

For Immediate Release

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Partners Collaborating on Winooski River Water Quality Efforts

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC), and the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) are pleased to announce expanded outreach and services to landowners, municipalities and the public in support of the Vermont Clean Water Act (VCWA) and improved tactical basin planning efforts for Basin 8, the Winooski River Basin and Basin 9, the White River Basin. The work is provided through two grants provided by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. Activities began in late 2018 and will extend through the fall of 2019.

The CCRPC and the CVRPC will work with their member municipalities on programs such as improved zoning bylaws and stormwater master plans to improve water quality and incorporating municipal priorities into the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan and the White River Tactical Basin Plan (CVRPC only). Other activities that both planning commissions will do as part of this project include general municipal outreach for Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation water quality policies and permit programs, Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan and the White River Tactical Basin Plan (CVRPC only) development and development of municipal water quality improvement projects.

The WNRCD will be responding to municipal and landowner requests for technical assistance in developing and implementing stormwater and natural resource solutions that promote clean water and improved aquatic habitat. WNRCD will also coordinate monitoring programs to support science-based water quality investments, organize local workgroups, and develop priority water quality projects among other services. As part of this body of work, Conservation Districts and Regional Planning Commissions will be closely coordinating activities to provide complementary support for the State's Tactical Basin Planning process.

Tactical Basin Plans help identify and focus efforts needed to protect or restore specific watersheds through the state. The partners will be focused primarily on implementation of projects outlined in the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan and the White River Tactical Basin Plan (CVRPC only) this year, working to identify priorities, document progress and conduct outreach necessary to develop priority projects and garner greater local support and awareness of the Basin Plan's goals. Local identified water quality priorities in Tactical Basin Plans are well positioned for development and funding via the State's Clean Water Initiative. Basin Plans help provide the umbrella for other various planning initiatives, including Stormwater Master Plans and River Corridor Plans, and ultimately provide a vehicle to strategically address regional water quality priorities such as the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load.

The CCRPC provides planning and technical assistance in the areas of community development, transportation, agriculture, natural resources, housing, economic development, telecommunications and emergency management to the 19 municipalities of Chittenden County and to the public, while remaining consistent with federal and state requirements. The collaboration between the CCRPC, Chittenden County municipalities and other related resources agencies results in the development and implementation of plans that support sustainable development and improve the region's environment and quality of life. For more information about the CCRPC, please visit www.ccrpcvt.org.

The CVRPC assists its member municipalities to provide effective local government and work cooperatively to address regional issues. The Commission also works with area non-profits, other regional organizations, State and Federal agencies, and the public to implement projects and programs tailored to Central Vermont and statewide needs.

For more information on the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, please visit: www.centralvtplanning.org

The Winooski NRCD is one of 14 conservation districts throughout Vermont. It encompasses all of Chittenden and Washington County as well as parts of Orange County (Orange, Williamstown and Washington). The district relies on grants and individual donations to complete its conservation work. The WNRCD focuses its resources on completing conservation projects based in solid science to provide solutions within the areas of agricultural assistance, forestland enhancement, urban conservation and watershed stewardship. For more information on the Winooski NRCD please visit: www.winooskinrcd.org