DELAWARE DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND

COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIES FOR REGIONALIZATION

SANDI SPIEGEL

2022 CIFA WORKSHOP, ST. LOUIS, MO

NOVEMBER 8, 2022
CASE STUDY – FRANKFORD, DELAWARE

Getting safe drinking water to an Environmental Justice/Underserved Community.
FRANKFORD, DELAWARE

• Low/moderate income and minority Delaware Avenue private well owners.
• High sulfur and metals associated with shallow wells; visible orange/brown water.
• Over 15 years of engagement.
• Multigenerational spearheading and house of worship involvement.
• DWSRF, SERCAP, DNREC, DRWA and USDA.
• Acquisition of the Town of Frankford’s water system by a private company, Artesian Water Company (AWC).
• Annexation into Town was not necessary for Delaware Ave. residents to tie in to AWC.
• Community engagement and innovative funding were key to allow this project to come to fruition.
DO YOU KNOW WHERE DELAWARE IS??
FRANKFORD (NOT PROPER), DELAWARE
• 10 homes, a church and one business.
• Champions - Pastor Larry Morris of the Trinity Holiness Church, located on Delaware Avenue, Mr. Harvey Jenkins and Mr. Wesley Hayes.
Timeline for getting safe drinking water to Delaware Avenue

Pre 2015

2015

Pleas for assistance and safe drinking water go back to early 2000s

2016

USDA engagement to offer a 75% grant with DWSRF match

2017

2018

2019

2020

Artesian Water Company (AWC) acquires the Town of Frankford drinking water system.

2021

AWC sends solicitation correspondence w/free connection to DE Ave. residents

2022

Running water to Delaware Ave. folks by Thanksgiving this year

Meeting at Trinity Holiness Church – Community, DWSRF, SERCAP, AWC reps.
AWC funding for Frankford/DE Ave.

- Congressional Authority Subsidy: 700,000, 22%
- Loan: 1,541,540, 47%
- State funds grant: 1,000,000, 31%

Total Funding = $3,241,540

FRANKFORD, DELAWARE
• Necessary to bring a failing infrastructure up to safe drinking water standards.
• Previous operators failed to illustrate TMF and failed to provide CCR for at least 3 years.
• Previous operators were in default on the town’s existing DWSRF loans.
• Private acquisition allowed for extension to Delaware Avenue.
• Innovative funding.
• Community engagement.
• Diligent work through transitioning decision makers.
• Private water company regionalization.

FRANKFORD, DELAWARE - THE HOW
• Extending the water main down Delaware Avenue provides an extension and loops the AWC district.
• Provision of public water to the business on DE Ave- may provide easement to allow cheapest incorporation of a Manufactured Home Community to the AWC Sussex County District.
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