Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission – Clean Water Advisory Committee

10 August 2023

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      CVRPC Water Resources Program Areas (discussion)
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Water Resources Program Areas

- ♦ Tactical Basin Planning
- ♦ Clean Water Service Provider
- Stormwater management
- ♦ 604b
- Acronyms
 - ♦ BMP: Best management practice
 - ♦ TMDL: Total Maximum Daily Load
 - ♦ VT ANR: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
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Tactical Basin Planning

- Strategic plan to protect and restore Vermont's surface waters
- Developed by Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
 - ⋄ 5-year update cycle
 - Basin Planner: Keith Fritschie (Department of Environmental Conservation)
- Identify strategies and prioritize resources to have the greatest influence on surface water restoration & protection
- Helps meet federal & state statutory requirements
- 2018 Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan
- Timeline
 - ♦ Final Draft: mid-August
 - ♦ CWAC Presentation: 14 September 2023
 - ♦ CVRPC Board Presentation: October 2023
 - ♦ CVRPC Board Vote: November 2023
 - Plan adopted: December 2023

Tactical Basin Plan Chapters

- Basin Overview: presents water quality monitoring & assessment results that identify water quality protection & restoration priorities
- 2. Protection Priorities: lists waters that meet criteria for special state designations
- Restoration Priorities: lists waters that do not meet water quality standards+ identifies causes/source(s) of pollution
- 4. Strategies by Sector: addresses pollution sources across agricultural, developed lands, wastewater and natural resources
- 5. Implementation Table: outlines targeted strategies and the associated priority areas, towns, partners & potential funding sources

Strategies to address runoff: Agricultural Lands

- Nutrient management planning
 - Support cover cropping, crop rotation, no till practices, grazing management, enrollment in conservation programs
- Best Management Practices
 - Coordinate farm equipment access, Soil Health Assessments, stakeholder collaboration-VT Agricultural Water Quality Partnership
- ♦ Targeted Outreach
 - Determine needs of Small Farm Operations
 - Seek opportunities for river corridor easements on larger agricultural parcels

Strategies to address runoff: Developed Lands

♦ Education

 Promote simple residential stormwater solutions & winter maintenance strategies to reduce runoff

Project Prioritization

- Develop stormwater & illicit discharge and detection studies
- Assist with private road restoration

Municipal Technical Assistance

- Aid in compliance with Municipal Roads General Permit, 3 acre parcels, Road Erosion Inventories
- Identify opportunities to share / rent specialized equipment

Strategies to address runoff: Wastewater

- Wastewater treatment facilities
 - Support municipal and individual upgrades & expansion projects to meet TMDLs
 - Promote community wastewater systems or alternative onsite systems
- Septic Systems
 - Educate septic owners about maintenance and alternative systems
 - Promote programs such as Wastewater Workshops

Natural Resource Protection & Restoration

- Rivers: enhance riparian buffers and stewardship, remove priority dams and berms, increase floodplain access, support adoption of new FEMA flood maps & train partners to estimate phosphorus reductions
- Lakes: support Lake Watershed Action Plans and Lake Wise Assessments, prioritize restoration projects & coordinate prevention of invasive species spread
- Wetlands: increase wetland protection projects, support reclassification of Class 1 wetland candidates & assist in wetlands map updates
- Forests: identify & prioritize eroding forest road segments, coordinate outreach and training on Acceptable Management Practices & encourage conservation through Use Value Appraisal enrollment

FY24 Workplan Priorities

- Outreach & Technical Assistance
 - ♦ Selectboard Assistance
 - ♦ Forest Road Project ID & Development
 - Municipal Storm Water Project Design & Implementation
- Municipal Plan & Bylaw Update
 - Assist with adoption of new FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps
- Upcoming meetings
 - Dealing with invasive species + planting / managing stream buffers with invasive species concerns
 - Prioritizing culvert replacement & dam removal
 - Project assessment with water quality calculators & mapping tools

Upcoming Meetings

	Partner	Name	Title
Invasive Species + Stream	Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District	Adelaid Dumm	Conservation Specialist
	DEC Lake Wise DEC Lake Wise	Alison Marchione Kimberly Jensen	Lake Shoreland Coordinator Lakes & Ponds Technical Service Provider (Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant)
Buffers	County Forester Waitsfield Conservation Commission	Robert Nelson Curt Lindberg	Washington County Forester Vermont Master Naturalist Program Coordinator-Mad River Valley
Prioritizing Culvert Replacement + Dam Removal	VT Agency of Transportation VT Agency of Transportation The Nature Conservancy Vermont Natural Resources Council	Alan May Ross Gouin Ben Mathews Karina Dailey	Better Roads Program Better Roads/Municipal Highway & Stormwater Mitigation Program River Restoration Coordinator Restoration Ecologist
Water Quality Calculators + Mapping Tools	DEC	Claire Madden	TMDL Tracking & Accounting Coordinator

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Clean Water Service Provider

- ♦ Act 76 Clean Water Service Delivery Act of 2019
 - Provides long-term funding, including Clean Water Funds to support nonregulatory programs
 - Establishes a network of decentralized Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs) & Basin Water Quality Councils (BWQCs)
 - ♦ Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is the CWSP for the Winooski River Basin
 - Nine member BWQC comprised of representatives from: land conservation organizations (1), watershed organizations (2), Natural Resources Conservation Districts (2), Regional Planning Commissions (2) & Municipalities (2)
- ♦ 5-year (renewable) service agreements
- Funding based on phosphorous reduction target

