

# Stimulus Funding – A POTW Perspective

Communicating Our Way  
Through Chaos

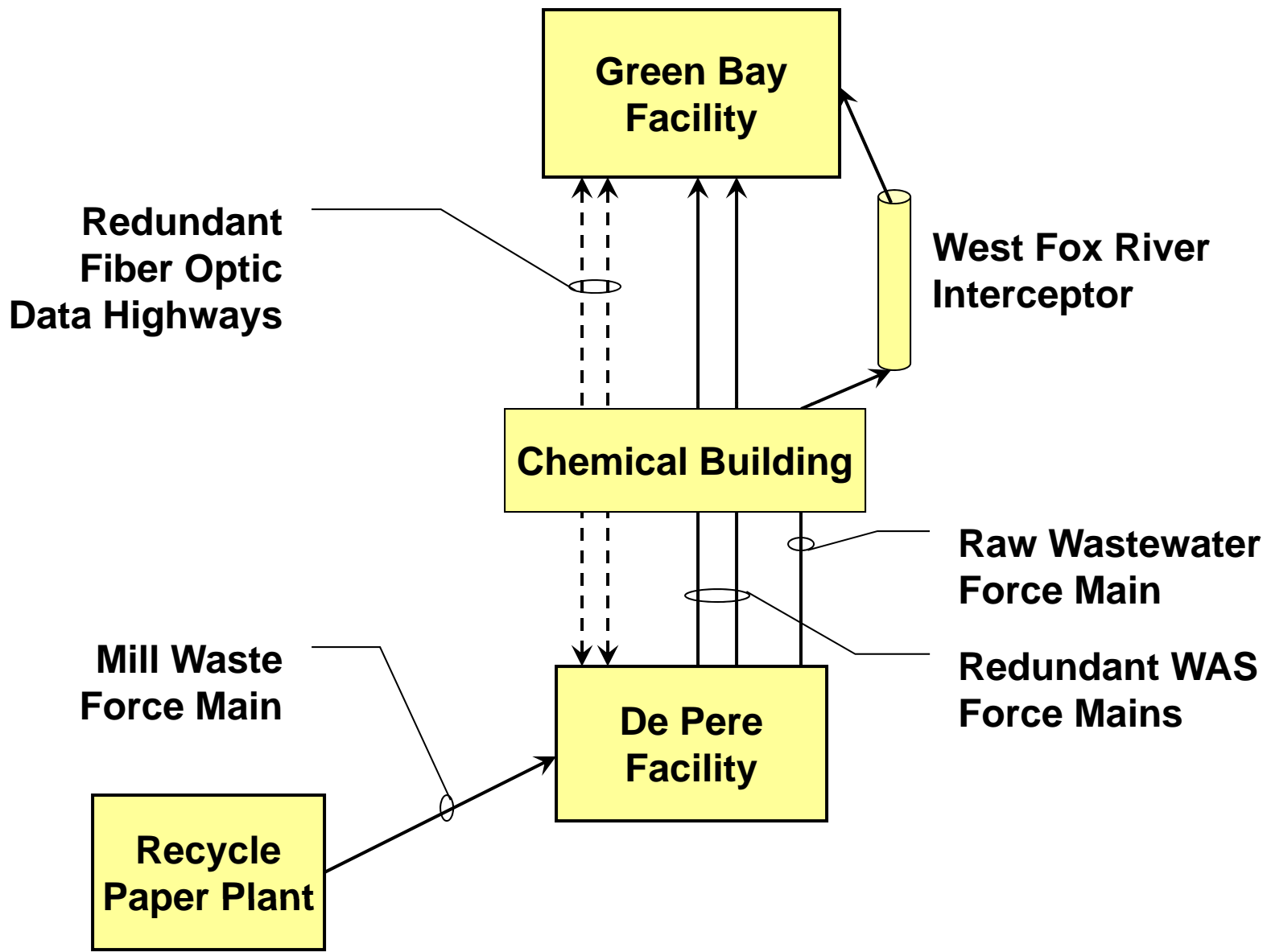
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# Today's Topics

- GBMSD projects eligible for ARRA stimulus grants
  - 7 Consolidation Projects
  - 3 Treatment Plant Enhancement Projects
- Evolving stimulus grant process
  - Buy American
  - Priority list scoring
- Continuing issues
  - Quarterly jobs “created and retained” report
  - Davis Bacon implications
  - “Green” aspects of consolidation projects
- Lessons learned

# 2006 Facilities Plan

- Two viable alternatives were identified:
  - Consolidated wastewater operations if GBMSD and City of De Pere could successfully agree to consolidation
  - Separate plant operations if consolidation were not possible
  - Consolidation was projected to save customers \$60 million over 20 years.



