

Vermont Clean Water Board

Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Location: National Life Davis Building – 1 National Life Drive, The Winooski Room (M240)

Clean Water Board Members/Designees:

Brad Ferland, Agency of Administration (AoA) Deputy Secretary (filling in for Susanne Young)
Ted Brady, Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) Deputy Secretary (filling in for Michael Schirling)
Bob Flint, public member
James Giffin, public member
Christopher Louras, public member (absent)
Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Secretary
Sue Scribner, Agency of Transportation (VTrans) (filling in for Joe Flynn)
Anson Tebbetts, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) Secretary (on the phone)
Chad Tyler, public member

Attendees:

Geoff Battista, Office of the State Auditor
Emily Bird, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Diane Bothfeld, AAFM
Emily Byrne, ANR
Doug Farnham, Dept. of Taxes
Bob Fitch, DEC
Jackie Folsom, Vermont Farm Bureau

Jordyn Geller, DEC
Jennifer Hollar, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB)
Neil Kamman, DEC
Tracy Lafrance, DEC
Joanna Pallito, DEC
Mary Russ, White River Partnership
Rep. Curt Taylor

I. Welcome, Approval of Agenda and Minutes

2:00-2:05 pm

Agency of Administration Deputy Secretary, Brad Ferland

- 6/12/2019 Agenda approved
- 4/25/2019 Meeting minutes approved
- See supporting materials #1 “Draft April 25, 2019 Clean Water Board Meeting Minutes”

II. Clean Water Fund Revenue Update

2:05-2:20 pm

Department of Taxes Director of Policy, Outreach, and Legislative Affairs, Doug Farnham

- See supporting materials #2 “FY2019 Clean Water Fund Revenue Summary and Forecast”
- Doug Farnham provided a revenue update for the FY2019 Clean Water Surcharge. Revenues were 10.9% above forecast at the end of May. If current trends persist in June, will end with \$6.1 million in revenue (\$5.1 million to Clean Water Fund).
- Doug provided estimates for the FY2020 and 2021 budgets.
- Doug noted the abandoned beverage deposits revenue is not expected to grow over time, however, annual revenue estimates may be updated after a year of reporting.
- Property transfer tax surcharge revenue estimates are based on the fiscal notes produced when the surcharge was established and could be updated based on actual performance.
- Secretary Moore recommended the Board establish a contingency plan for managing surplus revenues, which may involve rolling surplus revenue into the next budget process (i.e., surplus revenue in FY2020 would be included in the FY2022 clean water budget).
- Secretary Moore motioned to prepare the FY2021 clean water budget with the \$19 million target for the Clean Water Fund. Bob Flint seconded the motion. \$19 million FY2021 Clean Water Fund budget

target approved.

III. Legislative Session Outcomes for Clean Water Project Delivery Redesign

2:35-2:40 pm

Agency of Natural Resources Secretary, Julie Moore

- See supporting materials #3 “Excerpt S.96 Statutory Language: Amended Clean Water Board and Clean Water Fund Priorities”
- S. 96 “An act relating to the provision of water quality services” updated the statutory priorities of the Clean Water Fund.
- While the updated priorities are effective July 1, 2019, the FY2020 clean water budget is already in place and therefore the Board will consider the updated priorities in developing its FY2021 clean water budget recommendation.
- Clarified the excerpt provided in the supporting materials represented the Senate approved version and did not reflect the final House amendment to adjust the percentage of meals and rooms tax revenue from four to six percent to the Clean Water Fund.

IV. FY2020 Clean Water Budget

2:45-3:00 pm

Agency of Natural Resources Secretary, Julie Moore

- See supporting materials #4 “FY2020 Clean Water Budget, as passed House and Senate”
- The Governor’s recommended budget in January is very similar to the Board’s December recommendation and included an \$8 million revenue gap. The FY2020 clean water budget approved by the Legislature partially filled the \$8 million gap with \$7.7 million (\$7.5 million meals and rooms tax revenue and \$200,000 FY2020 Property Transfer Tax Budget Adjustment Act). The \$7.7 million were dispersed to the affected agencies (ANR, AAFM, and VTrans) proportionately.
- AoA will determine the intent behind using the FY2020 Property Transfer Tax Budget Adjustment Act as a means of partially filling the gap and determine the best option for obtaining spending authority (i.e., FY2020 Budget Adjustment Act or excess revenue receipts). The Board will make its recommendation regarding Budget Adjustment Act at its next Board meeting.

V. Draft FY2021 Clean Water Budget

3:00-3:20 pm

Department of Environmental Conservation Clean Water Initiative Program Manager, Emily Bird #5

- See supporting materials #5 “FY2021 Clean Water Budget Process” and #6 “Draft FY2021 Clean Water Budget”
- Emily Bird reviewed the draft FY2021 clean water budget process. This year’s process consolidates public comment into one extended public comment period with a public hearing. Public comment will be collected via online questionnaire and recorded during the public hearing.
- Emily Bird reviewed the draft FY2021 clean water budget. The budget is based on FY2020 and incorporated agency staff input during the March 13, 2019 Interagency Finance and Reporting Subcommittee meeting.
- Deputy Secretary Ferland asked if ANR roads and trails can seek funding under the Transportation Bill because it is preferred not to use Capital Bill funds to support work that can be covered by the Transportation Bill. Secretary Moore replied ANR roads and trails do not access Transportation Bill funds.
- Diane Bothfeld asked if the \$470,000 increase in “Multi-Sector Innovation, DEC and Partner Support” will be used for DEC staff. Secretary Moore replied that these funds are not currently envisioned to support DEC staff positions but will help DEC address technical components of S. 96 and support partner capacity related to S. 96 requirements.
- Ted Brady motioned to approve draft FY2021 clean water budget for public comment. Secretary Moore seconded the motion. Draft FY2021 clean water budget approved for public comment.

VI. Clean Water Fund Program Audit

3:20-3:25 pm

Agency of Administration Deputy Secretary, Brad Ferland

- Deputy Secretary Ferland inquired the basis of the Program Audit budget amount. James Giffin

responded that the Program Audit scope needs to be defined, as its statutory language is very broad and there is no applicable audit standard based on the scope described in statute.

- Deputy Secretary Ferland indicated AoA will draft the Program Audit request for proposals soon with plans to issue in the fall and select a contractor by January 2020.

VII. Comments from the Public

3:25-3:35 pm

Agency of Administration Deputy Secretary, Brad Ferland

- Jennifer Hollar from VHCB requested information on the projects supported by the additional Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation funds secured by Senator Leahy through the Lake Champlain Basin Program (\$3.45 million in FFY 2018 and \$6.15 million in FFY2019). Secretary Moore provided a summary of the FFY2018-2019 projects. Information on the FFY2018 projects are available at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/grants/lctmdl>. Jackie Folsom asked how information on the Lake Champlain TMDL implementation projects will be provided. Secretary Moore responded that it will be accounted for in the Vermont Clean Water Initiative Annual Performance Report (formerly titled the Vermont Clean Water Initiative Annual Investment Report).

VIII. Next Steps/Future Meeting

3:35-3:40 pm

Agency of Administration Deputy Secretary, Brad Ferland

- Schedule FY2021 clean water budget public hearing mid-August 2019.
- October 2019 meeting to finalize FY2021 clean water budget recommendation based on public comment.
- Secretary Moore motioned to adjourn. Bob Flint seconded the motion. Meeting Adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Adjourn

3:40 pm

Clean Water Fund Revenues vs. Appropriation October 2019

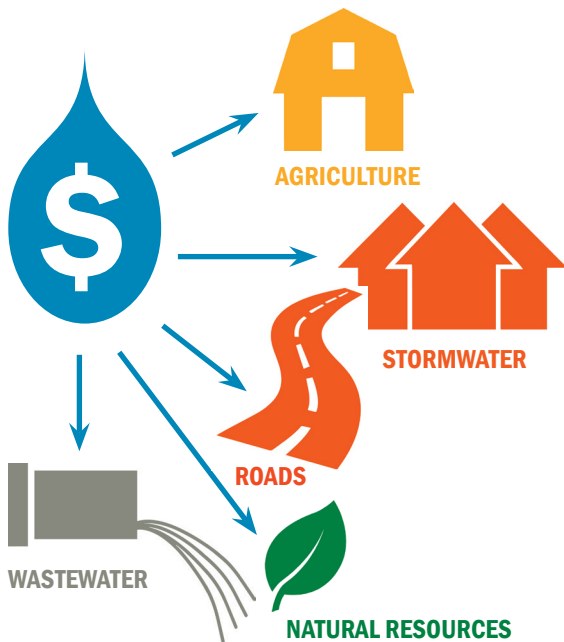
	As Passed	Appropriate Additional 200K	Updated July E board Revenue Projection	Proposed	Updated July E-board Revenue Projection
Revenue	FY 2020	FY 2020	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2021
Clean Water Surcharge (PTT)	5,000,000	5,200,000	5,520,000	5,770,000	5,920,000
Bottles	1,000,000	1,000,000	970,000	1,970,000	1,970,000
Meals and Rooms Tax	7,500,000	7,500,000	7,500,000	11,800,000	12,010,000
Subtotal Sources	13,500,000	13,700,000	13,990,000	19,540,000	19,900,000
Appropriations					
DEC	10,175,000	10,316,867	10,316,867	13,494,503	13,494,503
ACCD	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
VTRANS	770,000	790,533	790,533	1,000,000	1,000,000
FPR	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
AOA	150,000	150,000	150,000	200,000	200,000
Subtotal Uses	11,295,000	11,457,400	11,457,400	14,944,503	14,944,503
Revenue Surplus/Deficit	2,205,000	2,242,600	2,532,600	4,595,497	4,955,497
Transfers (To)/From					
Transfer (to) Agriculture CWF	(3,255,000)	(3,292,600)	(3,292,600)	(4,005,497)	(4,005,497)
Transfer (to) Lakes in Crisis Fund	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)	(50,000)
Transfer (to)/From Contingency Reserve	71,192	71,192	-	-	-
Subtotal Transfers	(3,233,808)	(3,271,408)	(3,342,600)	(4,055,497)	(4,055,497)
Current Year Unallocated/Unreserved	(1,028,808)	(1,028,808)	(810,000)	540,000	900,000
Prior Year Unallocated/Unreserved	1,028,808	1,028,808	1,028,808	218,808	218,808
Projected Balance	-	-	218,808	758,808	1,118,808
Reserve					
Contingency Reserve	878,808	878,808	950,000	878,808	950,000

* Per Act 72 Sec. F. 100(a) the meals and rooms tax for the Clean water fund is capped at \$7.5m.

** Reoccurring Revenue

*** Non-recurring Revenue

Vermont's Clean Water Funding



Vermont's Clean Water Funding helps municipalities, farmers, and others implement projects that will **reduce pollution** washing into Vermont's waters. Beyond reducing water pollution, clean water projects also:

- Protect public health and safety
- Support Clean Water Act compliance
- Increase flood resilience
- Enhance recreation
- Improve fish and wildlife habitat
- Save money over the long-term
- Leverage federal funds

FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET PROCESS

JUNE 12, 2019*
Board approves
draft FY2021
budget

JULY 22 – SEPT 6, 2019
Public Comment Period

AUG 22, 2019
Public Hearing

OCT 2019*
Board finalizes
FY2021 budget,
considering
public comment

JAN 2020
Governor proposes
FY2021 budget to
the Legislature

JAN – APRIL 2020
Legislative review
and testimony on
FY2021 budget
recommendations

*Clean Water Board Meeting



Recommendations for how state Clean Water Funding is allocated are made by the **Clean Water Board**, with representation from **five state agency secretaries**:

- Agency of Administration
- Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- Agency of Natural Resources
- Agency of Transportation

In addition, **four members of the public** are appointed by the Governor.

$$\begin{array}{c} \$19 \\ \text{MILLION} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \$13.9 \\ \text{MILLION} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \$32.9 \\ \text{MILLION} \end{array}$$

Estimated Fiscal Year 2021 Clean Water Fund revenue from the Meals and Rooms Tax Allocation, Property Transfer Tax Surcharge, and Unclaimed Bottle Deposits.

Estimated Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Funds.

Estimated Fiscal Year 2021 Clean Water Budget.

For more information, visit <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/cwf> or email anr.cleanwatervt@vermont.gov.



AGENCY OF ADMINISTRATION
AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS
AGENCY OF COMMERCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

MEMORANDUM

To: The Clean Water Board
From: Emily Bird, Clean Water Initiative Program Manager
Through: Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources Secretary
Date: September 20, 2019 updated October 18, 2019
Subject: State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021 Clean Water Budget Public Comment

Attached to this memorandum, please find the public comments received during the SFY 2021 clean water budget public comment period, as well as a brief summary of themes emerging from public comment for the Clean Water Board's consideration in finalizing its SFY 2021 clean water budget recommendation.

Compilation of Public Comment

The Clean Water Board posted its draft SFY 2021 clean water budget for public comment July 22-September 6, 2019. Input on budget priorities and comments were collected via online questionnaire; 315 individuals responded. The Clean Water Board also held a clean water budget public hearing on August 22, 2019, attended by over 40 individuals. Additional public comments were submitted via email. Attachments include:

1. Comments submitted via online questionnaire (see page 8);
2. August 22, 2019 Clean Water Board Working Meeting/Clean Water Budget Public Hearing DRAFT meeting minutes (see page 28); and
3. Other comments submitted by email/letter (see page 35).

Public Comment Themes and Proposed Responses

1. **Theme:** Commenters identified clean water improvements in the agricultural sector as a high priority and requested more flexible funds to support agricultural technical assistance, education and outreach, project development, and enforcement.

Proposed Response: The draft SFY 2021 clean water budget increases funds to the "Water Quality Grants to Partners and Farmers" line item by 12 percent compared to SFY 2020, acknowledging agricultural clean water improvements are cost effective and high priority. Significant federal funds also support this work. Recommend use of anticipated unallocated/unreserved reoccurring revenue to increase the "Water Quality Grants to Partners and Farmers" line item by \$700,000. Additionally, recommend increasing the "Multi-Sector Innovation, Program and Partner Support" line item by \$200,000 using anticipated unallocated/unreserved reoccurring revenue, with a portion of the increased amount used to support agricultural compliance assistance and inspections.

2. **Theme:** Commenters support continued and increased investments in clean water projects to address stormwater runoff, including runoff from municipal roads, citing limited municipal budgets with competing priorities. Additionally, investments are needed to support the rollout of the Developed Lands General Permit (i.e., "3-acre permit"), including development of project delivery and early adoption.

Proposed Response: The draft SFY 2021 clean water budget increases funds to support municipal road clean water projects by 18 percent compared to SFY 2020, acknowledging clean water improvements to municipal roads are cost effective and high priority. Recommend use of anticipated unallocated/unreserved non-recurring revenue to increase the "Stormwater Project Delivery, Planning and Implementation" line item by \$668,808 to support municipal stormwater and rollout of the Developed Lands General Permit.

3. **Theme:** Commenters expressed strong support to protect public clean water investments through: (1) operation and maintenance of existing state-funded projects and (2) enforcement of agricultural clean

water regulations.

Proposed Response: (1) Regarding operation and maintenance, the Clean Water Service Delivery Act of 2019 (Act 76) enables use of state clean water funds to support the reasonable costs of operation and maintenance of clean water projects. These programs become effective November 2021 and costs will be considered in drafting the SFY 2022 clean water budget. (2) Regarding enforcement of agricultural clean water regulations, the Clean Water Fund Program Audit, required under 10 V.S.A. § 1389b, will include an evaluation of the capacity of Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Department of Environmental Conservation to effectively administer and enforce agricultural water quality requirements on farms in the state. It is anticipated that findings of the Program Audit will provide recommendations to improve enforcement activities.

4. **Theme:** Commenters expressed frustration in limited funds available to support implementation of the Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan.

Proposed Response: Lake Carmi is the only designated lake in crisis in Vermont. Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1313c, \$50,000 was appropriated from the Clean Water Fund in SFY 2019 to the Lake in Crisis Response Program Fund for initial response to the lake in crisis designation. This annual investment is continued in SFY 2020 and proposed to be continued in SFY 2021. Recipients of grants through the Lake in Crisis Response Program Fund are required to pay at least 35 percent of project costs. In addition to the Lake in Crisis Response Program Fund, approximately \$1.9 million from state and federal sources are supporting the Lake Carmi Crisis Response Plan in SFY 2019-2020. In addition, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and U.S. Department of Agriculture provide cost share for agricultural clean water projects in the watershed. While Lake Carmi clean water project proponents must compete for funds outside the Lake in Crisis Response Program Fund, clean water funds are targeted through Tactical Basin Plans to projects addressing pollutant loading “hot spots” and Lake Carmi is a priority area under the Missisquoi Bay Tactical Basin Plan.

5. **Theme:** Commenters expressed support for municipal wastewater treatment facility phosphorus upgrades that require substantial investment at the local and state-level and greatly affect municipal user rates and affordability.

Proposed Response: The draft SFY 2021 budget supports capital investments in municipal wastewater treatment through Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loans and Municipal Pollution Control Grants. The loans and grants offset municipal costs of upgrading wastewater treatment facilities. Additionally, the budget continues wastewater treatment facility operator support to optimize facility operations for nutrient removal. While wastewater treatment upgrades are generally more expensive than other clean water project types per unit of phosphorus controlled, they are necessary to meet federal and state clean water regulations and protect public health by treating other wastewater pathogens and pollutants.

6. **Theme:** Commenters requested funding Vermont Housing and Conservation Board’s “Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects” line item to the SFY 2019 level of \$2.75 million, citing that land conservation prevents water pollution and protects high quality waters.

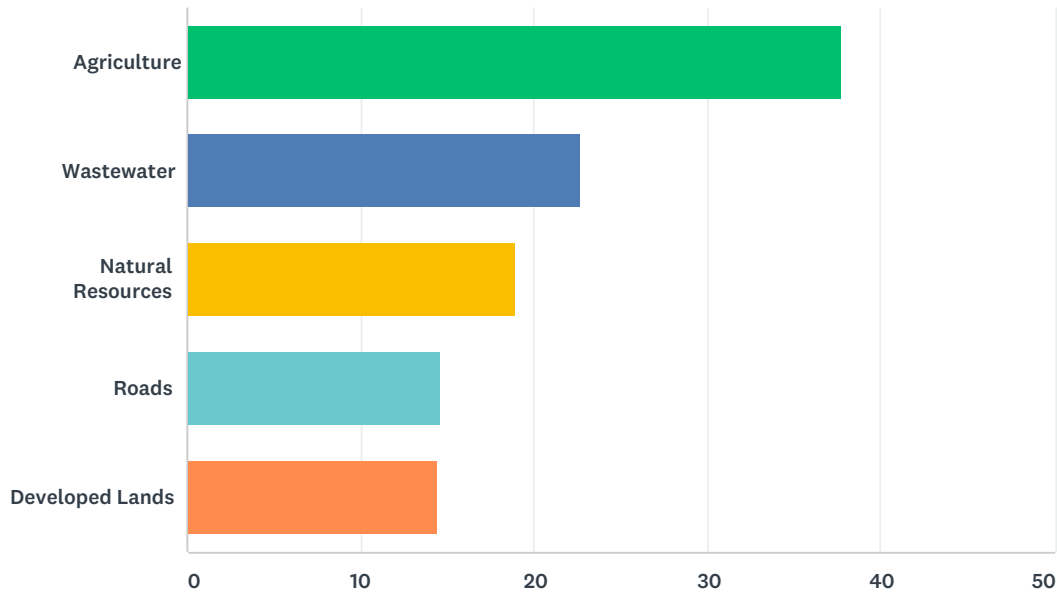
Proposed Response: Act 76 of 2019 requires a Land and Water Conservation Study to develop a recommended framework for statewide land conservation related to maximizing water quality benefits of conservation efforts. The results of the study may inform adjustments to this line item in future budget years.