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

CVRPC Role as CWSP

- Provide staff support to the Winooski Basin Water Quality Council
- Develop policies to govern the BWQC according to the Act, the Rule & guidance documents
- Pre-qualify Project Implementors + Engineering & Construction Services
- Solicit & score projects
- ♦ Issue sub-grants & sub-contracts
- Maintain adequate records
- Report results to VT DEC staff

Recent Activities

- Pre-qualified six Project Implementors
 - Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Friends of the Mad River, Friends of the Winooski River, Lamoille County Conservation District, Vermont Land Trust & Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
- ♦ Project Solicitation Round 1
 - Two proposals received (1 determined ineligible)
 - BWQC votes to prioritize funding for the other project at their meeting on 20 July 2023
- Project Solicitation Round 2
 - ♦ Released last week
 - ♦ Proposals due 1 September 2023

What's next?

- ♦ Issue Request for Qualifications for Engineering & Construction Services
- Issue contract for Round 1 project (early August)
- Project Solicitation Round 2
 - ♦ Receive & score projects (1 September 2023 14 September 2023)
 - ⋄ Project pre-review (BWQC meeting 21 September 2023)
 - Project ranking & prioritization (BWQC meeting 19 October 2023)
 - ♦ Issue contract(s) (early November)
- Project Solicitation Round 3 (late October)

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Stormwater Management

- Stormwater infrastructure mapping (VT DEC Watershed Management Division)
- Stormwater master plans
 - Desktop analysis, stakeholder engagement, field assessment
 - Typical partner organizations include: municipalities, RPCs, watershed organizations, VT DEC Basin Planner, land conservation organizations
 - ♦ Identify stormwater priorities and 30% design for the highest priority projects
 - Resource for identifying projects for advancement
 - Review Stormwater Master Plans & Stormwater Infrastructure Maps
 - Explore the <u>Watershed Projects Database</u>

Barre City Auditorium – Final Design

- ♦ 2018 Central Vermont Stormwater Master Plan Barre Town, Barre City and Plainfield, VT (<u>Watershed Projects Database ID #5624</u>)
 - produce 100% design & prepare application(s) for required permit(s)
 - address stormwater drainage over a 27.4-acre area
 - reroute existing storm lines to an underground sand filter system
 - site retrofit benefits: prevent > 24,000 pounds of total suspended solids and 8.7 pounds of total phosphorus from entering receiving waters
- ♦ Project budget: \$35,744
- Project funder: Mount Ascutney Regional Commission
- ♦ Project completion: November 2023

Moretown Town Office & Elementary School – Project Implementation

- ♦ 2019 Central Vermont Stormwater Master Plan Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, and Warren (<u>Watershed Projects Database ID #5624</u>)
 - contract with Engineering & Construction services
 - address stormwater drainage over a 10-acre area
 - install three sand filters& a gravel wetland
 - site retrofit benefits: prevent 5.2 pounds of total phosphorus from entering receiving waters
- ♦ Project budget: \$398,066
- Project funder: Mount Ascutney Regional Commission
- ♦ Project completion: November 2023

Upper Winooski – Project Implementation

- 2019 Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plan
- CVRPC successfully solicited funds for 100% design through the Design Implementation Block Grant Program
- CVRPC successfully solicited funds for project implementation through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
- Projects:
 - ⋄ Calais:
 - 1. East Calais Post Office: treat 6.9 acre catchment, 4.1 lbs p-reduction
 - 2. Moscow Woods gully: treat 2.9 acre catchment, 2 lbs p-reduction
 - ♦ Woodbury
 - 1. Woodbury School: treat 3 acre catchment, 2.6 lbs p-reduction
- ♦ Project budget: \$445,288
- Next steps: meet with towns, release RFP for Engineering Services, release RFB for Construction Services

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604b

- Water Quality Division of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
- ♦ 2022
 - CVRPC staff reviewed all of the Stormwater Master Plans and Stormwater Infrastructure Map Reports (39 plans and reports in total) for the 20 Washington County municipalities served by CVRPC
 - logged discrepancies between project reports and database entries
 - generate location & sub-basin tags for database entries lacking that information
 - identified 57 projects for entry into the Watershed Projects Database and 28 projects with discrepancies

♦ 2023

- review Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Reports, Road Erosion Inventories,
 River Corridor Plans and Stormwater Master Plans
- ensure projects identified through these assessments are both included and accurately represented in the Agency of Natural Resource's Watershed Projects Database
- Project completion: December 2023

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What's on your mind?



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Announcements

- Flood response:
 - CVRPC serving as local liaisons
 - Volunteer opportunity: "The volunteer needs in the wake of the storm are evolving, so we are calling on Vermonters to sign up, let us know what skills they can offer, and be ready to serve if needed."
 - ♦ https://www.vermont.gov/volunteer#gsc.tab=0
- Training: Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
 - what: Clean Water Project Eligibility Screening
 - ♦ when: 20 June 2023, 12:00 PM 1:30 PM
 - ♦ Link to meeting recording
- Next meeting: 14 September 2023

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