

Water Quality Enhancement Grants

Summary Document

December 2022

Contents

Background and Document Purpose	2
Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant (EDDIBG) Sub-initiative	2
Quick Reference	2
Eligibility Criteria #8: Funding Program – Specific Eligibilities.....	2
Required Components for Project Prioritization Schema	4
Project Selection and Programmatic Goals.....	5
Question and Answer (Q&A).....	6
Who Can Apply for this <i>EDDIBG</i> Funding Program and How Do They Apply?.....	6
What Are “Priority Water Quality Enhancement Projects” For This <i>EDDIBG</i> Funding Program?	7
My project is located in the Lake Champlain or Lake Memphremagog Watershed. How do I know whether to apply to the Clean Water Service Provider or the <i>EDDIBG</i> Funding Program Administrator?	8
Do I need to calculate the phosphorus-reduction potential or cost-effectiveness for my Water Quality Enhancement project? If so, how do I do that?.....	8
Learn More About the Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program	9
Statute	9
Clean Water Board.....	10
CWIP Statutory Interpretations	10
Broader Funding Context	11
Stakeholder Engagement	12
Process for Updating Summary Document	13

Developed by the Clean Water Initiative Program



Background and Document Purpose

The Clean Water Service Delivery Act (Act 76 of 2019) established the Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program¹, outlined five statutory goals of the program, and set a minimum and maximum budget level for this grant program.² Under the State Fiscal Year 2023 Clean Water Budgeting Process, the Vermont Clean Water Board allocated \$5 million in Clean Water Funds to the Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP). The Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) will achieve the statutory intent of the Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program through a series of sub-initiatives as outlined in the annual CWIP Spending Plan. The most current CWIP Spending Plan can be found here:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants>

The majority of this document provides guidance specific to one of the Water Quality Enhancement Grant sub-initiatives; the new *Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant (EDDIBG)* sub-initiative. The intent of this sub-initiative funding program ("funding program") is to support the development, design, and implementation of [priority water quality enhancement projects](#). The following document outlines what makes a clean water project an eligible and high priority water quality enhancement project and provides additional guidance to both project implementers³ on navigating this funding opportunity as well as prospective Funding Program Administrator(s) selected to manage this sub-initiative as a block grant.

Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant (EDDIBG) Sub-initiative

Quick Reference

The following sections of this document are referred to in other documents including the [CWIP Funding Policy](#) and the EDDIBG Request for Proposals (RFP) so they are highlighted here for quick reference.

Eligibility Criteria #8: Funding Program – Specific Eligibilities

To be eligible for CWIP funding, clean water projects must meet a series of eligibility criteria outlined in the most current [CWIP Funding Policy](#). The current CWIP Funding Policy lists seven criteria (#1-7) that are applicable across all relevant CWIP Funding Programs. The CWIP Funding Program also lists an eighth criteria; "Funding Program-Specific Eligibilities." **The EDDIBG Funding Program has the following *additional* eligibility criteria that must be met.** These are described further below:

¹ [10 V.S.A § 926](#)

² [10 V.S.A. § 1389](#)

³ Project implementers are understood to be the entities that directly oversee or manage clean water project work.

1. All projects must be non-regulatory
2. Projects must meet at least one of the statutorily-defined purposes for Water Quality Enhancement Grants

1. *Project must be non-regulatory*

To be eligible for EDDIBG funds, projects cannot be driven by a regulatory requirement. Regulatory projects are those required/compelled by water quality-related regulatory programs. For example, a stormwater retrofit project on a private property that has more than three acres of impervious surface and is subject to the stormwater General Permit 3-9050 would be a regulatory project. As another example, a wetland enhancement project would not be eligible if it was required compensation as part of a wetland permit or restoration of a wetland violation. Non-regulatory projects (i.e. projects performed voluntarily) are eligible but may still be subject to regulatory oversight including for permitting reviews.

There may be cases where an individual project is designed to both fulfill and exceed regulatory requirements. Additional guidance is needed to define eligibility for this scenario, portion of project costs eligible for EDDIBG funds, and special provisions to ensure coordinated tracking and reporting across potentially multiple funding and regulatory programs. CWIP may adjust this “non-regulatory” requirement as appropriate pending this additional guidance development.

