

# Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council Meeting

January 19, 2023

# Agenda

**1:00 Call to order & Roll call**

1:05 Updates to agenda

1:10 Public Comment

1:15 Review & approve minutes from December 15, 2022 meeting (action item)

1:25 CWSP Updates (information)

1:35 Developing a co-benefit scoring matrix & methodology (discussion)

2:35 Project Solicitation

2:55 Agenda items for next meeting (February 16, 2023)

3:00 Adjourn

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# CWSP Updates: Timeline

- ◇ Policies will be presented to the CVRPC Board at their February meeting
- ◇ RFQs
  - ◇ issued in late January with a late-February submission date
  - ◇ complete submission reviews by early March
- ◇ BWQC
  - ◇ Goal: monthly meetings through February 2023 with less frequent (quarterly?) meetings after that
  - ◇ Objectives: finalize co-benefits scoring, discuss RFQ results, hear from Project Implementors
  - ◇ Project Solicitation: issued in February 2023 (following BWQC meeting)

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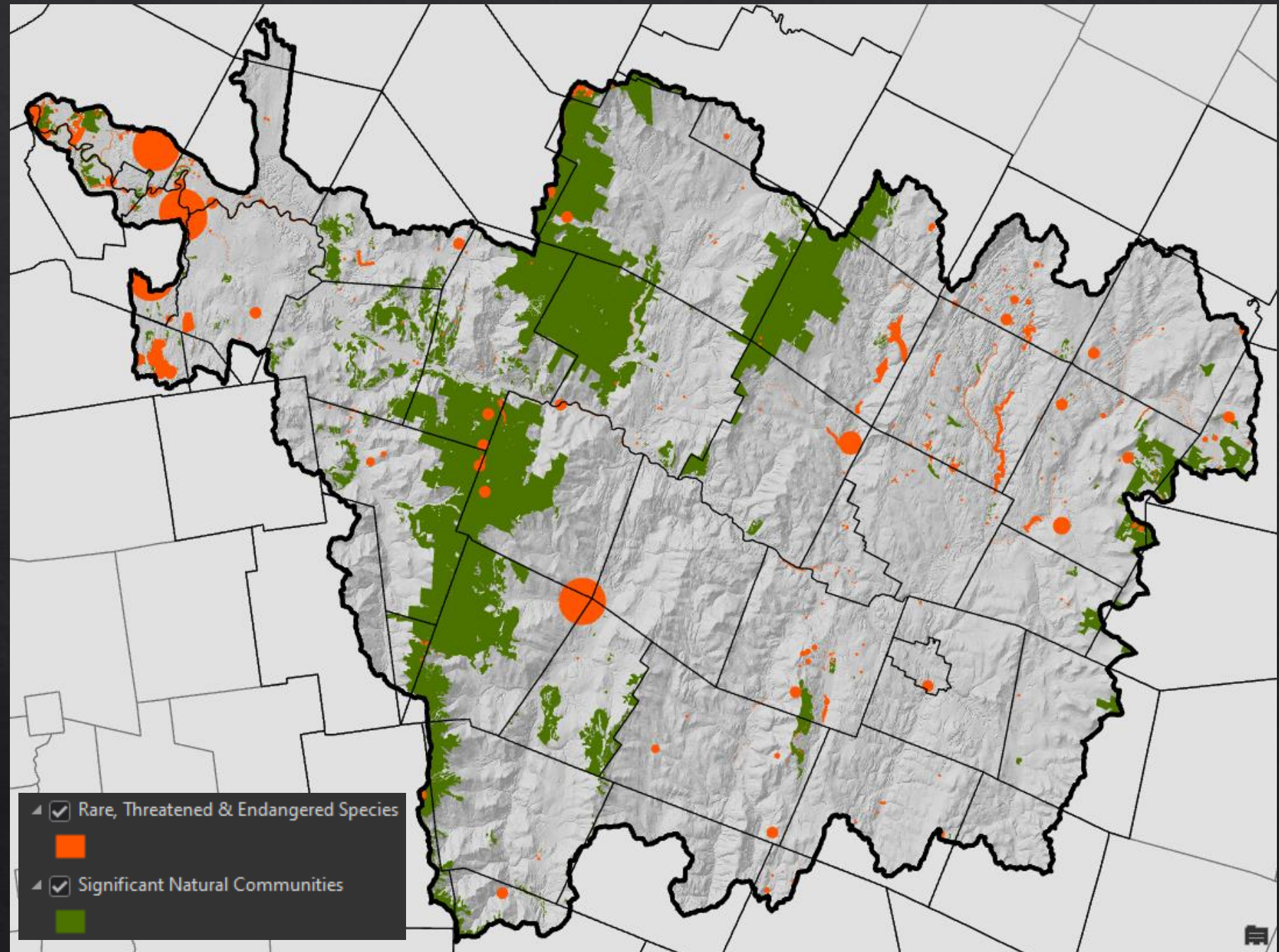
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# Ecological Benefits