7. **Theme:** Commenters requested a breakdown of how the “Multi-Sector Innovation, Program and Partner Support” line item will be spent.

Proposed Response: The breakdown of uses for the “Multi-Sector Innovation, Program and Partner Support” line item will be determined at the programmatic level after the passage of the SFY 2021 budget. The draft SFY 2021 clean water budget line item description lists types of work these funds will support.

Q1 For each land use listed below, assign a percentage of clean water funding that would support clean water projects. Your percentages must add up to 100.

Answered: 307 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Agriculture	38	11,319	300
Wastewater	23	6,438	284
Natural Resources	19	5,099	270
Roads	15	3,973	271
Developed Lands	14	3,871	268
Total Respondents: 307			

Q2 Additional Comments

Answered: 171 Skipped: 144

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Compliance needs to be encouraged and enforced.	9/6/2019 3:51 PM
2	Natural Resources projects are a great investment per dollar and have significant co-benefits. The clean water budget underfunds these important projects.	9/6/2019 11:44 AM
3	conserving ag lands against future development AND installing BMPs on conserved farms with government cost share reaching 99% will do a lot and send a powerful message to ag community	9/6/2019 11:18 AM
4	Agriculture is the most cost-effective way to reduce phosphorus. Helping farmers implement BMPs will also help strengthen the agricultural economy, our working landscape, and our tourist industry.	9/6/2019 10:57 AM
5	Support and promote regenerative ag!	9/6/2019 9:40 AM
6	After attending your public meeting in Montpelier, it was clear the entire audience believes we are not concentrating on the right issues. You have an identified Lake in Crisis (Lake Carmi)- yet you failed to put any future funds toward it. The aeration system the State insisted on....is failing. We all knew it would fail, if the flow wasn't stopped. To date, we have watched an illegal CAFO dump tens of thousands of gallons of manure, onto the eastern slopes of the watershed.....the day before a weeks worth of heavy rain. As of this writing, Lake Carmi is in full cyanobacteria bloom. We will NEVER achieve our TMDL standards until we realize our land use rules and regulations are not only outdated, they are poisoning our waters. Lake Carmi is "ground zero" for Vermont's efforts to clean our watersheds, rivers and lakes. If you can't show success on this 1400 acre lake, you will never show success elsewhere. Some major issues you need to understand. It takes 40 gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of milk. Milk that no one is drinking. We cannot allow agriculture to be 40-80% of the problem in our waterways, and not part of the solution.	9/6/2019 8:10 AM
7	Farms are the main culprit.Look at all the disturbed and open land. They also have their own set of rules which is harmful	9/6/2019 3:43 AM
8	I think the public would like to see some overlay maps pointing out source pollution points and hot spots on a daily basis on social media - Facebook and Instagram.	9/5/2019 6:05 PM
9	Our lakes and streams are in bad shape. If something more aggressive is not done soon, the lakes especially will no longer be safe for use	9/5/2019 7:45 AM
10	Agricultural practices need to change so that ALL the nutrients spread on the ground STAY on the ground. Cessation of manure spreading in impaired watersheds for a year or two would allow scientists to determine if there is a substantial reduction in phosphorus runoff without manure spreading. This will tell if the land was holding all of the nutrients spread on it or not.	9/5/2019 5:02 AM
11	Let the state auditor new report guide the investments	9/3/2019 11:16 AM
12	Funding should be proportional to anticipated benefit, taking into account each land use type's relative contribution to pollution of waterways and the availability, cost, and effectiveness of the remedies for each land type.	9/3/2019 9:04 AM
13	Wastewater should take into account development of wastewater infrastructure for villages without it. The absence of community wastewater systems (and/or community water) threatens retention of existing businesses and homes, and ostensibly precludes any business development or expansion or the addition of any additional dwelling units. This then precludes the realization of virtually any Vermont policy that is dependent upon compact settlement patterns, which means the path of least resistance is sprawl (development along class 3 town roads). Downtowns can and should be the focus of development, but they also have wastewater limitations and cannot accommodate all growth when it comes. We need to think creatively about village wastewater systems. They should likely be disbursed and soil-based as opposed to a conventional central wastewater treatment system.	9/3/2019 6:49 AM
14	All important projects, but Wastewater is a low % of the load and many plants have already upgraded	9/3/2019 4:52 AM
15	These are all important to water quality	9/2/2019 5:08 AM

Clean Water Fund State Fiscal Year 2021 Questionnaire

16	Better information is needed for a starting point. What has been spent so far? What are the estimates for what land uses are creating a larger percentage of the problem.	9/1/2019 4:01 AM
17	They are all equally important and if they worked together instead of competitively maybe something even better could happen!!	8/30/2019 11:48 AM
18	More than half of the state's water woes are directly attributable to industrial factory farm dairy production, where too many cows create too much manure in ecologically-sensitive areas. According to a report from Regeneration Vermont—"A failure to Regulate: Big Dairy & Water Pollution in Vermont"—from 40 - 79 percent of the phosphorus and nitrogen pollution, and almost all of the pesticide pollution, comes from the industrial mega-dairies that supply Cabot Creamery and Ben & Jerry's. Cabot's and Ben & Jerry's rake in billions in sales every year, while paying farmers less than it costs them to produce the milk. Yet these two companies want Vermont taxpayers to foot the bill for cleaning up their mess! The best way to clean up Vermont's water is to stop polluting it in the first place. And that means cleaning up Vermont's industrial factory farm dairy industry. I implore you to look closer at this issue and come up with affordable solutions to encourage these farmers to adapt things such as wetland/vegetation buffers, less livestock or more acreage for them, no CAFO's etc to solve the clean water problem. The problem with clean water seems to be the worst where non regenerative, or nonorganic agriculture are most common. As a struggling, organic produce farmer, i struggle with my diet choices. I am increasingly becoming vegan as i see the atrocious conditions of industrial agriculture and its consequences. Witness the burning of the Amazon for example. I don't think it is asking too much to assist these farmers in finding a new way as I have done. One example of a good model is Joel Salatin's farm in Virginia. I know I am rambling here, but I feel that a "Victory Garden" model needs to return with everyone producing their own food and assisting others to do so.	8/29/2019 3:42 PM
19	Farm runoff is rampant in Addison County! Please review RAP compliance in the Dead Creek, Otter Creek and Lewis Creek watersheds.	8/28/2019 8:35 AM
20	I think the most amount of funding should be targeted to public education regarding the importance of clean water and the ramifications	8/28/2019 8:09 AM
21	I prioritized agriculture over the other areas because of the importance it plays in Vermont's state economy and the interest in and commitment to supporting local agriculture among much of the state population. If we can make our agriculture more sustainable and reduce negative impacts, it may help the long-term vitality of Vermont.	8/28/2019 7:55 AM
22	Would like to see less money spent on propping up the current model of more industrial corn, more CAFO cows, more debt. Spend more money on transitioning farmers to a more sustainable, diversified model of agriculture (grazing? permanent grass? diverse crops? organic?) that would stop the phosphorus continuing to pour into the lake. Industrial corn and dairy is not working for anyone -- especially the farmers. And we pay for it on both ends, at the farm, and in the lake.	8/28/2019 6:44 AM
23	Clean up the LAKE it's a disgrace to this state and it's image and health and welfare of its residents !!!!!!!	8/28/2019 6:05 AM
24	We live on a lake surrounded by agriculture. Addressing farm run off must be a priority.	8/26/2019 11:21 AM
25	I think the money should first go to the things that are going to stop new incoming nutrients.	8/26/2019 10:34 AM
26	We must acknowledge the primary cause of the water issues and deal with it.	8/25/2019 7:06 AM
27	Why are the large farms not required to meet act 250? Perhaps the large industrial farms that pay hardly any taxes and pay no attention to their run off that is saturated with ecoli/round up etc., not get funding! Give funding to the small farms that are rotation fields growing perennial grasses that have roots many feet deep - that capture carbon , therefore feeding the cows grass NOT CORN, which is not only sustainable but is a win for the health of the water, people , cows and THE ENVIRONMENT. Vermont farms could led in premium diary products offering the consumer trust . The image of business no matter what the consequences is cloaked by a great Vermont lie of wonderful clean waters, green hills, and happy cows -WRONG the un veiling is starting to happen why not change the lie at its source . A win - win outcome!	8/24/2019 8:30 AM
28	please do something about industrial farming, its killing the family farm, polluting the lake and surrounding properties and ruining the Vermont Brand.	8/24/2019 8:24 AM
29	We need to enforce existing statutes as I commonly see violations on all fronts and we need to support research into the sequestration of phosphorous compounds.	8/23/2019 4:46 PM
30	Roads and developed lands can be financed by increased user fees.	8/23/2019 10:17 AM

Clean Water Fund State Fiscal Year 2021 Questionnaire

31	A transition away from conventional dairy farming (particularly the industrial/CAFO dairies) is an absolute must. Their practices will only continue to exacerbate our water pollution and efforts up to this point have fallen well short of what's actually needed to turn off the dairy pollution spigot. I live in immediate proximity to the Monument Farm's dairy fields where they grow their GMO corn and spray copious amounts of manure and other chemicals, and I watch these things flow straight toward Lake Champlain. This has got to stop! I'm tired of my tax money going to lake cleanup only to see these giant dairy farms be allowed to continue these deeply damaging practices. I'd love to see these farms transition to organic production, get their cows back on those pastures and start building soil fertility, increasing carbon-storing capacity, water-holding capacity, and generally begin using more regenerative methods of dairy production. It would do wonderful things for Vermont's ecology, protect our watersheds, and provide healthier milk as a result. I also think our wastewater infrastructure around my county is sorely in need of an update. We can't keep sending sewer overflow into the Lake. It's absolutely unacceptable.	8/22/2019 7:57 AM
32	Improvements to wastewater treatment are not required to meet goals. Developers need to stop externalize the costs of their surface runoff to our waterways, also car use and lawn fertilizer need to be used less. Towns need support improving and maintaining the quality of their roads. But it's farms that need to stop with the discharging of nutrients to waterways. It is inefficient and harmful. Farming is already hard enough. The State needs to do more to bring farming practices up to snuff by paying for them.	8/22/2019 6:57 AM
33	You virtually NEVER acknowledge or address PESTICIDES. You always refer to them in lumped-in fashion with other vague unknowns needing "further research." This is a fail that can no longer be viewed as unintentional or simply due to a lack of data. Pesticide use would fit in all of the above categories, easily.	8/22/2019 5:15 AM
34	Cabot's and Ben & Jerry's rake in billions in sales every year, while paying farmers less than it costs them to produce the milk. Yet these two companies want Vermont taxpayers to foot the bill for cleaning up their mess! The best way to clean up Vermont's water is to stop polluting it in the first place. And that means cleaning up Vermont's industrial factory farm dairy industry.	8/21/2019 7:51 PM
35	I strongly support budgeting more funds to directly address the major source of pollution, which is coming from farm runoff. We need to improve monitoring of large farm operations and we need to develop holding ponds for their runoff to accommodate the increasing storm severity. Large dairy farms are likely the most significant contributor to the algae blooms in the lake, and the economic impact on tourism is going to be enormous.	8/21/2019 5:52 PM
36	Industrial farming comprises a very low percentage of the state's revenue while tourism is huge. Industrial farming is ruining Lake Champlain!	8/21/2019 5:50 PM
37	2017 Report from RegenerationVermont.org Big dairy buyers like Ben & Jerry's, Cabot Creamery, or Green Mountain Greek Yogurt could, with a decision to buy organic ingredients, almost immediately turn around the problems of Vermont's dairy economy, poor working conditions on farms, polluted waterways, and unhealthy cows. If only there was a will to do so. Ultimately, the public must collectively decide how to clean up our lakes and rivers, and who is going to pay for the cleanup. Don't forget, up until now, public taxpayers have put more than \$200 million into cleaning Vermont's public waters.	8/21/2019 6:56 AM
38	Just don't spend everything on Lake Champlain! Keep an eye on the other needs in the state.	8/21/2019 6:01 AM
39	All five land uses are important but storm water runoff from roads is more important in Burlington and runoff and soil erosion is more important in agricultural areas.	8/21/2019 5:35 AM
40	Let's help our farmers and our water resource by subsidizing ways for agriculture to reduce runoff	8/21/2019 3:21 AM
41	I think Ag is a large contributor for P loading to lakes/streams; Natural Resources a good way to present natural buffers. The wastewater industry contributes too little overall, and they have upgraded significantly so there is little gain for improvement except for CSO improvement	8/21/2019 2:56 AM
42	Heavily regulate pesticide use, paying attention to the latest scientific research and focusing on industrial scale conventional dairy operations that produce tons of contaminated manure and wastewater.	8/20/2019 6:37 PM
43	It's always best to balance than to cherry pick or promote the extremes. Give credence to what is working and keep promoting Awareness and Communication.	8/20/2019 5:05 PM
44	Stiffer fines and tighter parameters for agriculture so they won't incur state funding; same w/ development - they must be held responsible and more ACTS should be passed for less pollution. More education.	8/20/2019 3:04 PM

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45	Overall funding should be increased. Water is the life blood of our state.	8/20/2019 2:50 PM
46	Agricultural pollution is the largest polluter after power generation and transportation. We only have one environment. If we lose the environment, we lose ourselves. If we lose the environment, we lose it all.	8/20/2019 1:16 PM
47	Divided equally in order to improve infrastructure.	8/20/2019 1:02 PM
48	money for restoration and protection of floodplains and wetlands essential	8/20/2019 11:53 AM
49	We need a direct effort to financial and TA to address better agronomic practices that will build the soil up and utilize nutrients better. Only then will we see a difference in water quality. All the manure is going on all the same fields using the same methods it is just coming out of a much fancier hole. We need to redirect money on infrastructure to agronomic practices.	8/20/2019 11:43 AM
50	Cabot Creamery regularly spews their wastewater near my property and I do not believe it is safe! They should be required to build their own wastewater treatment plant and stop polluting The Kingdom!	8/20/2019 11:01 AM
51	I am EXTREMELY concerned about the glyphosate, atrazine, etc contamination in surface and aquifer water - as well as the excess nitrogen and phosphorus. I wish that GMO's and toxic pesticides would be banned from VT. And, shame on Cabot and Ben & Jerry's for not contributing to a clean-up superfund. It's obscene. Natalie Billings Wilder VT	8/20/2019 10:37 AM
52	I believe we must clean up agricultural water pollution and provide incentives to help farmers move into organic farming.	8/20/2019 8:57 AM
53	There is a need for homeowner septic testing across the state on public waterways	8/20/2019 8:35 AM
54	We need to eliminate the sources of polluted/dirty water.	8/20/2019 7:13 AM
55	Agriculture has the largest impact on water quality and should be the #1 priority.	8/20/2019 6:53 AM
56	Road issues should be taken care of by the towns; wastewater treatment plants should be charged back to the folks using them in taxes	8/20/2019 6:52 AM
57	built areas should have wq built into designs. NRs are public domain areas that need public stewardship over time	8/20/2019 6:48 AM
58	We can correct many of the WQ problems associated with Agr. + Urban Development by simply strengthening or correcting the current stormwater regulation/rules as well as forestry AMPs and Agr. BMPs. In some cases, it may be more enforcement.	8/20/2019 6:38 AM
59	Vermont needs to move away from big farms which use GMO seeds/herbicides like glyphosate to smaller organic farms. We are thinking about moving because of large GMO corn crops right across the road from us--Vermont can do better--regenerative agriculture should be top priority for the state--	8/20/2019 6:35 AM
60	big box store sites are responsible for a lot of waste water run off	8/17/2019 12:10 AM
61	Per unit area, developed lands contribute more P than other areas, so concentrating funds to help minimize P runoff from developed lands is critical.	8/16/2019 4:24 AM
62	thank you for focusing on clean water priorities!	8/14/2019 2:59 PM
63	Costs of water quality should be rolled into land development and to the people who make the profits. Hard to say any one thing is best, we all need to work together.	8/13/2019 4:29 PM
64	Farmers have tried for years to do what the colleges have pushed with very little foresite we never had these issues with more animals in years past but they were spread out and not concentrated. when will universities start looking ahead. It seems they only look at today	8/13/2019 3:32 PM
65	The balance is scewed because of interrelated factors of ag,wastewater, roads , and land use . I found this question slanted for promoting ongoing disconnect of all the agencies	8/13/2019 8:46 AM
66	What if we actually enforced the RAPs?	8/13/2019 8:17 AM
67	We need to go to a more natural way of sustainable living that uses what we have naturally and not use the damaging unsustainable toxic products that are destroying our health and planet.	8/13/2019 5:16 AM
68	No dumping business waste in them. Should be monitored. And strict fines for polluting with cost of clean up.	8/12/2019 4:38 PM

