adirondack communities to address their wastewater treatment plant needs and protect the very resource that they rely on for their economic and environmental future. The Adirondack Council calls upon all Adirondack communities in need of funding to apply in Round Three for NYS Clean Water Grants program and to apply for technical engineering assistance where needed. For those communities that have received grants or have recently built new wastewater facilities like Newcomb, asset management and adaptive management support is critical to maintaining facility operation and effectiveness.

Furthermore, the Adirondack Council calls upon the Governor and State Legislature to continue their leadership on this issue by reauthorizing the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act into a permanent program and adding at least \$800 million statewide in the 2017-2018 state budget. Based on past allocations, Round Three applications and the resulting awards statewide will exhaust the remaining \$175 million in funds available for this clean water grant program while the need statewide remains in the billions.

This report demonstrates that the grants coming to the Adirondacks from this clean water fund are an important step forward in protecting our water bodies and public health. It is critical that this grant funding program continue and grow while providing more technical assistance to Adirondack communities. Now is not the time to stop those investments if the environmental and economic needs of Adirondack communities are to be truly met. The time for investment is now, for the Adirondack waters and the communities that are at risk.



Community of Newcomb. Photo © Carl Heilman II/Wild Visions, Inc.

Appendix A: Survey Results from Adirondack Communities regarding their Clean Water Infrastructure Needs (Summer 2016)

Methodology:

The Adirondack Council started the research process by reaching out to community leaders in the Park through the mail. Letters were sent to 20 different communities describing the different clean water grant programs available in New York State and explaining the Council's position of support for the Adirondack communities to get their fair share of the funds. As these letters went out, we took information from the SPDES permits for the wastewater treatment plants in each of these same communities about the names and locations of the plants, the local government operators, and discharge information. This basic information was supplemented with information from Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) Draft 2017 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plans (CWSRF IUP). Phone calls were then made to the local contact person for additional information on their wastewater infrastructure plants, current needs and past work that has been done. In some instances, towns like Elizabethtown currently are moving forward to build their first treatment plant. While noted in the narrative of the report, they are not included in the charts of existing facilities that follows.

After compiling this information, the needs of the communities could be analyzed, compared and tabulated to get a better understanding of the wastewater infrastructure needs facing Adirondack communities.

Research and Community Survey Results by Wastewater Facility in the Adirondacks:

1. AuSable Forks Community Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Towns of Black Brook and Jay
Discharge:	Surface discharge into AuSable River
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Fishing and Non-Contact Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	N/A
Current Grant Applications:	No current applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to apply for NYS EFC Round 3
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates to water distribution and storage tank Sewage treatment plant needs to be rebuilt
Estimated Project Costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$4,740,000 for sewage treatment plant rebuild
IUP Classifications:	Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 23
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

2. Town of Bolton Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Bolton
Discharge:	Groundwater discharge
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class GA- Fresh Groundwater
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	
Current Grant Applications:	
Future Needs:	Stop nonpoint source pollution in the Finkle Brook Dredge
Estimated Project Costs:	\$530,000 for nonpoint source pollution
IUP Classifications:	Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 87
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

3. Crown Point Sewer District #1 Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Crown Point
Discharge:	Surface Discharge into Lake Champlain
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class B- Best Use: Public Swimming and Contact Recreation Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	Have received DEC funds in the past
Current Grant Applications:	NYS EFC Clean Water grant program (Round 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$428,000 • Sewer planning for de-chlorination
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large water system project and also needs new sewer plant upgrades with financial support
Estimated Project Costs:	Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$2,461,187
IUP Classifications:	N/A
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

4. Indian Lake Sewer District #1 Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Indian Lake
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Cedar River
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class B(T): Best Use- Public Swimming and Contact Recreation Activities, Protected Stream- Trout Population
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	No information at this time.
Current Grant Applications:	
Future Needs:	
Estimated Project Costs:	
IUP Classifications:	
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

5. Town of Inlet / Hamlet of Inlet Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Inlet / Hamlet of Inlet
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Fifth Lake Outlet Channel
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class A: Best Use- Drinking Water
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	N/A
Current Grant Applications:	No current application
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates needed on collector and sanitary sewers
Estimated Project Costs:	Initial cost estimates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$975,000 for collector and sanitary sewers
IUP Classifications:	Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 31
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