# Consolidation Project Construction Packages

- DPF & GBF Plant Upgrades
- Interplant Piping Projects
  - Chemical Building
  - Force Mains & Fiber Optic Data Highway
  - Force Main River Crossing

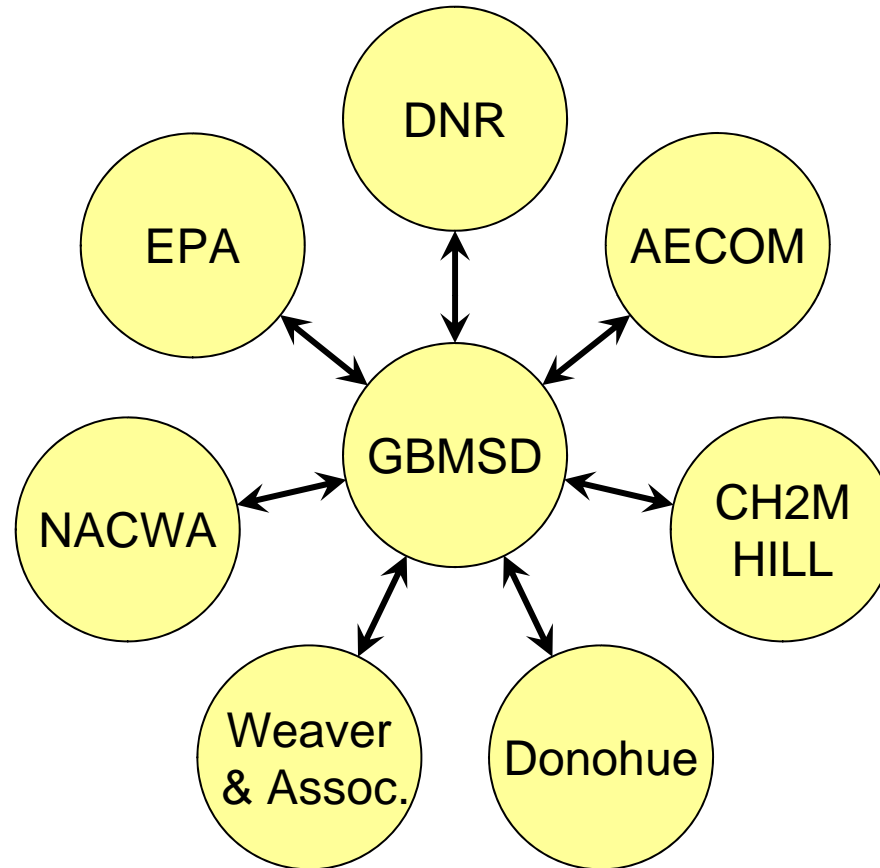
# More Consolidation Packages...

- GBF Sludge Loadout & Chemical System
- GBF Gravity Belt Thickening Monitoring & Controls Upgrade
- GBF Sludge Storage Tank Lining
- Brown County Fiber Optic System
  - Joint municipal project provides redundant Fiber Optic Data Highway

## ...and 3 Non-Consolidation Projects

- Ferric Chloride System Upgrade
- GBF Influent Bar Screen Replacements
- GBF Process Gate Replacements

# Information Sources



## TO SUCCESSFULLY GUIDE PROJECTS THROUGH CHAOS

# COMMUNICATE !!!

- Continually search for new information sources.
- Share meaningful information as soon as it is known.
- Differentiate between rumors, speculation, educated guesses, and facts.
- Hold options open until information is firm enough for a decision.
- If the answer is “No”, keep asking “Why?”
- Don’t stop researching; keep drilling down.
- **IT’S YOUR GRANT AT RISK...**