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69	How about fining Burlington and St.Albans for allowing raw sewage into the lake every time it rains? Chief Rich, Missisquoi Abenaki Nation. Feel free to call me.	8/12/2019 1:57 PM
70	Where can I find the statistics? How much has phosphorus runoff been reduced from various agricultural locations in every year since, say, 2010? Tell us what you have done and what the results have been.	8/9/2019 7:48 AM
71	None	8/8/2019 2:22 AM
72	use tax \$ for public benefit first, and lean on regs for the built up areas including ag and sylv	8/7/2019 5:13 PM
73	While they are all important, I think wastewater management is critical	8/7/2019 11:08 AM
74	I am located in Highgate Springs close to the mouth of Dead Creek. I believe that a great deal of our water issues can be dramatically improved by monitoring the water quality at various points along the creek. We should be checking for dramatic increases in contaminants indicating localized dumping of chemicals into the river (lake).	8/7/2019 7:34 AM
75	Farmers need better knowledge, options and financial support on how to spread manure on their fields--if this manure-spreading indeed must be done. This has the most hurtful impact on water quality. They need to develop better soil by using cover crops. They need to know what are the alternatives to having cows--which are producing the manure. They need financial incentive and training to switch away from raising cows.	8/7/2019 7:28 AM
76	Undeveloped and restored natural lands are the keys to water quality, so I assigned the highest percentage to the Natural Resources category.	8/6/2019 11:15 AM
77	In Missisquoi Bay the problem is largely farm runoff--minimal affect from other stated sources	8/5/2019 4:43 PM
78	Municipalities should be addressing their own issues town by town.	8/5/2019 12:28 PM
79	It's impossible to allocate percentages for Question #1 unless one is able to see which sectors are subject to unfunded mandates and what the typical cost of the required projects is.	8/5/2019 4:55 AM
80	Burlington residents have lost trust in our water treatment, with all the accidental releases and the recent boil water incident. This is unacceptable. And regulations and enforcement of best practices in farming is necessary to minimize one of the greatest sources of lake pollution.	8/5/2019 4:16 AM
81	Each of these areas interact in complex ways to affect water quality. Therefore, equal funding must be given to all categories.	8/4/2019 8:47 AM
82	SOIL. That is the truly comprehensive "land use" that cleans water. Please invest in SOIL.	8/4/2019 3:04 AM
83	there is some guess work in my allocation. Shouldn't the allocation be based either on which sources are the biggest contributors or where the money can result in the greatest reduction of nutrient loading?	8/2/2019 3:57 AM
84	I drink Lake Champlain water.	8/2/2019 3:53 AM
85	It needs to be the most cost effective at reducing nutrients/sediments into the lake.	8/2/2019 2:16 AM
86	Dairy farmers are committed to helping be part of the solution - they are able to provide the most bang for the buck, and can return carbon to our soil, help mitigate floods with healthy land, and are also creating food for our communities.	8/1/2019 12:02 PM
87	I've focused money on Natural Resources Projects listed in the WSMD Tactical Basin Plans for priority clean water cleanup efforts	8/1/2019 10:05 AM
88	As long as the state allows farms to spread manure during run off times these numbers mean nothing.	7/31/2019 12:02 PM
89	I believe the auditor's recent report sums up where our marginal dollar should be going -- agriculture, which we would should acknowledge through our spending is the heart of the matter when it comes to Lake Champlain pollution.	7/31/2019 11:30 AM
90	If we'd regulate ag better, we wouldn't need to spend as much on ag.	7/30/2019 5:08 PM
91	We need to support the restoration of natural wetlands/floodplains, possibly removing ag lands from production at the same time.	7/30/2019 6:36 AM
92	Protecting and restoring our natural infrastructure has so many other ancillary benefits	7/29/2019 6:08 PM
93	No more studies please. Get to work!	7/29/2019 3:32 PM

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94	It seems like the State is overly concerned about developed land runoff when it should be paying closer attention to farm runoff. I think we need to keep retaining and treating our newly developed land runoff, but requiring smaller grandfathered sites to update their systems instead of requiring more strict regulations for the primary pollutant source (farms) makes little sense to me.	7/29/2019 7:27 AM
95	I think attention has to be paid to conserving water so those processes (leaky sewer pipes municipal treatment leaky water pipes etc) that create water that needs treatment do not receive as much and less spills into water resources	7/29/2019 6:05 AM
96	Municipal waste is by far the worst pollutant that enters our waterways.	7/29/2019 4:52 AM
97	Toxic Landfill leachate from Coventry is being dumped by the tens of thousands of gallons daily into WWTFs in Newport, Montpelier and several other sites. These facilities do not have capacity to filter toxins, including PFAS chemicals, and so these go directly into rivers and lakes. The District 7 commission recently approved the Coventry landfill expansion but banned the dumping of leachate into Memphremagog, which indicates their awareness of the hazards of toxic leachate to public and in this case international waterways. They leave the door open to resuming dumping in future however. Meanwhile, the 15,000 gallons a day of leachate will just be dumped into another Vermont waterway. Montpelier alone receives 23,000 gallons a day and much more is dumped elsewhere. Does the right hand know what the left hand is doing here? One bill purports to be in support of clean water while ANR allows for this toxic practice to continue. The multimillion dollar corporation that owns the landfill must be required to build a facility capable of cleansing leachate of toxins and disposing of filtered toxins in a safe manner, not returning them to the landfill. The dumping of leachate into any Vermont waterbody must be banned, and those bans made permanent, for the health of our environment, our citizens, our economy and our future as a beautiful, pristine and attractive place to live, work and recreate.	7/29/2019 4:11 AM
98	Buy easements on open lands with sufficient payment to require forested riparian practice.	7/29/2019 2:14 AM
99	Agriculture runoff in Franklin County has become so bad it should be considered a criminal act if not stopped.	7/28/2019 8:47 AM
100	Aging infrastructure must be addressed.	7/27/2019 1:43 PM
101	Vermont should lead the country with rainwater/snow harvest/use with the amounts we get every year. It is a wasted resource.	7/26/2019 6:44 PM
102	It is always hard to put an exact number on these things. Wasn't sure what Natl Resources was.	7/26/2019 12:53 PM
103	I would like it if the agency used its expertise and knowledge to decide which have the greatest impact and in which areas the funding will make the greatest difference.	7/26/2019 11:24 AM
104	Green stormwater infrastructure should be the focus of future funding- towns want to do these projects, they just need financial support	7/26/2019 11:01 AM
105	impacts from private development should not be funded with public dollars	7/26/2019 10:57 AM
106	Newer technology should be used for paved surfaces and there should be incentives to towns and homeowners to install these.	7/26/2019 8:36 AM
107	Useless survey - you are asking laymen to answer technical questions that they have no proper knowledge.	7/26/2019 8:31 AM
108	Towns can fund sewage treatment plants thru user fees	7/26/2019 7:13 AM
109	Stop blaming farmers for the lake being gross. It is the cities and towns dumping human waste into the lake. Millions upon millions of it and its not by accident either. Not the farmers stop with that lame excuse! The people running the waste facilities are the ones to blame for the release of waste!! Fine them, fire them!	7/26/2019 6:50 AM
110	Millions of gallons of raw sewage dumped into the lake and tributaries that feed lake Champlain. Every rainfall overloads 100yr old sewage systems. The agriculture sector has already been fined and taxed to protect from runoff. Though with more can be done. With tax funds to help. The biggest problem is the sewage	7/26/2019 5:41 AM
111	The sewer issues are obviously the biggest issue and that's very evident this year. The farms are low impact compared to millions of gallons of raw sewage.	7/26/2019 5:37 AM

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112	Its absolutely comical how the state spends all this money on how to keep the lake clean, yet every time it rains the Burlington treatment plant releases untreated waste into the lake.... might want to start there that is an direct impact to the lake, washing my car in my driveway and having the runoff drip into the soils that lead to the lake thats years and years and years before it impact the lake, FIX THE OBVIOUS ISSUES FIRST	7/26/2019 5:27 AM
113	As the state audit showed, the best results for phosphorous reduction comes from Ag. Municipalities must stop the sewage overflows. It's obvious to lay people, however, the state officials are slow to address the real causes because of the lobbying done by farmers. Franklin county has a relative of a mega farm as a senator. His only contribution this year was to write legislation that further protects farmers. Let's protect our drinking water and our lakes and ponds before it is too late.	7/26/2019 5:21 AM
114	Please consider \$ for staff in the AIS (aquatic invasive species) division at DEC.	7/26/2019 5:12 AM
115	i have lived in franklin county for almost 60 years. my opinion is when it comes to farms, the liquid manure causes the biggest share of the problem.as a kid, we didn't have these issues when we spread solids on the fields. the state dropped the ball once again when they told farmers to go liquid. never as a kid did i see the crappy water conditions in missisquoi bay, goose and gander bay, lake carmi, not until liquid manure came along. also air quality, when we spread solids, a couple days pass and the smell is almost gone. liquid manure, the smell lingers for weeks.	7/26/2019 5:05 AM
116	Missisquoi Bay continues to be impacted by farm runoff and the dreaded Blue Algae. Anything that can be done to help reduce the causes would be greatly appreciated!	7/26/2019 4:59 AM
117	Our most heavily travelled roads all follow the major bodies of water in this state; rt 7, rt 100, I-89, rt 5, and I-91.	7/26/2019 4:55 AM
118	Reduce cormorant population to help reduce phosphorus	7/25/2019 6:47 PM
119	Please make sure to appropriate the funds according to the areas that are the highest polluters first. Also, please use existing funds and request Federal Funding to help us in our efforts. I would really push hard as much Federal Funding possible because Vermont is a small state with limited resources. We cannot increase taxes too high or create an even higher tax burden. Our state is losing population so please spend the resources wisely and effectively! Thank You!	7/25/2019 6:25 PM
120	as a boater it appears clear that ag and sewer are the most potent threat in terms of recreational use of Lake Champlain	7/25/2019 5:42 PM
121	Until the municipalities can handle the waste water capacity there should be no more permits approved to build in those municipalities, like Rutland..... that dumps millions of gallons of waste water and storm water into the lake.	7/25/2019 5:14 PM
122	Address agricultural issues. This is by far the biggest cause of clean water issues in our ponds and lakes.	7/25/2019 5:02 PM
123	I think that the main culprit right now are the massive sewage spills into the rivers and lakes.	7/25/2019 4:18 PM
124	Why not install multiple large culverts per causeway?These culverts would recreate the natural flow of the lake and greatly help the lake clean itself.	7/25/2019 2:19 PM
125	where ever leveraged monies can be available go for that too	7/25/2019 1:18 PM
126	It's my understanding that farm run off is substantially contributing to the algae blooms	7/25/2019 9:51 AM
127	Why are developed lands and roads considered two separate categories? They both deal with stormwater.	7/25/2019 8:35 AM
128	Excessive nutrients and pollution, specifically in Lake Champlain is my biggest concern. I would designate a higher percentage to reducing farm runoff but feel changing commercial farming operations would be a difficult endeavor as farms already are operating on a tiny margin and unlikely to make changes that impact them financially.	7/25/2019 8:13 AM
129	No public funds should go to developed lands. These are owned by companies that are making money off of them. Farmers are clearly causing the most issues and they are clearly in a tight spot and all public funds should go to them so that they can remain viable. To put the burden of this work on the farmer, without funding, will cause the farm to just shut down. That should not be even considered.	7/25/2019 7:08 AM
130	It seems that all of these portions are equally important. Water quality, water treatment, wetland protection, are all part of our state's income and recreation.	7/25/2019 7:07 AM

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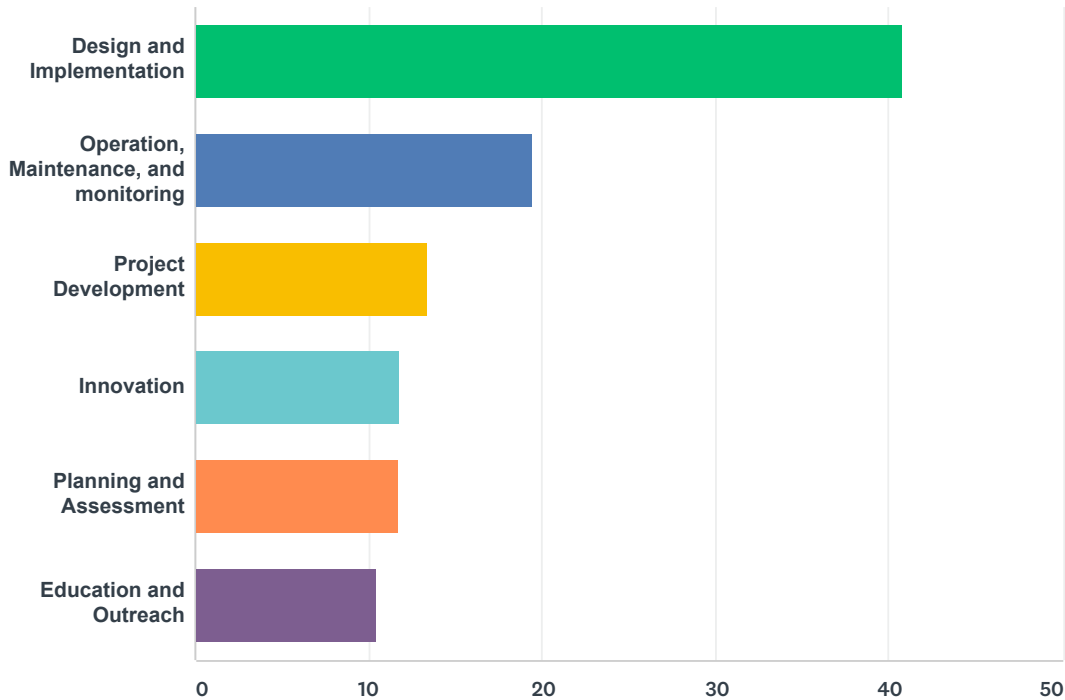
131	I read about municipal sewer dumps that cause lake & river pollution. Those need to be fixed. I see agriculture runoff after every big rain storm or snow melt. All of The farmers in our St Albans Town are not all following "Best Farming Practices". Look for the simple practice of a 10' setback from plowed field to a runoff ditch. It doesn't happen on Maquam Shore. There should be settling ponds for agriculture fields just like housing and commercial developments are mandated.	7/25/2019 7:01 AM
132	My percentage distribution is without knowing whether that distribution would allow for enough impact to be significant in any one of those areas. All of those areas seem important but if, by spreading funding equally over all of them, some areas cannot be significantly improved, then I would want to see a different distribution.	7/25/2019 6:06 AM
133	We need to migrate dairy farms to a different cash crop. A crop that allows farmers to make a living wage, keep their land, and NOT dump manure and weed killing chemicals onto Vermont soil	7/25/2019 5:58 AM
134	I'd like to see a focus on plans that will grow and change as our population increases and agriculture decreases.	7/25/2019 5:54 AM
135	While Clean Water Fund/Capital Funds should not be used directly for the purpose, investments in water quality improvement in the agricultural and forestry sectors should be complemented by independent investments in the support of ecosystem services.	7/25/2019 4:18 AM
136	Lets be truthful...this is not all coming from farmers!	7/25/2019 2:43 AM
137	Stop the agricultural run-off (from dairy farms and fertilizer used in commercial agriculture in particular) that are the main causes of the deadly cyanobacterial blooms in Lake Champlain and elsewhere in VT.	7/24/2019 5:42 PM
138	The Ag Agency are allowing dairy farms to pollute. No real enforcement. The ag Agency is based for dairy	7/24/2019 4:58 PM
139	The 0% selections meant I thought they should be dealt with via other processes, not that they weren't important to address.	7/24/2019 4:31 PM
140	PLEASE address the blatant violations by large farms in Addison and Chittenden counties, as well as the inadequate sewage systems that dump into the lake. These are inexcusable and affect us all.	7/24/2019 3:24 PM
141	It's hard to prioritize in this way without knowing the relative impact of each area to water quality problems.	7/24/2019 1:23 PM
142	We need to stop contributing to the problem—i.e., stop polluting.	7/24/2019 1:04 PM
143	Investments in the natural resource sector will have longer term benefits than any other sector.	7/24/2019 7:25 AM
144	This should have been happening at least 10 years ago, what is preventing the love and care of a significant water source?	7/24/2019 4:04 AM
145	Public funds should not be applied to private farms and development. Required treatment of runoff from these lands should be treated at the expense of the landowners. The use of drainage tiles on agricultural lands should be regulated and all discharges should be treated the same as required for residential and commercial development.	7/23/2019 2:37 PM
146	I don't understand the purpose of asking the public to assign funding percentages to water quality projects. The data is clear. Funding should be spent proportionate to the percentage of the problem that a given sector represents adjusted for relative cost.. For instance, conventional agriculture (particularly conventional CAFO dairy operations) represents between 40% and 50% of the problem. Therefore, funding should be allocated in such a way as to meaningfully tackle this disproportionate problem. As an example, persuading or otherwise forcing the ~600 CAFO dairy operators in the state (that together comprise the aforementioned 40% to 50% of the problem) to convert to organic and/or to diversify out of dairy production should cost much less than what it will cost to upgrade our legacy centralized and decentralized wastewater systems. The scale of the former (~600 farms) is nothing compared to the scale of the latter (tens of thousands of failing and ineffective septic systems, thousands of miles of subterranean municipal sewer systems and massive existing investments in numerous wastewater treatment plants, etc.). Where is the logic in seeking input from the public in this way? You know the various sources of the problem - just allocate funding accordingly to eliminate the problems!	7/23/2019 9:57 AM
147	Recognizing that many of these areas overlap, I believe that well designed BUFFER ZONES in agricultural practices that make a difference are critical, especially adjacent to lakes, rivers and streams.	7/23/2019 7:48 AM

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148	80% applies to private lands which have been developed under regulations in effect when developed and to "grand-fathered" development Requiring owners of developed properties to now make alterations to such properties appears to be an unconstitutional "ex post facto" law	7/23/2019 4:48 AM
149	Promote and support organic farming. Nothing should be dumped in our lakes especially human waste and storm water	7/22/2019 6:29 PM
150	I se untreated sewage as the greatest threat to our watereays	7/22/2019 5:20 PM
151	In reality, my opinion is much less important than impact data. You need to use data on (1) % of pollutants coming from each of these sources (2) % of land currently in use in each of these sources (obviously 'natural resources' are not a source of pollution), and use something like the SEGS models (UVM systems modeling group) to evaluate the real impact of spending on each of these efforts. Don't rely on opinions and beliefs. PLEASE.	7/22/2019 3:35 PM
152	We need to start making AG pay the real costs. And create an overflow and discharge system that penalizes municipalities for WW issues. Everyone needs to pay their own real costs	7/22/2019 12:50 PM
153	towns are being hung out to dry with huge \$\$ WWTF upgrades for P. They NEED relief.	7/22/2019 11:16 AM
154	Very concerned about increase runoff causing algae blooms	7/22/2019 10:26 AM
155	Provide substantial funding (50%+) to multi-million dollar projects with a small user base, when these projects are non-discretionary - e.g., wastewater upgrades in small communities.	7/22/2019 9:43 AM
156	We need to enforce appropriate farm practices	7/22/2019 8:40 AM
157	I'd like to see less development of housing projects in grasslands and/or more pollinator pathway support in vermont. STOP putting up buildings that people can't afford to live in! Stop the outside investment by people who don't care about our land and water.	7/22/2019 8:36 AM
158	All of these are important. Some of the algae blooms,however, are created by private wastewater systems that are neglected deliberately by wealthy landowners because,for some reason, they have little or no consequences for their actions.	7/22/2019 8:15 AM
159	Developed lands should pay based on the benefit they receive	7/22/2019 7:22 AM
160	I think the money spent to "mow" St Albans Bay (with weed harvester) could be better used towards a more permanent solution." Mowing" the weeds makes no sense to me. I also think wonderful strides have been made with preventing agricultural run off. BUT all the run off that is kept from going into the lake seems totally negated when we have an overflow situation at our water treatment plants, & all the untreated or partially treated water is released. We need to solve that problem sooner, rather than later!!!!	7/22/2019 7:04 AM
161	It's a bit absurd to ask us to allocate by percentage when we have no idea how much is there is, but okay, I'll play. But, If I'm only working with \$100,000 I'd probably allocate very differently than if I were working with three million (eye roll emoji)	7/22/2019 6:43 AM
162	Things need to be done we ne3d to clean up our water and protect the eco system	7/22/2019 6:35 AM
163	None	7/22/2019 6:12 AM
164	Spend by percentage of inputs by lake segments	7/22/2019 6:11 AM
165	Please research cemeteries and leeching from internment grounds!! My observations of the EPA's data on cyanobacteria levels around Lake Champlain has shown me that whenever a cemetery is in close proximity to the Lake, cyanobacteria levels consistently go through the roof in nearby inlets and coves.	7/22/2019 6:08 AM
166	The Dept of Ag supports agriculture but also enforces rules of Ag. That balance is simply not realistic or effective.	7/22/2019 5:56 AM
167	Need ANR to have enforcement capability regarding AG water quality projects	7/22/2019 5:19 AM
168	Increase non-polluting recreational use of water resources, such as swimming and non-motorized boating. This will increase public support to keep these resources clean.	7/22/2019 5:16 AM
169	Agriculture is not the problem. It is not a few bad apples or the occasional rule breaker that is the problem. It is conventional agriculture that is the problem. It is not incidental it is systemic.	7/22/2019 5:11 AM
170	seriously, think harder and actually fix the problem.	7/22/2019 4:55 AM
171	TEST	7/22/2019 4:44 AM

Q3 Assign a percentage of clean water funding that would support each project activity listed below. Your percentages must add up to 100.