6. Keeseville Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of AuSable (previously Village of Keeseville)
Discharge:	Surface discharge into AuSable River
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class C- Best Use: Fishing and Non-Contact Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	\$667,000 coming in for UV treatment
Current Grant Applications:	NYS EFC Clean Water grant program (Round 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection project • Hope to start project in 2018
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UV treatment for wastewater • Collection and sanitary sewer upgrades • Infiltration and inflow corrections • Overall, very poor infrastructure, but expect to be in huge debt after UV treatment and collection projects
Estimated Project Costs:	Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$7,263,000 for collection project and hopes to qualify for 25 percent in grants
IUP Classifications:	Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 49
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	Under NYS DEC consent order for updates to wastewater treatment plant

7. Village of Lake George Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Village of Lake George
Discharge:	Groundwater Discharge
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class GA- Fresh Groundwater
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	Have spent over \$5 million on several plant upgrades recently
Current Grant Applications:	NYS EFC Clean Water grant program (Round 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4.5 million For water treatment plant upgrades
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install batch reactor to reduce nitrates and other pollutants • Construction of a new wastewater treatment plant- the current one was built in the 1930s
Estimated Project Costs:	• Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$17.2 million and seeking \$4.5 million in total state grant funding
IUP Classifications:	Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 41
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	Under a NYS DEC consent order to remove nitrates

8. Lake Placid (V) Water Pollution Control Plant

Local Government Operator:	Village of Lake Placid
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Chubb River
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class C: Best Use- Fishing and Non-Contact Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	Received NYS EFC GIGP grant funding in the past
Current Grant Applications:	NYS EFC GIGP grant program for storage upgrades
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements on water line, sewer line, and storm water line • Need to upgrade drinking water system • Gathering funding to completely update Main Street- including the primary water lines which are under Main Street (need NYS DOT involvement) • Deflect runoff that is currently contaminating Mirror Lake with road salt further downstream where there will be lesser impact (Mirror Lake-the center of recreational activities in the summer- is in the 97th percentile of Adirondack lakes at risk) • Sewer replacement
Estimated Project Costs:	• Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$6,950,000
IUP Classifications:	Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 48
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under mandates to improve Main Street sewers • NYS DEC consent order has been in place since 2004

9. Winebrook Hills Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Newcomb
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Winebrook
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class C(T): Best Use- Fishing and Non-Contact Activities, Protected Stream- Trout Population
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	There is a project going on- did not share details
Current Grant Applications:	No current applications
Future Needs:	New Facility
Estimated Project Costs:	None at this time
IUP Classifications:	N/A
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

10. Town of Northampton Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Northampton
Discharge:	Surface Discharge into Sacandaga Reservoir
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class B: Best Use- Public Swimming and Contact Recreation Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	N/A
Current Grant Applications:	CFA (Consolidated Funding Application) under NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25,000-50,000 • Take gray water that currently goes into the river and use it to irrigate golf course instead
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need repairs for both water and sewer systems • Infiltration and inflow correction
Estimated Project Costs:	Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$5,927,000 for sewer system repairs. Struggle getting money because of the small size of the system.
IUP Classifications:	Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 34
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

11. Old Forge Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Old Forge
Discharge:	Surface discharge into the middle branch of Moose River
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class C: Best Use- Fishing and Non-Contact Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	N/A
Current Grant Applications:	NYS EFC Clean Water grant program (Round 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$875,000 • Replacement of water storage tank
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$7,000,000 • Upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant and the dewatering system as well as the need that screw pumps need replacement
Estimated Project Costs:	Not sure of total- engineers are in the planning stages
IUP Classifications:	N/A
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

12. Port Henry / Town of Moriah Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Village of Port Henry and Town of Moriah
Discharge:	Surface Discharge into Lake Champlain
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class A: Best Use- Drinking Water
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	N/A
Current Grant Applications:	No current applications
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflow and infiltration correction in sewer system • Wastewater system is extensive and aged- needs to be updated • Sewer rehabilitation and sewer replacement
Estimated Project Costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$2,689,000 for Port Henry and \$7,130,000 for Moriah • Upfront costs are prohibitive- can't afford to push sewer rates up and deal with the debt of taking on the projects
IUP Classifications:	<p>Port Henry: Category D- municipality has received written confirmation from the corporation that it qualifies for a reduced interest rate direct financing because of financial hardship Score: 2097</p> <p>Moriah: Category B- population greater than 3,500 Score: 61</p>
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under NYS DEC consent order for updates on wastewater treatment plant

