

Tech Teams

Tech teams assist communities with framing their infrastructure issues clearly, exploring possible solutions, identifying key regulatory planning and financing programs, and answering as many questions as possible. Communities may request a tech team at any time from funding program staff. Staff can convene and facilitate the tech team meetings, and provide assistance on either a short- or long-term basis.

Below are just a few examples of the many tech teams held over the past several years.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Town of Almira (Lincoln) <i>Almira requested Tech Team meetings in 2010 and 2012 for assistance with drinking water infrastructure improvements.</i></p> <p><i>Now: The project is nearing completion, and includes a new well, transmission main, distribution piping, radio telemetry and a new glass fused to steel water reservoir. The reservoir will utilize aeration and chlorination treatment methods to remove hydrogen sulfide contaminant in the Town's existing well. The project was financed through two CDBG General Purpose grants and a PWTF Construction loan.</i></p> |  |
| <p>City of Brewster (Okanogan) <i>Brewster's 2011 Tech Team was to assist the City in securing funding for water system improvements.</i></p> <p><i>Now: A new DWSRF loan will fund replacement of distribution main, source and service meters (remote read) with associated vaults and a fire hydrant within the Angle Trailer Court.</i></p> |  |
| <p>City of Bridgeport (Douglas) <i>The City's wastewater treatment plant was outdated and over capacity despite producing quality effluent. Upon exceeding 85% of design capacity, the City was required by Ecology to draft a facility plan, followed by capital improvement projects to maintain adequate capacity.</i></p> <p><i>Now: The project is 50% complete, with all major structures built and piping installed. Start up will take place in early 2014. The project was funded with a PWTF Construction loan and CDBG General Purpose grant.</i></p> |  |
| <p>City of Soap Lake (Grant) <i>Tech Team participants met in 2010 to develop an action plan to secure funding for constructing wastewater treatment facility improvements.</i></p> <p><i>Now: After completing a facilities plan, the City applied for and was awarded a PWTF Construction loan. The project is currently under construction.</i></p> |  |

City of Clarkston (Asotin)

In 2010, the City requested a Tech Team with staff from various funding and regulatory programs and technical assistance providers. The facilities and equipment at the Clarkston wastewater treatment plant were at least 20 years old and needed to be replaced due to age limitations.

Now: The Tech Team resulted in the City being provided an action plan that ultimately led to securing a PWTF Construction loan and USDA Rural Development funding. The project will be completed in early 2014.



Town of Coulee City (Grant)

The Town participated in a 2011 Tech Team meeting to identify project financing options for the replacement of their undersized and deteriorated water reservoir.

Now: Environmental review and design will take place during 2014 with construction anticipated in 2015. The project will be financed with funding from a DWSRF loan and a CDBG General Purpose grant.



Town of Creston (Lincoln)

Creston's 2011 and 2012 Tech Teams gave the Town direction for securing funding to replace their reservoir.

Now: A geotechnical investigation of the site is complete and the project is now in the design phase, scheduled to go to construction in 2014. The project received funding in the form of a CDBG General Purpose grant, USDA Rural Development loan/grant, and PWTF Pre-Construction loan.



Curlew Water District (Ferry)

Ferry County and the Curlew Water District began planning work for a community sewer system back in 2002. On-site sewage systems are not considered a long-term viable option for existing and future development in the District's service area. The Curlew community is pursuing a public sewer system due to relatively small parcels, local soil conditions, water quality, and public health concerns. In addition to Ferry County and Curlew District funds, planning work was financed with the help of two CDBG Planning-Only grants.

Now: Design is nearly complete with construction scheduled for 2014. Design and construction funding is provided by an Ecology loan/grant and a CDBG General Purpose grant.



City of Granger (Yakima)

Consistent population growth and environmental conditions have led to ongoing upgrades to the City's wastewater treatment plant. Most recently an updated facilities plan, funded in part by a CDBG Planning-Only grant, identified needs for biosolids handling expansion, additional aeration basin capacity and relocation of the facility outfall.

Now: Design is almost complete with construction slated for 2014. Project funding was provided by an Ecology loan/grant and a CDBG General Purpose grant.



Town of Hatton (Adams)

A Tech Team in 2010 provided guidance to the Town of Hatton for making their water system improvements.

Now: The Town recently completed their water system improvement project which included the replacement of water main and the addition of fire hydrants. Previously, the Town's water system was outdated, undersized, and had no fire protection capabilities. The project was funded entirely by a CDBG General Purpose grant.



Hunters Water District (Stevens)

In 2010, after constructing arsenic treatment facilities to bring the system into drinking water compliance, the District requested a Tech Team to secure additional funding.