Answered: 254 Skipped: 61



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Design and Implementation	41	10,029	246
Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring	19	4,713	242
Project Development	13	3,113	233
Innovation	12	2,438	206
Planning and Assessment	12	2,704	230
Education and Outreach	10	2,403	229
Total Respondents: 254			

Q4 Additional Comments

Answered: 115 Skipped: 200

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Cost effective pollution removal should be a top priority. Too many \$\$ spent on study after study. Spend the money evaluating the efficacy of programs in place and following up on results...	9/6/2019 4:00 PM
2	It is critical to invest in all aspects of a project. Education and outreach activities are often not funded and yet can have a huge impact on behavioral changes to benefit clean water and can help communities understand the importance of investing in clean water.	9/6/2019 11:46 AM
3	Time spent identifying the most appropriate projects and garnering community support is worth it because we'll achieve better results and have more public engagement, which will help build more public support for and commitment to clean water.	9/6/2019 10:58 AM
4	It is amazing that the State would spend up to 50M a year....and only allocate 0.3% to understanding whether or not your efforts are even working. Doug Hoffer's report was correct....the State is spending money that have no real benefit....and shows no measure of success.	9/6/2019 8:14 AM
5	There has to be more money in enforcement, where education is not being heeded.	9/6/2019 3:58 AM
6	I don't think there are enough resources to uphold rules and regulations regarding run-off and seepage from farms.	9/5/2019 6:07 PM
7	Alternative uses for agricultural lands need to be found so that people earning their living off of the land can continue to do that without their activities polluting the waters of Vermont.	9/5/2019 5:07 AM
8	This is a difficult exercise. The cost of O&M, esp if there is monitoring, may eventually exceed the cost of the rest of the program, depending on design life designated for CWProjects, esp if munis install BMPs w/understanding State will pay for long-term performance. Prioritization is nearly impossible, but if the state is liable for performance, then it should put more resources to project ID/selection, and working w/partners to develop priority projects.	9/3/2019 9:13 AM
9	Allocating funding for tactical basin planning, specifically for RPCs and NRCDs is extremely important and vital.	9/3/2019 7:45 AM
10	Planning and Assessment and Education and Outreach are likely underestimated for the first years of Clean Water Initiative implementation. An "all in" approach requires an educated and engaged public that also changes behavior at the homeowner scale, and which informs the local electorate for decisions by municipalities. Operation, maintenance and monitoring are also underfunded, as green infrastructure/BMPs can require more monitoring and maintenance than conventional systems.	9/3/2019 6:54 AM
11	Enforcement needs to be added	9/2/2019 5:13 AM
12	This is better information but really not a valid question. What projects are available now? Where can more synergy be created by working with grassroots non-profits. AND is there a set aside for innovation projects? "Innovation occurs throughout the project lifecycle"! Who came up with that one! Just to cover the above graphic.	9/1/2019 4:04 AM
13	Why does project implementation and construction cost so much more than the other components? I wasn't sure how much this could be reduced.	8/28/2019 7:58 AM
14	This kind of feedback is why the system is broken. Vague and undefined. What does this even mean??? Jobs for the bureaucracy, no real change on the ground. These projects inevitably lead to increased production for the milk oversupply, more fields of corn with glyphosate application and tile drains, and more manure from bigger cows. Think differently.	8/28/2019 6:51 AM
15	Priority must be project identification, design & implementation.	8/26/2019 11:25 AM
16	I think operation, Maintenance and Monitoring is more important then the level it is currently funded at.	8/26/2019 10:38 AM

Clean Water Fund State Fiscal Year 2021 Questionnaire

17	Monitoring is the key, otherwise there are no consequences for violations or failure to comply. It would be like posting a speed limit on the highway and not patrolling to ensure they laws are obeyed.	8/24/2019 8:35 AM
18	We know many huge Industrial farms are treating cows awfully and uncaring about the amount of manure they spread and where, also uncaring about clean water run off onto someone else's land and ultimately a river, stream or lake.	8/24/2019 8:32 AM
19	The state is somewhat schizophrenic in that it wants development and investment but at the same time it wants to improve the environment and cut taxes, or so it is said. Though it likes to think it is "green" many people now realize the serious problems and in fact with reference to Lake Champlain, some call us the Green Lake State.	8/23/2019 4:54 PM
20	We know enough now to put money into existing projects to begin cleaning our waterways.	8/23/2019 10:22 AM
21	Pass on maintenance costs to owners. Favor low maintenance solutions.	8/22/2019 6:59 AM
22	I see the Planning and Assessment and Project Development as opportunities for more conversation and discussion among people who simply talk and strategize. We need simple actions, not talk, and we have long known what to do. Fund testing of drinking water sources for Atrazine, as an example.	8/22/2019 5:18 AM
23	it's time to start preventing the pollution of Vermont's waterways by funding a transition to organic regenerative dairy production.	8/21/2019 7:54 PM
24	Innovation is needed to develop new water filtration and holding pond technology for large farm runoff. With the advent of tile drains that simply put water into the municipal right of way, we are exacerbating the problem that we did not adequately measure before tiling started. So we have little idea of how much damage we are doing. We need comprehensive field mapping to understand where to locate holding ponds on farm property to prevent direct storm driven dumping into waterways.	8/21/2019 5:58 PM
25	Boots on the ground identifying places to continue this work is valuable if we want to continue pushing this movement forward and growing it to it's fullest potential. There should be lower cost implementation methods that we can incorporate into the planning to accommodate this.	8/21/2019 12:54 PM
26	Could the innovation be a partnership between public taxpayer funding and for profit company investment?	8/21/2019 6:58 AM
27	It's always best to balance than to cherry pick or promote the extremes. Give credence to what is working and keep promoting Awareness and Communication.	8/20/2019 5:08 PM
28	monitoring with data buoys, sensors, WQ probes etc for accountability and proven effectiveness of improved WQ is essential, especially in the nearshore water environment.	8/20/2019 12:00 PM
29	The tax payers have a right to know if the investment they are making in water quality improvements are actually working. We need more monitoring in critical areas where targeted work is being done. We need much less capital projects and more money spent on improving practices everyday.	8/20/2019 11:46 AM
30	I really don't feel qualified to answer this question.	8/20/2019 10:42 AM
31	The 2016 -2018 operation, maintenance and monitoring was woefully underfunded. Monitoring of these projects is crucial to determine levels of pollutant reduction and requires pre and post monitoring to gauge success. This can not be stressed enough by our department. As we have seen in the past; the best intentions, ideas, or projects don't always result in pollution abatement. A well-designed state/volunteer WQ monitoring program assures our Agency and Vermonters we are determined to succeed by collecting the best available site data.	8/20/2019 7:06 AM
32	Agriculture has largest impact. Limiting where/when manure can be spread, and requiring setbacks/buffers from water bodies are not complex solutions.	8/20/2019 6:59 AM
33	Too much spent on engineering which is often wrong!! O&M is never considered and should be	8/20/2019 6:54 AM
34	it depends upon the project! Keep our eye on the ball: focus on design effectiveness and climate change, and community awareness and accountability. Community means public and/or private.	8/20/2019 6:53 AM
35	Have no expertise to make this call.	8/16/2019 1:12 PM
36	Other sources of funds can help with implementation. All aspects of the cycle are important to support.	8/16/2019 4:25 AM

Clean Water Fund State Fiscal Year 2021 Questionnaire

37	However, with additional funds for planning, E/O, and monitoring, there should be some added responsibilities for ensuring that implemented projects are the most critical and provide significant benefits.	8/14/2019 6:23 AM
38	We need to understand that nothing is a "one shot" deal, but ongoing. Bringing public awareness and educating everyone about their role in the process is also important for compliance.	8/13/2019 4:32 PM
39	you are asking the people that contributed most to the problem to fix the problem. Much like asking congress to fix itself. it will never happen	8/13/2019 3:35 PM
40	Again Same issues	8/13/2019 8:47 AM
41	If done right the operations would mostly maintain themselves and pay for themselves.	8/13/2019 5:24 AM
42	Waste plants dumping into the lake! History of mucury dumped in also! Whats the rate of cancer cases in the area?	8/12/2019 4:47 PM
43	want to raise money. Start enforcing fines	8/12/2019 1:59 PM
44	Monitoring is essential to ensuring that we are getting the benefits we expect from projects and maintenance is key for longevity of projects	8/12/2019 10:42 AM
45	Please tell us how much phosphorus has been applied to agricultural and private lands in past 10 years. Has application of phosphorus been reduced?	8/9/2019 7:53 AM
46	Stop fussing around and do something	8/9/2019 5:50 AM
47	Outreach to the seasonal people that utilize VT lake is important so that they understand how to maintain their properties for the benefit of the lake.	8/9/2019 4:34 AM
48	None	8/8/2019 2:24 AM
49	seems O & M should be a cost for public items: roads and natural infrastr.. other categories (developed, agr WW) could be private/municipal expenses. The project dev phrase needs to be more explicitly described Innovation is not a cost category, it is a type of implementation	8/7/2019 5:26 PM
50	maintenance is key-- is this sustainable?	8/7/2019 11:11 AM
51	I believe a few sources to be responsible for a great deal of the problem. As such, measurement (monitoring) is the first step to identifying the key players and working to correct the problems.	8/7/2019 7:36 AM
52	There is years of data---the problem is known and I believe there are several concepts that would address the issue ...Just DO IT--nothing has happened in our area in 15 years	8/5/2019 4:46 PM
53	None	8/5/2019 12:30 PM
54	Funding sources need to be found for operations and maintenance.	8/5/2019 4:58 AM
55	Focus on sustainable design and monitoring to see if it's working!! Collaborate with local schools and UVM for research funding.	8/4/2019 8:59 AM
56	You must help build soil. That is the bottom line.	8/4/2019 3:05 AM
57	more guess work on my part. obviously the planning, design, construction and maintenance are all equally essential to a successful outcome. but the costs of each may be radically different. so an allocation should not necessarily be equal. to the extent that public behavior needs to change (e.g. avoiding phosphorus fertilizers and synthetic weed killers) money needs to be spent there too.	8/2/2019 4:07 AM
58	Maintain schedule as in 2016-2018.	8/2/2019 3:55 AM
59	It said innovation occurs throughout the cycle, so in a way it should "100%". And there should be monitoring of outcomes to ensure goals are met and whether additional innovation is required or different choices should be made.	8/2/2019 2:23 AM
60	Education is nearly as important as the actual projects themselves - if the general public doesn't know a thing about stormwater, etc., how can we expect them to support and understand it, and make changes on their own private lands?	7/30/2019 6:38 AM

Clean Water Fund State Fiscal Year 2021 Questionnaire

61	Education is a waste of money. Very few people care. What they do care about is what it will cost them. You need to actually enforce farmers for not following the runoff regulations. Monthly testing of the water bodies in the State combined with the watershed maps should not take too planning or too much of the budget. The best way to allocate money would be to innovate something that could be placed at the discharge points of each farm. Yes, each site is different with slopes, infiltration rates, etc. but something similar to the DEC's STP selection tool would work well for this. Instead of studying this, that and the other, actually build farm runoff treatment starting from the largest contributors in the highest polluted watersheds, right down the line.	7/29/2019 7:27 AM
62	Monitoring should be built into projects and funded the same way that projects are. Do not rely on volunteer monitoring groups.	7/29/2019 5:28 AM
63	I can offer no opinion on how best to allocate money. Keeping nutrients out of the lakes and rivers is a priority, equal to keeping toxins out	7/29/2019 4:20 AM
64	Outreach is critical and should be aimed at landowners to affect agreements to conserve lands and convert to better riparian land uses.	7/29/2019 2:19 AM
65	I would hope that those doing the polluting pay for the destruction they have done to Lake Champlain.	7/28/2019 8:55 AM
66	We can no longer accept that every time it rains, "partially treated sewer water" is dumped into the Lake by the City of Burlington. That just seems to be a given with no consequence for the City.	7/27/2019 1:46 PM
67	Less waste of money & resources on failed projects like Bogner and horrible decisions like building CVS.	7/26/2019 6:46 PM
68	Innovation can be done by looking at other states who has similar problems	7/26/2019 12:57 PM
69	In many cases the science is in and the most effective solutions are well understood. Whatever the hurdles are to enforcing the protection of wetlands, floodplains, and riparian buffers should be overcome at the state level.	7/26/2019 11:54 AM
70	i defer to your expertise.	7/26/2019 11:25 AM
71	If we fund more serious education and outreach (hiring experts and community leaders and engaging school system) then they will make positive change on their own, and may not require design and implementation \$ (making a more effective use of funding)	7/26/2019 11:04 AM
72	Plan some interventions that will be sustainable and provide incentives and education about the benefits.	7/26/2019 8:41 AM
73	We know the lake has issues stop wasting time on that and start fixing the issues we know about	7/26/2019 5:29 AM
74	This estimate is really a guess based on the information provided above which I found confusing and incomplete from a layman's perspective. This estimate is best left to experts who know more about the subject.	7/26/2019 5:26 AM
75	So many study's have been done, let's get going.	7/26/2019 5:24 AM
76	there is absolutely no reason any town or city should dump sewage into our waters. a slap on the wrist in fines does not send a message. huge fines would. start demanding these places to get their act together or pay up.if nothing else, require them to install holding tanks to store the untreated sewage until it can be processed a little at a time along with normal treatments.require the places to plan ahead money wise for upcoming upgrades, instead of waiting till the system fails. i lived in swanton a few years back, they told us our water treatment facility needed to be replaced because it was only a 20 year system. why wait 20 years to deal with the problem? they should have started 20 years ago to save for it, knowing it would only last 20 years. very poor planning !!	7/26/2019 5:15 AM
77	It seems like there have been years of "studies"...time to take some action	7/26/2019 5:02 AM
78	1. Water testing needs to be performed in populated areas along the entire perimeter of the lake. 2. Farmers are installing drains in their fields. This and town ditching is allowing expedited runoff to tributaries. 3. Sewage systems need to be used for sewage not rainwater from the streets.	7/25/2019 4:25 PM
79	There needs to be more money spent on education and outreach.	7/25/2019 4:23 PM
80	Open the causeways, let mother nature help.	7/25/2019 2:22 PM
81	n/a	7/25/2019 1:21 PM