13. Village of Saranac Lake Water Pollution Control Plant

Local Government Operator:	Village of Saranac Lake
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Saranac Lake
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class C: Best Use- Fishing and Non-Contact Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	Received \$1,751,250 for Dorsey Street Sanitary Sewer Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To plan, design, and construct collection system improvement to minimize inflow and infiltration
Current Grant Applications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current funds available of \$7,005,000 for inflow and infiltration correction (total cost of project for which the grant was received)
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue project to plan, design, and construct collection system improvement to minimize inflow and infiltration and improve water quality Rehabilitation of sewer system Make improvements to sewage treatment plant
Estimated Project Costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft CWSRF IUP estimates new needs totaling \$6,107,000 including \$2,014,956 for sewer rehabilitation and \$3,107,000 for sewage treatment plant improvements
IUP Classifications:	<p>Infiltration and Inflow Correction: Category D- municipality has received written confirmation from the corporation that it qualifies for a reduced interest rate direct financing because of financial hardship Score: 1063</p> <p>Sewer Rehabilitation: Category B- population greater than 3,500 Score: 33</p> <p>Sewage Treatment Plant Improvement: Category D- municipality has received written confirmation from the corporation that it qualifies for a reduced interest rate direct financing because of financial hardship Score: 1048</p>
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

14. Schroon Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Schroon
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Schroon Lake
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class AA: Best Use- Drinking Water
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full wastewater plant updated 10 year ago • New water treatment plant built 8 years ago • Spent about \$5 million (still paying it off)
Current Grant Applications:	No current application
Future Needs:	No projects needed in the foreseeable future
Estimated Project Costs:	No projects needed in the foreseeable future
IUP Classifications:	N/A
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

15. Village of Speculator Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Village of Speculator
Discharge:	Surface discharge into the Sacandaga River
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class C: Best Use- Fishing and Non-Contact Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	N/A
Current Grant Applications:	NYS EFC Clean Water Grant (Round 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About \$500,000 • Updates to WWTP
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many updates to wastewater treatment plant • Collector and sanitary sewer upgrades
Estimated Project Costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$3,000,000 for projects to refurbish wastewater treatment plant and for collector and sanitary sewer upgrades • Have struggled to get grants in the past
IUP Classifications:	Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 31
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

16. Ticonderoga Sewer District #5 Water Pollution Control Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Ticonderoga
Discharge:	Surface discharge into La Chute River
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class D: Does Not Support Drinking, Public Swimming, Contact Recreation Activities, Fishing, or Non-Contact Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	Has received \$2 million in NYS EFC grants for water supply infrastructure upgrades
Current Grant Applications:	NYS EFC Grant for drinking water (Round 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 million for water supply infrastructure • Plans to apply for more funds in the future
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined sewer overflow control, treatment, and conveyance • Sewer separation • Sewer treatment plant improvement
Estimated Project Costs:	Draft CWSRF IUP estimates current needs at \$6,800,000
IUP Classifications:	Category D- municipality has received written confirmation from the corporation that it qualifies for a reduced interest rate direct financing because of financial hardship Score: 1034
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

17. Tupper Lake Water Pollution Control Plant

Local Government Operator:	Village of Tupper Lake
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Raquette Pond
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class B: Best Use- Public Swimming and Contact Recreation Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	Received both grants and loans for a \$6.2 million drinking water project
Current Grant Applications:	No current applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans to apply for NYS EFC Round 3- currently finishing engineering report
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make expansions on sewage treatment plant • Update collector and sanitary sewer • Force main and pump station rehabilitation
Estimated Project Costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$5,092,000 with • \$2,901,000 for sewage treatment plant expansion • \$1,178,000 for collector and sanitary sewer updates • \$1,013,000 for force main and pump rehabilitation
IUP Classifications:	<p>Sewage Treatment Plant Expansion: Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 34</p> <p>Collector and Sanitary Sewer Updates: Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 26</p> <p>Force Main and pump station rehabilitation: Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 34</p>
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

18. Town of Warrensburg Sewage Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Warrensburg
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Schroon Lake
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class C: Best Use- Fishing and Non-Contact Activities
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	
Current Grant Applications:	unknown
Future Needs:	
Estimated Project Costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$3,111,000 with \$2,010,000 for collector and sanitary sewer upgrades and \$1,100,000 for sewage treatment plant rehabilitation
IUP Classifications:	<p>Collector/Sanitary Sewer Upgrades: Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 31</p> <p>Sewage Treatment Plant Rehabilitation: Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 36</p>
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

19. Westport Sewer District No. 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Westport
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Lake Champlain
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class A: Best Use- Drinking Water
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majorly updated the plant about 8 years ago (still lots to be done) Recently spent about \$400,000 on UV system upgrades
Current Grant Applications:	<p>No current application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking into NYS EFC grants for the future
Future Needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewer system upgrades
Estimated Project Costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have applied for engineering grant and future project cost expected well into the millions. Hard to get funds because only about 60 people are serviced by this plant
IUP Classifications:	N/A
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	N/A

