

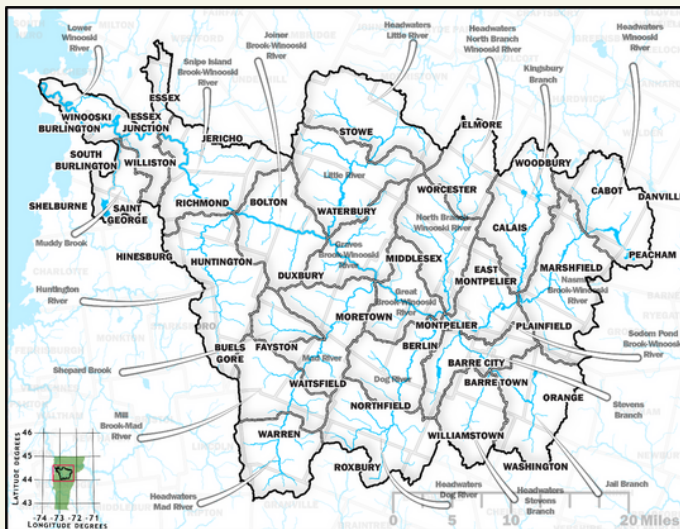
WPP NEWSLETTER

November 2023



THE WATERSHED PLANNING PROGRAM

Greetings from the [Watershed Planning Program](#) team! At WPP, we support clean water project implementation in the State in a variety of ways. One of the main tools we use to organize clean water project prioritization is through watershed management plans, called Tactical Basin Plans. These plans summarize current water quality conditions and prioritize surface water protection and restoration. In this newsletter, we want to highlight projects which were successful during the July 2023 flooding, and which exemplify the need for thoughtful restoration of floodplains, riparian buffers, and dam removal. Continue reading to learn more!



BASIN 8 (WINOOSKI) TACTICAL BASIN PLAN

The [draft Tactical Basin Plan for the Winooski watershed](#) (Basin 8) has been released for public comment. The plan proposes 50 strategies to protect and restore waters in the basin and reduce runoff phosphorus to Lake Champlain.



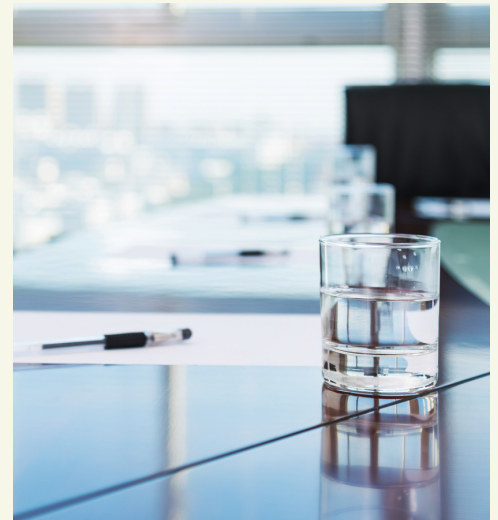
FLOOD RESILIENCY: DAM REMOVAL IN WEST WINDSOR

Before Tropical Storm Irene in 2011, the Harrington Road Dam in West Windsor was adjacent to Harrington Road. The dam was already breached and partially intact at that time, which allowed only a narrow opening for water to pass through. During TS Irene, water backed up behind the dam and raised over the bank, taking out a nearby historic barn. Moreover, the intense power of the flow below the dam took out over 200 feet of Harrington Road. To prevent this from happening again – the dam had to go.

Since the dam was built on bedrock, there was no reason to remove the entire structure. Rather, the highest part of the dam was removed to prevent it from holding back water, and, during the July 2023 flood, water flowed freely over the entire width of the dam. As a result, the project was a success and prevented the destructive flows of TS Irene.

CLEAN WATER SERVICE NETWORK SUMMIT

The Watershed Planning and Clean Water Initiative Programs are organizing a summit for service providers, basin councils, clean water practitioners, and other stakeholders to advance shared learning and identify opportunities for improvement. A short survey has been prepared to solicit input on potential topics, dates, and logistics for the summit. This summit is expected to take place in either central Vermont or Chittenden County in March 2024. Please try to complete [the survey](#) by 17 November - thank you for your interest!





