

Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council Meeting

20 June 2024

Agenda

1:00 Call to order & Roll call

1:05 Updates to agenda

1:10 Public Comment

1:15 Review & approve minutes from 16 May 2024 meeting (action)

1:20 Preliminary Proposal Review (information & discussion)

1:40 Final Proposal Review (action)

2:00 Project Development (discussion)

2:30 Announcements (discussion)

2:40 Adjourn

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Preliminary Proposal Review: Project Development in Huntington

- ◆ Primary Contact: Dan Albrecht, Senior Planner, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
- ◆ Project Type: Project Development
- ◆ Project Phase: Project Development
- ◆ Project Description: The project proposes to scope and develop projects along the Huntington River with cost-efficient phosphorus reductions and flood mitigation co-benefits.
- ◆ Project Deliverables:
 - ◆ Number of projects scoped: 15
 - ◆ Specific project development: 3 – 5 projects
- ◆ Project Budget:
 - ◆ Project Development: \$36,000

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Final Proposal Review: John Fowler Road – Winooski Berm Removal

- ◆ Primary Contact: Allaire Diamond, Ecologist, Vermont Land Trust
- ◆ Project Type: Floodplain / Stream Restoration
- ◆ Project Phase: Final Design & Implementation
- ◆ Project Description: Complete final design of berm removal along the Winooski River & fund construction oversight. Project builds off previous work completed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department & preliminary design work funded by the Winooski BWQC.
- ◆ P-reduction:
 - ◆ Preliminary design proposal: 118.95 kg / yr
 - ◆ Final design proposal: 14.9 kg / yr
- ◆ Project Budget:
 - ◆ Preliminary Design: ~~\$44,604~~ \$31,500
 - ◆ Final Design: \$27,174
 - ◆ Implementation: \$85,703
 - ◆ Total Cost: \$144,377 (\$9,690 / kg)

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Upper Winooski Project Development

- ◆ Fall 2023 – A List of 50 projects was generated with the Basin Planner. Input from clean water partners was used to narrow the original list of projects to 15 projects:
 - ◆ 4 stormwater projects,
 - ◆ 3 bank / gully stabilization projects,
 - ◆ 3 riparian buffer planting projects and,
 - ◆ 5 floodplain / stream restoration projects
- ◆ April 2024 - CVRPC was awarded Project Development Block Grant funding through the Addison County Regional Planning Commission to scope all 15 projects and develop 3-5 of the highest priority projects.
- ◆ May 2024 - CVRPC retained Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC for engineering services. **Contract end date: 24 June 2024**

Projects for Further Development

1. Calais - Gully Stabilization & Culvert Replacement on Marshfield Rd.
 - ◇ Stone check dams with bank full width compliant culvert: 3.25 kg/yr
2. Barre Town – Stormwater Control on Diane Lane
 - ◇ Re-grade cul-de-sac to direct flow towards catch basin: 4.87 kg/yr (MRGP?)
3. Plainfield – Buffer Planting & Floodplain Restoration at Recreation Fields
 - ◇ Buffer along skate park and basketball court, berm removal across from wastewater facility: 0.6 - 7 kg/yr (Pending landowner interest)
4. Calais – Buffer Planting & Floodplain Restoration along Rt. 14
 - ◇ Plenty of room for buffer planting, floodplain access could be improved and allow for access at lower flows: 9.98 kg/yr (Land currently for sale)

Ag Streams Project Development Proposal

NRCS



A request from Keith for your thoughts/interest in adopting PD effort or further coordinating among partners

Rationale

- Agricultural streams likely have buffer, in-stream, and floodplain restoration opportunities that are good for habitat and water quality, and can be cost effective
 - E.g., buffer plantings and low-tech floodplain reconnection both offer about 2.5kg P reduction per acre in the Winooski River Basin
- Some of these project needs are called out in River Corridor Plans and in the Watershed Projects Database, but these plans:
 - don't identify projects on small streams (the large majority of Winooski river miles)
 - don't specify the landowner(s) across which degraded riparian zones span
- Additionally, once landowners are IDed, directed outreach might have a low probability of success at the cost of staff time

