48th Environmental Show of the South

Commissioner David W. Salyers, P.E.

May 15, 2019
My Boss...Tennessee Governor Bill Lee

• Great Character
• Quiet Confidence
• Clear Vision
• Priorities
  – Rural Development
  – Workforce Development
  – GIVE/Career Technical Education

“The state has a duty to take care of the environment... I want to be a responsible steward of the environment and play the role that Tennessee can play in being responsible.”
- Gov. Lee on March 28

Gov. Lee visits TDEC to thank Division of Solid Waste Management and Remediation on March 21
My Background

- Professional Geologist
- Professional Engineer
- West Tennessee River Basin Authority Executive Director
- Results Oriented, Relationship Focused

Joining TDEC staff in West Tennessee for a stream cleanup on the South Fork Forked Deer River for Earth Day

Hands on learning... means listening more closely
Building a Great Team

Greg Young
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Environment

Jim Bryson
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Parks & Conservation
Stakeholder Outreach

- **Roundtables in 4 of 8 regions**
  - Chattanooga region this afternoon

- **Important messages from TDEC**
  - Resources & Assistance
  - Responsible Regulatory System
  - Relationships

- **What TDEC heard from stakeholders**
  - Complexity
  - Certainty
  - Consistency
  - Common Sense

*Upper Cumberland stakeholders*

*East Tennessee stakeholders*
Priority: Water Infrastructure

- ASCE rates TN drinking water infrastructure C wastewater D+
  - $5 billion to $15 billion in total needs (ASCE, 2016)
  - $500 million in rural areas
- Small system and rural community needs: major gaps
- Infrastructure is a restraint to stability/growth: caps on taps, no lines or connections
- Water loss: 48 billion gal/year at a cost of $83M/year
- Health & environmental impacts: sewer overflows, health-based violations
- Disaster resilience: Infrastructure ready for flooding and/or earthquake
- Need improved innovation & technology in water systems
State Revolving Fund (SRF)

- **Drinking Water & Clean Water Infrastructure Loans (SRF)**
  - Water line replacement
  - Water storage and reservoir replacement
  - Well development
  - Water meter replacement
  - Water loss reduction

- **Clean Water Infrastructure Loans (SRF)**
  - Waste Water Treatment Plant improvements, upgrades, expansions
  - Collection system rehabilitation
  - Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) corrections

Upgrade to Moccasin Bend WWTP in Chattanooga funded by SRF loan
Critical Infrastructure Investments

$5 million SRF for Watauga River Regional Water Authority new 2MGD Water Treatment Plant and Intake Structure

$7 million SRF for DeKalb Utility District for construction of a new water treatment plant, new water intake, raw & finished water transmission

Over the past 6 years, we’ve awarded $30 million in Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF loans to Oak Ridge

Right: one of three new equalization basins
Meeting the Infrastructure Challenge

- **Increased Technical Assistance and Training**
  - Water loss training
- **Update of Ability to Pay Index (ATPI)**
- **Focus on Small & Disadvantaged Communities**
  - Co-Review with ECD and USDA Rural Development
  - Principal Forgiveness prioritized
  - Planning & Design Loans emphasized

More details in upcoming SRF IUPs (Intended Use Plans) and public meetings.

**POC:**
Leslie Gillespie-Marthaler, SRF Program Director
P: 615-532-0789 M: 615-866-7836
Leslie.gillespie-marthaler@tn.gov
Meeting the Operational Challenge

TN Plant Optimization Program

• Technical assistance and loaned equipment for pursuing facility optimization

• Significant cost-savings opportunities, which can be leveraged to support additional personnel, capital improvements and infrastructure needs through SRF loans, avoidance of rate increases, avoidance of capital improvements and outlay.

• Reduced nutrients in effluent, which supports avoiding the need for implementation of nutrient limits in permits.

• Flexible and informed regulatory oversight from TDEC’s Division of Water Resources.
My Goal

• Fulfill our Mission
• Build Strong Relationships
• Serve Tennessee and our Citizens
Questions, Suggestions, Feedback

Contact:
David W. Salyers, P.E.
David.Salyers@tn.gov
615-532-0106

tn.gov/environment
tnstateparks.com
Thank You