Clean Water Fund State Fiscal Year 2021 Questionnaire

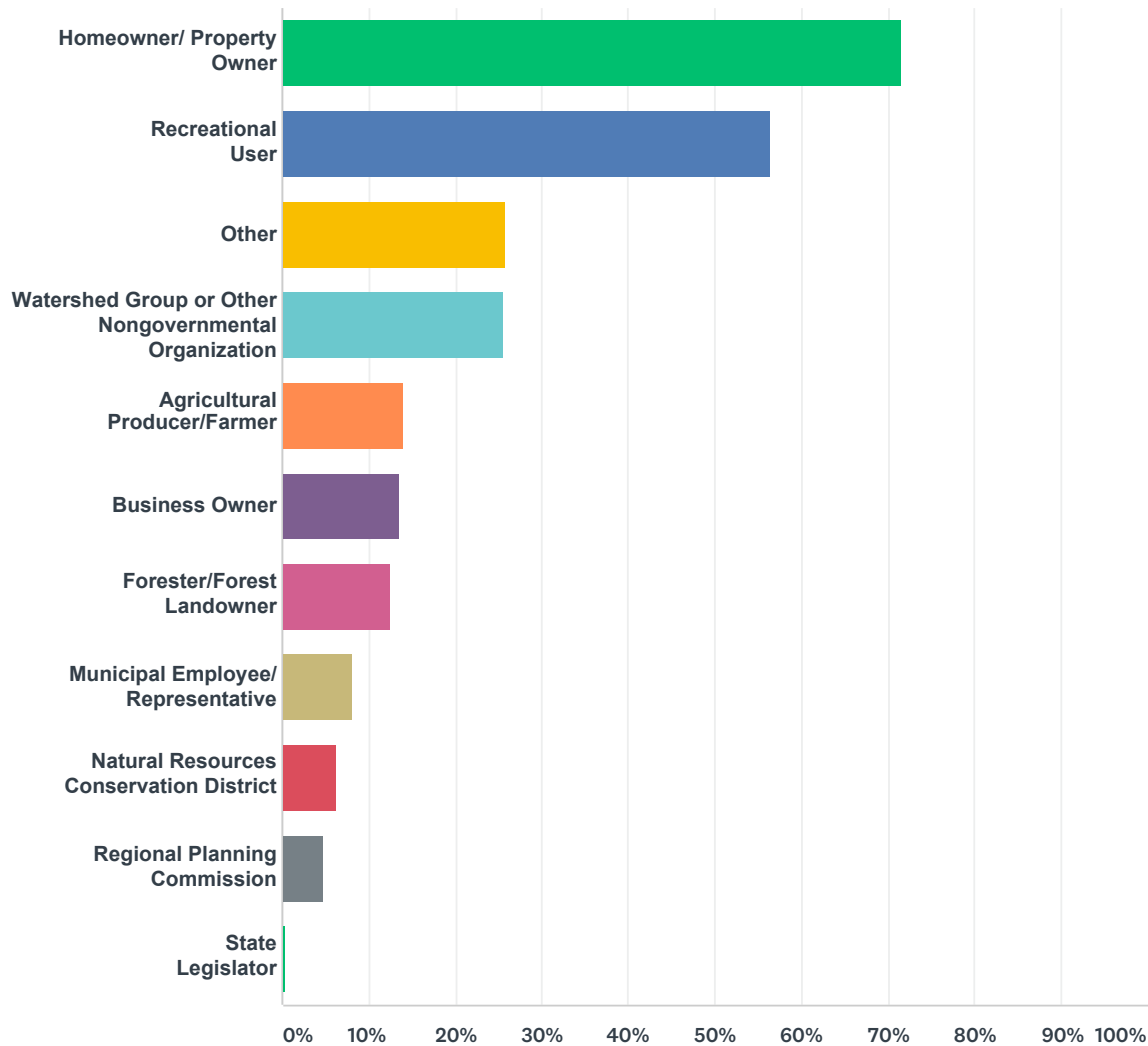
82	It seems like Planning. Assessment and Design/ Implementation can be rolled into one category. It seems like checking feasibility and design could be done at the same time, or part of the same state.	7/25/2019 7:13 AM
83	Lake Champlain-Inland Sea is showing more signs of distress than I have ever seen in my 70 yrs if lake watching. I continue to see a large farm field along Maquam Shore in St Albans dump silt and fertilizer in the lake. No enforcement? No Best Practices? There is a need here for a settling pond before the water leaves the field and enters the lake.	7/25/2019 7:13 AM
84	You have to monitor. How do you know if all this money you are spending is actually being effectively used without monitoring. 0.3% is not at all sufficient for monitoring.	7/25/2019 7:09 AM
85	Education is crucial! The public do NOT understand what you are doing and how complex this problem is. I would allot as much funding as possible to education because we need the whole state to be on board.	7/25/2019 5:57 AM
86	How do you know anything works if you don't operate, maintain and monitor it?	7/25/2019 5:46 AM
87	Planning takes up to much money...action is needed!	7/25/2019 2:45 AM
88	You already know what to do in many cases--just DO IT ALREADY.	7/24/2019 5:45 PM
89	Too much money on studies. They are changed to protect big dairy. It would be more effective to purchase land in sensitive areas	7/24/2019 5:00 PM
90	I think operations and maintenance should be eligible for state funds. At least maintenance.	7/24/2019 4:34 PM
91	This seems like a really dumb question... It should be optimized to whatever achieves the most efficient reductions.	7/24/2019 3:11 PM
92	Innovation is funded as part of the activities as illustrated above.	7/24/2019 1:26 PM
93	It does not require innovative thinking to realize that we need ti simply stop polluting. And if this means the end of dairy farming, so be it. The industry is not working here—farmers agree.	7/24/2019 1:08 PM
94	All involved should have been actually monitoring this for awhile now, it's shameful how this important eater source is just abused. We can't even vacation at our vacation home because of the destruction of our water. It's foolish to have waited so damn long	7/24/2019 4:10 AM
95	Agree	7/23/2019 3:58 PM
96	The frame of this question is misleading as most projects require this continuum but costs for each stage can be vastly different. Fully fund projects from identification to implementation.	7/23/2019 3:05 PM
97	The completed project should be designed to require minimal maintenance and monitoring.	7/23/2019 2:41 PM
98	I don't understand the purpose of asking the public to assign funding percentages to water quality projects. The data is clear. Funding should be spent proportionate to the percentage of the problem that a given sector represents adjusted for relative cost.. For instance, conventional agriculture (particularly conventional CAFO dairy operations) represents between 40% and 50% of the problem. Therefore, funding should be allocated in such a way as to meaningfully tackle this disproportionate problem. As an example, persuading or otherwise forcing the ~600 CAFO dairy operators in the state (that together comprise the aforementioned 40% to 50% of the problem) to convert to organic and/or to diversify out of diary production should cost much less than what it will cost to upgrade our legacy centralized and decentralized wastewater systems. The scale of the former (~600 farms) is nothing compared to the scale of the latter (tens of thousands of failing and ineffective septic systems, thousands of miles of subterranean municipal sewer systems and massive existing investments in numerous wastewater treatment plants, etc.). Where is the logic in seeking input from the public in this way? You know the various sources of the problem - just allocate funding accordingly to eliminate the problems!	7/23/2019 9:59 AM
99	This looks like an ANR empire building, top-down process. If we must waste money, at least us do so efficiently.	7/23/2019 4:54 AM
100	Upgrading our current systems to handle current needs should be prioritized	7/22/2019 5:24 PM
101	Again, don't ask for my (relatively uninformed) opinion on this. Use the data - what do evaluations of impact tell you about the most efficacious way to use the money? Really. (note: I'm not uneducated, I'm just very aware of my lack of knowledge in this field, and you ought to be working with the academics who have no \$\$ in the game).	7/22/2019 3:38 PM
102	Too confusing!!!!!! Clean up ALL Agricultutal waste!!!!!! Period destroying our Lake AND topism. No one wants to swim in a toilet!!	7/22/2019 2:49 PM

Clean Water Fund State Fiscal Year 2021 Questionnaire

103	Projects should also be evaluated and bonused/penalized based on their impact per dollar...	7/22/2019 12:53 PM
104	more money needed for education and outreach so people know what's going on - this gets buy in for the rest of the steps. More money needed towards monitoring to make sure the funding is dedicated to the right work.	7/22/2019 10:22 AM
105	These funding percentages need not be static over time. Many projects have already been identified, so the first 2-3 years of funding should focus on design an implementation. After that, perhaps a few years with more funding to planning and project development. Then back to emphasizing implementation.	7/22/2019 9:50 AM
106	At some point the costs of development need to shift to maintenance as these systems age. Or we will be left with more failing infrastructure.	7/22/2019 9:04 AM
107	Every home and business should have an incinerating toilet,solar power and a water recycling system for grey water. This would eventually eliminate the need for public sewage systems for anything but storm and road runoff.	7/22/2019 8:27 AM
108	where is enforcement? moving dairy herds away from steams?doing- not dodging - what must be done? Not wimping out	7/22/2019 8:23 AM
109	I don't feel qualified to answer this. I think we need good planning, that must be well coordinated. See how the Dutch manage storm water, & prevent flooding (https://www.cbsnews.com/news/storm-water-management-dutch-solution-henk-ovink-hurricane-damage-60-minutes-2019-07-21/). Prevention with good planning is always better than trying to clean up afterwards. Stop polluting, so the lake can recover!!	7/22/2019 7:20 AM
110	Let's make sure that fundraising and budgeting is ongoing for the implementation, operation, maintenance, and monitoring stages.	7/22/2019 6:11 AM
111	The project activity category descriptions are inconsistent between the graphics and the survey question - misleading.	7/22/2019 6:08 AM
112	The state should allocate large amounts of resources to converting the entire dairy industry to organic. Industry becomes profitable and lake pollution from ag sector falls by half in three years.	7/22/2019 5:14 AM
113	this is a stupid questionnaire	7/22/2019 4:55 AM
114	Monitoring existing implementation to ensure that money is being invested wisely is critical for success and must be prioritized. Education and outreach has not had a clear focus from the state and is therefore of limited value and the investment in that effort should be reduced and left to organizations who are better able to produce results (like Lake Champlain Sea Grant and Lake Champlain Basin Program).	7/22/2019 4:55 AM
115	TEST	7/22/2019 4:45 AM

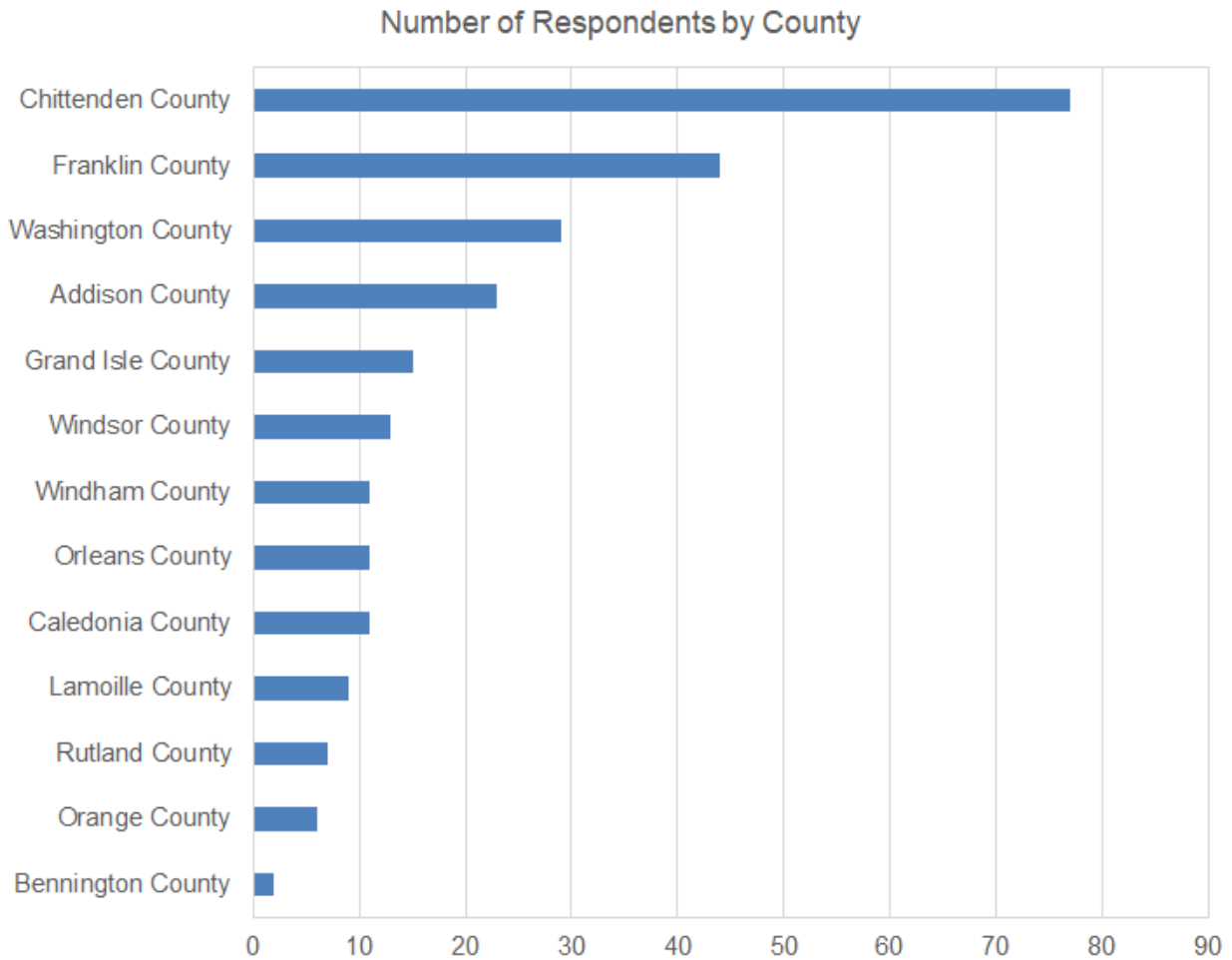
Q5 We are interested to know who is completing this survey. Which groups do you belong to or identify with? Select all that apply.

Answered: 271 Skipped: 44



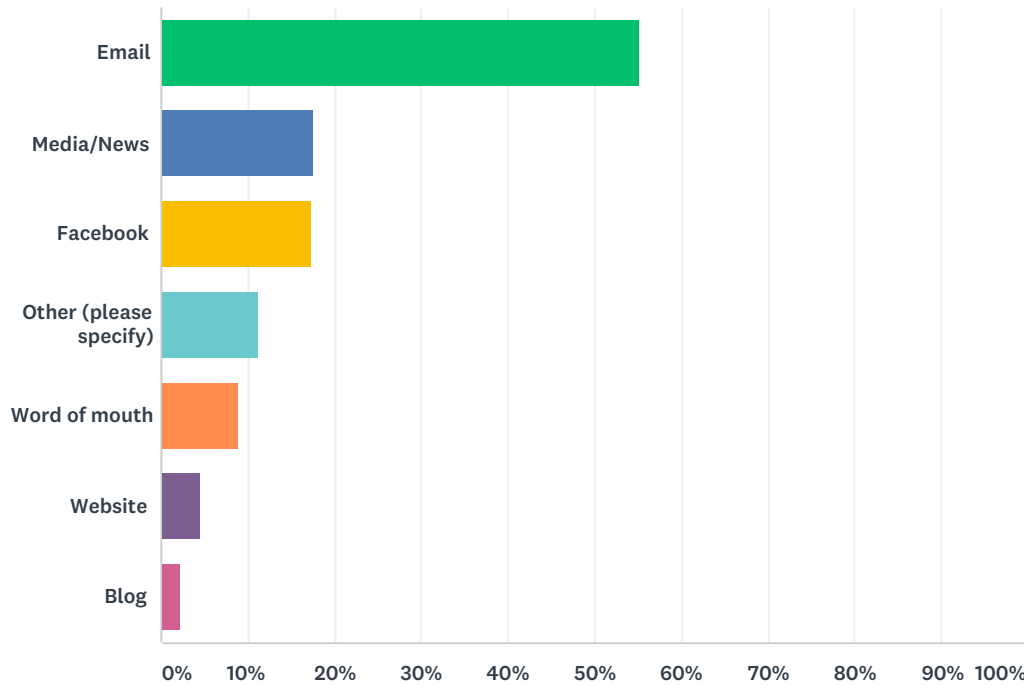
Q6 Please enter your zip code to help us understand the statewide distribution of responses to this questionnaire.

Answered: 263 Skipped: 52



Q8 How did you hear of this questionnaire (select all that apply)?

Answered: 266 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Email	55.26%	147
Media/News	17.67%	47
Facebook	17.29%	46
Other (please specify)	11.28%	30
Word of mouth	9.02%	24
Website	4.51%	12
Blog	2.26%	6
Total Respondents: 266		

**Vermont Clean Water Board Working Meeting Minutes
Clean Water Budget Public Hearing**

Date/Time: Thursday, August 22, 2019, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location: National Life Davis Building – 1 National Life Drive, The Winooski Room (M240)

Clean Water Board Members/Designees:

Susanne Young, Agency of Administration (AoA) Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair
Ted Brady, Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) Deputy Secretary (filling in for Michael Schirling)
Bob Flint, public member (present online)
James Giffin, public member
Christopher Louras, public member (absent)
Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Secretary
Joe Flynn, Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Secretary
Anson Tebbetts, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFMD) Secretary
Chad Tyler, public member

Welcome, Overview of Agenda

10:00-10:05 am

Agency of Administration Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair Susanne Young

- Sign-up for public comment (five minutes allotted per individual)

Clean Water Fund Background and Budget Process

10:05-10:20 am

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Clean Water Initiative Program Manager Emily Bird

- Clean Water Board
- Revenue sources
- Budget process and opportunities for public participation

Draft SFY 2021 Clean Water Budget Line Items by Agency

10:20-10:55 am

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Water Quality Director Laura DiPietro
Vermont Housing and Conservation Board Director of Policy and Special Projects Jennifer Hollar
Agency of Natural Resources DEC Clean Water Initiative Program Manager Emily Bird
Agency of Natural Resources DEC Water Infrastructure Financing Program Manager Terisa Thomas
Agency of Transportation Municipal Assistance Bureau Director Sue Scribner
Agency of Administration Department of Finance and Management Budget Analyst Michael Middleman
Agency of Commerce and Community Development Community Planning and Revitalization Director Chris Cochran

Public Questions on Presentations

10:55-11:00 am

Secretary Susanne Young

Judith McLoughlin: Regarding line item #8, “Lakes in Crisis Fund.” We are from the only lake in crisis, yet our funding (\$50,000) is equal to the portable skidder bridge program. Can you explain why “Lakes in Crisis Fund” has such low funding?

Response from Emily Bird: Lakes in Crisis Fund is to support initial implementation of Lakes in Crisis response plan. Other funds are available to support work, but all funds must be administered on a competitive basis. That said, funds are targeted through Tactical Basin Plans to pollutant loading hot spots. Lake Carmi is certainly a priority area under the Tactical Basin Plan. In addition to the Lakes in Crisis Fund, significant investments have been made in Lake Carmi, including \$1.6 million for aeration system, \$150,000 for monitoring, and significant funds for implementation of agricultural conservation practices.

James Maroney: Referred to the State Auditor's report. Voiced the need to allocate more funds to agriculture. According to the budget, agriculture is getting about a third of the budget and agriculture is half of the problem.

Response from Julie Moore: State statute and federal obligations require an investment in all sectors. This is not as straightforward as you may have read in State Auditor's report. This budget attempts to balance competing priorities. Additionally, not all dollars at large are available for all projects. For example, CWSRF line item #18 are required to be used for wastewater and stormwater by virtue federal funds being leveraged. We are trying to strike the right balance. Note 10% increase in agriculture sector compared to the SFY 2020 budget.

Evan Makowski: Question for Laura DiPietro. You mentioned cover crops earlier. I am confused about this. Cover crops are primarily used to heal the ground. Heather Darby basically said they don't work in VT after September, effectiveness drops precipitously. The need for cover crop is predicated on us growing corn, so if we were not growing corn, we would not need to fund this practice. Herbicides are applied to kill cover crops.

Response from Laura DiPietro: Standards for state and federal programs aim to optimize timing of cover crops. Farmers have shifted practices and are applying more cover crops. Tools are available to apply cover crops early to optimize effectiveness, including helicopter application. Challenge is you cannot control the weather. Cover crops are good practice, plenty of documentation to show that. Not my area of expertise to discuss herbicides, but farmers are already using herbicide to grow conventional corn. Research is also underway to identify mechanical methods to end cover crop cycle as alternative to herbicides.

Sylvia Knight: Learned recently that there is a requirement for farmers to use herbicide to knock cover crop down in order to obtain crop insurance. Can anyone clarify for us? We need to clarify this because AAFM data show a doubling of Round Up used between 2015 and 2016. Research shows that Round Up is 18.3% phosphorus. We are using tons of Round Up on the ground. If we don't face the factor in our water quality work, I do not believe we will reach our water quality goals.

Response from Anson Tebbetts: That is a question for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The state does not offer insurance.

Reed Hampton: Can farmers obtain grant funds from this source to tile fields and tile drain removal?

Response from Laura DiPietro: These funds are not used for installing tile drain. However, funds are used to research tile drainage impact on water quality.

James Sherard: Regarding line item #13 "Municipal Stormwater Project Planning and Implementation." Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) communities have benefited from these funds to address capital stormwater management needs. However, operation and maintenance costs are extensive, which are not paid for by the state and MS4s are required to provide 50% match. Is there any consideration of adjusting the match requirement considering the costs of operation and maintenance?

Response from Emily Bird: For those larger developed MS4 communities, we do have a 50% match requirement. This helps to make limited funds go further. MS4s can utilize CWSRF loans to fulfill the match requirement. These match requirements are typically set at the program level and are possible to be adjusted, but would require analysis, partner input, and leadership support.

Ernest Wright: Pertaining to wetlands. We purchased land to grow hemp and received a cease and desist notice due to Wetlands Rule violation, requiring not to use the land until a decision is made from the Wetlands Program. The land is not worth anything if I cannot use it. Are funds available for the state to purchase the wetland?

