

Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider

Date: 14 August 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. Vermont Land Trust – Mill Brook – Winooski Confluence Floodplain Restoration - 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-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. Vermont Land Trust – Implementation – Winooski Confluence Floodplain Restoration:** This project will restore the floodplain at the confluence of the Mill Brook and the Winooski River (Jericho). Project elements include the creation of a floodplain terrace, a ballasted engineered log jam in the section closest to Vermont Route 117 and riparian planting on and above the engineered log jam to a maximum of 50' where possible. **Recommendation: prioritize this funding request.**

Table 1-1: Cost-Effectiveness Score

Criteria	Value
Funding Request	\$59,225
Future Funding Request	\$0
Total Cost	\$59,225
Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr)	1.85
Design Life	15
Cost Effectiveness (\$ / kg)	\$32,014
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	10	23.78%	2.378
Flood Regulation	5		
Carbon Sequestration	0		
Community Building	6	15.78%	0.9468
Community Involvement	4		
Working Landscape	0		
Recreation	2		
Education	5	12.22%	0.611
Interpretive Signage	0		
Meetings & Workshops	5		
Total Co-benefits Score 3.9358			

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	5
Co-benefits Score	3.9358
Total Project Score	21.44