2. *Projects must meet at least one of the statutorily-defined purposes for Enhancement Grants:*
- a. Protect high quality waters,
 - b. Maintain or improve water quality,
 - c. Restore degraded or stressed waters,
 - d. Create resilient watersheds and communities, or
 - e. Support the public’s use and enjoyment of the State’s waters

Items (d) and (e) have historically been considered co-benefits on CWIP’s legacy Ecosystem Restoration Grants and therefore were historically ineligible for CWIP funds under older budget eligibility guidance. Project components critical towards achieving any of the Enhancement Grant statutory goals are now considered primary (not co-) benefits and are eligible for CWIP funds within a proposed project’s budget as long as they are completed within the timeframe of the project sub-agreement. Further definition is provided below:

Create resilient watersheds and communities. Projects that assist with a community’s resilience against the ecological responses to a changing climate (e.g. extreme droughts or rains, excessive heat, biodiversity decline, etc.) are eligible as long as they meet all other eligibility criteria.

Support the public’s use and enjoyment of the State’s waters. Signage, condensed access, and/or targeted outreach and education surrounding a specific project are all considered eligible

project components and primary project benefits to “support the public’s use and enjoyment of the State’s waters.” Other restoration-focused activities may also de facto “support the public’s use and enjoyment of the State’s waters” by making the waters more swimmable, fishable, and/or drinkable.

Required Components for Project Prioritization Schema

EDDIBG Funding Program Administrator(s) are responsible for developing and applying a project prioritization schema that includes, but may not be limited to, the required components as listed below. Note CWIP does not dictate how these components should be valued/qualified or their relative weighing. Funding Program Administrator(s) may choose to alter the relative weights of these factors in any given grant round in order to maintain a desirable portfolio of projects.

- a) *Water Quality Enhancement Grant Statutory Goals*. Strong water quality enhancement project proposals are those projects that meet the statutory goals of the program in both quantity (i.e. meeting more than one goal) and quality (i.e. meeting these goals well). Funding Program Administrator(s) should assess both quantity and quality but may choose how to assess the degree to which proposed projects address or achieve the statutory goals.
- b) *Geography*. Projects located outside of watersheds with access to Water Quality Restoration Formula Grant awards⁴ should be given extra weight/points/consideration but should not entirely trump strong and eligible water quality enhancement projects located within those watersheds. Geographic prioritization requirements will sunset once the plan required by 10 V.S.A. § 923(d)(2) has been fully implemented.
- c) *Environment Justice Focus Populations*. [Act 154 of 2022 \(S.148\)](#) requires the Agency of Natural Resources to direct investments with environmental benefits proportionately to Environmental Justice Focus Populations. The Agency of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Environmental Justice Advisory Council and the Interagency Environmental Justice Committee, shall issue guidance on how the covered agencies shall determine which investments provide environmental benefits to environmental justice focus populations. Should Water Quality Enhancement Grants be identified as one of these investments, Funding Program Administrator(s) will be expected to adjust their prioritization schema to meet these proportionality requirements. Pending guidance from the Agency of Natural Resources, Environmental Justice Advisory Council and the Interagency Environmental Justice Committee, CWIP will provide follow-up details on this matter and recommendations for balancing this

⁴ As of January 2023, only the Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog basins have access to Water Quality Restoration Formula Grant awards but 10 V.S.A. § 923(d)(2) requires the Agency of Natural Resources to expand access to these grants to all other previously listed impaired waters at a later date. This date is to be determined when the Secretary adopts a schedule for implementing these additional requirements in November of 2023.

component with the other prioritization criteria. “Environmental justice focus population” means any census block group in which:

- (A) the annual median household income is not more than 80 percent of the State median household income;
- (B) Persons of Color and Indigenous Peoples comprise at least six percent or more of the population; or
- (C) at least one percent or more of households have limited English proficiency.