Now: Assistance from the various agencies led to the District applying for and receiving CDBG General Purpose grant funds and PWTF Construction loan funds to replace the system's remaining distribution line and install a new well. The District continues to install pump stations necessary to complete the arsenic remediation project.



Town of Lind (Adams)

The Town met with regulatory and funding agencies in 2010 to finalize financing options for the project. Working towards a 2013 compliance schedule deadline, Lind used local funds and a PWTF Preconstruction loan to finance facility planning work and acquire property for necessary wastewater treatment facility upgrades.

Now: Lind completed construction of a new activated sludge wastewater treatment plant on time in 2013. Project financing was provided by Ecology and the PWTF Construction Loan program.



City of Omak (Okanogan)

The goal for Omak's 2010 Tech Team was to secure funding for their wastewater collection system.

Now: The City secured funding through Ecology and a Legislative Direct Appropriation to complete the most urgent remaining sewer main replacements and improvements in the sewer treatment plant to increase plant reliability. In addition to increasing sewer rates, the City has applied for aPWTF funds to address pipe replacement problems. The project will be completed in early 2016.



Community of Packwood (Lewis)

The tech team at the 2013 IACC conference was for a proposed wastewater project.

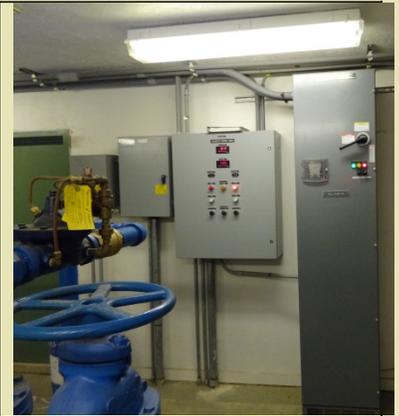
Now: Lewis County is considering conducting an income survey for the service area. The County plans to complete all necessary prerequisites in order to be eligible to apply for Ecology design and construction funding in Fall 2014.



City of Tekoa (Whitman)

Since 2004, the City of Tekoa has been rehabilitating its sewer collection system in anticipation of necessary and mandatory wastewater treatment facility upgrades. Tech Teams in 2011 and 2012 helped coordinate financing options for the current collection system work as well as look ahead to future treatment facility work.

Now: In 2014, Tekoa will complete the final phase of collection system rehabilitation. Funding for the multiple phases has been provided by PWTF Planning, Preconstruction and Construction loans, Ecology loan/grant, three CDBG General Purpose grants, and two CDBG Planning-Only grants.



City of Toledo (Lewis)

A 2012 Tech Team helped the City identify funding options to convert its wastewater treatment facility from a facultative lagoon system to an oxidation ditch, which will increase overall capacity and improve effluent quality discharged to the Cowlitz River.

Now: Design is almost complete with construction slated for 2014 and 2015. Project funding assistance was provided by a PWTF loan, Ecology loan/grant, a CDBG General Purpose grant, and a CDBG Planning-Only grant.



City of Tonasket (Okanogan)

The City participated in a Tech Team meeting in 2011 to seek assistance in addressing health and safety issues related to sewage disposal.

Now: This recently completed project decommissioned 50 failing septic systems that were responsible for contaminating the local swimming hole, Bonaparte Creek. Fifty homes were connected to the City's wastewater system. The project utilized funding from the CDBG General Purpose grant program and the Ecology.



City of Winlock (Lewis)

The City participated in a Tech Team meeting in 2013 to seek assistance for two projects involving drinking water and wastewater.

Now: The City has been repairing leaks in the water system, updating its water system plan, submitted a CDBG General Purpose grant application for water distribution system improvements, and plans to submit an application for CDBG Planning-Only grant funding in late 2014. The City will apply to 2014 Ecology and 2015 CDBG for funding to upgrade its wastewater collection system.



Although many Tech Team meetings take place at the annual IACC Conference, they are also held throughout the year statewide, organized by agency and local staff. Sometimes just one meeting is needed; sometimes a group meets over a period of several years.

Agencies that may be involved in Tech Teams include, but are not limited to:

- USDA Rural Development (RD)
- Recreation & Conservation Office (RCO)
- Transportation Improvement Board (TIB)
- Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWOW)
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)
- Association of Washington Cities (AWC)
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Health (DOH DWSRF)

- Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP)
- Department of Commerce:
 - Broadband Program
 - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
 - Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)
 - Growth Management Services
 - Public Works Board (PWB / PWTF)

For more information, contact:

Bruce Lund, Managing Director
Department of Commerce
Local Government Infrastructure Division
360-725-3163
bruce.lund@commerce.wa.gov

September 2014