

3/31/22

Groundwater Coordinating Committee Minutes

Attendees (all on Teams): Patti Casey, Joanne Throwe, Kira Jacobs, Diana Butler, Jerome Varriale, David Wilcox, Jon Kim, Julia Boyles, Anna Gallagher, Michael Nahmias, Benjamin DeJong, Miles Waite, Rosa Mastrocola, Laura Woodward, Nathan Kie, Tom DeBell, Teresa Gerade, Grahame Bradley, Kasey Kathan, Pam Ladds, Laura Ranker, Craig Heindel, Jennifer Gould, Scott Stewart, Erin Stewart, Silje Larsen

Speakers – Joanne Throwe, Silje Larsen, Benjamin DeJong, Jennifer Gould, Scott Stewart

A) **Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2022** – Joanne Throwe

Joanne Throwe went over the Long Island Sound Futures Fund, which is now open for project ideas. Its primary goal is to improve water quality by reducing nitrogen pollution. The slides and grant details are included with these minutes.

B) **VT Aquifer Mapping Project Overview & Update** – Silje Larsen & Benjamin DeJong

Silje Larsen, DEC, provided an overview of this project and explained how available data in the DWGPD was utilized to come up with a prioritization for community water systems that would benefit from this service. It was determined that the primary factor for ranking water systems was unresolved deficiencies. Then work was done with other sections in the DWGPD to contact water systems to offer the service.

Then Benjamin DeJong, DEC, did an update on the mapping effort in East Berkshire, VT. He shared an overview of the surficial and bedrock geology, along with well locations and their yields. Because of the geology there is not an obvious location for a gravel or bedrock well. GIS was used to find areas of statistically higher yield and human investigation found an area of interest as well. The next steps for this project are to present it to the town of East Berkshire with the preliminary recommendations to investigate two bedrock wells, the towns at 4 gpm driller's yield and a neighboring one of the towns at 80 gpm driller's yield. If they can't study those two wells the other areas of interest found through the GIS study will be explored and lastly they would discuss a possible hookup with the town of Enosburg, who has two very high yield gravel wells (around 600 gpm driller's yield).

This presentation was followed by a discussion of what an investigation of the two bedrock wells would look like. Jon Kim explained the geophysical logging they would do. They'd start with a bore hole camera and a temperature/conductivity probe. Then they'd do rock typing with a gamma ray and use a caliper log to measure the diameter of the bore hold and fracture openings. Next an acoustic televiwer would create a 3D borehole image that would allow for locating groundwater flow directions and strikes and dips of structures. An investigation like this will be done on the new Franklin Town well, which does not have a pump in it yet. For wells in use, it can be tricky to get the pump out or permission to do a study like this.

C) **VT Well Driller's Update** – Jennifer Gould

Jennifer Gould, Gould&Sons Well Drilling, provided an update on VT well drilling after their annual conference was held on 2/25/2022. Their meeting is an opportunity to get together with others in their field, learn about new drilling products and get updates from the state. Well drillers are facing economic

challenges including rising fuel costs, rising price hikes in products, and hiring shortages. They are the often the first people to get contacted about well yields running low or wells failing.

After Jenn talked, she answered questions from the committee. When discussing what the state could do to help the industry Jenn mentioned that the process for funding failed water systems could be more fluid as the grants can't get involved after the project has started. Unfortunately, some failed water systems can't wait and don't have the option to wait and apply. Well drilling currently is higher than average, but a lot of that is replacement wells for springs or dug wells.

D) Econ Tool Demo – Scott Stewart

Scott Stewart, DEC, did a demo of the new Environmental Consideration Online Tool (ECON). The ECON tool was developed to help answer questions for WMPD and DWGPD permit applications. You can put in a location (proposed well site for example) and get a map that shows relevant features within a 1,800ft radius. Features include ag lands, wetlands, Source Protection Areas, class IV groundwater, landfills, and flood plains. The tool produces a map that can be saved as a pdf.

Questions and comments about the tool included a mechanism to adjust the radius of the tool so it could match required investigation radii for different well yields. The flood layer was requested to be the most up to date of the FEMA maps.

