

GOV. JUSTICE, WVDEP ANNOUNCE \$50 MILLION IN LOAN FUNDS FOR WASTE-WATER TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

CHARLESTON, WV – Gov. Jim Justice and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) Secretary Austin Caperton announced today that the WVDEP has committed more than \$50 million in loan funding to projects that will improve wastewater treatment facilities to better serve residents, increase efficiency, and reduce pollution.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), which is administered by WVDEP with additional funding and oversight provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provides low-interest loans to municipalities and public service districts. The loans help communities

keep water and sewer rates affordable while addressing local water quality problems.

“West Virginia is the first state in EPA Region 3 to have the federal fiscal year 2018 CWSRF grant awarded,” said Gov. Justice. “These grants provide vital funding for projects that will ensure not only protection of the public health and the environment but also improved infrastructure that will attract new businesses and create jobs.”

“West Virginia continues to enjoy a productive relationship with EPA Region 3, and the result of that relationship is the process of securing these funds for these projects is made simpler,” said

WVDEP Secretary Caperton. “EPA and WVDEP share the goal of making sure that the projects that need this funding don’t get bogged down in bureaucratic red tape.”

“This federal-state partnership is critically important to achieving President Trump’s goal of improving our nation’s water infrastructure,” said EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “All Americans deserve clean and safe water, and the revolving loan program will greatly benefit West Virginia communities in need of new or upgraded water infrastructure.”

The projects that have received a binding commitment of funds from the

CWSRF include:

\$2,695,000 to Brooke County Public Service District to extend sewer service to approximately 122 customers in the Bosley Run, Cross Creek, and Harmon Creek areas.

\$2,700,000 to Mt. Hope to construct a two million gallon stormwater flow equalization tank along with associated pumping and piping to eliminate bypasses.

\$7,420,299 to Oceana to upgrade the existing wastewater treatment plant and pump stations.

\$7,904,700 to the West Dunbar Public Service District

to replace its old and deteriorated clay collection lines and rehabilitate its pumping stations, which will reduce stormwater-related overflows at its treatment plant.

\$8,597,000 to the Union Public Service District to construct a sewer collection system to approximately 183 residents as well as providing upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment plant.

\$10,430,000 to Weston to connect approximately 160 residents with failing septic tanks to the city sewer system and upgrade the Jackson Mill pump station.

\$10,878,500 to construct a new 100,000 gallons per day

wastewater treatment plant that will serve the Laurel Park and Route 73 areas of Greater Harrison County, which are currently served by septic systems and treatment plants which are failing.

The EPA announced today that it approved West Virginia’s plan to commit funding to these projects. More projects could receive funding in the near future. The loan funding that has been committed to projects this year includes \$25 million from the EPA’s FY 2018 CWSRF. The plan by the WVDEP is also funded with a \$5 million state match, repayments from prior CWSRF loans, and interest earnings.

Gov. Justice appoints Jeffries to House of Delegates in District 40

Fills vacancy created by the resignation of Delegate Tim Armstead

CHARLESTON, WV – Gov. Jim Justice announced today that he has appointed Warren “Dean” Jeffries to the House of Delegates seat in District 40. Jeffries fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Delegate Tim Armstead.

Jeffries, an insurance agent, resides in Elkview with his wife Stacey and four children, Tyler, Alexis, Brynn and Landon.



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HERE'S WHY DOGS KICK UP YOUR LAWN AFTER THEY PEE

It's safe to say that dogs have some pretty weird behaviors, most of which are coming from instincts that these animals used to experience in the wild. Dogs can track smells, sense danger, and even use their bark to communicate particular messages. These behaviors are very easy to deal with, but when it comes to kicking up chunks of the lawn after going to the bathroom, their instinctual nature doesn't seem so cute anymore.. Kicking up dirt after peeing isn't actually a common behavior. According to Rosie Bescoby, a clinical animal behaviorist who

spoke with LiveScience, only 10 percent of dogs will actually carry out this kind of behavior. This behavior is called "ground scratching," and is a passed down trait from wolves and coyotes. In order for pack leaders to claim proper territory, they would use this behavior to set a boundary of where "not to cross the line." Peeing in the spot doesn't just sent the signal-spreading the dirt helps to draw that line. Although the trait is not directly inherited, the nature of it still applies to dogs. Now dogs aren't exactly trying to mark their territory with other dog packs of any sort. For domestic dogs, it's a statement for other dogs (or animals) to show that they exist in this particular place. Typically, this happens near a tree, which is also a similar behavior for wolves and coyotes.. Surprisingly, spreading the dirt isn't just to spread around the now peed-on soil, although that does help a bit. Breaking up the

dirt and creating a territorial spot is exposing other animals to the pheromones in the dog's feet. Even if your dog doesn't tear up the grass behind them after going to the bathroom, they may wipe their paws around the area in order to leave that same scent. This will tell other dogs, or animals, that there's a dog nearby. Now although this behavior is more friendly than aggressive, it's still breaking up your lawn. Although some would say this is a natural instinct that you should leave alone, others have successfully attempted to train their dogs out of this habit. People have attempted this by providing prizes immediately afterward, to distract the dog from the kicking process. However, some veterinary experts would disagree and would tell you to let your dog practice this invisible communication between other wild animals. It's also their way of making your house their home.

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