20. Willsboro Sewer District #1 Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Willsboro
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Boquet River
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class C(T): Best Use- Fishing and Non-Contact Activities, Protected Stream- Trout Population
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	Received NYS EFC Round One grant for \$746,326 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWTP upgrades • Collection system tie-in design • Construct WWTP improvements to protect water quality in Lake Champlain
Current Grant Applications:	No current application: Future engineering plans are in place, but they are not ready yet
Future Needs:	Engineering planning going on now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collector and sanitary sewer upgrades • Sewage treatment plant improvement • Construction on water control system- infiltration is a problem
Estimated Project Costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$6,850,304 including \$2,985,304 for sewage treatment plant improvements and \$3,865,000 for collector and sanitary sewer upgrades
IUP Classifications:	<p>Collector and Sanitary Sewer Upgrades: Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 31</p> <p>Sewage Treatment Plant Improvement: Category D- municipality has received written confirmation from the corporation that it qualifies for a reduced interest rate direct financing because of financial hardship: Score: 64</p>
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	Consent order calling for new sewage treatment plant

21. St. Armand Sewer District Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of St. Armand
Discharge:	Surface discharge into Sumner Brook
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class C(T): Best Use- Fishing and Non-Contact Activities, Protected Stream- Trout Population
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	
Current Grant Applications:	
Future Needs:	
Estimated Project Costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft CWSRF IUP estimates \$8,622,000 including \$4,033,000 for collector/ sanitary sewers rebuild and \$4,589,000 for sewage treatment plant rebuild
IUP Classifications:	<p>Collector and Sanitary Sewer Rebuild: Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 1031</p> <p>Sewage Treatment Plant Rebuild: Category D- municipality has received written confirmation from the corporation that it qualifies for a reduced interest rate direct financing because of financial hardship Score: 1044</p>
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	Under NYS DEC consent order for new Wastewater Treatment Plant updates

22. Town of Hague Sewer District No. 1 Wastewater Treatment Plant

Local Government Operator:	Town of Hague
Discharge:	Groundwater discharge
Water Quality Class C- Best Use:	Class GA- Fresh Groundwater
Recent Work That Has Been Done:	Non-point controls and treatment plant repairs
Current Grant Applications:	unknown
Future Needs:	Non-point controls and treatment plant repairs
Estimated Project Costs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on discussion with town officials, project costs estimated at \$2,102,000 with \$1,652,000 to nonpoint controls for Hague Brook Dredge and \$450,000 for sewage treatment plant improvement
IUP Classifications:	<p>Nonpoint Source Pollution: Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 87</p> <p>Sewage Treatment Plant Improvement: Category A- population 3,500 or less Score: 41</p>
Consent Orders / Compliance Issues:	Under a NYS DEC consent order for exceeding the state-accepted level of discharged pollutants

Acknowledgement of Sources:

The information in this report was gathered through government reports, public media releases, web based sources, and individuals who provided interviews.

We acknowledge these sources below:

NYSDEC SPEDES Permit System Data Base

USEPA Clean Watersheds Needs Survey of 2012

NYSEFC IUP Annual Report 2015/2016

NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) Draft 2017 Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plans (CWSRF IUP)

NYSDEC and EFC Public information Announcements on Clean Water Grant Awards

NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2015

Adirondack Council News Releases

Local Government Web-Sites for Adirondack Communities

Phone interviews with:

- Town Supervisor Jon Douglass, Town of Black Brook
- Town Supervisor Charles Harrington, Town of Crown Point
- Town Supervisor John Frey, Town of Inlet
- Town Supervisor Sandra Senecal, Town of Ausable
- Mayor Robert Blais, Village of Lake George
- Mayor Craig Randall, Village of Lake Placid
- Town Supervisor Westor Miga, Town of Newcomb
- Town Supervisor James Groff, Town of Northampton
- Town Supervisor Robert Moore, Town of Webb
- Town Supervisor Thomas Scozzafava, Town of Moriah
- Town Supervisor Michael Marnell, Town of Schroon Lake
- Mayor Letty Rudes, Village of Speculator
- Town Supervisor Joseph Giordano, Town of Ticonderoga
- Town Supervisor Michael Tyler, Town of Westport
- Town Supervisor Shaun Gilliland, Town of Willsboro
- Director of Engineering Carrie Tuttle, Development Authority of the North Country

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Aerial view of the Village of Lake Placid Wastewater Treatment Plant. Photo: Adirondack Council Staff

Clean Water Infrastructure in the Adirondack Park: *Crisis or Opportunity*



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