Project Selection and Programmatic Goals

Funding Program Administrator(s) are responsible for developing and applying a project selection process such that the resulting portfolio of funded projects reflects the general programmatic goals for the EDDIBG Funding Program outlined below.

1. The intent of the EDDIBG funding program is to support the development, design, and implementation of priority water quality enhancement projects. Project proposals received by the Funding Program Administrator(s) that are a “better fit” for, and that have access to, Water Quality Restoration Formula grant funding should be discussed between the Funding Program Administrator(s) and the applicable Clean Water Service Provider to determine whether the Funding Program Administrator(s) should proceed with considering funding the proposal with Water Quality Enhancement Grant funds. A project may be a “better fit” for Water Quality Restoration Formula grant funding if its projected phosphorus reduction cost-effectiveness falls at or above the applicable CWSP/BWQC’s cost-effectiveness threshold, if known.⁵
2. Funding Program Administrator(s) are encouraged to collectively⁶ direct at a minimum roughly \$200,000 of the total awarded dollars towards project development activities to ensure a pipeline of projects across project phases.

⁵ After a few project selection rounds Clean Water Service Providers (CWSP) and their Basin Water Quality Councils are strongly encouraged to identify and publicize a minimum acceptable phosphorus reduction cost effectiveness for projects they are willing to entertain. This would be called their “cost-effectiveness threshold.” In the absence of a cost-effectiveness threshold there is no clear way to determine whether a project located in the Lake Champlain or Lake Memphremagog basins is a “better fit” for Water Quality Restoration Formula grants. If “better fit” is unknown, EDDIBG Funding Program Administrator(s) do not need to discuss every project with a phosphorus reduction potential with the applicable CWSP. In these scenarios, if their project has any projected phosphorus reduction potential, project proponents are simply encouraged but not required to first apply for funding through their local CWSP.

⁶ This is a total dollar value to be split across the final resulting number of EDDIBG Funding Program Administrator(s) selected. For example, if one is selected, they would be responsible for the full \$200,000. If two are selected, their joint investments into project development would need to sum to at least \$200,000. This may or may not reflect an even split in responsibility to support project development efforts.

3. Funding Program Administrator(s) are encouraged to dedicate at least 10% of their Project Completion budgets for projects that have the potential to protect high quality waters.⁷
4. Funding Program Administrator(s) are encouraged to ensure a diversity of project types and sectors receive funding and to attempt outreach to solicit proposals from a broad range of sectors.
5. Funding Program Administrator(s) are encouraged to fund a large number of strong projects and to, therefore, be critical when reviewing both the quality and the cost-competitiveness of project proposals.

Progress towards achieving programmatic goals will be discussed and assessed during quarterly check-ins with the Technical Project Manager, with a focus on addressing challenges. Success or demonstrated concerted effort in achieving these programmatic goals is one factor in evaluating the Funding Program Administrator(s)' performance. Additional allowances will be made in consideration of existing grant programs that fund identical project types and CWIP will look for efforts made by Funding Program Administrator (s) to encourage spend down of older funds first even if this defers progress towards *EDDIBG* programmatic goals.

Question and Answer (Q&A)

This Q&A section is designed to assist project implementers who are seeking to get a better sense of the *EDDIBG* program and appropriate projects.

Who Can Apply for this *EDDIBG* Funding Program and How Do They Apply?

The *EDDIBG* funding program is designed as a block grant program in which CWIP will solicit proposals from entities willing to serve as Funding Program Administrators. One or more entities may be selected to serve in this role. CWIP releases notice of funding opportunities through our [CWIP Grants Notification Listserv](#) as well as through the [Vermont Business](#)

⁷ Per the 2017 Vermont Water Quality Standards (§ 29A-105 (c)) "high quality waters" are waters the existing quality of which exceeds any applicable water quality criteria. The VTDEC uses monitoring and assessment data to assess individual surface waters in relation to Vermont Water Quality Standards as outlined in the 2016 DEC Assessment and Listing Methodology. The four categories currently used to assess Vermont's surface water are full support, stressed, altered and impaired. Waters that currently exceed or support designated and existing uses and meet water quality standards are placed into the full support or stressed categories. Waters that do not support uses and do not meet standards are placed into the altered or impaired category. All altered and impaired water bodies are clearly listed in the relevant Tactical Basin Plan or one can find the list of impaired and altered waters here: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-02/documents/2018-vt-303d-list-report.pdf>. For the purposes of the *EDDIBG* sub-initiative, "high quality waters" are defined as any waters not listed as altered or impaired in the relevant Tactical Basin Plan. Any eligible clean water project located upstream of a "high quality water" body is considered to have the potential to protect "high quality waters."

