Drinking Water Infrastructure Challenge

- The United States is facing a drinking water infrastructure funding crisis. “Official” EPA estimates from the Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis project a $384 billion shortfall in drinking water funding over the next 20 years. This funding challenge is particularly acute in rural America.
- Recent drinking water industry estimates (AWWA) place the funding shortfall in drinking water funding over the past two decades at over $1 trillion.
- Annual funding gap for drinking water is nearly $20 billion while the annual Federal investment is less than $2 billion.

The Opportunity

Helping to meet the needs of the nation’s water infrastructure by turning to cost effective small communities water well systems

- According to the EPA, there are 121,832 systems serving fewer than 500 people, the Savings Act target audience.
- Additionally there are 1.7 Million Americans living without water in their home. That equates to 672,000 households who could benefit from federal financing for wells and well systems.

TheGoal

Helping to meet the needs of the nation’s water infrastructure by turning to cost effective small communities water well systems

- The passage of the SAVINGS ACT marks the first time wells and well systems have been recognized by the federal government as a cost effective, sustainable way to deliver safe drinking water to rural communities.
- How we must work together with the implementation of the Savings Act, assisting EPA and USDA while also educating the water well industry and the public on how to leverage the Savings Act, including members of NRWA, AWWA, and NGWA.

The Solution

The Water Supply Cost Savings Act

- Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN)
- On December 16, 2016 President Obama signed WIIN... MAKING IT A LAW!!!
- WIIN contained WSC’s Water Supply Cost Savings Act
- A Bill – To reduce federal, state and local costs of providing quality drinking water to millions of Americans residing in rural communities by facilitating greater use of well water systems as an alternative to traditional, centralized, drinking water systems.
DESCRIPTION

Meetings with EPA and USDA

Senate and House Hearings, Testimony

Data Compilation for Clearinghouse

Meetings with National Rural Water Association, American Water Works Association, and National Groundwater Association

DESCRIPTION

Education of Communities on Use of Individual and Community Wells

State Organizations: Educational Materials, Workshops on How to Leverage Savings Act Law

Outreach to United States Engineering Firms

The Action Plan

Drinking Water Technology Clearinghouse

Water System Assessment

A unit of local government or not-for-profit organization shall self-certify that the unit of local government or organization has considered, as an alternative drinking water supply, drinking water delivery systems sourced by publicly owned (1) individual wells; (2) Shared wells; and (3) community wells.

DESCRIPTION

Testimony at the National Level

July 20, 2017

WWT client Mike Frazee testifies before the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife.

Advocating at the National Level

Jeff More and I meet with Deputy Administrator Lee Forsgren, EPA Office of Water

Discussed upcoming infrastructure bill to included dedicated funding for rural communities that would fund Savings Act projects

Forsgren did agree that wells and wells systems did provide safe, sustainable drinking water to rural areas where running a lot of pipe makes no sense

Jeff More working with Sen. Boozman’s office and Sen. Cardin’s office on language for the infrastructure funding
Advocating at the National Level

- The Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now Act – SRF WIN
  - Build upon the success of the existing CWA and SDWA SRFs in delivering water infrastructure financing to communities of all sizes
  - 5 year bill providing $200M annually
  - $18B in budget authority gets you $50B water infrastructure construction
  - Longstanding opposition/skepticism among rural water interests and key members of Congress to WIFIA
  - States bundle water projects and present one loan application to EPA
  - State infrastructure financing authorities have the experience and expertise to efficiently distribute funds to thousands of water projects, including Savings Act Projects

The Next Steps...

- WSC will also develop new marketing materials about the use of wells and well systems for towns and rural areas that we will disseminate out to State Associations to share with their members
- Contractors and State Associations can help inform their local very small communities about the Savings Act with these marketing materials
- Additional materials will be created for dissemination to Engineers

The Results

SAVINGS ACTION PLAN URGENCY

- The passage of the Savings Act is a Historic Landmark for the Water Well Industry! In the 114th Congress there were 10,078 bills introduced and only 329 (3%) made it to the President's desk. Now we are building on that momentum through “SAVINGS ACTION”!
- The “SAVINGS ACTION” 3 year implementation plan will result in a depth of information never seen before from the federal government - EPA and USDA - on the cost effectiveness of the use of well and well systems for the 121,832 communities we are targeting, the 657,000 households living without water, to the engineers working on these projects, and to the contractors who are delivering the product.

The Results

SAVINGS ACTION PLAN URGENCY

- Through the “SAVINGS ACTION” targeted increase in federal rural water infrastructure funding will put in place the financial resources to construct these new well systems.
- The “SAVINGS ACTION” is our opportunity to reverse the negative sales trends we have been facing and to grow the industry to new heights! Our work has just begun!