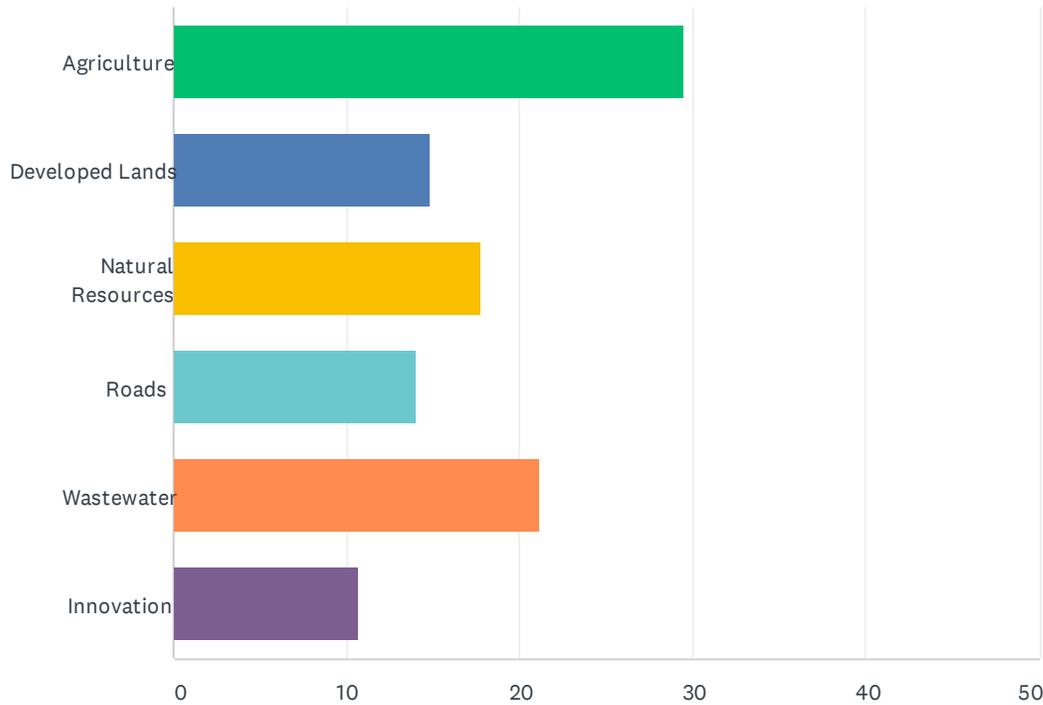


Q1 For each land use listed below, as well as multi-sector innovation, assign a percentage of the clean water budget that should support clean water projects. Your percentages must add up to 100.

Answered: 158 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Agriculture	29	4,513	153
Developed Lands	15	2,147	145
Natural Resources	18	2,510	141
Roads	14	1,973	141
Wastewater	21	3,170	150
Innovation	11	1,487	139
Total Respondents: 158			

Q2 Additional Comments (if applicable)

Answered: 67 Skipped: 94

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#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	It seems to me that all potential projects should be judged on a comparable cost/benefit basis. Attempting to guess how to share out the funds into these major categories without details is probably not helpful. In short, my numbers are meant to convey that in general, I like the protection of sensitive lands, the retirement of Agriculture's most damaging activities in sensitive areas, and we need to upgrade wastewater, especially with such a large federal match. I am not convinced that wastewater is as small a factor as the state is suggesting, especially if you count septics. Also, I would like more monitoring, regulations and enforcement. The state should not have to pay for everything.	10/30/2020 3:01 PM
2	I strongly believe that agriculture is a very important, yet realistic fix. This is because over 40% of the phosphate in the lake is due to agriculture. I studied Otter Creek River, and the surrounding land around it. There are multiple problems with this river, and what it is doing to Lake Champlain. When you look at maps, you can see where the river ends, and Lake Champlain becomes visible, the color of the water is heavily more polluted than the rest of the lake. 50% of Otter Creek's phosphate loads that enter Lake Champlain is caused from agriculture. If anaerobic digesters are implemented in the area it would help this problem immensely. Waste could be turned into energy for things such as fuel for tractors, opposed to letting it enter the river.	10/30/2020 1:00 PM
3	These percentages all depend on the type of solution, since different solutions cost different amounts of money.	10/30/2020 12:57 PM
4	In Missisquoi Bay, there are high levels of phosphate in the water, and we should fix this problem because not only does it harm native species and pose a threat to human health, but it decreases tourism and commerce in the Missisquoi region. The majority of phosphate in the Bay can be attributed to agriculture, with a phosphate load of about 57.6mt/yr. Agricultural runoff from farms along the Missisquoi River brings phosphate from manure and other fertilizers into the river, which eventually leads to the Missisquoi Bay. One possible solution to consider is using manure injectors at farms. The injectors can cost around \$100,000 but will have economical and environmental benefits. On average, farmers use about 6000lbs of manure per acre of farmland, but with these machines that number is closer to 2500lbs of manure per acre. With manure injection systems farmers will be able to either reduce their cost of manure or use it to create energy in anaerobic respirators. Phosphate and other nutrients will only penetrate 1-2 inches into the soil with traditional manure techniques and are at risk of washing into rivers and brooks with heavy rain. Environmentally, these machines get the manure 3-4 inches deeper into the soil compared to traditional spreading, reducing runoff risk, and creating nutrient-rich soil. If these systems were to replace traditional spreading, farmers could see long-term economic growth, and phosphate runoff due to agriculture would be reduced.	10/30/2020 11:10 AM
5	We need benchmark data for Atrazine contamination in our waterways	10/29/2020 9:07 PM
6	Preventing soil erosion in the headwaters as a result of dirt roads washing away into streams needs to be stopped.	10/29/2020 8:45 PM
7	Wastewater needs to upgrade their current infrastructures to support new inatatives. It land application is taken away and the landfills wont take the bio solids where will this go?	10/29/2020 1:14 PM
8	I believe that money should be contributed to the Lower Otter Creek. To be specific, a polonite filtration system. Much of the water that runs through the creek is littered with phosphorus from the large number of farms that line the river. My solution to this problem is one worth taking into consideration. The company Ecofiltration has shown a cheap and effective way to filter phosphorus from water. They use a mineral called polonite which naturally attracts phosphorus. They can even redeposit it back into the soil as fertilizer. Something like a wetland can be very expensive to build and maintain for many years. Plus, a building like this would help create jobs for the community. Now, who is paying for this? A small part of all Vermonter's taxes should go to this mission. Lake Champlain brings a lot of tourism and business to Vermont and the surrounding areas. An extra tax would be on the farmers. This is for the fertilizer from the polonite. I'm sure the Basin Harbor Club, who is right near Lower Otter Creek, should have high hopes for the project since their club relies on people being on and in the water. My solution is feasible and worth a small portion of funding. Even testing the idea has little risk but a great reward.	10/28/2020 7:53 PM
9	Slowly starting to replace waste water treatment sites with "The Living Machine," which recycles waste water to be used again in toilets, would allow for us to not only reduce our	10/28/2020 4:53 PM

