Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider

Date: 13 February 2026

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 proposal:

1. Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission – Preliminary Design – Lower Fairground Floodplain Restoration

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. **1. Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission – Preliminary Design – Lower Fairground Floodplain Restoration:** This proposal seeks funding to complete a Preliminary Design for the Lower Fairgrounds site in Waitsfield. The Town Selectboard and Conservation Commission support this project. The very preliminary phosphorous reduction estimate for this project is 50.7 kg / yr. At $37,530 / kg p, this project is close to the line of what is considered cost-efficient. However, the Implementation Cost is a conservative cost estimate that is expected to decrease based on information developed during the Preliminary Design phase. The total project score of 14.16 is reasonable (albeit a bit low) for a Preliminary Design-phase project with a lot of unknowns. **Recommendation: prioritize this funding request.**

Table 1-1: Cost-Effectiveness Score

Criteria	Value
Funding Request	$18,499
Future Funding Request	$1,250,000
Total Cost	1,268,499
Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr)	50.7
Design Life	10
Cost Effectiveness ($ / kg)	37,530
Cost-Effectiveness Score	**5**
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	2.5
Total Score	**7.5**

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	5
Project Risk Score	7.5
Design Life Score	0
Co-benefits Score	1.6624
Total Project Score	**14.16**