# Are We Shovel Ready?

- DPF & GBF Plant Upgrades

- Advertised for Bid: Jan. 5, 2009

- Bid Opening: Feb. 12, 2009

**ARRA Stimulus Bill signed: Feb. 17, 2009**

- Bid Award: April 17, 2009

- Interplant Piping System & Fiber Optics

- Advertised for Bid: March 19, 2009

- Bid Opening: April 16, 2009

- Bid Award: April 27, 2009

# ARRA Elements of Concern:

## DPF & GBF Plant Upgrades:

- 1 construction contract bid at \$14.9 million.
- No “Buy American” provisions were included.
- Davis Bacon Wage Rates were added by change order for ~\$100,000.

## Interplant Piping System & Fiber Optics:

- 3 construction contracts bids totaled \$9.8 million.
- Bids included “Buy American” and Davis Bacon alternate bid items adding \$300,000 in lump sums.

# “Buy American” Issues

- “...use domestic iron, steel, and manufactured goods that are produced in the U.S.”
- **The Risk: LOSING THE ENTIRE GRANT**
- EPA Waivers
  - Categorical/Nationwide... initiated by EPA
  - Individual... required for individual products
- Foreign Trade Agreements
  - To date, GBMSD hasn't entered into any foreign trade agreements.

# Two Welcomed EPA Waivers

- Bid Waiver for projects that solicited bids on or after October 1, 2008 and prior to February 17, 2009
  - This waiver eliminated “Buy American” concerns regarding the \$14.9 million plant upgrades contract.
- De Minimis Waiver exempts incidental components comprising less than 5% of total project materials
  - This waiver applies to the other ten ARRA grant projects.

# Legacy Priority List Scoring

- The initial scoring was based on the Separate Plant Operations concept for the 2005 Priority List
  - This was strictly a conveyance project and scored low as a sewer project.
- The plant upgrades project was based on Consolidated Wastewater Operations for the 2009 Priority List.
  - As a treatment plant project, it scored high.