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water consumption, but also our toll on wastewater management systems. Currently, wastewater treatment sites all over Vermont are releasing huge amounts of untreated sewage into bodies of water, not only increasing our phosphorus problem but making some bodies of water unsafe to swim in or drink. Slowly starting to replace these sites with The Living Machine in Burlington and then spreading outward would help tame this problem. The city of Burlington has a big problem with excess amounts of waste going into Lake Champlain, so that would be a great place to start. The Living Machine would cost around \$250,000 to install. A living machine would cost less if it was around 80,000 gpd (\$1,710,280 compared to \$1,903,751), but would start to cost more overall when you go up to 1,000,000 gpd (\$10,457,542 compared to \$8,579,978). Burlington could use 80,000 gpd though and just create more treatment sites. Also, wastewater overflows currently contribute to three percent of Phosphorus pollution in Lake Champlain. We are projected to lose 17 million dollars for every meter of murky water in the lake. Even though the cost might look higher, (and that is only if we use 1 million gpd) the amount of benefits it will have regarding cost in other areas will heavily outweigh this. This would mean we would have to have much more spread out living machines. Currently there are a few waste treatment sites in the city. By spreading them out it would need more planning and cost more initially, but it would have great effects such as waste not having to travel as far to be managed. This is better than waste water treatment sites because it is a much greener solution, and will stop excess sewage from flowing into bodies of water.

10	priority areas for funding- agriculture - riparian protection & conservation natural resources - land conservation DEC - better quantify WQ change by targeting chemical, physical, biological WQ monitoring to 12 or so small watersheds where BMP and land use monitoring occurs	10/28/2020 12:41 PM
11	i feel like agricultural has a good part about water pollution because a lot of farms have rivers next to their land so all the runoff goes into the rivers	10/28/2020 11:58 AM
12	Build a dam near the end of Lower Otter Creek using the mineral phosphate (natural phosphorus filter). Currently large amounts of phosphate runoff is entering the Lower Otter Creek river from farmers. The creek has a TMDL of 14 ug/L but it has a daily load of around 20 ug/L. Lowering the amount of phosphorus in this creek will help keep Lake Champlain and the animals living in the lake healthy. The Basin Harbor Club also contributes to the problem of high phosphate levels from the materials and resources they use. Creating a phosphate dam will address the problem by returning some phosphorus back to the farms to use as fertilizer and blocking all the phosphorus from going directly into the lake. This dam is a better solution than a wetland because it gives jobs to engineers. Lake Champlain and water surrounding the Basin Harbor Club will be cleaner.	10/28/2020 11:28 AM
13	i don't get it	10/28/2020 10:10 AM
14	Implementation of the 3-acre rule will create monstrous challenges to businesses already struggling with the pandemic.	10/28/2020 10:05 AM
15	Streams have been abused, or neglected at best, for the entirety of our state's history. For our population density, they are in terrible condition.	10/28/2020 9:20 AM
16	Compact walkable development in existing village and town settings supports clean water objectives by reducing car dependent sprawl development whose larger footprint creates many negative impacts. Reform Act 250 and reinstate the governor's proposal to relax Act 250 review in designated villages and designated neighborhood areas	10/27/2020 8:11 PM
17	One way to improve the wastewater sector would be to switch from conventional toilets to composting toilets. This is an important fix because sewage treatment plants are already overwhelmed due to increasing storm water runoff and these old facilities have aging infrastructure. To make this change, the state or possibly Chittenden county alone would have to create a policy that requires people to switch to composting toilet systems. The cost to replace conventional toilets would be in the thousands of dollars per unit, but over time it would end up saving money. Water usage would also drastically decrease and septic systems would not be needed. While the switch would increase the need for individual maintenance, composting toilets would drastically decrease the effects of waste on sewage treatment facilities and waste would ironically not be wasted. This would really be the only way to effectively recycle our waste so as to not lose valuable resources like Phosphorus.	10/27/2020 12:57 PM
18	Roads and developed lands are increasing the amount of stormwater and other forms of runoff being brought into various areas. To be specific, waterways such as the Winooski river are being polluted by phosphorus causing them to be unsafe for humans and other organisms. Developed land makes up an estimated 20% of the cause behind phosphorus pollutants	10/27/2020 12:55 PM