Response from Julie Moore: The natural resources restoration line item #7 can support protection of natural resources. Funds are allocated to projects based on several factors. Funds are prioritized for

blocks of land that function as a significant sink or sponge for water pollution. Will follow-up offline to provide more information.

Comments from the Public

11:00-11:55 am

Secretary Susanne Young

- Public comment in order of sign-up sheet with five minutes allotted per individual

James Maroney: Questions pertaining to Act 76/S. 96 of 2019. (1) Can you define the Secretary referenced in the Act? (2) On page three, the Act refers to targets. I understand the target has to do with the TMDL. (2) My understanding is that the Lake Champlain TMDL has a 59% reduction for agriculture lake wide. (3) Can you describe who is eligible to be a clean water service provider (CWSP)? Are individuals eligible to be a CWSP? (4) Why is the timeline in Act 76 for identifying CWSP and targets so slow? (5) Do you believe the state has a plan to meet the 59% agricultural reduction and can it be done under the conventional paradigm (meaning conventional farming)?

Response from Julie Moore: (1) Secretary is the Agency of Natural Resources Secretary since the Act is under Title 10. (2) Yes, I believe the agriculture reduction lake-wide in the Lake Champlain TMDL is 59%. (3) Have not prescribed what type of entity can be a CWSP. We will release a request for qualifications with more detail. There are limits to how much of the funds can be used for administrative purposes. There is nothing in statute stopping an individual from responding to the request for qualifications to be considered as a CWSP. (4) Much of the technical work and analysis of interim targets for non-regulatory work has not been completed yet and the timeline allows for this development work.

Response from Anson Tebbetts: (5) The TMDL reductions are certainly the goal and all partners (farmers, conservation groups, UVM Extension, USDA) are all focused on the goal. Farming takes many forms including organic, conventional, and others. There cannot be just one type of farming.

Michael Colby: First, I'd like to put a spotlight on Doug Hoffer's report, which states 95% of clean water expenditures do not yield measurable phosphorus results and this budget is more of the same. It's ignoring the main problem which is the kind of agriculture promoted in Vermont – confinement feeding operations. The AAFM's budget is \$25 million and they are promoting and enabling that contribution. It is not working for anyone not working for any of us, and we're continuing. Farmers are getting paid for less than cost of production. Ben and Jerry's and Cabot are each making \$1 billion in sales. The amount of money we are spending to clean up their messes is about 1.3% of their annual sales. So, they are taking billions from our farmers and our land. Where is Ben and Jerry's and Cabot in this funding plan? Nowhere. Their lobbyists got them out of it. We're cleaning up their messes. We're hearing more of the same from AAFM. Let's ask them, how many manure spreading exemptions they gave to farmers? At least 70 that I know of, and I have to file FOIA after FOIA to get this information. Anson you said you provided farmers with a blanket exemption to spread manure on snow because the farmers were not doing well economically. We need to transition agriculture from this, we're losing. 1,500 migrant laborers are working in the shadows in the state without protections. State said, let's have Ben and Jerry's come up with a program. New York State at least passed laws dealing with migrant works. We have to focus on transitioning the farmers that are causing the problem. There are about 33 farmers with over 700 cows. Enough – we need a plan for transition. We need to listen to what Doug Hoffer said, we are putting money through a shredder.

Sylvia Knight: Everything on earth is connected; what we do to the land, we do to ourselves, what we do to the land hurts water. We're putting tons of glyphosate and tons of atrazine on our land. In the Champlain Valley, every year, this model of agriculture does not work. It is positioning us. This year I received additional information that round up contains phosphorus and leaves phosphorus on the ground and puts it in the water. We have tons of phosphorus going into the water from our agricultural practices. In 2016, ~49.3 tons were used on Vermont lands, with a loading of 9 tons of phosphorus. This has been ignored. I hear nothing about this in the whole discussion, it's being completely ignored. I'm doubtful we can meet the TMDL without stopping the use of Round Up. Now we have GMO corn all over the place. This forces us to look at the model of agriculture we are supporting in this program. Our state needs to embrace a different paradigm. Need to embrace a paradigm of

regenerative organic agriculture and use the dollars in the budget towards that purpose. I am a taxpayer; I'm looking for change in this program.

Pete Zimmerman: I have a home on Button Bay about one mile south of the state park. My family have been involved in farming and forestry for generations. I am not anti-farming. However, water quality in Lake Champlain is a scandal. Dogs are dying on the lake from drinking water. I heard today from a parade of cheerleaders on how we are going to help the farmers with this budget. I have not heard anything discussed about enforcement of laws and rules we have already. It is coming from agriculture. Unless practices change, unless people pouring pollution into our lakes stop, that's not going to change. Cannot just shrug our shoulders. Cannot allow our natural resources to become cesspools.

Andrea Englehardt: Lake Carmi is the only Lake in Crisis. We appreciate all work people have done to help our lake. The state has invested a lot of funds to help Lake Carmi. This summer, along the lakeshore, manure is still being spread. It is probably meeting agricultural rules. They are spreading manure 10-feet from the road, 50-feet from the lakeshore. Perhaps we need to try banning manure spreading for the Lake in Crisis until the lake heals a bit. Last I heard, we have not seen phosphorus decreases since funds are being spent. The Lake is still blooming.

Roy Shea: Frustration, disgust. Lake Champlain. Samuel de Champlain reported waters so clear you can see 60-feet down. You, the Vermont government, you let this happen to the Lake. That's a crime. And even more of a crime, you continue to let this happen. Talk to our Legislators? They are totally intimidated by agriculture. You let poison into our waters. Neighbors and I have taken samples from the Lake. E. coli over 2,000 ppm, off the charts and AAFCM says farms are fine. You're letting poison enter our drinking water source. How long until you let this poison into our wells? Then it'll be a problem. You continue to let it happen. You favor large agriculture farms over our Lake. Our Lake that can be a huge revenue for our state. The dairy industry contributes less than 2% GDP, but somehow you find it sacred. You don't do anything for the lake, you really don't. Our influence is spreading.

Robert Wright: I've lived 78 years in Vermont. I too am irate with what I see happening to our Lake. Where is the money to help farmers transition away from practices that damage the Lake? Where are the funds to help stop putting phosphorus bearing compounds in the Lake? There are funds I see to try and control and constrain some of the runoff out there now. Doesn't seem to be helping. Stop putting more and more in. Let's restrain and find ways to go back on the large industrial farm model. That is what is killing the lake.

Evan Makowski: I'm from Panton. I'd like to reiterate things said by Michael, James, and my neighbors in the Panton area on the out of hand nature of what we see conventional industrial dairy to be. It paints a very different picture from how we hear it represented as under control with our best practices in place. It is a runaway ship. It is not under control. We had a meeting in Panton to address a manure spill that I photographed and recorded. It got some airtime on VPR and it raised the issue. That issue is to hone one thing – the exemptions that happen. We can make excuses that it was a seasonal thing and the weather did its thing, but the weather always does its thing. There is always going to be a weather incident. We cannot fall back on that excuse time and time again. The situation I photographed highlights it because it shows the temporary status that when you spread manure on snow and frozen ground in any situation it inevitable that it is going to go to the Lake. At our town meeting I tried to get an understanding with Agency of Agriculture to just ban the practice. In my view it would be better to have a manure pit overflow so we can pinpoint what farm that was and we can hold that farm accountable rather than spread it over the landscape where no one can see it and pretend it is not happening. I was not able to get an answer at the meeting from Laura but the Addison Independent did a story on it and the farm was given verbal permission I believe of 104,000 gallons of manure they could spread which was reported as five days' worth of manure on a lakeshore farm. The farm spread 540,000 gallons which also affected Dead Creek. So, if the state gave verbal permission to spread 104,000 gallons, to me that is an incrimination of your department. You are okay with 104,000 gallons of manure going into the lake because if you are putting it on snow and frozen ground it is going into the lake. If anyone wants to respond to me how that is not an inevitability, I am open to hear that.

Reed Hampton: I live on Button Bay, right adjacent to the State Park. Last week we had a huge algae outbreak that covered the whole bay. I think the root of the problem is why did the State Legislature, in all of its wisdom, make AAFM self-policing? As somebody who started a business with two people that has now grown to 225, I've been through Act 250 12 times and I have worked with DEC And everybody. I believe they're doing stuff the right way, but this is just horrendous. I've seen tons of trees come down and sculpting of the land and the discharge that took place next to my property at road culverts and all this water goes down to the swamp and goes down right into the Bay and there is a big chocolate bloom for a week.

Ernie Englehardt: I am a Camp Owner on Lake Carmi and a member of the Board of Directors for the Lake Carmi Camper's Association. I want to first appreciate what the state has done for us and made a commitment to and installed an aeration system in Lake Carmi. As I understand it is one of few in the country. Lake Carmi is sort of a laboratory and the moto is that if the state can't fix a small lake like Lake Carmi... woe is us. A lot of farming practices have changed around the shore that is helpful we believe. I used to think we have too many cows on the lake and that's the problem. I'm changing my view a little bit, knowing that there are a lot of acres in the watershed not generating manure, but it is imported from other sources. I mentioned I thought it was unusual that if you have an impaired lake, you would import manure. Main focus today is – what mechanism or data are available as we go forward so we can track how Lake Carmi is doing? We have a model for the TMDL, and project reductions based on modeling. Hope that we could receive data on annual basis on what model says and actual result is in the field to indicate improvements and phosphorus load in the lake is decreasing. Not quite sure how anyone will say when Lake Carmi meets the standards. Please develop a straightforward format so we can know what is happening such as acres of practices, reduction of manure on annual basis coming into the watershed. There needs to be clear information at the end of the TMDL because we are told that practices are being used and the aeration system is a temporary stop gap measure or band aid. We need to know at the end of that period whether the TMDL is reached and if not, we need to go back and evaluate.

Robert Cormier: I am from Franklin Vermont and Board of Directors for Lake Carmi watershed. Thank you for coming. It is us, the people in this room, that will make changes and we need to work together and fix this. I'm from Massachusetts and when you walk into the State House in Massachusetts you touch the sacred cod. The cod hasn't been caught since the 1950s. We're misinterpreting the statute on top of the State House. It is agriculture. We've got to start to pivot to a different crop right here. Agriculture is not our problem, it is dairy. Dairy waste. It is waste quality waste. We are stuck in this rut in dairy. Yet the country is going down on dairy consumption. The millennials are driving the food train right now. They don't drink milk. They don't eat Cabot cheese. They eat high end cheeses from small dairy operations. What this budget is, is a waste of money of \$36 million. If we took that \$36 million and invested in Global Foundries along with the agriculture budget, we'd make a billion dollars in profit which you could tax at 10% we'd make \$100 million and we are already in the profit range right there. We've got to look at what we do with the money and stop things for free. Need to stop the spreading and concentration spreading. We have a lake in crisis, yet they are spreading and saturating right on the lake in crisis – biggest irony we have – talk about insanity. State sponsored pollution – the state is encouraging them to pollute such as spreading on snow and leaky pits, we're seeing on every single thing they do. You want to stop this is get water out of agriculture – you have fox guarding hen house. Their mission is to encourage agriculture. You get water out of agriculture and put teeth in DEC with water and start solving this and stop blaming everyone and blame the point sources – it is not the guy growing tomato and hemp – it is the CAFO [concentrated animal feeding operation] growing the wrong food in the wrong places. It is the giant apathetic CAFO that is on the river. That is a business, and how do you know it is a business? They put LLC on trucks. This is what corporations look like in Vermont, polluting and contaminating everything we have. I am not anti-farming. I am anti-pollution. These people are going around and polluting and need to stop that and pivot out of dairy. What next do we go into? We need to start having hard conversations with the cities they are a problem to. With Carmi, it is agriculture. With Burlington, it is probably Burlington itself. Need to have hard honest conversations. If we don't start working together and sharing data, we are not going to solve the problem.

Judith McLoughlin: I'm from Lake Carmi. I want to thank you for doing what has been done at Lake Carmi. But I will caveat that it was not without a fight. You guys fought us the entire way and we had to go ugly and you even brought up armed guards to one of our TMDL meetings because you thought we were going to rebel when we were simply just angry. So that is Lake Carmi and what you've done, and it wasn't without a fight. My point is we are not done yet. Just simply because that aeration system went in, we are now seeing it is kind of like "job done let's focus elsewhere." So, the lake in crisis bill did put Lake Carmi as a lake in crisis because it

had organized people who were willing to stand up and work hard – I mean this is a full time fighting for water cleanliness in this state. Now we worked hard. We got our lake in crisis. The Secretary is supposed to tell us what we are going to do and here is our answer. In 2021, you're basically telling us there is no such thing as a lake in crisis and we don't need to put specific monies dedicated to that lake in crisis but go fight for it all over again. You want to see us fight for clean water up at that lake – you ain't seen nothing yet because we are committed. We're going to talk to Button Bay and all these people, and we are going to come back and you're going to hear the message – it is not working. What you are doing is not working. So, our Lake Carmi after declared lake in crisis and installed \$1 million aerator – you know what the installer told you? It is not going to work if you don't stop the flow. As soon as you turn it off it is going to stop working. Well it has been breaking down. Take it as a test we understand that but I sat there and watched 2 weeks ago while, if I check the source, it may be that illegal CAFO on Potato Hill Road we told you about 2 years ago – I believe you are in court trying to figure out what it is because it was built without any oversight. They came in and I would swear up to 100,000 gallons of manure were dumped on the eastern shore of the lake in crisis. Where is sense in that? It could have been a simple practice to ban manure in a lake in crisis or we are going to head to another solution which is putting money into a lake in crisis and maybe we can go to landowners who are renting out land to be a manure dump – maybe we can talk to the landlords and say, “hey, how about leasing your land to us and we will turn it into a pollinator field?” But we can't because we have to spend all our time competing for the no dollars you are putting toward lake in crisis. Please rethink that and use the assets you have because we do have organized groups – Watershed Committee, Campers' Association, Farmers' Watershed Alliance – we're working with everybody but we're a lake in crisis and now we have to go back to the drawing board and get angry again and start calling you guys out for the job you aren't doing. It is a simple solution. If it is a lake in crisis, put money toward it.

Jess Buckley: Thank you all for your efforts in negotiating this budget. I work for the conservation districts as Agriculture Program Manager. I want to also highlight that we appreciate the support coming through the FAP [Farm Agronomic Program] to support rotational grazing, which we think keeping land in grass is an important practice. We also want to say we appreciate block grants. The model reduces administrative overhead of granting processes. It is great to hear everyone's perspective and we all have the same goal to reduce phosphorus in the lake and it is a very big task. I just want to acknowledge that we are all doing our best.

Jennifer Decker: I am here to stand for water that is healthy for all of life. I really appreciate everybody's comments. In addition to all concerns raised here today, there is PFAs laden firefighting foam at the Burlington Airport due to the military uses. F35 planes will add pollution to our region. The PFOA/PFOS are forever chemicals that don't break down in the environment. They are associated with cancer, infertility, miscarriages, and immune system and early childhood development disorders. Curious if you can think of someone you know who has a developmental disorder, cancer, a neurological condition that has developed and do not know where it came from, Crohn's disease, epilepsy. My niece grew up in the Old North End of Burlington with has high levels of lead. Then moved to Addison County where we spent time in the water, eating local VT produced food. She moved to near the Burlington Airport where firefighting foams were used and then developed epilepsy. Are we considering all the costs of not doing enough? I'm here to speak for the children. I have friends who enrolled children into camp for the summer, continually swim in Lake Champlain. I used to swim there, but not anymore. I drive to Waterbury Reservoir and swim there all the time, but I've thought about giving it up because I don't want to make the drive and add more to the load carried by next generation. We have a whole generation inspired right now to take care of earth and end climate change and to clean up the beautiful world we all share. We could take whatever money and resources we have and pay people to do the work to clean our incredibly beautiful state. Some people might be paid to uphold obstacles of change. Please try not to be one of those people. I learned recently that there are some regulations at the federal-level that make it hard to change things on the local-level. That sounds like a really great excuse to me for the peaceful political revolution that we know that Vermont stands for. We cannot uphold human walls that contradict good science. What we invest in we get back in return. I would love to see the next generation inspired by steps that start here today. I would love to be a part of the change. Thank you.

Jane Clifford: My name is Jane Clifford and I am a dairy farmer in Starksboro, VT. My husband and I own and operate Clifford Farm. It has been in my husband's family since 1793. It is the longest continuous dairy farm in the state. I am very proud of our farm. We work very hard to meet the regulations. We work very hard to follow the rules, and yes there are some people that – in every walk of life – do not follow the rules. We also own a

piece of property in Hinesburg on Lake Iroquois. This year it so infested in milfoil and so cloudy, swimming is not an option. There is not a farm, not an animal, not manure being spread within a very large radius. But there is a significant amount of dirt road runoff. Significant amount of camps that have not upgraded their septic systems. The lake, Lake Champlain, the watershed. It's all of us, we all have a responsibility to do the right thing. I am disappointed that you think it's okay to always point the finger at me, at my farm, and say you have to stop it, stop milking cows, stop spreading manure. You want us to stop producing a high-quality product we take pride in, my livelihood? We employ seven people full and part time. My husband works seven days a week, 365 days a year. He loves it. He's dedicated to it. When I sit here and hear, "Just get rid of them, just tell them to change and do something else." I am very insulted. I agree it is a problem and not everyone is doing the right thing, but to totally discount an industry that definitely is the backbone of this state. Vermont is the most dairy dependent state in the country. \$3 million per day of new money from selling dairy product. Yes, the fluid consumption is down, but consumption of cheese and soft dairy products is up considerably. Does this country make too much milk? Absolutely. Do we need to do something about it? We are in the process of working on it now and creating a growth management system. But again, to discount people. I'm a person. I love what I do, and I am really proud of it, and again all of us have a responsibility. Thank you.

Geoff Batista: One brief question on what happens next. How does this public consultation, event, other comments, the survey still out, going to formally factor into the decision-making process on the budget?

Response from Suanne Young: All the comments will be pulled together in a lengthy and detailed document for the Board and public. It will be posted. We will draw conclusions from the comment and this hearing into our final decision-making, and we have heard a lot today. A lot of opinions on where to shift funding and we will take that all into account. Then we will finalize the budget and will present to the Governor for final budget development. It will go to the State Legislature. There will be another round of hearings on this budget and the Governor's proposed budget and at some point, the Legislature will decide on the final budget bill.

Is there ever a time to have this meeting on a weekend because a lot more people could come if you would allow that?

Response from Susanne Young: Certainly, something we should consider and may have time before the final budget meeting. Every meeting of the Clean Water Board is public, and we publicize meetings. There is always time for public comment at those meetings.

