
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Watershed Investment Division

1 National Life Drive, Davis 3

Montpelier VT 05620-3510

<http://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment>*Agency of Natural Resources***MEMORANDUM**

Date: September 22, 2023

To: Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim Commissioner Neil Kamman

From: DEC Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) Grants Supervisor Gianna Petito
DEC Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) Clean Water Coordinator Colleen Miller

CC: DEC Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) Manager Emily Bird
DEC Administration and Innovation Division (AID) Financial Director Tracy LaFrance

Re: Clean Water Initiative Program State Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Policy – September 2023 Update

Please find, enclosed, proposed updates to the Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) State Fiscal Year 2023 (SFY23) Funding Policy for your review and authorization.

Proposed updates include:

1. Lowering the required leverage for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) communities under the MS4 Community Formula Grant from 50% to 20% of total project costs (page 16);
2. Adding footnote 20 (page 16) which, subject to some conditions, allows grantees to negotiate leverage sourcing with the DEC Technical Project Manager on a case-by-case basis in circumstances where existing eligible leverage sources are insufficient to allow the grantee full optimization of a funding opportunity; and
3. Technical corrections and additions such as adjusting the table of contents page numbers, adding a new updated date on the cover page, and adding a new signature line on the approval page.

These changes bring the match requirement for this funding program into closer alignment with the Agency of Transportation's 20% match requirements for municipalities. This was deemed a reasonable shift considering other American Rescue Plan Act-funded stormwater regulatory assistance initiatives in Vermont had a range of leveraging requirements from 0% to 10%, and that MS4 communities still had capacity above the average regulated entity to bring leverage forward. These changes are proposed after consultation with you as the WID Division Director regarding the challenges that MS4 communities are facing in fully unlocking the MS4 Community Formula Grant funds due to pre-existing leveraging requirements. These changes are expected to provide more accessibility to the grant program and expedite grantee spending of these funds which includes the time-sensitive American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration.