



Leveraging Regional Development Organizations to Support Small Water Systems

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:00-3:00pm EST





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About Us

The Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN)

is a university-based organization promoting innovative and sustainable environmental solutions while bolstering efforts to manage costs.





Smart Management for Small Water Systems

The Smart Management for Small Water Systems

Program works in every state, territory, and the Navajo Nation. All small drinking water systems are eligible to receive free training and technical assistance.



The Small Systems Program Team

- Environmental Finance Center at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Environmental Finance Center at Wichita State University
- EFC West
- Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)
- Great Lakes Environmental Infrastructure Center
- National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)
- New England Environmental Finance Center at the University of Southern Maine
- Southwest Environmental Finance Center at the University of New Mexico
- Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center
- Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- Environmental Finance Center at California State University, Sacramento





Leveraging Regional Development Organizations to Support Small Water Systems

RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Brett Schwartz NADO Research Foundation January 26, 2021

Regional Development Organizations (RDOs)

The term "regional development organization" or RDO refers to the multijurisdictional regional planning and development organizations known as:

- councils of governments
- regional councils
- economic development districts
- local development districts
- planning and development councils
- other local names



Resilience: The ability of a region or community to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from shocks, disruptions, and stresses including:

Weather-related disasters or hazards / Impacts of climate change
The closure of a large employer or military base
The decline of an important industry
Changes in workforce / effects of automation
COVID-19 response & recovery
Much more...

Because of their expertise and role as regional conveners, many RDOs serve as important players —though often behind the scenes — in supporting their region's water systems. These include:

- Providing Access to Funding through Grant Writing and Fostering Partnerships
- Conducting Data Collection and Mapping
- Supporting Regionalization
- Promoting Broader Economic Development

Looking for more on RDOs and water systems?



governed by a policy board consisting of local elected officials, along with representatives from the business community, educational institutions, the nonprofit sector, and the general public. These public-based entities play an invaluable role in fostering intergovernmental collaboration among officials in all levels of government.

RDOs can open the door to grant and loan funding, provide administrative support, and supply valuable staff support and access to technology. For rural places in particular, they can play a critical role in towns that may have limited capacity and resources due to part-time or volunteer staff that are tasked with carrying out the local functions of government.

RDOs in Action

behind the scenes - in supporting their region's water systems. The following snapshots highlight the variety of ways RDOs work with local municipalities and utilities to build, maintain, and upgrade water infrastructure:

Access to Funding

Browse by Category

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- Government Accountability Office

Browse by Tag

appropriations awards budget CDBG CEDS community development data Disaster Recovery disaster resilience downtown redevelopment <u>economic</u> development economic resilience EDA entrepreneurship Executive Director Training Farm Bill Featured HUD HUD Sustainable Communities latest Latest News Legislative Livability maine north carolina Planning Publications regional planning



Two previous webinar recordings available @ efcnetwork.org

Take a Deeper Dive in Our Blog Post @ NADO.org



Brett Schwartz

Associate Director NADO Research Foundation bschwartz@nado.org



Today's Presenters

Liz Cody, Community Development Specialist, Southeast Nebraska Development District



Jean Crews-Klein, Regional Planning Director, Lumber River Council of Governments (North Carolina)

Brett Schwartz, Associate Director NADO Research Foundation (Washington, DC)



Lumber River Council of Governments



NADO/EFC Network Webinar 1/26/2021

Leveraging Development for Small **Communities** Water and Wastewater Infrastructure



Southeast Nebraska Development District



Liz Cody Community Development Specialist

Honestly, it's not for everyone.

NEBRASKA

Hello, from Southeast Nebraska Development District

- Regional planning
- Public Works
- Water and Wastewater
- Downtown Revitalization
- Tourism Development and Outdoor Recreation
- Housing rehabilitation
- Workforce housing
- Business loans
- Disaster Recovery



Liz Cody Community Development Specialist



Southeast Nebraska Development District

8,500 square miles

140 rural jurisdictions

4 metropolitans of 4500+

Our mission is to identify common problems, their solutions, and to provide continuing support for efficient and effective government

Morse Bluff, Nebraska



Population 128

2020 Improvements

- Replace water tank
- New well and pipes
- Pump and pumphouse additions
- Replace 4 water mains
- Radio-read meters

Project Budget over \$1M

Morse Bluff, Nebraska



Population 128

Leveraged Funds

- USDA SEARCH Grant
- USDA Rural Development
- CDBG Block Grant
- Local financing

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Opportunity.

DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





1. Start Strong On Planning

- Asset Management and GIS
- County-wide Housing Study
- Downtown Revitalization Plan
- Comprehensive Plan
- Community Surveys





2. Define Priorities

- 100-year-old water mains
- Housing shortage
- Downtown Disinvestment
- Political and Financial

Challenges





3. Coordinate Solutions

- Water main replacement
- Purchase-Rehab-Resale P/R/R Housing Program
- Downtown Façade

Improvement &

Commercial Rehab



Who were our key partners?





Good Life. Great Opportunity.

DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT







4. Measure Outcomes

• 24 blocks of downtown

water main replaced

- 6 Homes rehabilitated
- 20+ Businesses assisted
- 2019 NADO Impact Award



SENDD's Key Roles

- Stimulate regional planning
- Share insight from past projects
- Identify local partners
- Coordinate funding sources
- Write & administer grants
- Assist with procurement and federal compliance (e.g. Davis-Bacon)
- Advocate to funding agencies
- Support local property owners and residents



Challenges for Future Projects

- Lack of local planning
- Lining up project timelines and rules
- Staffing and Turnover
- Limited resources for asset management
- Climate Change





Future Directives

- Continue to provide individualized support to communities
- Develop regional asset management strategy and GIS tools for disaster recovery
- Add value to regional collaborations
- Establish collaborative frameworks for projects of different sizes
- Coordinate with our CEDS regional infrastructure goals



Southeast Nebraska Development District

2019 Annual Review

2018-2023 Regional CEDS



Thank you!



Liz Cody Community Development Specialist

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Southeast Nebraska Development District



Find us online at www.sendd.org

Water and Wastewater Asset Management – Benefits of Working with a Regional Council of Government

January 26, 2021 NADO/EFC Network Webinar

Lumber River Council of Governments







Lumber River Council of Governments

- Regional organization covering five counties in southeastern North Carolina: Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson and Scotland.
- The purpose of the LRCOG is to assist its local government members with issues they deem appropriate.
- The LRCOG serves as a planner/administrator for a number of federal administrative programs dealing with older adults, worker training and transportation planning.
- Our Community and Economic Services staff works directly with local governments on planning and zoning, water and wastewater planning, water resources planning, grant writing and administration, etc.

Map of LRCOG Region





Lumber River Council Region Member Governments

- Regional organization covering five counties in southeastern North Carolina: Bladen, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson and Scotland.
- With a few exceptions, the counties and the towns within them are economically distressed: high poverty, low median household incomes, and experiencing population loss.
- Large number of very small towns which own and operate their own water and wastewater systems.
- Many of these systems are operating in the red- expenses greater than revenue from sales, living on fund balances accumulated before the loss of manufacturing jobs that took place in the 1990s.
- As a result, many of these systems have been poorly maintained and are failing.

Why did we think Asset Management would be useful?

- 1. Systems would have a complete inventory of physical assets.
- 2. After each asset is assessed for condition, systems would have much better information on maintenance, repair, and replacement decisions which would need to be made.
- 3. That information could be used to develop projects and plan for funding to make the needed upgrades and improvements, or develop maintenance plans.



4. Asset Management could help our town better avoid this nightmare.

Emergency Night Repair



5. Asset Management was the cornerstone to build a sustainable economic future for the Towns.



Lumber River Council of Gove

Our Asset Management Program

- Started 11 years ago.
- Not many resources available at that time.
- We were looking for an asset management database program that was affordable or free and would be easy for town staff to use.
- Settled on the EPA CUPSS program and coupled that with GIS mapping of water and sewer assets using as-built documents, old system maps (if any existed), staff knowledge, service call info, etc.

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👌 Start

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← → C 🗋 water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/pws/cupss/index.cfm

We are improving our website to help you find what you're looking for. During this transition some URLs may change. Learn more...

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Sepan United States Environmental Protection Agency

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Drinking Water	Check U	p Program fo	or Smal	l Systems (CU	PSS)	
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Grants & Funding	CLIPSS is a free	easy-to-use asset manag	ement tool for	small drinking water and		
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Our Waters	EPA's highly succ Use CUPSS to be	cessful Simple Tools for Ef	fective Perforn	nance (STEP) Guide series.	CUPSS Spring T	raining Dates
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Where We Started.









Where We Are Now

Line location Line material type Line diameter Lift Stations/Booster Pumps Wells/Water Storage Treatment

Understanding Asset Management

Sample spreadsheets from a client. Start entering the data and run draft reports.

