

September 5, 2017

H. 519

Sec. 35a. CLEAN WATER PROJECTS; SIGNS.

“The Commissioner of Buildings and General Services, in collaboration with the Secretaries of Natural Resources and of Transportation, shall develop a plan for signage to identify any clean water projects funded by the State. The signage shall include uniform language and a logo to identify the projects. The signage shall be displayed in a location as visible to the public as possible for the duration of the construction phase of the project. Funds appropriated for water quality projects shall be used to pay the costs associated with the signage in accordance with the plan.”

Implementation Plan for the Use of Signage to Identify Clean Water Projects Funded by the State of Vermont.

DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

An image of the sign design is attached. Proposed size is 12”x18”.

PURCHASING AND DISTRIBUTION

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) will manufacture Clean Water Project signs and purchase posts from Vermont Correctional Industries (VCI), which will be distributed to Regional Planning Commissions. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) will reimburse VTrans based on the percentage of the total signs each Agency needs, unless alternative funds become available for the agencies to cover the cost of these signs, such as unspent funds in the Clean Water Fund. The estimated cost for 300 signs is \$7,300, including \$3,600 for the signs and \$3,700 for 7-foot posts.

Grant recipients implementing State-funded Clean Water Projects that meet the threshold criteria will be responsible for picking up signs from the Regional Planning Commission in their area, posting the sign at the project site during the construction phase, and returning the sign to the Regional Planning Commission within two weeks of completing the project. Regional Planning Commissions will be responsible for storing and keeping track of the signs. VTrans District Offices may also assist in trafficking signs as needed.

THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Agency of Natural Resources

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) funds clean water projects through the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Ecosystem Restoration Grants and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Watershed Grants, the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (DFPR) Water Quality Assistance Program. In total, ANR anticipates that as many as 100 projects could meet the criteria outlined below and be under construction at one time. For all applicable projects, ANR would include language in Grant Agreements for eligible projects to specify requirements for displaying a sign in a location as visible to the public as possible for the duration of the construction phase of the project.



Eligibility: Any implementation project with public visibility, as indicated in the grant application, supported in whole or in part by the state clean water funding programs listed above, meets state qualifications for displaying a Clean Water Project sign, including Clean Water State Revolving Fund projects. Federal signage requirements apply to Clean Water State Revolving Fund projects, and the Clean Water Project sign will be added to the specifications of the federal signs. Recipients of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund work directly with a vendor to produce these signs.

Recipients that receive state clean water funding to implement projects that meet the following criteria will be required to display Clean Water Project signs during the duration of construction of the project.

1. Public Visibility

- a. The project is in a location that is publicly visible.

2. Duration of Construction

- a. The project construction phase is two or more weeks; or
- b. The project construction phase is less than two weeks but the value of the project warrants signage, as determined by the Agency.

3. Other Special Considerations

- a. If posting the sign in the construction area causes undue interference with operations or any potential hazard to the traveling public, the sign will be posted at the construction office or staging area, as deemed appropriate by the resident engineer or other on-site authority.

4. Waiver Provision

- a. The Agency may waive the signage requirement if special circumstances that are unique to the project and its location make signage impractical, unworkable or unnecessary.

Agency of Transportation

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) funds clean water projects through the Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program, the Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Better Roads Program. In total, VTrans anticipates that as many as 100 projects could meet the criteria outlined below and be under construction at one time. For all applicable projects, VTrans would include language in Grant Agreements for projects funded after the date of this Implementation Plan to specify requirements for displaying a sign in a location as visible to the public as possible for the duration of the construction phase of the project.

Eligibility: Any project with public visibility, as indicated in the grant application, would be considered for Clean Water Project signage under this proposal.

Projects that meet the following criteria would be required to display Clean Water Project signs during the duration of construction of the project.

1. Public Visibility

- a. The project is in a location that is publicly visible.

2. Duration of Construction

- a. The project construction phase is two or more weeks; or
- b. The project construction phase is less than two weeks but the value of the project warrants signage, as determined by the Agency.

3. Other Special Considerations

- a. If posting the sign in the construction area causes undue interference with operations or any potential hazard to the traveling public, the sign will be posted at the construction office or staging area, as deemed appropriate by the resident engineer or other on-site authority.

4. Waiver Provision

- a. The Agency may waive the signage requirement if special circumstances that are unique to the project and its location make signage impractical, unworkable or unnecessary.

Agency of Agriculture

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) through our Best Management Practices (BMP) Program anticipates funding about 75 projects within a State Fiscal year, 50 of which would meet the threshold criteria outlined below to be required to have a sign displayed in an area visible to the public for the duration of the construction phase of the project. AAFM would include signage requirements for Best Management Practice (BMP) Agreements that are standalone BMP projects, as well as BMP Agreements which support USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). It is estimated that 40 of these projects could be under construction and require a sign at the same time during the SFY 2018.

AAFM will include language in all BMP Grant Agreements that the Agency may require farms to display these signs in a location as visible to the public as possible for the duration of the construction phase of the project if the farm's location and characteristics trigger the threshold criteria outlined below.

Eligibility: Any BMP capital eligible practice or project would be considered for signage under this proposal

BMP Projects that meet the following criteria would be required to display Clean Water Project signs during the duration of construction of the project.

1. Public Visibility

- a. The project is in a location that is publicly visible.
- b. A project is in a location that has special agricultural significance.
- c. The project is in a location that is associated with direct sale of agricultural products to consumers.

2. Duration of Construction

- a. The project construction phase is two or more weeks; or
- b. The project construction phase is less than two weeks but the value of the project warrants signage, as determined by the Agency.

3. Waiver Provision

- a. The Agency may waive the signage requirement if special circumstances that are unique to the project and its location, make signage impractical, unworkable or unnecessary or additional conservation practices are necessary to fully address the clean water improvements on a farm.

CLEAN WATER PROJECT