Next Meeting Thursday May 19th, 2022 – A teams invite will be sent out



Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2022 Highlights

LISFF 2022 Sources of Funding

~\$10 million > More \$s in 2022. Lower Match.



Springfield-MA



NFWF

Principles & Priorities

CCMP Cross cutting principles: Resilience, Sustainability, Environmental justice

CCMP Theme: Clean Waters & Healthy Watersheds: Improve wq by reducing nitrogen pollution, CSOs, impervious cover, stormwater and point sources of pollution

- ***Examples: Focus N reduction or prevention***
 - Plans for or implementation of...
 - Low Impact Development/Green Infrastructure
 - Wastewater treatment onsite or treatment plant retrofits
 - Riparian and forested buffer and channel bank vegetation enhancement to slow and intercept polluted surface runoff
 - Stream channel reconnection to floodplains and adjacent wetlands to promote nutrient removal and reduce erosion

2020–2024 Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update

This update contains new and revised Implementation Actions (IAs) for the 2020-2024 planning cycle. The full CCMP with the original IAs is at: longislandsoundstudy.net/2015/09/2015-comprehensive-conservation-and-management-plan.

January 2021



Principles & Priorities

- **Examples: Focus N reduction or prevention**
 - *Plans for or implementation of...*
 - Replacing or right-sizing culverts or otherwise improving road and stream crossings in order to reduce downstream erosion of nutrients
 - Technical assistance to engage rural landowners and farmers in design and delivery of nitrogen prevention projects
 - Addressing agricultural runoff through farm-scale conservation systems and solutions

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January 2021



Principles & Priorities

- **Examples: Focus N reduction or prevention**
 - *Plans for or implementation of...*
 - Implementation of regenerative agriculture practices
 - Soil health practices and management systems that combine improved tillage and/or pasture management, cover crops, crop and livestock rotations, and other practices to increase soil fertility while improving the capacity of crops and soils to reduce runoff and increase nutrient uptake
 - Precision nutrient management systems that fine-tune the rate, source, method, and timing of nutrient applications to maintain or increase crop yields, minimize nutrient input costs and nutrient losses to surface and groundwater

2020–2024 Long Island Sound Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan Update

