

Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council Meeting

20 November 2025

Agenda

1:00 Call to order & Roll call

1:05 Updates to agenda

1:10 Public Comment

1:15 Review & approve minutes from 16 October 2025 meeting (action)

1:35 Project Proposal Preliminary Review (discussion)

1:50 Cost-rate methodology updates & FY26 Formula Grant Award (discussion)

2:15 Announcements

2:20 Adjourn

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Initial Proposal Review:

Riparian Buffer Planting – Cheeseactory Road

- ◆ Primary Contact: Lucas Goldfluss, Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District
- ◆ Project Type: Riparian Buffer Planting – Implementation
- ◆ Project Description: This proposal seeks funds to plant a 100' wide riparian buffer at a density of 400 stems / acre on ~4-acres across two parcels in the Muddy Brook watershed (Shelburne & South Burlington).
- ◆ Project Deliverables:
 - ◆ Acres of riparian buffer planted / restored: ~4
 - ◆ P-reduction: 3.9 kg / yr
- ◆ Project Budget:
 - ◆ Formula Grant: \$30,056
 - ◆ Non-State Matching Funds: \$0
 - ◆ Total Project Budget: \$30,056



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Cost-Rate Methodology

◆ Key Changes

- ◆ Dataset includes projects reported to Clean Water Reporting Framework between SFY 2016 – 2024
- ◆ Normalized project costs to January 2025 dollars
- ◆ Updated cost-rate calculations: calculated as the median cost per unit phosphorous reduction
- ◆ Updated projects types: align project types with those currently eligible for formula grant funding
- ◆ Updated approach to estimating sector cost rates: single representative cost or weighted cost rate reflecting expected distribution of implementation by project category
- ◆ Updated funding:
 - ◆ Project Development: increased from 8% to 10%
 - ◆ Operations & Maintenance: \$10,000 + 2.8% of value of implemented projects

◆ Type 3 Notice

- ◆ Posted to the State's Environmental Notice Bulletin for 30-day comment period
- ◆ DEC is addressing comments

Cost-Rate Methodology

Table 1. Clean water project category cost rates correlated to non-regulatory target land use sector.

Non-regulatory Land Use Target Sector	Project Category	2025 Project Category Cost Rate (\$/kg/yr)	Weighting	2025 Sector Weighted Cost Rate (\$/kg/yr)	2023 Sector Average Cost Rate (\$/kg/yr) ¹
Streams	Floodplain and Stream Restoration	\$13,241	75%		
Streams	Dam Removal and Associated Restoration	\$46,114	25%		
Streams*	<i>weighted average</i>			\$21,459	\$10,601
Agriculture**	Riparian Buffer Restoration	\$4,072		\$4,072	\$6,725
Forest***	Forest Road Erosion Control	\$18,897		\$18,897	\$9,565
Developed	Structural Stormwater Treatment	\$78,051	50%		
Developed	Road Erosion Control	\$22,397	35%		
Developed	Lake Shoreland Stormwater Treatment	\$75,217	2.5%		
Developed	Riparian Buffer Restoration	\$4,072	10%		
Developed	Lake Shoreline Stabilization	\$10,809	2.5%		
Developed****	<i>weighted average</i>			\$49,422	\$15,822

Formula Grant Award

Farm	Developed	Forest	Stream	Total
116.1	297.0	0	457.5	870.7

P-reduction totals over the next 12 years (kg/yr)

Farm	Developed	Forest	Stream	10% Project ID	15% Admin	Total Project Completion + Admin
\$472,929	\$14,676,991	\$0	\$9,818,458	\$2,774,264	\$4,895,760	\$32,638,403

Funding needed to accomplish 12-year phosphorous reduction target.

P-reduction Progress

Project Title	Funding Amount	Phosphorous Reduction
Tyler Place Planting - Implementation - Jericho	\$17,534	2.21
1735 Main Rd Planting - Implementation - Huntington	\$14,379	2.73
John Fowler Road Buffer Planting - Winooski River - Plainfield	\$14,288	2.00
Huntington Acres Planting - Implementation - Huntington	\$10,051	1.58
John Fowler Rd. Winooski Berm Removal: Implementation	\$165,981	14.95
Water Street Stormwater Project – Adoption – Northfield	\$13,100	22.3
Other Project Development & Design Projects (12)	\$197,457	
Pending Projects – funded (4)	\$66,215	8.05
Total	\$432,790 (\$499,005)	45.77 (53.82)

Pipe Dream or Pipeline?

- ◇ Berlin
 - ◇ McCarty Road Culvert Replacement
 - ◇ 20.9 kg / yr
 - ◇ \$330,000 - \$500,000 for Design & Implementation
- ◇ Waitsfield
 - ◇ Lower Fairgrounds
 - ◇ 50.7 kg / yr
 - ◇ \$1,175,000 for Design & Implementation
 - ◇ Private Property
 - ◇ 5.6 kg / yr
 - ◇ \$155,000 for Design & Implementation
- ◇ Waterbury
 - ◇ Randall Meadows
 - ◇ 100+ kg / yr
 - ◇ \$2,500,000+ for Design & Implementation

Formula Grant Award

State Fiscal Year	Agreement Amount	Assigned Phosphorous Reduction Target (kg)
2023	\$1,040,947	29.7
2024	\$1,097,235	30.1
2025	\$1,080,394	28.8
2026	\$1,004,301	26.3
Total	\$4,222,880	114.9

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Announcements

- ◆ [Edits to the Vermont Wetland Rules](#) are now posted for public comment through January 14th.
 - ◆ The edits allow for the implementation of the wetland modification portion of the [Executive Order 06-25](#) and would allow certain residential housing projects in designated areas to proceed without a wetlands permit. The following meeting is open to anyone who wants to learn more or to provide a comment:
 - ◆ Tuesday, December 16 at 1pm, Dewey 1st Floor Conference Room, 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT or Virtual. [Register Here](#)
 - ◆ Send comments to WetlandsRulemakingComment@vermont.gov before January 15, 2026
- ◆ **[Forest road and trail Stakeholder Directory](#)** - fill out this short form to share your contact info for the purposes of building a stakeholder directory to connect funding program administrators with project implementors and interested landowners.
- ◆ **CWSP Funding** - The deadline for consideration at the November Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council meeting is 11 December 2025. [Schedule a meeting](#) with Brian & Lincoln for proposal development assistance.

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Next Meeting: 18 December 2025