[Registry](https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants#policy). Please see the CWIP Funding Policy (available here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants#policy>) on eligible entities to serve as a Funding Program Administrator for the EDDIBG as well as for further information on CWIP's use of Funding Program Administrators. Prospective Funding Program Administrator(s) should follow application instructions in the Request for Proposals (RFP) once released.

Once selected by CWIP, Funding Program Administrator(s) will independently release funding opportunities seeking specific project proposals from project implementers. Please see the CWIP Funding Policy (available here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants#policy>) on eligible entities to apply to and receive grant funding. Funding Program Administrator(s) may vary in where, when, and how they announce funding opportunities. CWIP will list the selected Funding Program Administrator(s) and their grants websites on our grants site page (<https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants/opportunities>) and project implementers are encouraged to directly follow the communications of those selected Funding Program Administrator(s) to learn more about when and how to apply for funds for a specific project.

What Are “Priority Water Quality Enhancement Projects” For This EDDIBG Funding Program?

Eligibility

The EEDIBG funding program supports the development, design, and implementation of priority water quality enhancement projects. Water quality enhancement projects are a subset of clean water projects that meet all of the [CWIP Funding Policy](#) eligibility screens *as well as* the additional [Funding Program-specific criteria](#).

The CWIP Project Types Table is a good first stop to get a sense of the range of stormwater and natural-resource-type projects that are eligible for funding under EDDIBG. The CWIP Project Types Table is Appendix B of CWIP State Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Policy and can be found as a standalone excel spreadsheet here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants/resources#ProjectTypes>. Eligible project types are those listed in the CWIP Project Types Table that also have “EDDIBG” listed in the “Funding Program” column (column B).

The Clean Water Initiative Program Project Phase Terminology and Design Guidance section of the CWIP State Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Policy can also provide more background on the general tasks or expectations associated with project development, design, and implementation.

Priority

CWIP provides guidance to Funding Program Administrator(s) in what they [must include in a project prioritization schema](#). This may be helpful information in determining whether your project might be prioritized or considered competitive for EDDIBG funds.

My project is located in the Lake Champlain or Lake Memphremagog Watershed. How do I know whether to apply to the Clean Water Service Provider or the EDDIBG Funding Program Administrator?

The Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants available through Clean Water Service Providers and *EDDIBG* available through a Funding Program Administrator have a near identical list of eligible project types within the CWIP Project Types Table. Project type overlap exists because project types that were identified as meeting the statutory goals for Water Quality Enhancement grants were the same as those that have the potential to reduce phosphorus (which is the focus of Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants). Project type overlap is subject to change in the next few years and changes will be documented in an updated CWIP Funding Policy. In the meantime, if your project is located in the Lake Champlain or Lake Memphremagog watersheds and has a potential to reduce phosphorus loading into the state's waterways, project proponents are simply encouraged but not required to first apply for funding through their local Clean Water Service Providers (CWSP).

DEC strongly encourages Clean Water Service Providers (CWSP) and their Basin Water Quality Councils (BWQC) to identify and publicize a minimum acceptable phosphorus reduction cost effectiveness for projects they are willing to entertain. This would be called their "cost-effectiveness threshold" and could signal to project proponents that if their project's phosphorus reduction cost-effectiveness fell below this threshold it may not be considered competitive by their local BWQC/CWSP and may be better suited for *EDDIBG*.

While project proponents may have the option of which funding program to apply to, they should be aware that *EDDIBG* prioritizes funding projects located outside of the Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog watersheds.

