

Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider

Date: 16 December 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 four proposals:

1. Friends of the Winooski River – Fecteau Planting
2. Friends of the Winooski River – John Fowler Road Planting
3. Friends of the Winooski River – Huntington Acres Planting
4. Friends of the Winooski River – Tyler Place Planting

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-phase 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. Friends of the Winooski River – Fecteau Planting:** This proposal seeks funding to implement a riparian buffer planting on 1.25 acres along the Huntington River. The landowner supports this project. The expected phosphorous reduction for this project is 2.73 kg / yr. At \$5,267 / kg p, this project is considered cost-efficient. The total project score of 92.36 is high for an Implementation-phase project. **Recommendation: prioritize this funding request.**

Table 1-1: Cost-Effectiveness Score

Criteria	Value
Funding Request	\$14,379
Future Funding Request	\$0
Total Cost	\$14,379
Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr)	2.73
Design Life	15
Cost Effectiveness (\$ / kg)	\$5,267
Cost-Effectiveness Score	75
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	1.25
Permitting	2.5
Total Score	8.75

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	3	30.44%	0.9132
Listed / Impaired Water Resource	0		
Priority Water Resource	3		
Habitat & Species Enhancement	0		
Ecosystem Services	10	23.78%	2.378
Flood Regulation	5		
Carbon Sequestration	5		
Community Building	2	15.78%	0.3156
Community Involvement	2		
Working Landscape	0		
Recreation	0		
Education	0	12.22%	0
Interpretive Signage	0		
Meetings & Workshops	0		
Total Co-benefits Score 3.6068			

Maximum Weighted Score = 10 points

Table 1-4: Total Project Score

Criteria	Score
Cost-Effectiveness Score	75
Project Risk Score	8.75
Design Life Score	5
Co-benefits Score	3.6068
Total Project Score	92.36

2. Friends of the Winooski River – John Fowler Road Planting: This proposal seeks funding to implement a riparian buffer planting on 1.25

acres along the Winooski River. The landowner supports this project. The expected phosphorous reduction for this project is 2.0 kg / yr. At \$7,144 / kg p, this project is considered cost-efficient. The total project score of 93.91 is high for an Implementation-phase project.

Recommendation: prioritize this funding request.

Table 2-1: Cost-Effectiveness Score

Criteria	Value
Funding Request	\$14,288
Future Funding Request	\$0
Total Cost	\$14,288
Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr)	2
Design Life	15
Cost Effectiveness (\$ / kg)	\$7,144
Cost-Effectiveness Score	75
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 2-2: Project Risk Score

Risk Category	Points
Landowner Relations	2.5
Organizational Capacity	2.5
Operations & Maintenance	1.25
Permitting	2.5
Total Score	8.75

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	5	30.44%	1.522
Listed / Impaired Water Resource	3		
Priority Water Resource	0		
Habitat & Species Enhancement	2		
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	0	12.22%	0
Interpretive Signage	0		
Meetings & Workshops	0		
Total Co-benefits Score 5.1624			

Maximum Weighted Score = 10 points

Table 2-4: Total Project Score

Criteria	Score
Cost-Effectiveness Score	75
Project Risk Score	8.75
Design Life Score	5
Co-benefits Score	5.1624
Total Project Score	93.91

3. Friends of the Winooski River – Huntington Acres Planting: This proposal seeks funding to implement a riparian buffer planting on 1.25 acres along the Huntington River. The landowners support this project.

The expected phosphorous reduction for this project is 1.58 kg / yr. At \$6,646 / kg p, this project is considered cost-efficient. The total project score of 92.67 is high for an Implementation-phase project.

Recommendation: prioritize this funding request.

Table 3-1: Cost-Effectiveness Score

Criteria	Value
Funding Request	\$10,501
Future Funding Request	\$0
Total Cost	\$10,501
Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr)	1.58
Design Life	15
Cost Effectiveness (\$ / kg)	\$6,646
Cost-Effectiveness Score	75
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 3-2: Project Risk Score

Risk Category	Points
Landowner Relations	2.5
Organizational Capacity	2.5
Operations & Maintenance	1.25
Permitting	2.5
Total Score	8.75

Maximum Total Score = 10 points

Table 3-3: 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	0		
Priority Water Resource	3		
Habitat & Species Enhancement	0		
Ecosystem Services	10	23.78%	2.378
Flood Regulation	5		
Carbon Sequestration	5		
Community Building	4	15.78%	0.6312
Community Involvement	2		
Working Landscape	0		
Recreation	2		
Education	0	12.22%	0
Interpretive Signage	0		
Meetings & Workshops	0		
Total Co-benefits Score 3.9224			

Maximum Weighted Score = 10 points

Table 3-4: Total Project Score

Criteria	Score
Cost-Effectiveness Score	75
Project Risk Score	8.75
Design Life Score	5
Co-benefits Score	3.9224
Total Project Score	92.67

4. Friends of the Winooski River – Tyler Place Planting: This proposal seeks funding to implement a riparian buffer planting on 1.5

acres along a tributary to the Winooski River. The landowner supports this project. The expected phosphorous reduction for this project is 2.21 kg / yr. At \$7,934 / kg p, this project is considered cost-efficient. The total project score is 82.07. **Recommendation: prioritize this funding request.**

Table 4-1: Cost-Effectiveness Score

Criteria	Value
Funding Request	\$17,534
Future Funding Request	\$0
Total Cost	\$17,534
Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr)	2.21
Design Life	15
Cost Effectiveness (\$ / kg)	\$7,934
Cost-Effectiveness Score	65
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 4-2: Project Risk Score

Risk Category	Points
Landowner Relations	2.5
Organizational Capacity	2.5
Operations & Maintenance	1.25
Permitting	2.5
Total Score	8.75

Maximum Total Score = 10 points

Table 4-3: 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	10	23.78%	2.378
Flood Regulation	5		
Carbon Sequestration	5		
Community Building	6	15.78%	0.9468
Community Involvement	2		
Working Landscape	2		
Recreation	2		
Education	0	12.22%	0
Interpretive Signage	0		
Meetings & Workshops	0		
Total Co-benefits Score 3.3248			

Maximum Weighted Score = 10 points

Table 4-4: Total Project Score

Criteria	Score
Cost-Effectiveness Score	65
Project Risk Score	8.75
Design Life Score	5
Co-benefits Score	3.3248
Total Project Score	82.07