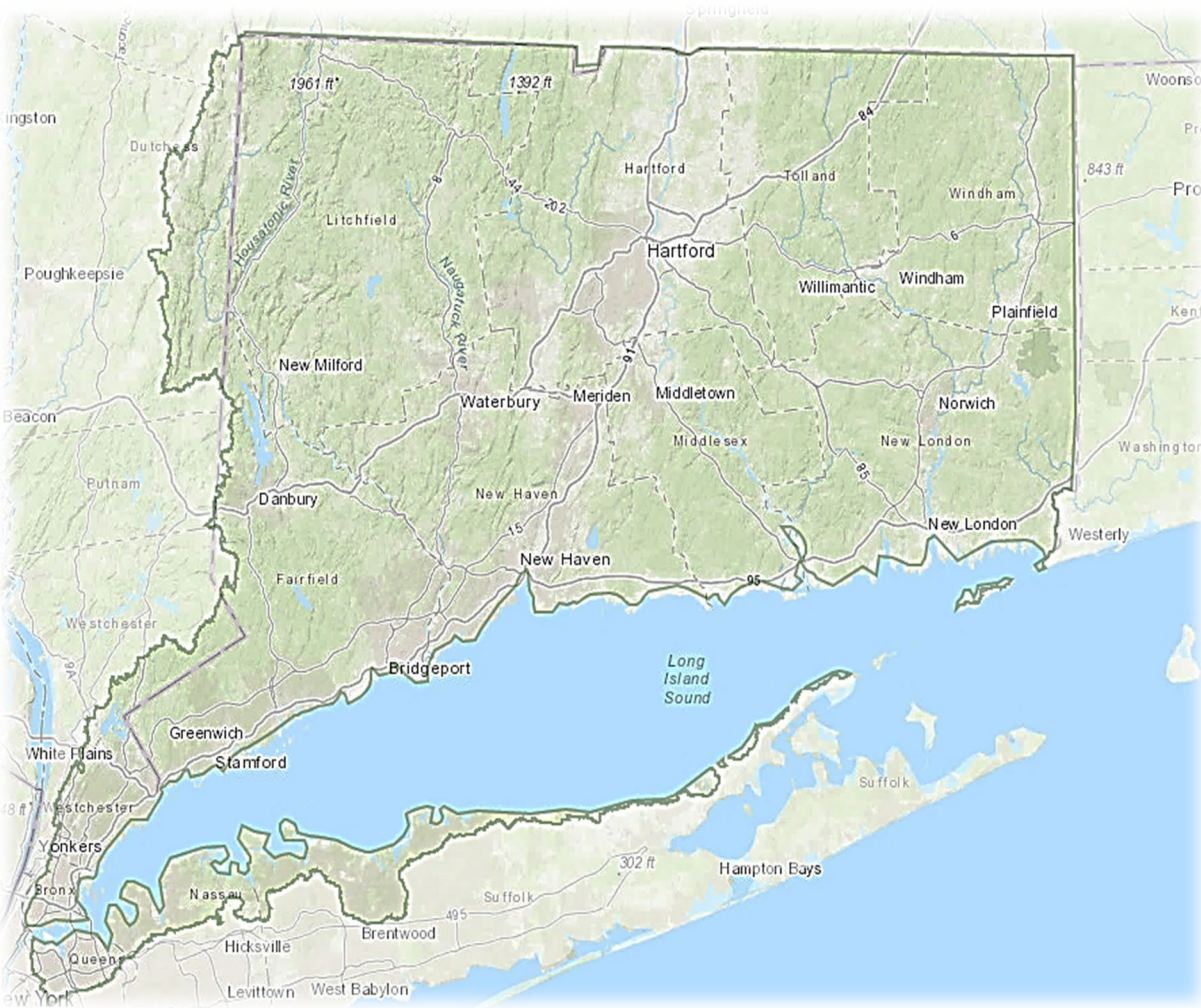
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January 2021