Example of Analysis

- Measured ag buffer in purple
- SPAN owner (with multiple individual parcels) outlined in blue.
- The analysis sums ag buffer acreage within single SPAN along both small and larger streams, excluding from the calculation:
 - Forest cover, surface water, impervious surfaces
- The analysis can also differentiate ag buffer that is: in vs. out of wetland, along intermittent vs perennial stream



Project Development Proposal

- Develop an ANR/AAFMM-vetted mass mailer targeting the basin's top 200-400 agricultural stream landowners, advertising funding opportunities to develop and pay for buffer and/or low-tech floodplain projects that have flood resilience, water quality, and wildlife benefits
- At best, some portion (2-5%?) will respond with interest for further site visit and project development, with a high-cost efficiency of initial outreach
 - e.g., A \$2000 project development effort that lands just 2 two-acre plantings or floodplain projects at 2.5 kg P/acre could still spend up to \$148k for design/implementation and be considered cost efficient
 - Note, all interested SPANs would be shared with AAFMM to determine interest/opportunity in the CREP program, as well
- At worst, no one will respond, a low-cost effort/risk fails, and other outreach methods need to be brainstormed (or this targeted ag stream development effort could be abandoned)

Supporting Analysis

- ~1380 acres of unforested ag land within a 50ft buffer of Winooski basin streams
- Approx. number of landowners (SPAN #s) with given acreages within 50ft stream buffer:
 - > 0.1 acres → 1634 landowners (1346 total acres)
 - > 0.5 acres → 741 landowners (1119 total acres)
 - > 1 acre → 380 landowners (863 total acres)
 - **> 2 acres → 150 landowners** (540 total acres)
 - > 5 acres → 24 landowners (162 total acres)
- **Target those in red for initial mailer campaign?**
- Already have the list of addressees generated
- Need someone to design, vet with ANR/AAFMM, print and mail

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Announcements

- ◆ O & M Trainings + Verifier Certification
 - ◆ Tier 1: O & M of Clean Water Projects: two parts, recorded session
 - ◆ Tier 2:
 - ◆ Part 1: Verification Tools
 - ◆ What: Set up Survey 123, ArcGIS Online account & accessing surveys
 - ◆ When: 28 June 2024, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
 - ◆ Where: Online, register [here](#)
 - ◆ Part 2: Verification Process & Survey 123
 - ◆ What: Full verification process, checklist scoring & reporting
 - ◆ When: 10 July 2024, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM
 - ◆ Where: Online, register [here](#)
 - ◆ Part 3: Verification Field Training
 - ◆ What: Walkthrough checklists & use in the field
 - ◆ When: Under development
- ◆ CWSP Presentation at Berlin Planning Commission 26 June 2024
- ◆ Proposals to be considered at the 18 July 2024 BWQC meeting should be submitted by 11 July 2024

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FY25 Formula Grant Funding

Annual Funding Based on Formula					
	Design, Engineering & Construction	Project Identification & Development	Total Project Funding	Maximum Administrative Costs	Total Project Funding + Max Admin
FY23	\$827,068	\$57,737	\$884,805	\$156,142	\$1,040,947
FY24	\$871,791	\$60,859	\$932,650	\$164,585	\$1,097,235
FY25¹	\$640,538	\$230,503	\$918,335 ²	\$162,059	\$1,080,394

Phosphorous Reduction Targets (kg / yr)				
Farm Fields	Developed Lands	Forest	Streams	Total
9.2	23.9	0	36.4	69.6 ³

1. Proposed award amount and funding distribution.
2. This amount includes \$47,294 for Operations & Maintenance costs.
3. Proposed p-reduction target: 53.9 kg / yr