

Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council Meeting

17 October 2024

Agenda

1:00 Call to order & Roll call

1:05 Updates to agenda

1:10 Public Comment

1:15 Review & approve minutes from 19 September 2024 meeting (action)

1:20 Project Proposal Initial Review (discussion)

- ◆ Vermont Land Trust
 - ◆ Roland Stream Crossing
- ◆ Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
 - ◆ Project Development in Waitsfield

1:40 Project Proposal Final Review (action)

- ◆ Lamoille Natural Resources Conservation District
 - ◆ Upper Little River Project Development
- ◆ Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
 - ◆ Project Development in Berlin
 - ◆ Final Design in Calais

2:15 Announcements (discussion)

2:30 Adjourn

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Recognize Alternate for Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

- ◆ Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District:
 - ◆ *Alternate: Macie Broussard, Conservation Specialist*

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Initial Proposal Review: Roland Stream Crossing - Richmond

- ◆ Primary Contact: Allaire Diamond, Ecology & Restoration Program Director
- ◆ Project Type: Floodplain / Stream Restoration
- ◆ Project Phase: Implementation
- ◆ Project Description: Implementation of a stream crossing improvement on a headwater tributary of the Winooski River. Restoration includes two culvert replacements and partial stone wall removal.
- ◆ P-reduction:
 - ◆ 5.72 kg / yr
 - ◆ *Unlikely to be eligible for this P credit due to other upstream and downstream barriers to longitudinal connectivity as per recently approved DEC Phosphorus crediting method for unmapped culverts on perennial streams.*
- ◆ Project Budget:
 - ◆ \$48,995.88

Initial Proposal Review: Floodplain Project Development - Waitsfield

- ◆ Primary Contact: Brian Voigt, Senior Planner, Central VT Regional Planning Commission
- ◆ Project Type: Project Development
- ◆ Project Description: The project proposes to scope and develop ~~four~~**six** Floodplain Restoration projects along the Upper Mad River. The four projects included in the initial proposal are located on town land managed by the Waitsfield Conservation Commission. *Since the proposal was submitted, two adjacent landowners have expressed interest in developing similar types of projects on their properties.*
- ◆ Project Deliverables:
 - ◆ Number of projects scoped & developed: 4 – 6
- ◆ Project Budget:
 - ◆ Project Development: \$8,461.15

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Final Proposal Review: Little River Project Development - Stowe

- ◆ Primary Contact: Peter Danforth, Director, Lamoille County NRCD
- ◆ Project Type: Project Development
- ◆ Project Phase: Project Development
- ◆ Project Description: The project proposes to scope and develop buffer plantings, stream/floodplain restorations, easement, and wetland restoration projects along the Little River with cost-efficient phosphorus reductions.
- ◆ Project Deliverables:
 - ◆ Number of projects scoped: 15
- ◆ Project Budget:
 - ◆ Project Development: ~~\$15,000~~ **\$30,000**
- ◆ Recommendation: *prioritize this funding request*

Final Proposal Review: Riparian Buffer & Culvert Replacement Project Development - Berlin

- ◆ **Primary Contact:** Brian Voigt, Senior Planner, Central VT Regional Planning Commission
- ◆ **Project Type:** Project Development
- ◆ **Project Description:** The project proposes to scope and develop Riparian Buffer Planting and Culvert Replacement projects in the Steven's Branch and Dog River sub-watersheds with cost-efficient phosphorus reductions.
- ◆ **Project Deliverables:**
 - ◆ Number of projects scoped: 20
 - ◆ Specific project development: 3-5
- ◆ **Project Budget:**
 - ◆ Project Development: \$29,908
- ◆ **Recommendation:** *prioritize this funding requests*

Final Design: Marshfield Road Stormwater Gully - Calais

- ◆ Primary Contact: Brian Voigt, Senior Planner, Central VT Regional Planning Commission
- ◆ Project Type: Stormwater
- ◆ Project Phase: ~~Preliminary Design~~ **Final Design**
- ◆ Project Description: Significant downstream erosion will be addressed through stone stabilization, check dam structures, or a terrace or two of gabions and layering small stone below with larger stone down the gully. **An eligibility determination is needed for culvert upsizing using the recently approved DEC Phosphorus crediting method for unmapped culverts on perennial streams.**
- ◆ P-reduction:
 - ◆ Gully stabilization: 4.87 kg / yr
 - ◆ **Culvert replacement (if eligible): 3.19 kg / yr**
- ◆ Project Budget:
 - ◆ Final Design: ~~\$38,453~~ **\$5,979**
 - ◆ Anticipated Future Funding: \$35,000

Final Design: Marshfield Road Stormwater Gully - Calais

Table 1-1: Cost-Effectiveness Score

Criteria	Value
Funding Request	\$5,979
Future Funding Request	\$35,000
Total Cost	\$40,979
Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr)	4.87*
Design Life	15
Cost Effectiveness (\$ / kg)	\$8,415
Cost-Effectiveness Score	32.5
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	

* Does not include culvert replacement

Table 1-2: 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	

Final Design: Marshfield Road Stormwater Gully - Calais

Table 1-3: Co-benefits Score

Co-benefit	Score	Weight	Weighted Score
Environmental Justice	0	17.78%	0
Income	0		
Race	0		
Language	0		
Ecological Benefits	3	30.44%	0.9132
Listed / Impaired Water Resource	3		
Priority Water Resource	0		
Habitat & Species Enhancement	0		
Ecosystem Services	5	23.78%	1.189
Flood Regulation	5		
Carbon Sequestration	0		
Community Building	0	15.78%	0
Community Involvement	0		
Working Landscape	0		
Recreation	0		
Education	0	12.22%	0
Interpretive Signage	0		
Meetings & Workshops	0		
Total Co-benefits Score			2.1022
Maximum Weighted Score = 10 points			

Table 1-4: Total project Score

Criteria	Score
Cost-Effectiveness Score	32.5
Project Risk Score	5
Design Life Score	5
Co-benefits Score	2.1
Total Score	44.6

The anticipated total project cost (including implementation-phase expenses) is well below the cost-effectiveness rate necessary to achieve the phosphorous-reduction target for the basin.

Recommendation: prioritize this funding request

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Announcements

- ◆ Project Development & Outreach:
 - ◆ Plainfield – CVRPC working with Plainfield Conservation Commission on riparian buffer planting at Recreation Field
 - ◆ Future proposal ideas?
- ◆ Clean Water Advisory Committee Meeting: 14 November 2024, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 - ◆ *FEMA Mapping, Flood Hazard River Corridor Bylaws, and Hazard Mitigation Funding*
 - ◆ Ned Swanberg, Vermont Flood Hazard Mapping Coordinator | Regional Floodplain Manager
 - ◆ Stephanie Smith, Hazard Mitigation Section Chief | State Hazard Mitigation Officer
- ◆ Other announcements

Next meeting scheduled 21 November 2024

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