- ◆ An Ecological Co-Benefit is realized when a project reduces sediment and / or non-P nutrient loads to stressed, altered, impaired or priority waterways to which it is hydrologically connected.
- ◆ Reduction of other stressors (5 points)
  - ◆ Stressor: a phenomenon with quantifiable damaging effects on surface waters resulting from the delivery of pollutants to a waterbody, or an increased threat to public health and safety (Winooski TBP, 2018)
  - ◆ Stressed, Altered & Impaired Waters: waters that do not support uses and do not meet standards are included in the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters
    - ◆ [Vermont Water Quality Monitoring Program Strategy 2011 - 2020](#)
    - ◆ [2016 DEC Assessment & Listing Methodology](#)
- ◆ Protection of priority waters (5 points)
  - ◆ Water supply, aquatic habitat, swimming, fishing & boating (see Winooski Tactical Basin Plan Chapter 4 (pages 121 – 130))
  - ◆ Outstanding Resource Waters – there aren't any currently in Basin 8 but the last TBP suggested two (Huntington River from gorge to confluence w/ Winooski & North Branch of the Winooski from the Worcester / Middlesex town line upstream to the headwaters)

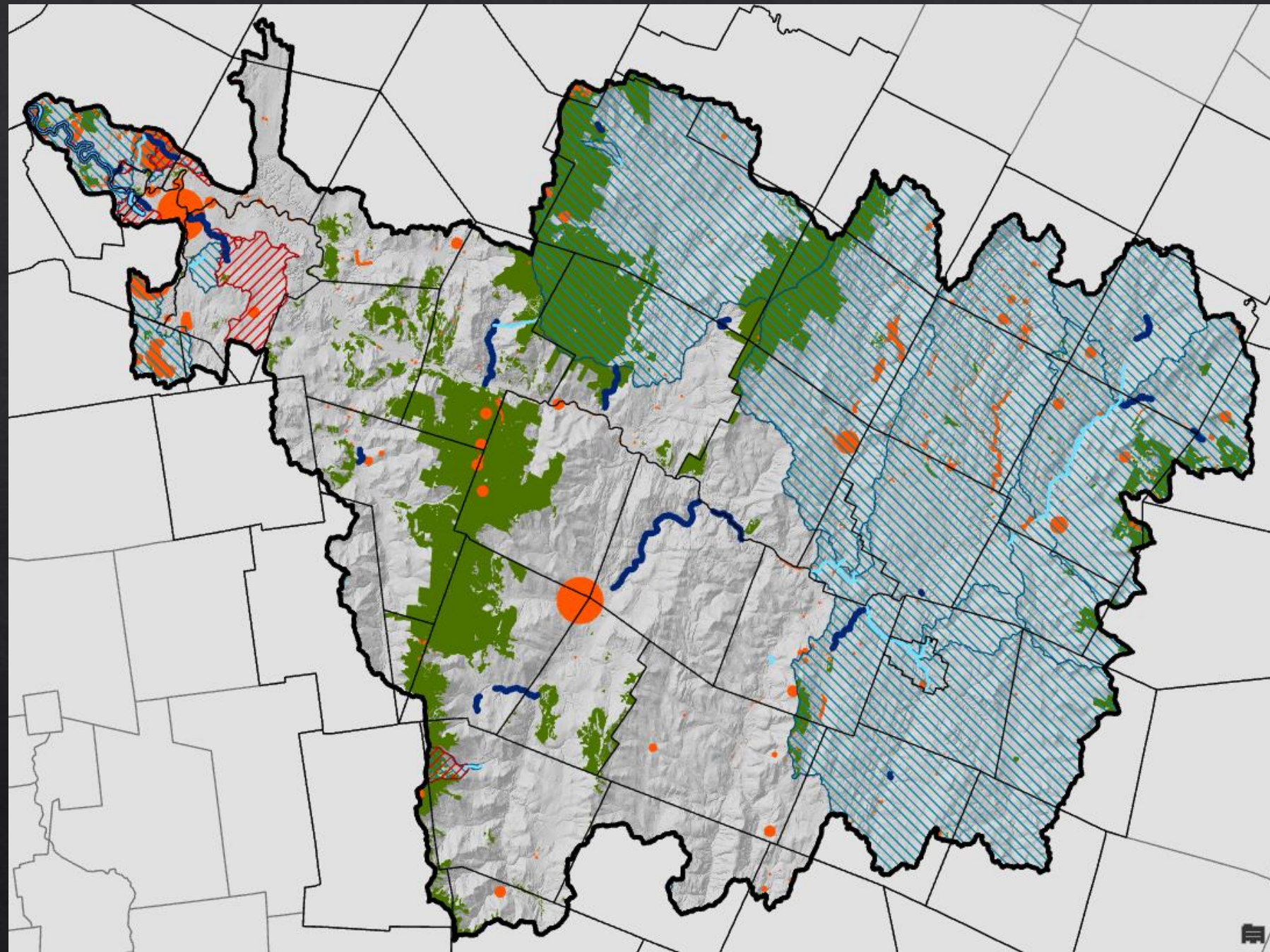
# Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species + Significant Natural Communities