Next Steps/Future Meeting

11:55 am-12:00 pm

Secretary Susanne Young

- Public comments due September 6, 2019 via online questionnaire
- October 2019 Clean Water Board meeting to finalize SFY 2021 budget recommendation

Adjourn

12:00 pm

Supporting Materials:

1. Clean Water Funding Factsheet
2. Clean Water Fund State Fiscal Year 2021 Questionnaire
3. Draft SFY 2021 Clean Water Budget
4. Draft SFY 2021 Clean Water Budget Line Item Descriptions

August 21, 2019

Clean Water Budget Public Hearing
Winooski Room (M240)
National Life Building, Main 2, Montpelier

To Vermont's Clean Water Board,

From the viewpoint of a longtime Lake Champlain non-point P land source cleanup volunteer with a veterinarian career directly related to Vermont agriculture, it is gratifying to see the strong contribution that will be made to compliant, good conservation farms. Emphasis should remain on improving in-field practices like reduced tillage equipment, cover crops, grassed waterways, and manure injection. In many nationwide studies, these practices have proven to return the most P loss reduction per dollar compared to stormwater and wastewater treatments and should remain a high priority in our state which is so heavily dependent on Agriculture.

One area of improvement of this budget that should be considered would be to double the **Agronomy Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)** budget to accommodate doubling the staff of UVM Extension direct technical assistance to animal agriculture operations. As farms adopt BMP's and innovative practices it is vital to have real "boots on the ground" ACAP personnel that have gained farmers' confidence and can advise them. ACAP provides non-biased technical assistance that cannot be obtained from commercial sources; and they are directly responsible for the rapid uptake of new technologies like reduced tillage, manure injection, and cover crop establishment. When Friends of Northern Lake Champlain needs information on a farm project, UVM Extension tech assistants are our first phone call.

Another area that deserves special attention are municipal back roads. Especially, around the northern arm of Lake Champlain, there are many poorly maintained municipal dirt roads with undersized culverts and ditches laden with sediment from stormwater runoff. Town road budgets, in these underpopulated areas with limited tax base, are already stressed to the limit by snow removal and flood damage costs and there is little left over for progressive projects to improve water quality. As municipal road improvement planning and design develop in the next few years, more dollars should be directed to **Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid** and **Municipal Better Roads**.

Many thanks to the Board for its long hours of study and review to come up with such a well thought out plan to improve the State's waterways. Working with the complexities of biology and government funding source constraints, the Board has developed a strong Budget draft for FY 2021.

Sincerely,

Kent E Henderson, DVM

Friends of Northern Lake Champlain Board Chair

Vermont Clean Water Board
c/o Emily Bird
National Life Building
Montpelier VT 05602
September 4, 2019

RE: Clean Water Board Budget Draft 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your budget process.

It was very hard to listen to the attacks on agriculture in general and dairy in particular at the public hearing last month. Our farmers have stepped up to the plate regarding water quality and have worked diligently with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture to utilize any and all programs available to them. It's unfortunate some citizens in this state believe the economy, the communities and the agricultural industry would be better without dairy farming.

We are very glad to see increased funding for the Vermont Agency of Agriculture in this draft budget; however, we also understand the challenges on the farm – given current economic stresses – and rather than see more funds placed in capital funds (which may or may not require a match), we would suggest more money be used for Technical Assistance in the Agronomy Conservation Assistance Program. There is a concern that if all the funds from the Capital Budget for agriculture are not expended due to lack of dollar matches, the perception will be farmers are not concerned about water quality. We would not want to lose money into the future due to economic hardships this year.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing conversations about this important topic and want to be considered a partner in the process going forward.

Sincerely,

Joseph Tisbert, President
Jackie Folsom, Legislative Director
Vermont Farm Bureau

From: [Peter G. Gregory](#)
To: [Bird, Emily](#)
Cc: [Charlie Baker](#); [Tom Kennedy](#)
Subject: Re: FY 21 draft budget
Date: Thursday, September 5, 2019 2:47:57 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[Outlook-m1mm4223.jpg](#)

Thanks Emily for getting back to me.

While I understand a final determination of what will be spent under Innovation has to occur when the legislature signs off on an amount, there is an internal list somewhere on what you all had in mind that drove the proposed number.

That is the detail I am requesting.

Thanks!!

Peter

Peter G. Gregory, AICP
Executive Director



Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
128 King Farm Road | Woodstock, Vermont 05091
(802) 457-3188 | (802) 457-4728 - fax | (802) 558-9064 - cell
pgregory@trorc.org | trorc.org | [TRORC facebook](#)

From: Bird, Emily <Emily.Bird@vermont.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 3:20 PM
To: Peter G. Gregory <pgregory@trorc.org>
Cc: Charlie Baker <cbaker@ccrpcvt.org>; Tom Kennedy <tkennedy@swcrpc.org>
Subject: RE: FY 21 draft budget

Good afternoon, Peter,

The breakdown of uses for line 6 will be determined at the programmatic level after the passage of the SFY 2021 budget. Please see the line item descriptions from the materials packet for more information.

The October Board meeting is in the process of being scheduled. We will send an email announcement once it is scheduled.

Thank you!
Emily

Emily Bird | Manager

Clean Water Initiative Program
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05602
802-490-4083 | emily.bird@vermont.gov
<http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi>

From: Peter G. Gregory <pgregory@trorc.org>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 10:54 AM
To: Bird, Emily <Emily.Bird@vermont.gov>
Cc: Charlie Baker <cbaker@ccrpcvt.org>; Tom Kennedy <tkennedy@swcrpc.org>
Subject: FY 21 draft budget

Emily;

Would you give me a breakdown of the uses proposed within Line 6 of the FY 21 budget proposal?

Thanks!

And what date in October was selected as the next date?

Peter

Peter G. Gregory, AICP
Executive Director



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VERMONT HOUSING and CONSERVATION COALITION

September 6, 2019

Dear Clean Water Board members,

We write to you today as the co-chairs of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Coalition (VHCC), a coalition of more than 50 private businesses and nonprofit organizations that represent a wide spectrum of interests from statewide developers of affordable housing to small, community-based land trusts. The Coalition advocates for strong state investments through the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) in affordable housing and conservation work that is critical for Vermont, both today and in the future.

After reviewing your Draft Clean Water Fund FY21 budget, we respectfully ask you to **restore line item #5 VHCB Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects to the approved FY19 level of \$2.75M.** Reducing the investment in land conservation by \$1M to the proposed \$1.7M in the FY21 draft budget represents a significant lost opportunity to **achieve water quality benefits that will help the state meet its TMDL obligations and avoid degradation of currently high quality waters.**

The permanent conservation of agricultural, forest, natural and outdoor recreation areas using VHCB funds prevents non-point source pollution from development, which degrades water quality and is costly to address. Many conservation projects also involve the restoration of vegetated riparian buffers, forests and wetlands, which help improve water quality by filtering and storing sediment and pollutants. Moreover, unlike other strategies to address water quality challenges, one-time investments in land conservation and restoration provide enduring benefits because the conservation actions are permanent.

And while land conservation is an important strategy for protecting and enhancing water quality, it also delivers a host of co-benefits that help advance other pressing state priorities. These include facilitating within-family transfers of agricultural and forest lands to the next generation of owners; protecting the landscape on which our agricultural, forestry, and outdoor recreation economies depend; enhancing homeowner and community resilience to future large storm and flooding events; slowing the pace of climate change by sequestering carbon in soils, trees, and other vegetation; avoiding the climate impacts of sprawl and scattered development; creating town and community forests in support of the rural economy; and providing public and affordable access to recreation and healthy living.

In summary, increasing the investment in VHCB's land conservation work in the capital clean water budget is a wise, cost-effective use of these funds for lasting water quality benefits, while providing many invaluable co-benefits. We therefore urge you to **restore funding for VHCB Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects to the approved FY19 level of \$2.75M.**

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Chris Donnelly, Director of Community Relations, Champlain Housing Trust
Molly Dugan, Support and Services at Home (SASH) Director, Cathedral Square Corporation
Phil Huffman, Director of Government Relations and Policy, The Nature Conservancy
Tracy Zschau, Vice President for Conservation, Vermont Land Trust

MEMO RE CLEAN WATER PROJECT

TO: Julie Moore, ANR
Emily Bird, ANR
Anson Tebbetts, VAAFM
Laura DiPietro, VAAFM
Doug Hoffer, State Auditor
TJ Donovan, VT Attorney General
FROM: Sylvia Knight, Earth Community Advocate
Date: Sept. 3, 2019
Subject: Clean Water Project to protect waters for residents of Vermont



I recommend that the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and VT Agency of Agriculture, Farms and Markets (VAAFM) use the authority granted to them to undertake these projects to reduce phosphorus entering waters of the State:

1. VAAFM issues an emergency order to stop *all* Roundup (glyphosate) applications anywhere in Vermont, including agricultural land, for five (5) years to achieve several tons annual reduction in phosphorus loading to the soil and waters of the State, as well as reducing toxins in the waters and in foods.

Authority: Act 64, VAAFM may issue emergency orders to protect water quality; issue mandatory corrective actions; 6 VSA Section 1102 (d) (6)a-e regarding reduction of pesticide use.

2. VAAFM issues order to do cover-cropping, crop rotations and no-till culture of corn, grass and soy to reduce need for herbicides. Waives USDA requirement for cover crop kill. Authority: Act 64; 6 VSA 1102 ff.

3. VAAFM would require cessation of manure spreading in Lake Carmi watershed, and require farmer(s) involved to sell or remove livestock from farms whose manure capacity has been exceeded. Authority: Act 64.

4. ANR uses funds for personnel to do more testing in waters of the state for atrazine and metolachlor. Pay independent laboratory to analyze samples. This activity is part of reclassifying waters and enforcing anti-degradation measures. Authority: Act 64.

5. VT Atty General requests that US Geological Services test for glyphosate and its degradate AMPA in VT waters. VAAFM has stated they are unable to find it, in spite of tons being used on the land. USGS finds glyphosate and AMPA in rivers in the midwest. This data is essential for TMDL discussion and process. Act 64.

6. VAAFM recommends removal of non-compliant farms, LFOs and CAFOs from current use programs, so that they are taxed as development. Stop subsidizing them at our expense. Re-direct them to other economic activity. Act 64.

7. Use funds to pay ANR personnel to reclassify waters and to enforce anti-degradation measures. Authority. Act 64; 10 VSA sec.1253.

CLEAN WATER BOARD
Draft State Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Clean Water Budget (10/17/2019)

No.	Sector	Agency	Activity	Clean Water Fund 6/12/2019 Proposal	Proposed 10/17/2019 Change	Clean Water Fund 10/17/2019 Proposal	Capital Bill 10/17/2019 Proposal (No Change)	Total FY21
1	Agriculture	AAFM	Agronomy Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)	235,000		235,000		235,000
2	Agriculture	AAFM	Water Quality Grants to Partners and Farmers	2,370,497	700,000**	3,070,497	4,294,503	7,365,000
3	Agriculture	AAFM	Operating	550,000		550,000		550,000
4	Agriculture	VHCB	Water Quality Farm Improvement and Retirement Projects				1,100,000	1,100,000
5	Nat'l Resources	VHCB	Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects				1,700,000	1,700,000
6	Innovation	All	Multi-Sector Innovation, Program and Partner Support	3,025,000	200,000**	3,225,000		3,225,000
7	Nat'l Resources	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Natural Resources Restoration	3,234,503		3,234,503		3,234,503
8	Nat'l Resources	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Lakes in Crisis Fund	50,000		50,000		50,000
9	Nat'l Resources	ANR-FPR	Forestry/Skidder Bridges	50,000		50,000		50,000
10	Roads	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Implement BMPs at State Forests and Recreational Access Points				1,900,000	1,900,000
11	Roads	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid*	3,700,000		3,700,000		3,700,000
12	Roads	VTrans	Municipal Better Roads	1,000,000		1,000,000		1,000,000
13	Stormwater	ANR-DEC (CWIP)	Stormwater Project Delivery, Planning and Implementation	4,275,000	668,808***	4,943,808		4,943,808
14	Stormwater	AoA	Stormwater Utility Payments (\$25K each)	125,000		125,000		125,000
15	Stormwater	ACCD	Better Connections (Stormwater Planning)	100,000		100,000		100,000
16	Stormwater	ACCD	Downtown Transportation Fund (Stormwater Projects)	100,000		100,000		100,000
17	Wastewater	ANR-DEC	Wastewater Treatment Facility Operators Support	110,000		110,000		110,000
18	Wastewater	ANR-DEC (FED)	State Match to Clean Water State Revolving Fund Federal Grant				1,605,497	1,605,497
19	Wastewater	ANR-DEC (FED)	Municipal Pollution Control Grants				3,300,000	3,300,000
20	Audit	AoA	Program Audit (10 V.S.A. § 1389b)	75,000		75,000		75,000
			Total Requested	19,000,000	1,568,808	20,568,808	13,900,000	34,468,808
			Anticipated FY21 Revenue	19,000,000		19,000,000	13,900,000	32,900,000
			Anticipated Unallocated/Unreserved Revenue (Current Year)**		900,000	900,000		
			Anticipated Unallocated/Unreserved Revenue (Prior Year)***		218,808	218,808		
			Unallocated/Unreserved if Contingency Reserve Reduced from \$950,000 to \$500,000***		450,000	450,000		

* ANR and VTrans leadership have requested staff evaluate efficiencies to be gained by VTrans managing the Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program.

** Reoccurring revenue

*** Non-recurring Revenue

Clean Water Board
State Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Clean Water Budget – Line Item Descriptions
Organized by Agency
Updated October 18, 2019

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM)

Line 1: Agronomy Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)

Support for the Agronomy and Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) – contract to continue delivering agronomic (field-based) technical support to farmers statewide, in coordination with federal and state agencies.

Line 2: Water Quality Grants to Partners and Farmers

- a. Capital Funds: AAFM provides grants and contracts for capital expenditures that include the installation of best management practices (BMPs) on farms in Vermont. BMPs are site-specific on-farm conservation practices implemented to address the potential for agricultural pollutants to enter the waters of the state. Below is a summary of the programs connected with the Capital Funds for this line item.
 - i. Best Management Practices (BMP) Program, 6 V.S.A. §§ 4820 – 4826. Eligible practices may include manure and agricultural waste storage facilities, composting stack pads, silage leachate collection, laneway development & stream crossings, and clean water diversions.
 - ii. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), 6 V.S.A. § 4829. The program funds 15 to 30-year term water quality agreements to install vegetation within buffers. The scope of this program is unchanged since it was launched more than 15 years ago.
 - iii. Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program, which replaced the Vermont Agricultural Buffer Program, 6 V.S.A. §4900. The Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program can provide technical and financial assistance to Vermont farmers for in-field agronomic best practices to address critical source areas, erosion, and surface runoff. Eligible practices include establishment of grassed waterways, filter strips, and critical source field area seedings that will remain established for 10 years.
 - iv. Capital Equipment Assistance Program, 6 V.S.A. § 4828. Financial assistance is available for new or innovative equipment that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes to state waters, improve water quality of state waters, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce costs to farmers when they apply manure.
 - v. Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program, 6 V.S.A. 4830. The AEM Program is established to provide farms of Vermont with State financial assistance to alternatively manage their farmstead, cropland, and pasture in a manner that will address identified water quality concerns that, traditionally, would have been wholly or partially addressed through federal, State, and landowner investments in BMP infrastructure, in agronomic practices, or both.

- b. Clean Water Funds: AAFM administered grants and contracts that are non-capital funds are used to support:
 - i. Farm Agronomic Practices (FAP) Program, 6 V.S.A. § 4951. The FAP Program utilizes state funding to help Vermont farms implement soil-based agronomic practices that improve soil quality, soil health, increase crop production, and reduce erosion and agricultural waste discharges. The FAP program also provides education and instructional activity grants to support outreach regarding the impacts of agricultural practices on water quality and current state agricultural water quality regulations. Eligible practices include: Cover Cropping, Conservation Crop Rotation, Conservation Crop Rotation with Nurse crop, Conservation Tillage, No Till Pasture and Hayland Renovation, Rotational Grazing, Manure Injection, Aeration, Educational or Instructional Activities.
 - ii. The Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program (Ag-CWIP) is AAFM's grant funding program made possible by the Clean Water Fund, created by Act 64 of 2015 or the Vermont Clean Water Act. Funding is awarded to a wide variety of partner organizations through various grant opportunities such as Education and Outreach, Organizational Development, Farm Conservation Practice Surveys, Innovative Nutrient Reduction activities and more. This funding develops and supports the continual improvement of water quality across the state of Vermont by supporting organizations to provide farmers with education and outreach, technical assistance, identifying and implementing best management practices, planning, and more.
 - iii. Innovative water quality improvement methods for manure management, phosphorus reduction and new techniques that directly assist partners and farmers in water quality implementation activities.

Line 3: Operating

The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets supports staff and operating costs from the Clean Water Fund. Original appropriations for FY16 and FY17 were \$450,000 each year. Carryforward from these two years of program development and staff onboarding allowed for a reduction in appropriations in FY18 and FY19, to \$375,000 each year. For FY20 and FY21 the staff and operating costs of the existing positions and standard increases along with a reduced amount of anticipated fees collected results in a need for \$550,000 from the CWF.

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

Line 4: Water Quality Farm Improvement and Retirement Projects

- a. VHCB uses this funding to award grants to farmers for water quality-related capital improvements. Eligible projects include production area improvements, manure management projects, farm equipment and pasture management. Grants typically help farmers pay for project components that state and federal grant programs cannot cover. In cases of significant hardship, the grants may assist farmers who are otherwise unable to fully meet the cost share requirements for priority AAFM BMP or Natural Resources Conservation Service projects.
- b. Farmland Retirement: VHCB works closely with other partners – particularly AAFM and ANR – to identify agricultural land that is difficult to farm without adversely impacting water quality. These funds would allow VHCB to help fund the purchase and/or conservation of such

properties with a goal of taking them all or mostly out of production. All grants will require perpetual conservation restrictions.

Line 5: Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects

Part of VHCB's core funding, this allocation is used for grants to eligible applicants (land trusts and other conservation non-profits, towns, certain state agencies) for conservation and water-quality related investments in fee lands and conservation easements. All grants will require perpetual conservation restrictions. Those with surface waters will include specific water quality-related easement provisions such as riparian buffers and wetland protection zones.

Agency of Natural Resources

Line 6: Multi-Sector Innovation, Program and Partner Support

- a. Innovation: Support of innovation efforts, such as the [Phosphorus Innovation Challenge](#). This is a cross-agency effort, and grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Funds may be used to support other innovative phosphorus reduction-based projects.
- b. Clean Water Service Delivery Act (Act 76 of 2019): Support development of nutrient pollutant reduction target setting and project tracking and accounting, as well as other requirements associated with developing programs in Act 76 of 2019.
- c. Program and Partner Support:
 - i. Support partner capacity and development related to tactical basin planning, project development, technical capacity (train-the-trainer), landowner outreach, watershed work crews, Lake Champlain Sea Grant green stormwater infrastructure technical support, targeted water-quality monitoring and laboratory testing of water samples.
 - ii. Support state agencies' program capacity to administer grants and contracts and enhance clean water project service delivery, compliance assistance, and inspections (e.g., farm inspections).

