Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider

Date: 18 November 2024

To: Winooski Basin Water Quality Council

Re: Winooski Basin Clean Water Service Provider Staff recommendation for project prioritization & funding

This memo offers funding recommendations for the following two proposals:

1. Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission – Project Development in Waitsfield
2. Vermont Land Trust – Roland Stream Crossing – Implementation

Project development proposals were evaluated on the likelihood of successfully identifying water quality restoration projects that can be advanced through implementation using Formula Grant funds. Design- and implementation proposals 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.

Funding Recommendations

1. **Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission – Project Development in Waitsfield:** This proposal seeks funding to conduct project scoping and development for five (5) floodplain reconnection projects in the Mad River watershed. Four of the five project sites are on land owned by the Town of Waitsfield. The owner of the private parcel requested that CVRPC include their property in the assessment phase. The Selectboard and Conservation Commission are supportive of this effort. CVRPC staff will keep Friends of the Mad River apprised of project activities and leverage their expertise for subsequent project phases. **Recommendation: prioritize this funding request.**

2. **Vermont Land Trust – Roland Stream Crossing:** This proposal seeks funding to implement a stream crossing improvement on a headwater tributary of the Winooski River in Richmond, VT. The project is estimated to reduce 5.72 kg of phosphorous from entering the Basin's waterways each year. Although the design life of the project is only ten (10) years, it is still cost efficient due to its relatively low price. There are still some outstanding questions related to project eligibility that the CWSP and VLT are actively working with the Basin Planner to resolve. **Recommendation: prioritize this funding request pending approval from the DEC / Basin Planner for phosphorous crediting.**

Table 2-1: Cost-Effectiveness Score

Criteria	Value
Funding Request	$48,996
Future Funding Request	$0
Total Cost	$48,996
Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr)	5.72
Design Life	10
Cost Effectiveness ($ / kg)	$12,849
Cost-Effectiveness Score	**45**
Cost Effectiveness Formula ($ / kg / yr) = ((15 years / project design life) * (Total Cost)) / (Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr))	

Maximum Implementation-phase Cost-Effectiveness Score = 75 points

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

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	**0**	**30.44%**	**0**
Listed / Impaired Water Resource	0		
Priority Water Resource	0		
Habitat & Species Enhancement	0		
Ecosystem Services	**5**	**23.78%**	**1.189**
Flood Regulation	5		
Carbon Sequestration	0		
Community Building	**3**	**15.78%**	**0.4734**
Community Involvement	0		
Working Landscape	3		
Recreation	0		
Education	**0**	**12.22%**	**0**
Interpretive Signage	0		
Meetings & Workshops	0		
Total Co-benefits Score			**1.6624**

Maximum Weighted Score = 10 points

Table 1-4: Total Project Score

Criteria	Score
Cost-Effectiveness Score	45
Project Risk Score	5
Design Life Score	0
Co-benefits Score	1.66
Total Project Score	**51.66**