Winooski Basin Clean Water Service Provider

Date: 17 July 2023

To: Winooski Basin Water Quality Council

Re: Winooski Basin Clean Water Service Provider Staff recommendation: FY23 Round 1 Project Solicitation

This memo offers a staff funding recommendation for the two proposals received in response to the FY23 Round 1 Project Solicitation. Projects were evaluated using the following criteria: Cost effectiveness of phosphorous reduction (75 points), Project Risk (10 points), Design Life (5 points) and Co-benefits (10 points).

For a more detailed description of the Design- and Implementation-phase project proposal review process, refer to the Co-benefits scoring methodology, the March 2023 Clean Water Service Provider presentation to the Winooski Basin Water Quality Council and the minutes from that meeting. Assessment / Identification and Development-phase projects are scored according to their likelihood of success in identifying cost-efficient, non-regulatory water quality improvement projects in the Winooski Basin.

The Winooski Clean Water Service Provider has an annual budget of $1,040,947 ($884,805 project funding + $156,142 administrative costs) to fund non-regulatory phosphorous-reduction projects. The annual phosphorous-reduction target is 69.6 kg / yr. The Winooski Basin Water Quality Council should consider prioritizing projects with phosphorous-reduction costs at or below the average per kilogram cost of $14,953.

Funding Recommendations

1. Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission: In consultation with Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation staff it was determined that this project is not eligible for Formula Grant funding. There are other funding sources available to support Project Identification and Assessment for private roads. Once that work is complete, it is possible that any Design- or Implementation-phase work might be eligible for Formula Grant funds depending on the cost-effectiveness of potential phosphorous reduction.
2. Vermont Land Trust: Although a Design-phase project with unknown future implementation costs, the high estimated annual phosphorous reduction justifies funding this project. Even with a significant future

funding request (on the order of $750,000 - $1,000,000), the overall cost-effectiveness of the project would be near or below the target cost per kilogram of phosphorous for the Basin. The total project score of 53.58 is *very high* for a Design-phase project. **Recommendation: prioritize this funding request.**

Table 2-1: Cost-Effectiveness Score

Criteria	Value
Funding Request	$44,604
Future Funding Request	$0
Total Cost	$44,604
Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr)	118.95
Design Life	15
Cost Effectiveness ($ / kg)	$375
Cost-Effectiveness Score	**37.5**

Cost Effectiveness Formula ($ / kg / yr) = ((15 years / project design life) * (Total Cost)) / (Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr))

Maximum Design-Phase Cost-Effectiveness Score = 37.5 points

Table 2-2: Project Risk Score

Risk Category	Points
Landowner Relations	2.5
Organizational Capacity	2.5
Operations & Maintenance	0
Permitting	0
Total Score	**5**

Maximum Total Score = 10 points

Table 2-3: Co-benefits Score

Co-benefit	Score	Weight	Weighted Score
Environmental Justice	**0**	**17.78%**	**0**
Income	0		
Race	0		
Language	0		
Ecological Benefits	**6**	**30.44%**	**1.8264**
Listed / Impaired Water Resource	3		
Priority Water Resource	0		
Habitat & Species Enhancement	3		
Ecosystem Services	**10**	**23.78%**	**2.378**
Flood Regulation	5		
Carbon Sequestration	5		
Community Building	**8**	**15.78%**	**1.2624**
Community Involvement	2		
Working Landscape	2		
Recreation	4		
Education	**5**	**12.22%**	**0.611**
Interpretive Signage	5		
Meetings & Workshops	0		
Total Co-benefits Score			**6.0778**

Maximum Weighted Score = 10 points

Table 2-4: Total Project Score

Criteria	Score
Cost-Effectiveness Score	37.5
Project Risk Score	5
Design Life Score	5
Co-benefits Score	6.08
Total Project Score	**53.58**