

ALLIE DINWIDDIE - WATER QUALITY PLANNER



It has been a busy spring for Allie Dinwiddie, ECO member at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC)! She finished assisting 21 different towns in receiving funds through the Grants-in-Aid pilot program, which provides resources for Towns to implement road drainage Best Management Practices (BMPs) to comply with the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP). Allie approved proposed BMPs for the Grants-in-Aid program and helped towns identify potential road improvement projects that could fall under the grant. Many towns are currently completing construction on projects Allie approved this Spring and Summer! Allie is also continuing to help municipalities complete Road Erosion Inventories (REIs), required under MRGP, by teaching municipal road crews how to use a spatial data collection tool ACRPC staff had previously developed, called the Fulcrum Road Erosion and Drainage Inventory (FREDI) tool. Late this past winter, Allie submitted a nomination to the

Vermont Planners Association's Project of the Year Award on behalf of ACRPC staff (including herself) for the creation and implementation of FREDI, and it won! Although the accolades were nice, ACRPC staff and Allie have continued improving FREDI over the last couple months to make it even more user-friendly. Allie has also written up an instruction manual for municipal staff on how to use FREDI, which she is currently finalizing, and collaborated closely with a fellow staff member to edit/finalize five Capital Improvement Plans for towns that have completed their REIs. These Capital Improvement Plans, which must be approved by town select boards, provide a project and budget plan for municipalities to address non-complying road segments identified through REIs. As more towns complete their REIs, Allie will continue to assist them with creating Capital Improvement Plans. Additionally, thanks to Allie completing a couple grant applications, more towns in Addison County received \$8,000 in funding from Better Roads to complete REIs! She has been indispensable during her time at ACRPC for ensuring Addison County Towns' current and continued compliance with the MRGP! In a slight change of pace, Allie also assisted the Addison County River Watch Collaborative with their surface water sampling efforts for the DEC's La Rosa program. She developed an inventory of property owners for 60+ sampling sites Collaborative volunteers have monitored over the last 6 years to *streamline* future sampling and provide further outreach to landowners about the Collaborative's efforts. She also updated volunteer sheets for all of these sites to provide graphics, driving and walking access directions, parking instructions, field photos, and safety information. For the month of July, Allie will be charged with coordinating volunteer sampling efforts at a couple sampling locations on the Lemon Fair in addition to keeping the show on the road (literally) for her other projects. Keep up the great service for Addison County municipalities, Allie!