

MEMORANDUM

TO: Clean Water Fund Board

FROM: Kari Dolan, Vermont Clean Water Initiative Program Manager

DATE: August 12, 2016 – UPDATED, September 7, 2016

RE: Draft Clean Water Fund Allocation Priorities for SFY18

CC: Beth Pearce, State Treasurer, Michael Clasen, Deputy State Treasurer, Diane Bothfeld, AAFM Deputy Secretary, Michele Boomhower, VTrans Policy, Planning & Intermodal Development Director, Joan Goldstein, DED Commissioner, Trey Martin, ANR Deputy Secretary, Alyssa Schuren, DEC Commissioner, Pete LaFlamme, WSMD Director, Joanna Pallito, AID Director, Mary Borg, WSMD Deputy Director

Please find the attached latest draft *SFY18 Clean Water Fund Allocation Priorities* and public survey results. This draft describes the recommended broad uses of the Clean Water Fund for SFY18. These funds are critical in providing additional state funds above current state agency budgets to aid in addressing the State's priority clean water restoration needs.

The draft was originally constructed collaboratively by technical staff at the Agencies of Natural Resources (ANR), Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM), Commerce and Community Development (ACCD), and Transportation (VTrans) and approved by the Clean Water Fund Board at the June 23rd Board working session.

We considered feedback received from over 260 Vermonters who responded to the July public survey regarding expectations for the allocation of expenditures from the Clean Water Fund. Most members of the public who responded to the survey considered agriculture, river channel stability including vegetated buffers along waterways, and developed lands as priorities for funding. Based on public feedback, we recommend the following adjustments to the June allocation, which pertain to ANR's set of draft allocations only. We made no adjustments to the other agency draft allocations.

We also considered public comment received during the August 22nd Clean Water Fund Board Working Meeting. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns expressed concern about the \$60,000 reduction in funds to support municipal stormwater projects and suggested using funds from LiDAR mapping to address EPA's concern (refer to the 2016-08-22 CWF Working Mtg Notes, page 4.)

We acknowledge the importance of LiDAR mapping (see bullets below at the end of this memorandum). Additionally, ACCD Secretary Moulton verified that the level of funds to support LiDAR project is critical to remain competitive in our application for federal support.

Below is a summary of the adjustments made to arrive at the latest proposal:

Activity	Adjustment	Justification
Increased ANR Allocation #3: Support for the DEC program that delivers agronomic (field based) technical support to farmers in the Champlain Basin	Increased by \$159,600 (from \$75,000 to \$234,600); Refocused to implement the program within the Lake Champlain Basin	Comment from EPA; need to provide state support when federal funding (from the Lake Champlain Basin Program) no longer becomes available to support this program
Decreased ANR Allocation #4: Partners support	Reduced by \$80,000 (from \$450,000 to \$370,000)	To accommodate the increase in Allocation #3
Decreased ANR Allocation #6: Stormwater management	Reduced by \$40,000 (from \$800,000 to \$760,000)	To accommodate the increase in Allocation #3
Decreased ANR Allocation #8: Natural resources restoration	Reduced by \$39,600 (from \$265,000 to \$225,400)	To accommodate the increase in Allocation #3
Combined ANR stormwater allocations into one allocation, now ANR Allocation #6	Combined former ANR Allocations #6 (planning) and #7 (implementation))	To provide DEC greater flexibility in meeting municipal demand for stormwater management support

We look forward to discussing the draft at the next Board working meeting, scheduled for September 8, 2016.

Some Public Benefits Associated with LiDAR Mapping:

- Improved floodplain mapping – 8 counties still have extremely old and inaccurate FEMA flood hazard maps (including Addison and Franklin). High quality LiDAR is needed to leverage federal mapping funds and get FEMA to return to Vermont and invest in future map updates.
- Land use decision making – land use permitting and decision making relies on detailed topographic data. Having this information saves time and money for municipal governments and landowners.
- Hazard mitigation grant applications – The Benefit/Cost Analysis needed to support applications can be costly if detailed topographic info does not exist. LiDAR can substantially reduce the time and cost associated with this process resulting in quicker funding decisions for towns.
- LiDAR data enhances the capacity of GIS staff at Regional Planning Commission regarding mapping services they provide to towns to support municipal planning.
- Water pollution “Critical Source Area” identification and mapping to identify priority water quality restoration activities on agricultural land, logging areas, impervious surfaces and municipal road networks.