Before restoration



After restoration

FLOOD RESILIENCY: VALLEY BROOK RESTORATION PROJECT

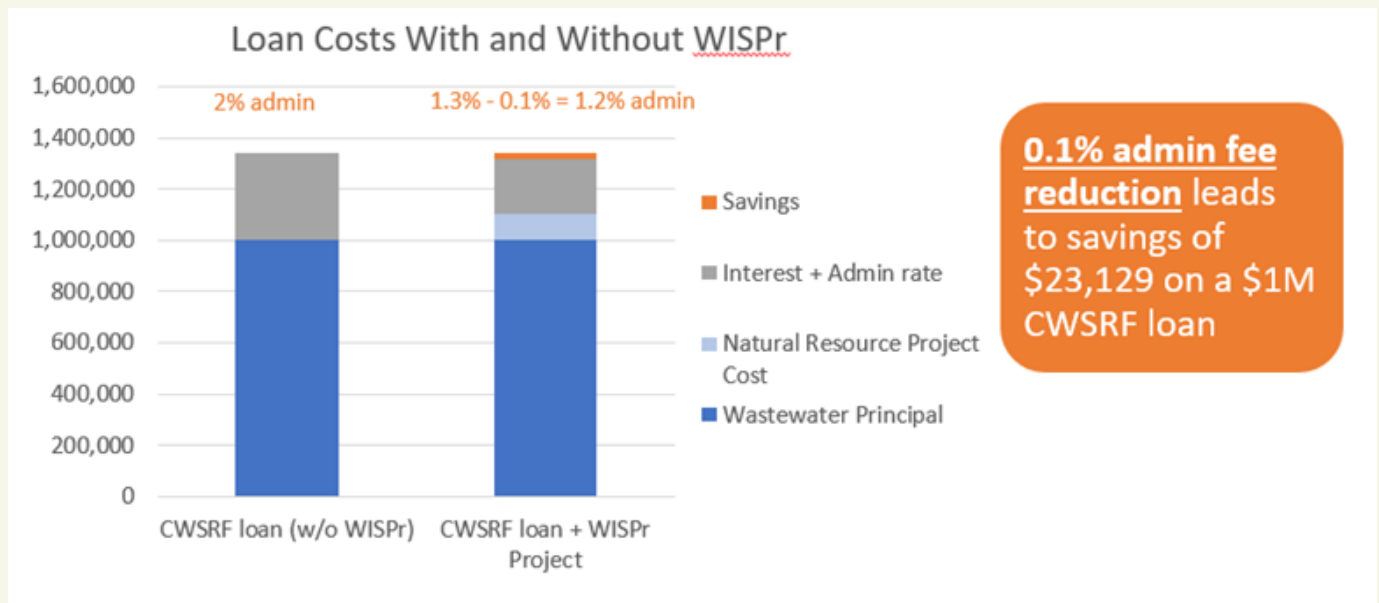
The Memphremagog Watershed Association completed Phase 1 of a [farm retirement and floodplain restoration project](#) on Valley Brook in Morgan. The site, a former dairy farm, was purchased by the VT Fish & Wildlife Department and conserved as a Streambank Management Area (SMA) for public use.

After the July floods, crews installed over 30 beaver dam analogues in small tributaries that feed into Valley Brook, slowing water flow, trapping sediment, and providing aquatic habitat. The former farm's barns and buildings were deconstructed, and the land was reclaimed with a conservation species mix and straw mulch. Finally, workers removed culverts, reconnected stream channels, decommissioned washed-out forest and farm roads, and constructed a new stream riffle. This work will reduce sediment loading to Valley Brook and prevent an estimated 28 kg of phosphorus from entering Lake Seymour each year.

TOWN HALL GUIDANCE: ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER



In Vermont, town hall meetings are organized by a set of parliamentary rules called "Robert's Rules of Order" or simply "Robert's Rules." As daunting as they might seem, the rules are intended to give everyone a say, without overemphasizing any one person or group. To help you learn about these rules, we have collected some resources, such as this [procedure guide](#) from the Vermont Institute for Government and a [training video](#) from the Brattleboro RTM Steering Committee.



AN INTRODUCTION TO WISPR

The [Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program](#) (WISPr) is a funding program specifically for natural resources projects that offer water quality benefits. The program operates by pairing natural resource projects with a sponsoring Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) municipal loan. When a sponsoring municipality agrees to participate in WISPr, the cost of the WISPr project may be up to 10% of the total CWSRF loan. For example, if the CWSRF loan is \$1M, this municipality is eligible to sponsor WISPr projects up to a total cost of \$100,000.

The cost of the WISPr project is added to the principal of the loan and the **administrative fee rate** is decreased to the point where the lifetime costs of the CWSRF treatment works and Natural Resource Projects are equal to the lifetime cost of the CWSRF treatment works project alone, without any admin rate reduction. The admin rate is then reduced by an additional 0.1% to provide an incentive in savings for the sponsoring municipality. In the example above, a **\$100,000 natural resource project** on a **\$1M CWSRF loan** would lead to **\$23,129 in savings**.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Marie Caduto, Patrick Hurley, and Katherine King for their contribution to this month's newsletter. If you have any information or materials that you would like to present in a future newsletter, reach out to Jack at Jack.Reed@Vermont.gov.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

If you speak a language other than English or need reasonable accommodation for effective communication, [ANR offers free language assistance](#) for its programs and materials. You may also upload this document into [Google Translate](#) for a translation.