Do I need to calculate the phosphorus-reduction potential or cost-effectiveness for my Water Quality Enhancement project? If so, how do I do that?

Within the Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog watersheds, a project's potential cost-effectiveness for phosphorus reduction plays a key role in deciding which CWIP-administered funding program is more appropriate (Water Quality Restoration vs. Water Quality Enhancement). As such, for a project located within these basins, even if you are applying for funding from an *EDDIBG* Funding Program Administrator, they may still ask for an estimated phosphorus reduction cost-effectiveness to determine whether your project is actually a "better fit" for Water Quality Restoration funding.

CWIP provides a Phosphorus Reduction Calculator Tool (available here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants/resources>) to provide estimated annual phosphorus load reductions based on anticipated project implementation metrics to support

project prioritization and initial cost effectiveness calculations. More information on calculating phosphorus reduction cost-effectiveness can be found in Chapter 6 of the Clean Water Service Provider Guidance Document (available here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/statutes-rules-policies/act-76/law-rule-guidance>)

Learn More About the Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program

Statute

The Clean Water Service Delivery Act (Act 76 of 2019) established the Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program, outlined five statutory goals of the program, and set a minimum and maximum budget level for this grant program. Act 76 also mandated a geographic prioritization for Enhancement Grant funds to areas of the State not receiving access to Water Quality Restoration Formula Grants. Statutory language is provided below. This represents the full extent of any substantive statutory reference to this Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program.

10 V.S.A. § 926

The Secretary shall administer a Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program. This program shall be a competitive grant program to fund projects that protect high quality waters, maintain or improve water quality in all waters, restore degraded or stressed waters, create resilient watersheds and communities, and support the public's use and enjoyment of the State's waters. When making awards under this program, the Secretary shall consider the geographic distribution of these funds. Not more than 15 percent of the total grant amount awarded shall be used for administrative costs.

10 V.S.A. § 1389

(e) Priorities. In making recommendations under subsection (d) of this section regarding the appropriate allocation of funds from the Clean Water Fund, the Board shall prioritize as follows:

- (1) As a first priority, make recommendations regarding funding for the following grants and programs, which shall each be given equal priority:
 - (D) the Water Quality Enhancement Grants under section 926 of this title at a funding level of at least 20 percent of the annual balance of the Clean Water Fund, provided that the maximum amount recommended under this subdivision (D) in any year shall not exceed \$ 5,000,000.00

Act 76 Section 8. TRANSITION

- (b) Until the plan required by 10 V.S.A. § 923(d)(2) has been fully implemented, the Secretary shall provide additional weight to geographic areas of the State not receiving a grant pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 925 when

making funding decisions with respect to grants awarded pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 926.

Clean Water Board

Under the State Fiscal Year 2023 Clean Water Budgeting Process, the Vermont Clean Water Board allocated \$5 million in Clean Water Funds to the Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program to be administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP).

CWIP Statutory Interpretations

The Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) will achieve the statutory intent of the Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program through a series of sub-initiatives as outlined in the annual CWIP Spending Plan. For State Fiscal Year (SFY 2023) these sub-initiatives include the following:

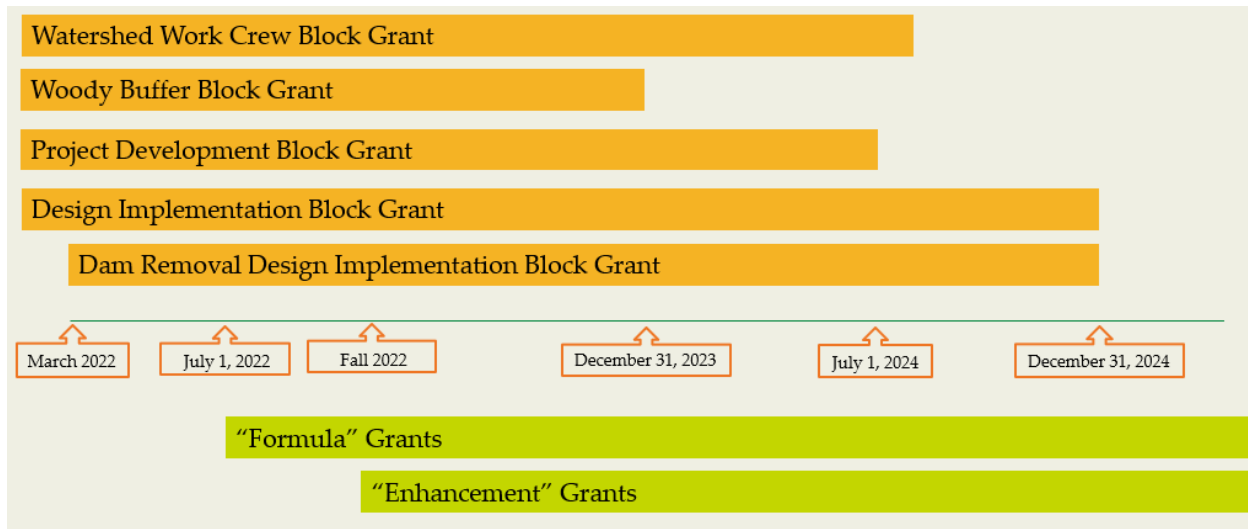
<i>Dam Removal Design and Implementation Block Grant</i>	Passthrough funds to entities to design and implement dam removal projects. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.
<i>Woody Riparian Buffer Block Grant</i>	Passthrough funds to entities to implement high priority, cost-effective, native riparian woody buffer plantings. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.
<i>River Corridor Easements</i>	Passthrough funds to entities to develop and implement River Corridor Conservation Easement projects. Funds target protection and restoration of critical river corridor and floodplain property. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.
<i>Stream Geomorphic Assessments and River Corridor Plans</i>	Passthrough funds to entities to perform assessments in priority subwatersheds to identify and prioritize clean water projects through Stream Geomorphic Assessments and River Corridor Plans. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.
<i>Stormwater Master Plans</i>	Passthrough funds to entities to perform assessments in priority subwatersheds to identify and prioritize clean water projects through Stormwater Master Planning. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.
<i>Lake Watershed Action Plans and Lake Wise Assessments</i>	Passthrough funds to entities to perform assessments in priority subwatersheds to identify and prioritize clean water projects through Lake Wise and Lake Watershed Action Planning. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.

<i>Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant (EDDIBG)</i>	Passthrough funds to entities to support partners in the development, design, and implementation of stormwater and natural resource projects for clean water. Individual projects are identified in Tactical Basin Plans and listed in DEC Watershed Projects Database. Funds prioritized outside Formula Grant Basins.
<i>Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Wetland Incentives</i>	Provides incentive payments to landowners, in addition to Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Wetlands Reserve Easements Program, to increase landowner participation in wetlands restoration projects. Serves as DEC's significant contribution to the State of Vermont RCPP. Funds available state-wide.

Please note that what sub-initiatives fall under the Water Quality Enhancement Grant category are subject to change. In developing a new Spending Plan CWIP will assess existing sub-initiatives to confirm they continue to meet at least one of the statutory goals (protect high quality waters, maintain or improve water quality in all waters, restore degraded or stressed waters, create resilient watersheds and communities, and/or support the public's use and enjoyment of the State's waters) and do not substantially overlap with other spending initiatives in the Spending Plan. New initiatives may also be introduced as appropriate.

Broader Funding Context

Grant programs take time to execute and close out. It is important to note that while State Fiscal Year 2023 allocates new Clean Water Funds to Enhancement Grant programs, CWIP still maintains active contracts and agreements with entities, funded with prior fiscal year funds, to perform clean water work. These agreements and their projected sunset dates are depicted as orange bars in the image below. During these transition years, CWIP will work with all previous and new grant holders to direct project proposals towards older programs where appropriate to facilitate the close out and spend down of these old funds. It is understood that this may hinder new grant holders' abilities to meet the programmatic goals as listed for the *Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant (EDDIBG)*, specifically those that set targets for spending on specific project phases or project types that could otherwise access funds from older grant programs. This is acceptable and, indeed, preferable, that *EDDIBG* agreement holders assist with directing suitable projects towards older grants first.