Line 7: Natural Resources Restoration

DEC provides grants and contracts to municipalities, watershed organizations, lake associations, conservation districts, and regional planning commissions for natural resources restoration. Through the tactical basin planning process, DEC can identify and prioritize the award of grants for natural resources projects.

Line 8: Lakes in Crisis Fund

Act 168 of the 2018 Session created a Lake in Crisis Fund and requires the Agency of Natural Resources to recommend a budget for the fund. Currently only one lake, Lake Carmi, has been designated as a Lake in Crisis. ANR's plan for Lake Carmi can be found at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/restoring/carmi>. ANR and AAFM use other grant programs to support phosphorus mitigation in the Lake Carmi watershed. In addition, the FY19 budget included up to \$1,600,000 for installation of an aerator in Lake Carmi.

Line 9: Forestry/Skidder Bridges

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) provides direct grants to loggers to reimburse a portion of the cost of skidder bridges (per 2017 Act 75, 10 V.S.A. § 2622a). Portable skidder bridges prevent erosion and runoff at stream crossings on logging jobs.

Line 10: Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) at State Forests and Recreational Access Points

DEC's Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) program is a streamlined process for inventorying roads and prioritizing and constructing projects to improve water quality. This relatively simple framework can be adopted to incentivize non-regulatory road best management practices (BMPs). This project would involve adapting the MRGP inventory methodology for ANR road and trail networks and recreational access points, developing a field application and companion database to gather and store data, and constructing projects based on the prioritized list of road BMPs to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution.

Line 11: Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid

Provides financial assistance to municipalities to bring hydrologically connected municipal road sections into full compliance with the Municipal Roads General Permit. Funds are dispersed by formula to all participating municipalities based on hydrologically connected road miles. In SFY 2018-2020, municipalities enrolled through regional planning commissions and complete construction and regional planning commissions provide project verification and reporting. Practices eligible for funding under this project include drainage ditch installation and upgrades, turnouts, removal of high road shoulders, and stabilization of drainage culverts and catch basin outlets, and on Class 4 roads, stabilization of gully erosion.

Lines 13: Stormwater Project Delivery, Planning and Implementation

Provides financial assistance to municipalities and other partners to implement stormwater pollution abatement and control projects. Stormwater projects capture and treat polluted stormwater runoff (i.e., rain runoff and snowmelt) from developed areas, including roads rooftops, and parking lots. Funds may support compliance with municipal stormwater permits, including the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit and Municipal Roads General Permit, and the Developed Lands General Permit (i.e., "3-acre permit") required by clean water restoration plans known as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). Funds will support project identification, delivery, planning, design, and construction.

Line 17: Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Operators Support

Continued WWTF operator support for optimization and high-strength source management in place of near-term capital investments to implement major nutrient TMDLs (e.g., Lake Champlain phosphorus TMDLs). Programming covers technical, analytical and asset management. Federal funds may become available but are limited in scope and location.

Line 18: State Match to Clean Water State Revolving Fund Federal Grant

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) provides low-interest loans for municipal and

private entity stormwater, wastewater and natural resources projects. Vermont provides a 20% match in order to draw down an 80% federal match. The 20% match of \$2,500,000 in FY20 will draw down \$12,500,000; and a 20% proposed match of \$1,604,383 in FY21 will draw down \$8,021,915 in revolving loan funds.

All of the 20% state match funds, federal funds, and repayment funds, minus administrative expenses are used to provide loans for a wide range of water-quality projects that includes combined sewer overflow abatement (CSO), plant refurbishment, plant upgrades, sludge and septage improvements, sewer line replacement and extension, pump station upgrades, plant enlargements, stormwater improvements, and municipally-sponsored private wastewater disposal systems.

The interest rates on loans to private entities will be slightly higher than interest rates to municipalities, and these revenues will be used to offset reduced interest rates on loans to municipalities that promote natural resource projects. By statute, municipal projects always have priority over loans to private entities.

Line 19: Municipal Pollution Control Grants

In addition to low-interest loans through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Funds, some municipal clean water projects are eligible for municipal pollution control grants in FY20 up to 35% of the project cost. The source of funding for municipal pollution control grants is the Capital Bill. These grants are for municipalities only. The Legislature has adopted a priority system for municipal pollution control grants, 10 V.S.A. 1626b(c) & 1628. See 2016 [Act 103](#).

Agency of Transportation (VTrans)

Line 12: Municipal [Better Roads Program](#)

Construction projects funded by grants to municipalities in the Better Roads Program are meant to be quick, low cost projects that are easy to advance without all the requirements of federal funding. Example construction projects include ditching, check dams, gravel wetlands, stream bank or slope stabilization, and structure/culvert upgrades. Municipalities have 12 months, or one state fiscal year, to complete the construction projects. In addition to the construction projects which are funded in part by the Clean Water Fund, VTrans also funds road erosion inventories through the program, as required by the Municipal Roads General Permit. Grant award lists going back to FY14 can be found [here](#).

Agency of Administration

Line 14: Stormwater Utility Payments

The Legislature has encouraged the Clean Water Fund to award monies to support the establishment and maintenance of stormwater utilities. 10 V.S.A. §1389(e)(1)(H) (the board “shall prioritize funding to municipalities for the establishment and operation of stormwater utilities); §1389(e)(2) (“the Clean Water Board shall, during the first three years of its existence and within the priorities established under subdivision (1) of this subsection (e), prioritize

awards or assistance to municipalities for municipal compliance with water quality requirements and to municipalities for the establishment and operation of stormwater utilities.”).

The Clean Water Board has fulfilled this statutory mandate by recommending an annual appropriation of \$25,000 to municipal stormwater utilities. By FY20, five municipalities will have established stormwater utilities: Williston, Colchester, South Burlington, St. Albans City and Burlington. These funds are appropriated through the Agency of Administration. VTrans publishes an annual report about municipal stormwater utilities related to VTrans expenditures: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/VTrans-Act-158-SW-Utility-Report-2017-Cal-Year.pdf>.

Line 20: Program Audit

10 V.S.A. § 1389b requires that on or before January 15, 2021 the Secretary of Administration shall submit a program audit of the Clean Water Fund to the General Assembly. The audit must be conducted by a qualified, independent environmental consultant or organization and include:

- i. A summary of the expenditures from the Clean Water Fund, including the water quality projects and programs that received funding;
- ii. An analysis and summary of the efficacy of the water quality projects and programs funded from the Clean Water Fund or implemented by the State;
- iii. An evaluation of whether water quality projects and programs funded or implemented by the State are achieving the intended water quality benefits;
- iv. An assessment of the capacity of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to effectively administer and enforce agricultural water quality requirements on farms in the State; and
- v. An assessment of the capacity of the Department of Environmental Conservation to effectively administer and enforce agricultural water quality requirements on farms in the State; and
- vi. A recommendation of whether the General Assembly should authorize the continuation of the Clean Water Fund and, if so, at what funding level.

Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD)

Line 15: Better Connections (Stormwater Planning)

Better Connections is an award-winning interagency grant program (VTrans, ACCD, ANR, VDH) that supports the implementation of local projects to increase local transportation options, build resilience, and revitalize communities. Funding will help municipalities incorporate stormwater management strategies into downtown and village center transportation and community revitalization plans.

Line 16: Downtown Transportation Fund (Stormwater Best Management Practices)

In partnership with VTrans, the Downtown Transportation Fund will help municipalities incorporate stormwater BMPs into infrastructure improvement projects that make Vermont’s downtown areas more pedestrian, bike, and transit friendly.

Act 76 Overview

Background

In 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced a pollution control plan – also referred to as a total maximum daily load (TMDL) – for Lake Champlain to address water quality concerns. The plan required Vermont to complete 28 milestones. Meeting these milestones would demonstrate Vermont’s ability to restore polluted water.

With the passage of Act 76, Vermont is on track to meet every milestone by mid-2019. Act 76 will be the funding and project delivery framework to ensure essential water quality projects achieve Vermont’s clean water goals. By committing nearly \$15 million in general fund revenue in the coming fiscal year to support clean water projects, and more than \$20 million annually for the foreseeable future, which in turn will leverage other funding sources resulting in an estimated annual clean water investment of more than \$50 million, Act 76 satisfies one of the most significant outstanding milestones: to secure sustainable, long-term funding needed to support this important work.

Act 76, explained

Three of the most fundamental aspects include:

1. **Non-regulatory project identification and prioritization:** Act 76 makes it easier to prioritize and fund non-regulatory projects. Non-regulatory projects include small-scale green stormwater management practices, conservation initiatives on Vermont farms, and natural resource restoration projects such as easements, wetlands restoration, or vegetated buffer plantings. While not required, these projects are essential to achieve the water quality goals spelled out in the [Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog TMDLs](#).
2. **Phosphorus reduction targets:** Act 76 places a greater emphasis on achieving phosphorous reduction targets set for each watershed.
3. **Clean Water Service Providers:** Act 76 establishes new regional organizations called clean water service providers (CWSP). CWSPs will be established in each major watershed to identify, implement and maintain local water quality projects.

How Act 76 will be implemented

Act 76 implementation will involve a joint effort between municipalities, water quality organizations, state agencies, and regional planning commissions. The role of each entity is listed below.

Clean Water Service Providers

- Use the State's new pollution reduction formula to determine which watershed projects will have the greatest potential to reduce phosphorus.
- Work with watershed organizations, Regional Planning Commissions (RPC), Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRCD), and municipalities to identify and construct water quality projects to achieve reduction targets.
- List all watershed projects on State Watershed Projects Database.
- Receive funding to construct, operate, and maintain clean water projects.
- Create and convene Basin Councils to advise the CWSPs on project identification, prioritization, and tactical basin plans. Councils will consist of RPCs, NRCDs, municipalities, watershed organizations, and statewide land conservation organizations. CWSPs will cover the cost for the local organization and municipal staff participation.

Agency of Natural Resources

- Continue to administer the law, implementing clean water regulatory and permitting programs.
- Provide funding under the guidance of the Clean Water Board.
- Define the phosphorus targets that need to be reached in each watershed, and among different land uses, to fulfil Clean Water Act requirements.
- Set and assign annual and 5-year pollution reduction targets for each watershed. Targets will assess the pounds of phosphorus reduced per dollar spent.
- Guide and oversee the CWSPs responsible for accomplishing targets.
- Fully fund design, construction, operation, and maintenance costs for CWSP projects.
- Provide support and ongoing reporting to the General Assembly, Clean Water Board, and citizens.

Municipalities

- Continue to implement practices to reduce phosphorus runoff from roads and larger, previously unpermitted impervious surfaces such as parking lots.
- Continue to pursue wastewater treatment optimization or upgrades, as spelled out in the TMDL.
- For communities that are part of the Municipally Separated Storm Sewer System (MS4) program, continue to manage phosphorus as spelled out in the TMDL.
- Receive a consistent level of support from ANR to account for phosphorus reductions the achieve based on the rules of the Vermont Clean Water Act.
- Guide CWSPs by participating on the Basin Councils.
- Obtain financial support from the Clean Water Board annually to cover costs associated with implementing the requirements of the Vermont Clean Water Act.

How funding will be prioritized

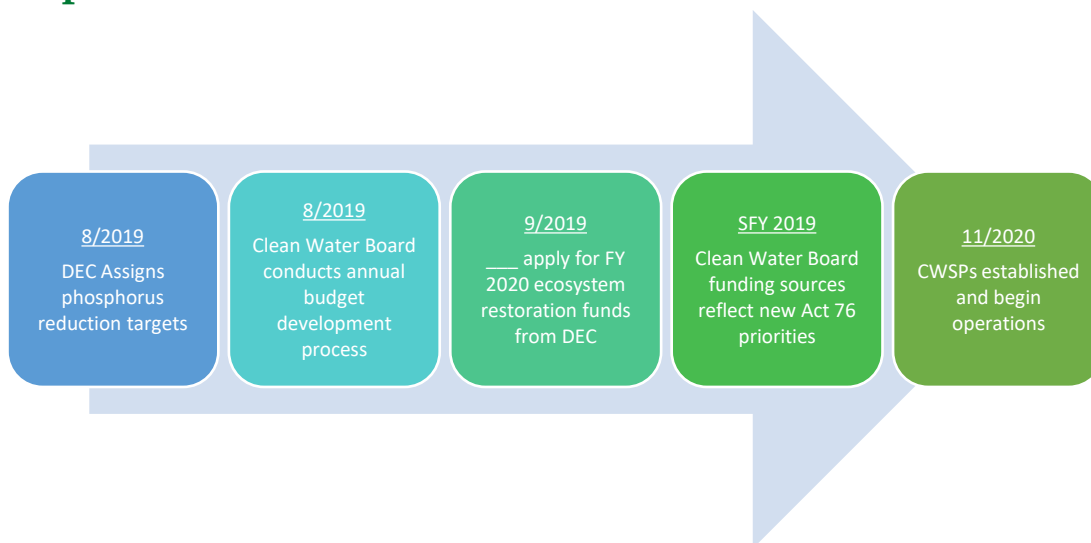
Act 76 prioritizes how State funds will be invested, based on Clean Water Board recommendations, listed below.

1. Fund non-regulatory actions and the reasonable operations and maintenance costs to maintain projects already built. Funds will be directed to CWSPs based on a formula which looks at available funds, total target reductions, and costs per pound of phosphorus reduced by land use sector.
2. Fund projects that enhance and maintain water quality in watersheds to prevent streams and lakes from unhealthy pollution that affects important uses such as swimming, fishing, or aquatic life.
3. Fund Vermont Clean Water Act requirements on public and municipally-owned lands.
4. Allocate funding to assist private landowners to comply with the Three Acre Stormwater Permit.

How progress will be measured

The State bears the ultimate responsibility to ensure that the overall goals of the TMDL cleanup plans are achieved. Individual permit-holders, such as municipalities or individual landowners, will continue to be responsible for meeting regulatory requirements. CWSPs will be responsible for achieving non-regulatory water pollution reductions.

Implementation timeline



For more information, please visit cleanwater.vermont.gov

Tentative Timeline for CWSP Establishment

Task	Due Date
Stakeholder Outreach Meeting - Level Setting on S96	9/1/2019
Individual Stakeholder Group Meetings	10/15/2019
Issue Q+A and Convene Stakeholder Group	11/1/2019
Develop criteria and desired qualifications for WSP	12/1/2019
Develop proposed Governance	12/1/2019
Issue RFQ providing criteria for evaluation.	1/1/2020
Outline and initiate drafting of rule language	4/1/2020
Pre-rulemaking outreach meetings (N LC Basin, S. LC Basin, Memph Basin)	5/1/2020
Final draft and propose to SOS for ICAR	6/1/2020
Public Comment Period	7/1/2020
Responsiveness Summary	9/10/2020
LCAR	9/25/2020
Final Adoption	11/1/2020

Clean Water Fund Program Audit Draft Scope of Work (October 18, 2019)

Sec. 37 of Act 64 of the 2015 Legislative Session, as modified by Act 64 of 2019, states:

CLEAN WATER FUND AUDIT

(a) On or before January 15, 2021, the Secretary of Administration shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Agriculture and Forest Products, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, and the House Committee on Fish, Wildlife and Water Resources a program audit of the Clean Water Fund. The report shall include:

- (1) a summary of the expenditures from the Clean Water Fund, including the water quality projects and programs that received funding;*
- (2) an analysis and summary of the efficacy of the water quality projects and programs funded from the Clean Water Fund or implemented by the State;*
- (3) an evaluation of whether water quality projects and programs funded or implemented by the State are achieving the intended water quality benefits;*
- (4) an assessment of the capacity of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to effectively administer and enforce agricultural water quality requirements on farms in the State;*
- (5) an assessment of the capacity of the Department of Environmental Conservation to effectively administer and enforce agricultural water quality requirements on farms in the State; and*
- (6) a recommendation of whether the General Assembly should authorize the continuation of the Clean Water Fund and, if so, at what funding level.*

(b) The audit required by this section shall be conducted by a qualified, independent environmental consultant or organization with knowledge of the federal Clean Water Act, State water quality requirements and programs, the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load plan, and the program elements of the State clean water initiative.

The Agency of Administration is seeking a qualified, independent environmental consultant or organization to conduct this performance audit. The consultant should have knowledge of the Federal Clean Water Act, state water quality requirements and programs, the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and attendant implementation plan, other similar watershed management programs across the country that are similarly dominated by non-point source pollution control work, as well as the program elements of the clean water initiative as detailed in the annual *Clean Water Investment Report* produced by the State of Vermont. This consultant must have relevant technical and performance measurement expertise necessary to complete this performance audit, and should not have been involved, directly or indirectly, in projects receiving Clean Water Fund dollars.

The audit must be provided to the Secretary of Administration no later than December 1, 2020 for submission to the General Assembly no later than January 15, 2021.

Scope of Work: Conduct an Independent Program Audit of the Clean Water Fund.

- A. Review existing documentation on expenditures from the Clean Water Fund, including the water quality projects and programs that received funding. Documents and other information that should be reviewed include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL and Phase 1 Implementation Plan
 - ii. Clean Water Investment Report, 2017, 2018 [2019]
 - iii. Treasurer's Report, 2017
 - iv. Act 73 Report, 2018
 - v. Data summaries and entries contained in the Clean Water Reporting Framework and related databases.
- B. Evaluate the efficacy of the water quality projects and programs funded from the Clean Water Fund or implemented by the State, as documented in the annual *Clean Water Investment Report*. Specifically:
 - a. Evaluate the investments made since 2016 in regard to phosphorous pollution in Lake Champlain and related pollutants in other state waters, with particularized attention to requirements set forth in the Lake Champlain TMDL and/or Act 64 (2015) and development of the pollution accounting and tracking systems as required by Act 76 of 2019;
 - b. Compare the strengths and weaknesses of Vermont's clean water initiative relative to other large watershed initiatives in the country where the reduction of nonpoint sources of nutrient pollution is a major component of the program; and,
 - c. Recommend any modifications in current measurement tools or new measurement tools to more effectively track progress toward water quality goals as established in the Lake Champlain TMDL and/or Act 64 (2015).
- C. Assess the capacity of state government, including resources currently housed within the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets and the Department of Environmental Conservation, to effectively administer and enforce agricultural water quality requirements on Vermont farms. Recommend any modifications in the current structure that would support more effective administration and enforcement of agricultural water quality requirements on farms.
- D. Based on the findings of the program evaluation, develop conclusions on (1) the efficacy of the actions taken to date in achieving the goals of the Lake Champlain TMDL and Act 64 (2015), and (2) the progress, and the measures used to assess progress, in achieving the goals of the Lake Champlain TMDL and Act 64 (2015). Conclusions, at a minimum, should reflect:
 - a. A comparison of progress under Vermont's clean water initiative relative to other large watershed initiatives in the country where the reduction of nonpoint sources of nutrient pollution is a major component of the program; and,
 - b. Recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the appropriate level of funding for the Clean Water Fund.
- E. Present the results of the program audit in the form of a final written report to the Agency of Administration.