

ECO AmeriCorps

2024-2025



Water Quality Planner

Addison County Regional Planning Commission, 14 Seminary St, Middlebury, VT 05753

ACRPC strives to plan together to improve and sustain healthy, prosperous, and beautiful communities. We accomplish that mission by providing a forum for municipalities to discuss and resolve mutual concerns, providing planning and technical assistance (during all project phases) to help communities implement projects and objectives from Town and Regional plans, collect and distribute research, planning information, and expertise collaboratively and develop an actionable, relevant, and visionary Regional Plan.

Position Supervisor: Adam Lougee, Executive Director

I (Adam) am the Executive Director of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. As such, I am responsible for programming, budgeting, and overseeing staff.

The Role:

The proposed Water Quality Planner ECO position would primarily be responsible for the following initiatives:

- 1) Recreation resource development and planning. Our towns are interested in the conservation of natural resources and increasing local access to natural spaces. Access to these areas improves the wellbeing for residents and increases public interest in protecting natural areas. The ECO position will allow ACRPC to offer recreation planning services to our communities, a space where we currently lack capacity. Example projects include the development of town forest management plans, design and implementation of town parks, and support of local organizations seeking funding for recreation projects. Estimate 1 mile of trail developed or improved and 100 acres of municipal land improved.
- 2) Support ACRPC, in its role as a Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP), with the review of water quality projects and development of CWSP infrastructure. Provide support with appropriate water

quality project identification and outreach. Impact will include an increase in the number of projects available to and funded by CWSP. Estimate 5-10 projects supported.

3) Perform municipal culvert and road erosion inventories. This is a field service activity that involves walking or biking the municipal road network to monitor road impacts on local streams. Estimate two towns inventoried, about 30 miles of road monitored.

4) Assist the Addison County River Watch Collaborative with current projects and provide capacity and organizational support in a variety of ways. This will enable the collaborative to provide monitoring of local streams with greater speed and efficiency, and create capacity for water quality project development. Estimate 0.25 miles of stream bank improved, 3 miles of stream monitored, and 30 volunteers supported.

5) Assist Towns to identify projects and take advantage of available funding to improve water quality through various methodologies (green infrastructure, sewer line replacement, bank stabilization, riparian restoration, etc) and across various stages of project development (preliminary design, final design, and implementation phases).

The ECO position provides a critical opportunity for our organization to offer services to the community that we otherwise would not be able to perform. Specifically, our staff does not have funding or staff capacity to support our local water quality groups, perform inventories in the field, or engage in the early stage project development required to ensure the success of the clean water service provider. Similarly, recreation projects have become a major point of interest to our communities but our office does not have built in capacity to support those projects. We depend upon our ECO position to provide these project development services as well as bring new ideas and innovation to our organization.

Essential Functions

1) Recreation resource development and planning. Our towns are interested in the conservation of natural resources and increasing local access to natural spaces. Access to these areas improves the wellbeing for residents and increases public interest in protecting natural areas. The ECO position will allow ACRPC to offer recreation planning services to our communities, a space where we currently lack capacity.

- Engage municipalities and local recreation organizations to identify projects desired by the community.
- Facilitate community discussions and collect feedback on project goals and vision.
- Identify appropriate funding opportunities and other resources to develop and implement projects
- Provide grant writing support and technical assistance as needed.

2) Support ACRPC, in its role as a Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP), with the review of water quality projects and development of CWSP infrastructure. Provide support with appropriate water quality project identification and outreach. Impact will include an increase in the number of projects available to and funded by CWSP.

- Provide education and outreach to groups interested in developing a clean water project and application to the CWSP. Estimate 5 projects supported.

- Evaluate proposed projects on the basis of tons of phosphorus removed utilizing state tools.

Assist the Addison County River Watch Collaborative with current projects and provide capacity and organizational support in a variety of ways. This will enable the collaborative to provide monitoring of local streams with greater speed and efficiency, and create capacity for water quality project development. Activities will include:

- Support the development and execution of stream buffer planting projects.
- Facilitate and manage ongoing water quality monitoring throughout Addison co.
- Train volunteers to perform stream monitoring.
- Data management and analysis.
- Website management

Secondary Functions

The following list details projects ACRPC would be interested in having an ECO AmeriCorps member implement or support during their service term. Follow through on each of these projects will be dependent on the Member's technical skills and interests in addition to the present needs of the Commission.

- Write grants and supervise project design for storm water and other water-related projects in various stages (preliminary design, final design, and implementation phases). This task may involve field service, specifically with assessing sites, but will mainly require writing, coordination, organization, and administering service activities.
- Update road erosion inventories and culvert inventories on VT-Culverts database to include size and angle of approach for each of the culverts in the region as a way of evaluating their efficacy during a bank-full flood event. Both inventories will involve field service, specifically in locating and assessing the culverts. This project may also include the development of materials to instruct future Members on how to conduct culvert assessments and update applicable databases. If possible, evaluate culvert efficacy through modeling tools, to determine which ones are in need of replacement.
- Organize/coordinate an annual Conservation Commissions/River Conservancy/Nature Conservancy meeting based on watershed rather than Town boundaries to enable greater unification and collaboration on organizational projects and treatment of waters in entire watersheds. Addison County watersheds to coordinate conservation efforts include: Lemon Fair, New Haven River, Otter Creek, Dead Creek, Little Otter Creek, Middlebury River, Lewis Creek, and Lake Champlain-Direct. The Member likely could coordinate annual meetings for 1-2 watersheds.
- Provide basic mapping services in support of community planning efforts.

