

# Act 76 Subgroup Newsletter 7

To be released early September, covering August 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 August 2022.

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

- **Team Lead Contacts:** Chris Rottler, Ethan Swift, Ben Copans
- **Subgroup Purpose:** Review draft chapters of CWSP guidance as chapter language is available.
- **Update:** Internal (DEC) review of language is wrapping up, and final versions of chapters 2, 3 and 4 will be made available on the [Act 76 webpage](#) next week.

## 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:** No meeting this month
- **Next Meeting:**
  - Date: Expected in late September, keep an eye out for an invite soon.
  - Potential topics: Data management guidance and New Project Entry Form.

## 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: 8/2/2022
  - Summary: Group reviewed DEC's "Overlap Basins" concept guiding how project implementers should navigate grant applications between Formula and Enhancement grants. Group requested greater emphasis on attracting good Enhancement projects to the Enhancement grant system through more clarity in implementer guidance on what the Enhancement grant hopes to achieve. Tactical Basin Planning work might also help direct projects to the correct grant program. Concern expressed about administrative

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cost of coordination between block grant holders and many CWSPs. Group will provide Gianna with any suggestions on “better fit” language for Enhancement grant. Gianna to work on guidance that still uses phosphorus as the first step guidepost but to include more language around bigger program goals.

- Date: 9/6/2022
- Summary: Reviewed initial feedback on Enhancement Grant Summary Document.
- **Next Meeting:**
  - Date: 9/20/2022
  - Agenda: Review second round of feedback on Enhancement Grant Summary Document, identify any gaps or pieces that still need consensus.

## 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:**
  - Date: 8/2/2022
  - Summary:
    - **O&M funding agreement plan:**
      - Roll out the draft agreements for the formula grant funds very soon. Then Late Dec./early Jan. the grants will be amended to include O&M funds for guidance, training, and data management aspects. Plan to start the process in December to amend the formula grant agreements to include O&M funding
      - O&M Manual very close to completion
      - Once a final draft of O&M guidance is completed, hopefully in Nov, it will enter a 30-day public notice period.
    - **Verification program:**
      - Wrapping up verification lists this fall, then testing and training on the verification lists
      - Currently have a verification training framework. Working on the content and materials for the training. We’d like to pilot a training program to the subgroup to get feedback. We’ll probably be working on this until the new year.
    - **Site access agreement template** is one form with options for both a license (between the landowner and the CWSP (does not run with the land) and an easement (run with the land and hold for the life of the project).
    - **DEC next steps**
      - DEC will circulate draft site access agreement soon, will follow up with DEC legal with feedback for these docs.
      - DEC to continue work on O&M guidance chapter and O&M plan template
      - Verification app testing and training planning

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- **Next Meeting:**
  - Date: stay tuned!

## Resources and Other News

- The interim phosphorus calculator tool is available here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants/resources> at the first link under “Application Assistance Tools and Guidance”.
- Formula grant agreements have been drafted and shared with the Clean Water Service Providers.