



State of Vermont

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Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
Department of Environmental Conservation
State Geologist
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Department of Environmental Conservation

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November, 2002

Greetings:

I am pleased to announce the completion of the White River Basin Plan, the first of 17 plans for Vermont's major watershed areas that are required by statute to be completed. Through a multi-year effort, working with residents, landowners, farmers, resource managers, volunteers and other Basin stakeholders, staff from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have actively assessed, planned and began to implement specific restoration and conservation projects throughout the Basin.

The Plan describes current water quality conditions and sets forth strategies for restoring and protecting waters and water uses. This is a living, active plan that will result in real work and water quality improvements over the course of the next five years. It will serve as a guide and reference for stakeholders and the DEC in our work on water quality issues.

As a reference document, the Plan:

- Provides a description of this valuable watershed, current water quality conditions, and threats to the water-based resources (Chapter 1, background information in Chapter (4) and throughout the plan);
- Describes projects to improve water quality and conserve water resources (Strategies);
- Identifies technical or financial resources available to address problems and conservation project opportunities in the basin (Strategies);
- Provides support for grant proposals (Goals, objectives and strategies);
- Gives guidance to regional and local planning and zoning processes (Strategies, Appendix K).

The Plan also includes water management typing and classification proposals for each surface water in the basin. The Vermont Water Resources Board must review and approve this proposal, and will do so through a public process.

We appreciate all the time that interested parties have contributed to this effort and to remedial projects already undertaken or underway. The Plan will help us better combine our volunteer and staff efforts in a sustained and focused way to conserve, restore and protect waters and water uses highlighted in the plan throughout the White River Watershed. I particularly want to thank the White River Partnership, the various stream teams, the Two Rivers - Ottauquechee Regional Commission and the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, state and federal partners and all of the volunteers, town boards and staff of the 28 communities in the basin for their assistance with this plan and their commitment to their watershed.

Additional copies of the plan may be obtained from Karen Bates at the Department of Environmental Conservation, Essex Junction Regional Office, 111 West Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452, or by phone (802-879-2339) or email (Karen.Bates@anr.state.vt.us). The plan is also located on the web at <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/planWhiteRiver.htm>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christopher Recchia".

Christopher Recchia
Commissioner