

# Act 76 Subgroup Newsletter 6

To be released early August, covering July 2022 content

This newsletter is intended to provide updates, information, and resources on Act 76 Subgroups. If you would like to be removed from the subgroup newsletter listserv, wish to add a recipient, or have any questions, please email Rachel Wood at [rachel.wood@vermont.gov](mailto:rachel.wood@vermont.gov).

**Newsletter Content:** (click to jump to sections): covers subgroup meetings that occurred in July 2022.

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## Chapter (2, 3, 4 and) 6 of Guidance

- **Team Lead Contacts:** Chris Rottler, Ethan Swift, Ben Copans
- **Subgroup Purpose:** Review draft chapters of CWSP guidance as chapter language is available.
- **Update:**
  - DEC has received comments on Chapters 2, 3, and 4, with most comments focused on Chapter 3. These comments are under review and final drafts of these chapters are in process, with due consideration given to the comments received.
  - A draft of the project advancement portion of Chapter 6 is also undergoing internal review and should be publicly available shortly.
- **Next Meeting**
  - Date: TBD
  - Agenda: Review Chapter draft Chapter 6

## Data Management and Reporting

- **Team Lead Contacts:** Helen Carr and Claire Madden
- **Subgroup Purpose:** Review clean water project data management (funding, performance measures, phosphorus reductions, and reporting).
- **Meeting Summary:**
  - Date: 7/28/22
  - Summary:
    - Gathered feedback and answered questions on the Draft Interim Phosphorus Reduction Calculator Tool.
    - A revised version of the tool will be posted to DEC's website and a notice will be sent via MailChimp newsletter announcing availability of the tool in early August.
    - Shared revised timeline for availability of nForms to enter and update projects in WPD. The New Project Form is in final testing and anticipated to be available within the first few weeks of August. The Project Update Form is still in

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development. Once the Project Update Form is ready there will be a demonstration and training in a Data Management Subgroup meeting.

- Confirmed that data management guidance will be drafted by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Following completion of the draft, the guidance will be posted for a 30-day public notice.

- **Next Meeting:**

- Date: TBD
- Agenda:
  - Demonstration of Clean Water Project Update nForm
  - Review data management guidance

## Enhancement Grant Structure

- **Team Lead Contact:** Gianna Petito
- **Subgroup Purpose:** To cover distinction from formula grants, eligible project types, prioritization, grant-making structure (i.e., block grants?), and project phasing.
- **Meeting Summary:**
  - Date: 7/12/2022
  - Summary: Discussed guidance to enhancement block grant holders on prioritizing projects based on statutory goals and other desired outcomes. Identified guidance should be focused more on block grant holder's portfolio of selected projects as opposed to individual projects where possible. Continued discussion on whether statutory goals are equally weighted, some group members thinking yes, others preferring to emphasize goals not otherwise met by other grant programs (specifically protection of high-quality waters). Group will revisit geographic prioritization guidance after seeing proposed concept from DEC on how projects should navigate between formula and enhancement grants in basins where both are available. Group identified new acceptable project expenses that would support the public's use and enjoyment of state's waters (signage and limited education and outreach activities).
- **Next Meeting:**
  - Date: 8/2/2022
  - Agenda:
    - Walkthrough and discussion of overlap basins concept
    - Revisit of geographic prioritization guidance based on overlap basins concept

## Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

- **Team Lead Contacts:** Helen Carr and Jill Sarazen
- **Subgroup Purpose:** To review Operation and Maintenance manual, develop training structure and data management for Operation and Maintenance Verification.
- **Meeting Summary:** Did not meet in July
- **Next Meeting:**

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- Date: 8/2/22
- Agenda:
  - Site access agreements
  - Guidance on adoption of existing projects for the first year
  - Chapter 8 guidance

## Other News

- The DEC watershed planning program is happy to announce that we will be a host site for the Eco-AmeriCorps program, hosting a service member for the 2022-2023 term. Our new service member is Jay Mullen, who comes to us with a collegiate experience on journalism, media and communications. Jay's service will be split between communications work on Act 76, and communications work with the watershed planners. His first day will be Sept. 19, 2022!