# Priority Areas Based on Ecological Significance

- 303(d) Rivers & Streams
- VT Priority Rivers & Streams
- 303(d) Lakes & Ponds
- VT Priority Lakes & Ponds
- Stormwater Impaired Watersheds
- 303(d) Watersheds
- Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species
- Significant Natural Communities



# Ecosystem Services: Categories

- ◇ Provisioning Services: any type of benefit to people that can be extracted from nature
  - ◇ Food
  - ◇ Fiber
  - ◇ Natural Medicines
- ◇ **Regulating Services: the benefit provided by ecosystem processes that moderate natural phenomena**
  - ◇ Carbon Sequestration
  - ◇ Flood Resilience
  - ◇ Air Quality
- ◇ Cultural Services: non-material benefit that contributes to the development and cultural advancement of people
  - ◇ Ethical Values
  - ◇ Existence Values
  - ◇ Recreation & Tourism
- ◇ Supporting Services: the processes which allow the Earth to sustain basic life forms
  - ◇ Nutrient & Water Cycling
  - ◇ Soil Formation
  - ◇ Photosynthesis



# Community Building

- ◆ A Community Building Co-Benefit is realized when a project involves the community in data collection and decision-making, enhances the working landscape and provides recreational benefits.
- ◆ Community (4 points max):
  - ◆ Are there proposed efforts to meaningfully involve community members in planning, **project development**, decision-making **and implementation**? (2 points)
  - ◆ Does the project involve data collection by community members (e.g. citizen science initiative)? (2 points)
- ◆ Working Landscape (3 points max):
  - ◆ Is the project located on a parcel that is enrolled in the Use Value & Appraisal Program (aka the Current Use Program)?
- ◆ Recreation (4 points max):
  - ◆ Does the project maintain / improve an existing recreational space? (2 points)
  - ◆ Will the project result in new / expanded recreational opportunities? (2 points)



# Education

- ◇ An Education Co-Benefit is realized when a project includes aspects of public outreach designed to educate community members about the importance of phosphorus reduction and watershed health
- ◇ Scoring (10 points max)
  - ◇ No educational component: 0 points
  - ◇ Interpretive signage: 5 points
  - ◇ Educational meetings / workshops: 5 points

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# Winooski River Basin Year 1 Funding & Phosphorous Reduction Targets

Annual Funding Based on Formula				
Design, Engineering & Construction	Project Identification & Development	Total Project Funding	Maximum Administrative Costs	Total Project Funding + Max Admin
\$827,068	\$57,737	\$884,805	\$156,142	\$1,040,947

First Year Phosphorous Reduction Targets (kg) (based on available funds)				
Farm Fields	Developed Lands	Forest	Streams	Total
9.2	23.9	0	36.4	69.6

**Cost / kg P reduction: \$14,953**

# Project Solicitation

- ◆ Project Identification & Development proposals will be considered separately from Design, Engineering & Construction
- ◆ How many project rounds should we issue per year?
  - ◆ We have ~\$825,000 for Design, Engineering & Construction
- ◆ Should all project solicitations be the same?
  - ◆ Option 1 – General: covers all project types, phases, sectors
  - ◆ Option 2 – Focused: target project phases, project types, sectors, geographic regions, co-benefits

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