ASSET LIST - WATER SYSTEM			Towr	Town of White Lake									
Asset Name	Associated	Description (Give location name, dopth, rated capacity, size, etc.)	Estimated Quantity (if applicable)	Install Doto	Expected Useful Life (Years)	Age Based Remaining Life (Years)	If replaced today to be exactly as it is now, what would it cost? (Dollars)	of asset has been previously rehabilitated; give year below	2#Very Poor, 4#Poer GeFair, 8=Good; I&-Very Good/New/Routine maintenance only.	Asset flaintained to Menufacturer's recommendations ? (Yes or No)	If this asset talls to work, do you have a backup in your system you can switch to in an emergency? (Yes or No)	Assign a volue to the asset to explain how critical it is to system function: 2= Milnor; 4= Moderate; 3= Major; 10= Absolutely essential.	Asset Risk Rating (LRCOG)
WELLS - SOURCE V	VATER			E HERMONY		CONTRACTOR					A CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACTOR		
Well 1 Bris 2 po RT	Approve	395 Deep Awy 701 runath 7063	16 Near	1984	100	100	75,000	N/A	8 - BOOD LOCATION Dizy cleaned	Yes	NO	8	
Well 1	Well	7063 Haug701 39517 Deep 295000 12110	8"weel	1984	50	30	75-100 K	2000 New Aunp	8 Never Nerre 12 Conid	yes	NO	8	
Well 1	Pump for Clorination and Water	CL2 prop	1.	2008	6-8	2:3	600. EA	Palmidt Batt 3015	8 gord working orde	Yes	yes	Several back	
Well 1	Telemetry and Electrical Controls	Controltal à Par oppice	3	2009	30	18	#12,000	New 8mil	8 works great 8 mout by Connetices	Yes	Yes MANUA!	(TD	
Well 1	Production Meter	8"meta	1	2005	15	5	\$800.	-	8 weiter good Messures prayer los	Ves-	Horocreana Could still f	(10) we for Reco	ds .
Well 1	Piping (Linear Feet)	268 'feet	268'	1984	50	25	20-25K	Chatel 2000	8 good no toles etc	Yes	NO	10	
Well 1	Fence (Linear Feet)	6 than his GATE 10'	100'	1984	100	60.	3-4K	6xte paparet	8 Good Condition	yes	Yes	Sec for / Amaline	
Well 1	Chlorine Tank	150 gel	1509	2014	5	5	\$ 400.	New	8 Grood faitly we	Yes	Yes	10- Replace	
Well 1	Main Valve	8''	NA	7000	30	15	\$ 1200.	Partil	8 Good	Yes	yes	(10) Spanes	
Well 1	Well Building	14×14'	196 Sett	1984	30	30	\$12.000	A. FINE 2006 2000	Decos poor on Ally	Yes	NO	<i>(10)</i>	

Understanding Asset Management

Share back and forth the information gathered. Each time new information is added the quality of what you have improves.

Assets are ranked based on criticality.

	Asset	Asset Type	Year Installed	Condition	Impact of Failure	Risk	Replacement Date
1	Wastewater Lagoon - Basin	Unlined Earthen Basin - Lagoon	1/1/1964	Good	Catastrophic	High Risk – Immediate Attention	2/1/2024
2	Clay 6" -12"	Sewers	1/1/1950	Fair (Average)	Major	High Risk – Immediate Attention	2/1/2015
3	Pump Station #5 - Submersible Pumps	Pumping Equipment	1/1/2005	Good	Major	High Risk – Immediate Attention	2/1/2015
4	Pump Station #3 - Electrical Controls	Electrical Controls	1/1/2000	Good	Major	High Risk – Immediate Attention	2/1/2015
5	Pump Station #2 - Electrical Controls	Electrical Controls	1/1/1994	Good	Major	High Risk – Immediate Attention	2/1/2015
6	Pump Station #1 - Submersible Pumps	Pumping Equipment	1/1/2006	Good	Major	High Risk – Immediate Attention	2/1/2015

Critical Asset Report Table

We have supplemented our sewer work with flow monitoring and CCTV when funds were available.



Photo File 75 - 366_0004.bmp Code: RBB Meter Value: 114.18 ft Text: Roots Ball Barrell, from 12 o'clock, to 6 o'clock,

90 % lost, within 8 inch



Photo File	352 - 69 (2)_0000.bmp	
Code:	BVV	
Meter Value:	17.09 ft	
Text:	Broken Void Visible, at 12 o'clock, within 8 inch	



hoto File	397 - 396_0002.bmp
ode:	IR
feter Value:	32.41 ft
ext:	Infiltration Runner, at 12 o'clock



Photo File	397 - 398_0005.bmp	
Code:	HSV	
Meter Value:	207.20 ft	
Text:	Hole Soil Visible, from 3 o'clock, to 9 o'clock	

FINDINGS: Gravity Sewer Line Condition - CCTV







Our work over 10 years allows us to make some observations about the systems which we communicate at meetings to funders, local elected officials, regulators and others.

- All systems have some available capacity.
- Majority of systems are groundwater based- very few surface water systems in the LRCOG region.
- Wells are OLD and most are in a state of disrepair- drinking water quality meets the standards but... emergencies are imminent.
- Distribution systems for the central areas also old; very few valves and most are not operational.
- Very few systems have undertaken meter replacement programs.
- Water loss in every system in some as high as 33% of treated water fed into the distribution system.
- Asbestos Concrete lines and undersized lines used widely in older sections.
- Very few systems have defined upgrade projects.

Drinking Water System Challenges













Equipment in place well beyond useful life period.







When you start your journey with Asset Management remember:

- 1. Take your time and try to get it right.
- 2. Don't be afraid to ask for help.
- 3. Communicate what you are doing with your users and your leaders (the folks who will be making the decisions about putting into place and funding what you recommend.)
 - 1. Newsletter
 - 2. Website
 - 3. Inserts in your bills

Many Resources Available to Help with Asset Management



Don't Forget Your Regional Development Organization!

Your Regional Organization may be able to help you with:

- Assistance with understanding the challenges you face.
- Help with mapping and GIS data collection.
- Help with identifying funders for your projects.
- Help with applications and with project administration.
- Help with educating Boards on Asset Management and why it's worth the investment.
- Help with seeing how water and sewer asset management connects to becoming a sustainable community.



Lumber River Council of Governments

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Questions and Comments?