Stakeholder Engagement

Over the course of thirteen meetings since September 2021, CWIP staff have collaborated with a group of interested internal and external stakeholders to provide further definition around the *Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant (EDDIBG)* sub-initiative. This particular sub-initiative is the only new addition to the Water Quality Enhancement Grant Program and required extensive review and discussion of CWIP’s existing Design and Implementation and Project Development Block Grant Programs and Funding Policy to determine how granting structures and grant guidance needed to be adjusted to meet the new statutory goals. CWIP would like to thank all the partners who have dedicated their time in providing feedback on this document and in helping design and launch this *EDDIBG* funding program.

The Enhancement sub-group membership has included to date (in alphabetical order):

- Jill Arace, Vermont Association of Conservation Districts
- Charlie Baker, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
- Marie Caduto, DEC Water Investment Division, Watershed Planning Program
- Jared Carpenter, Lake Champlain Committee
- Malia Cordero, Mount Ascutney Regional Commission
- Michael Fernandez, Bennington Natural Resources Conservation District
- Julie Follensbee, DEC Watershed Management Division, Wetlands Program
- Karen Freeman, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
- Peter G. Gregory, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
- Jen Hollar, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
- Cindy Ingersoll, Mount Ascutney Regional Commission
- Clare Ireland, Vermont Association of Conservation Districts
- Kendall Lambert, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
- Trey Martin, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

- Lyn Munno, Watersheds United Vermont
- Oliver Pierson, DEC Watershed Management Division, Lakes and Ponds Program
- Staci Pomeroy, DEC Watershed Management Division, Rivers Program
- Mary Russ, White River Partnership
- Holden Sparacino, Vermont Association of Conservation Districts
- Tasha Wallis, Lamoille County Planning Commission

In September 2022, the Clean Water Service Delivery Act (Act 76 of 2019) Enhancement sub-group formally disbanded after bringing this Summary Document to a state that reflects consensus on the main themes. In September 2022, CWIP shared this completed Summary Document with the broader Act 76 Advisory Committee. Please note contents of the Summary Document are subject to change. CWIP re-organized this document in December 2022 without Enhancement sub-group review in an effort to clarify program components for external audiences. The majority of this document focuses on the structure of the new *Enhancement Development, Design, and Implementation Block Grant (EDDIBG)* sub-initiative. All other sub-initiatives will proceed as they have in prior fiscal years with a slight adjustment to geographic priority of funds.

Process for Updating Summary Document

Questions about the EDDIBG should be directed first to the applicable EDDIBG Funding Program Administrator(s) once selected. CWIP will list the selected Funding Program Administrator(s) and their grants websites on our grants site page (<https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/grants/opportunities>). Outstanding questions can be submitted to CWIP through this email: anr.cleanwatervt@vermont.gov

All contents of the Summary Document are subject to change. The Q&A section of this Summary Document may be periodically updated to address any consistent questions or concerns. Documentation of policy adjustments will be reflected in future associated policy documents including future grant requests for proposals, agreement amendments, or CWIP Funding Policy updates.

There was a lot of interest voiced by Enhancement Sub-group members to expand the list of eligible project types under the CWIP Funding Policy. Given the DEC staff capacity limitations for State Fiscal Year 2023, and the recognition that the existing project types achieve most if not all of the Enhancement Grant program statutory goals, the sub-group agreed to temporarily stick with the existing project types list and document requested additions below:

- a) Strategic woody addition
- b) Artificial floating wetlands
- c) Water quality monitoring
- d) Targeted water quality education and outreach
- e) Long term easement monitoring
- f) Operation and maintenance expenses (currently eligible under Formula Grants)

- g) Onsite wastewater
- h) Other water management and habitat property assessments besides Lake Wise (e.g. sub-jurisdictional stormwater, Stream Wise, etc.)

As capacity allows, CWIP staff will review this list of requested project types and evaluate suitability for inclusion in either the EDDIBG or as another Enhancement Grants sub-initiative.