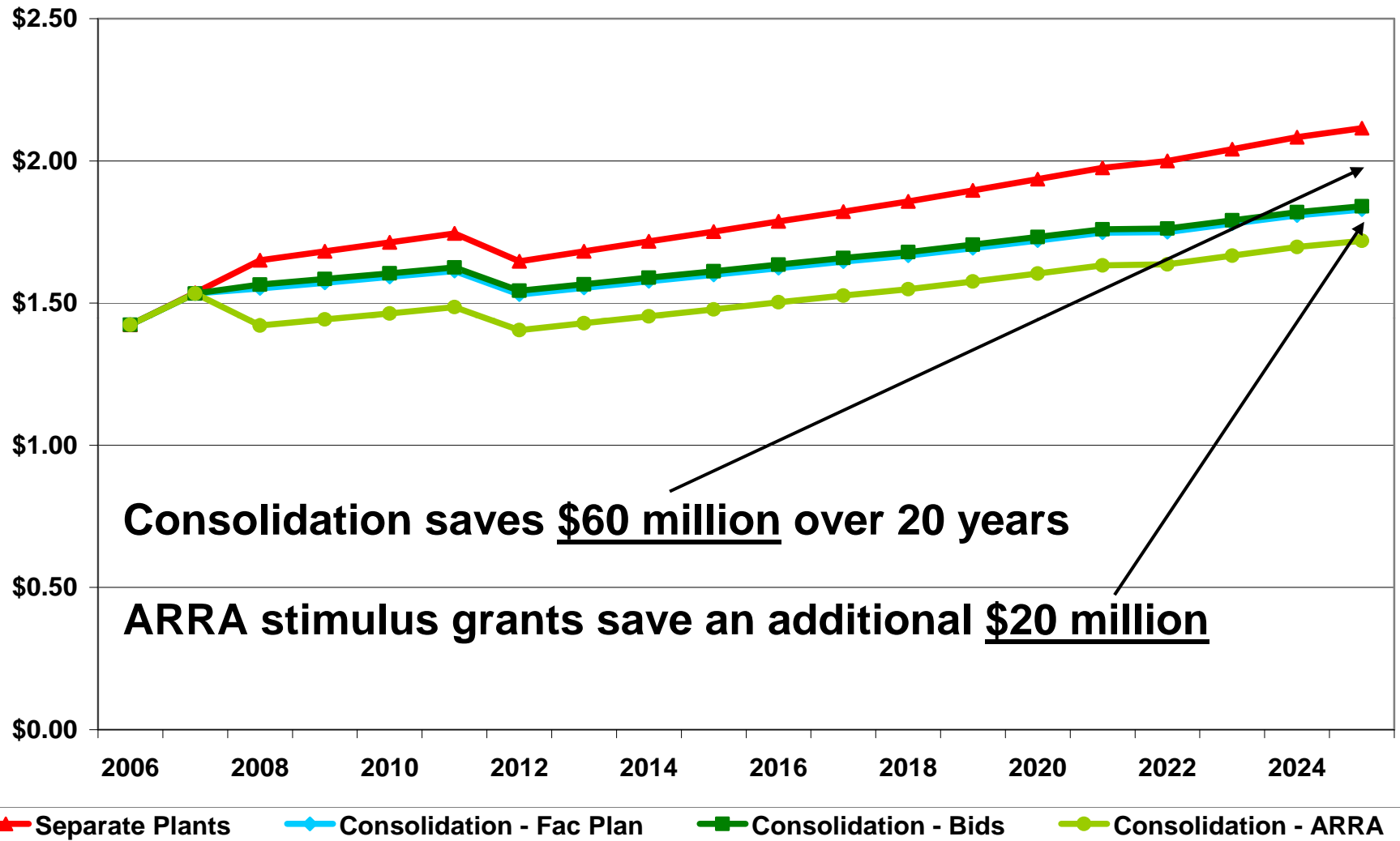
# Final Priority List Scoring

GBMSD combined the two projects into one that scored high on the 2010 list.

## Reasoning:

- Interplant piping systems will tie the two wastewater treatment systems together.
- Interplant piping systems will serve the same purpose as in-plant piping does.
- Interplant piping systems are directly related to treatment processes.

# Was It Worth It?



**Anyone get a notice like this?**

**\*\*\*Immediate action is necessary\*\*\***

***Failure to comply may impact requested payments and may result in the loss of ARRA funding for your project.***

Failure to submit the requested information may result in the agency notifying Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to suspend requested payments and may result in the loss of ARRA funding for your project.

# Jobs “Created or Retained” Quarterly Report

- December 30, 2009: Received email requiring response by January 5, 2010.
- With New Year’s Day off, only 3½ working days were available to respond; only 2 working days after close of quarter.
- Many contractors and consultants were on vacation.
- Everyone pulled together and met the deadline.
- Result: 74 jobs created or retained.

# Davis Bacon Act

- Davis Bacon and Wisconsin wage rates are in all grant projects.
- Labor categories covered within each wage rate are not identical.
  - When a labor category is covered in both, the highest rate governs.
- Wage rate documentation is required:
  - Contractor's weekly payroll submittal
  - GBMSD's random interview of workers
  - GBMSD's monthly certification

# “Green” Aspects of Consolidation Projects

Power Savings	2.7 MkWh/year
Fuel Savings	1,728 MBtus/year
Reduced GHG Emissions	950 tons/year
Reduced Smog-Forming Gases	59 tons/year
<u>PLUS ONE RAIN GARDEN</u>	

# Lessons Learned

- COMMUNICATE !!!
- Keep looking for new sources of information.
- Be Patient...those around you are learning the process as quickly (or slowly) as you are.
- Keep Options Open as Long as Possible  
Expect Surprises (Quarterly Jobs Report)
- Enjoy the Experience !

## Data References

EPA's Inventory of U.S. GHG  
Emissions & Sinks: 1990-2007  
(April 2009), Report

Ecoinvent Report No. 1, 2007,  
Ecoinvent Center, Swiss Center  
for Life Cycle Inventories,  
Dubendorf, Switzerland

## GBMSD appreciates the support of...

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