

WSPP Committee Proposal for ARPA funding of Well testing - 30K

MJ, our technical assistance provider from NYRWA, shared at the WSPPC meeting last night (2-12) some information from DOH folks on their private well testing program for 2024, which is starting in ~April. She talked with them about Ulysses working on a DWSPP and felt we are eligible to participate.

“With the assistance of community organizers, NYSDOH is offering to sample private wells within the community at no cost to the town or well owner. The results generated will be used to help NYSDOH identify and better understand drinking water vulnerabilities experienced by homes that rely on private well water. Data will be aggregated for analysis. Names of well owners and home addresses will not be made available to anyone outside the Department. In previous sampling events performed by NYSDOH, communities were able to use the private well data to support source water protection initiatives and community sewer projects.”

DOH can typically do 20-30 homes in a participating municipality (cost is \$325 sample for a full suite of analytes)

We propose to use some of the ARPA funds to build on the data we can get from the DOH testing program (20-30 homes), targeted in areas that span the breadth of well situations in the Town for example: location, depth, indication of concern from homeowners in the general area)

The proposed expansion using some ARPA funds would target and expand testing in most vulnerable areas of the town, and where no water districts are planned or ever going to be feasible.

30K ask, MJ is working with another community that is like ours in that the drinking water supply for residents is primarily private wells; they have allocated 30K of ARPA funds for expanding well water testing in tandem with DOH; WSPP committee decided this was a reasonable target funding request to get a broad picture of potential drinking water issues and vulnerabilities. This study will inform the strategies for prevention and public education, as part of the Implementation phase of the DWSPP that we are preparing.

Cost for an individual test, depending on the testing goals / analytes of interest ranges from \$45 (single, for nitrate) to ~\$400 for contaminants of specific concern in an area (organic compounds, microcystin). Full suite of analytes run by DOH is \$325. The Town would contract with a DOH certified testing lab; we have one right in Ithaca (Community Science Institute).

Important: Consistent with the DOH program, the names of well owners and home addresses will be kept confidential within the Town; data will be aggregated for analysis (similar also to the drinking water survey data).