Support ongoing programs and projects in the areas of natural resources, land conservation, transportation, housing, and energy.

- Engage in ongoing research projects related to long term natural resource planning on Middlebury College lands and the Moosalamoo national recreation area.
- Based on the interests and strengths of the ECO, our office is open to new projects or expansions of existing initiatives to best serve their personal goals and provide additional services to our member municipalities.

Desired Qualifications

ACRPC is interested in a candidate with a passion for water quality, good interpersonal, writing, and computer skills and who functions well in a small team environment. The candidate must possess a bachelor's degree in planning, environmental studies or a related field with a strong ability to think independently and to use and understand plans, maps and statistics. The candidate should be able to coordinate interest groups, possess a familiarity with water quality rules and farming practices and local and regional planning. Proficiency with GIS systems and grant writing abilities are desired.

Goals for the position

Our goal for the ECO position is to expand our capacity in providing critical services to our community. Primarily, the ECO will support the generation of new outdoor recreation and water quality projects in our region.

DEIJ

ACRPC believes DEIJ constitutes good government providing services to all members of our community. Examples of recent initiatives that serve all members of our community include:

- 1) Presented on the topic of health equity to the regional planning commission to educate our members on the concepts of equity and to provide examples of projects they can support to expand equity and accessibility in their communities.
 - 2) Performed a region-wide survey on housing needs and challenges with priority communities (low-income, disabled, BIPOC) offered a stipend to engage. This allowed us to better represent the needs of our entire community and begin the development of responsive planning initiatives.
 - 3) Provided public engagement opportunities for residents to comment on current and upcoming energy policies in partnership with the Public Service Department.
- Supported Turning Point Center of Addison County in accessing funds to expand and improve their services and facility.
- 4) Engaged with the Towns of Cornwall, Bristol, Ferrisburgh, and Addison in developing accessible public recreation spaces.
 - 5) Supported Vergennes is assessing the accessibility of its pedestrian infrastructure and providing data and recommendations for improvement.
 - 6) Collaborated with Middlebury College Students to develop a health equity report on a range of topics including transportation, child care, housing, health care, food, and internet access for Addison Co.

Climate Resiliency

A majority of the services our office provides to the community is long term planning of public infrastructure. As such, we deeply understand climate change as a significant threat to our communities. We are also responsible for implementing the climate goals of our state and municipalities. Therefore, in an effort to ensure climate resiliency of our community, we engage on

topics of energy efficiency and renewable energy generation, hazard mitigation planning to reduce the impacts of natural disasters, green stormwater infrastructure development, conservation of natural resources, resilient housing development, and more.

Networking

The member in this position is highly encouraged to leverage their position to expand their network. The Addison County Regional Planning Commission serves 21 municipalities, supports the state in enacting programs, and interacts with several local non-profit organizations. The member will have the opportunity to serve in many capacities and demonstrate their abilities to a variety of local and state-wide groups. The member is also encouraged to communicate career/ networking interests to staff so that introductions can be made and connections shared.

Misc.

The member will spend a majority of their service in a traditional office setting and should be prepared for sitting or standing for extended periods. Our office offers sit-stand desk options, but a majority of the member's service will be computer based. We do allow for part time remote service, however, we encourage the member to serve in person as often as possible. Periodically, the member may be asked to serve in the field which would require that they are capable of safely navigating rough terrain such as dirt roads and stream banks.

ACRPC will provide safety vests for service in the field in addition to the necessary technical equipment listed above.

A reliable vehicle is expected for this position. However, we have supported members without a vehicle in the past and have an electric bike available to support transportation during service.

Our staff is happy to provide recommendations on local resources and places to visit, hike, ski, swim, contra dance, view a performance, etc. We have found that different members have different needs when joining our community and we make an effort to be responsive to those differences as much as possible.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Be a US citizen, a national, or legal permanent resident alien of the U.S.;
- Be at least 18 years of age upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation (there is no upper age limit);
- Be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate or be willing to work towards their GED as part of their service-year successful completion requirement. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps. If a member has a documented medical reason/professional opinion why they cannot finish high school, they might be eligible; call in this case;
- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check;
- Must submit to Agency of Human Services checks, i.e. Adult Abuse and Child Abuse Prevention;
- Be committed to the ECO AmeriCorps program, and its ethic of service and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way

To Apply: [My AmeriCorps - Home Page](#)

Position begins September 17th, 2024 and ends August 15th, 2025

The State of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Positions are open to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, veteran's status, religion or creed.



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