

SMALL CITIES PRESENTATION
December 5, 2018
House & Senate – Study Comm.

1. What is a small City?

a. State population 2016: 3,134,000

944 Cities Total			@ 2.3 Population Rate Payers
64%	600	< 1,000 population	430
84%	190	< 5,000 population	2,180
88%	39	< 10,000 population	4,340
90%	23	< 25,000 population	10,870
100%	18	< 220,000 population	95,650

b. State Population - Urban Rural
 3,134,000 2,015,162 1,118,838

- 600+ lagoon systems

2. MHI 2% EPA standard for wastewater rates – viewed as affordable.

a. Statewide \$56,247 @ 2% = \$1,120/year, \$94.00/monthly wastewater only!

b. Poverty Levels

Individuals	11.8%
Individuals > 65	8.2%
Families	7.6%
Families	
Children < 18	12.7%
Families	
Female,	
No Husband	
Children < 18	36.6%

c. Poverty

\$10-\$20/month increase in wastewater bills – put them in poverty.

d. Lack of Available Jobs

e. Social Justice/Income

f. EPA Region VII and Environmental Finance Center @ Wichita State University

- Population < 500

Is an infrastructure investment affordable for very small community?

- Developed for Kansas
 - Money available for Iowa
- Variables
 - Median household income
 - Population
 - Education attainment
 - % employment in manufacturing
- Looks at the impact of infrastructure investment (say \$2-6 million) on the MHI.
 - How soon will the 2% be exceeded?
- Does not look at existing debt or type of debt
 - Reduced property values, GO debt levels
 - SRF only loans
 - Age of population

3. Design Standard:

a. Why is it less expensive to build wastewater treatment plants in Missouri than Iowa?

- Same EPA VII region.

b. Side by side comparison similar size lagoons ammonia removal.

- Iowa equipment twice as expensive.

c. Ten States Design Standards.

- Developed late 70s – early 80s.
 - Difficult to change
 - Current work with IDNR ongoing
 - Innovation/less expensive difficult in Iowa
 - Rules review ok through Governor's office

4. Current Issues:

a. Climate change – impact on infrastructure.

- Floods
- Wet weather operation wastewater plants
 - EPA rules expected 2020

- b. Loans rather than grants.
 - SRF Iowa only – grants for small cities?
 - c. Encourage innovation.
 - Iowa to be more cost competitive with surrounding states
 - Rework design standards
 - Other states as example
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- d. Lengthen NPDES permits and encourage integrated plans for small communities.
 - e. Strengthen disadvantaged cities program.

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