Boundaries & Associated Project Types Non-coastal CT & MA, VT, NH

Non-Coastal CT: **NEW! Resilience**, Clean Water, Education, Fish Passage



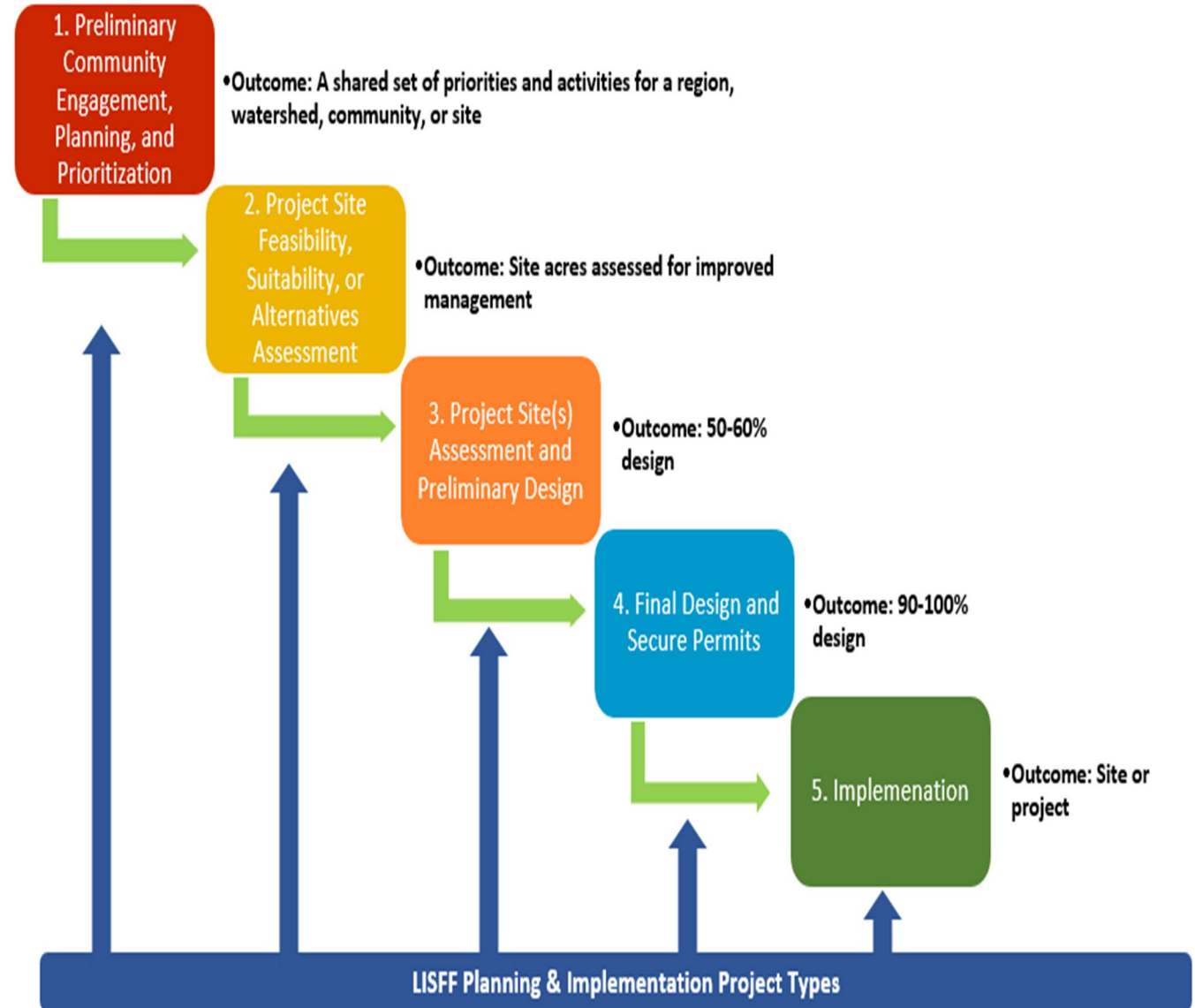
LIS Watershed MA, VT, NH: Clean Water N Reduction



Range of Funds for Grants

Design/Planning from Community Engagement and Priority Setting to Feasibility to Permitted Planning:
\$50,000 to **New! Increased to \$500,000**

Implementation: \$50,000 to **New! Increased to \$1.5m**



Grant Guidelines

Project Performance Period

- Start w/in 6 months complete w/in 24 months after grant award
- Large-scale **implementation** projects start w/in 6 months & complete w/in 36 months after grant award
- Grant award notice November 2022
- Project start date not before October 1, 2022

Match

- **Much lower match in 2022. Watch for news.**
- **Non-federal** cash funds and/or in-kind services
 - *Examples: In-kind contributions of staff/volunteer time, materials/services donated or other tangible contributions to the project*
- May be from applicant or partners
- *Must* be deployed during start and end date of LISFF project



Ineligible Activities or Items

- Research
- Operations
- New educational curriculum
- Marketing to promote an organization
- Funding for food, t-shirts/promotional items
- Full fee or easement acquisition
- Political advocacy/fundraising, lobbying/litigation; compliance w/ legal requirements including permit conditions, mitigation, settlements



Timeline

Proposal feedback *no later than*
Wednesday, April 22nd

RFP is Now Open
[@nfwf.org/lisff](https://nfwf.org/lisff)

Applicant webinar recording
can access anytime

Proposals Due
Thursday, May 19th 11:59PM
EST!

Review Summer/Fall 2022

Awards November 2022



Requesting Feedback

LISFF 2022 Idea Feedback

Send a one-page proposal description responding to the questions to Erin.Lewis@nfwf.org or anyone from Throwe team. Deadline to submit for feedback April 22, 2022.

- What is the problem to be addressed by the project and its relevance to restoration of the health and living resources of Long Island Sound?
- What is the solution to be pursued by the project? For example, major activities of the project.
- Where is the project located? For example, provide site, watershed or waterbody, and city/ state.
- What is the approximate size of the grant to be requested?
- Who will be the applicant organization?
- Contact information to receive feedback: email, telephone?



**Questions? How can we help
you?**

Joanne Throwe

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