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entering Vermont's large lakes. Thus, another way to look at this problem is that roads and other lands both paved and unpaved are making up a fifth of our state's phosphorus pollutants. This poses a large problem for multiple ecosystems and organisms survival. Putting a larger amount of money towards the reduction of road maintenance costs and increasing flood resistance would also be a catalyst for a reduction in phosphorus pollutants entering Vermont's beloved waters.

19	The number one problem from where I sit is lfo pollution. Secondly is storm and waste water pollution. We need to discontinue this contamination and invest in innovative solutions. The state needs to stop turning a blind eye to the real problem. Stop wasting money to clean it up use the money to prevent it.	10/27/2020 10:49 AM
20	In part, I score roads lower because run-off and erosion issues related to roads and highways can be addressed with TRANSPORTATION and infrastructure funding. Developed lands is less of an issue in Vermont than agricultural run-off and land-use. The clean water funding should go especially where other funding cannot serve to directly or indirectly reduce erosion & run-off, and improve water quality.	10/26/2020 11:16 AM
21	Need to help those with 3-acre permits; many cannot afford these fixes. Helps the economy and shows a partnership.	10/22/2020 12:47 PM
22	I am a senior citizen living on fixed income impacted by Stormwater Project #8697 in association with General permit 3-9050. Because a solar farm exists in close proximity to what I believe would be the logical choice for a settling pond, the cost of the project could be very high, possibly \$500,000-\$1 million. This would translate into a cost of \$8771-\$17,544 per resident in the development. The latter value is greater than my current taxable income this year. I have lived in my home for 30 years so having the State of Vermont tell me I am responsible for an amount of money that may exceed my current taxable income is a reality more appropriate for an episode of Rod Serling's The Twilight Zone than a directive from the Vermont ANR to abide by a law signed into effect by Peter Shumlin. Note that Gov. Shumlin dedicated the solar farm in question where he and the Democratic legislature guaranteed the operators of the solar farm 30 cents per kwh for 20 years, a rate 500% greater than what Hydro-Quebec was charging. So Gov Shumlin dedicated a solar farm at a site that may negatively impact the location of a settling pond to abide by a law he signed in 2015; a law that will cost homeowners who have lived in their homes for up to 30 years many thousands of dollars. Needless to say the absurd treatment of senior citizens living on fixed incomes by ANR as regards stormwater runoff remediation is not appreciated. If the State has money the State should pay remediation projects and not extract from a lifetime of savings that senior citizens will use in the last decade or two of their lives.	10/21/2020 11:46 AM
23	PFAS and other contaminates being released from waste water treatment facilities into Vermont's waterways needs a whole lot of attention, our wildlife and Vermonters health along with communities whom share our water resources deserve better quality and protection form contaminates.	10/21/2020 8:44 AM
24	I see the key to all of the above categories, as well as food nutrition and health to be our soils and water and would love to see innovation in a demonstration projects/projects	10/19/2020 1:16 PM
25	Funding allocated for agriculture should also include incentive for farms to keep up good practices instead of just funding to fix issues. This could help support the small grass based dairies that have little negative water quality impact and keep much of our land in sustainable use.	10/16/2020 4:33 PM
26	Specifically in agriculture, I think additional emphasis should be placed on rewarding desirable agricultural types that enhance natural systems and leverage biodiversity, soil health, and other multi-level benefits. Grazing is a perfect example of this. Cover cropping is great as an early step, but perennial systems are where the real water quality benefits happen.	10/16/2020 2:34 PM
27	I would have suggested a more even distribution of funds. I did not in this case because I believe that what needs to be addressed further in Vermont is the quality of the drinking water. I have never met another resident of central Vermont that wasn't appalled by the fact that the drinking water in Barre is occasionally brown, and that living in central Vermont means you need to purchase a water filter. Before anything else the most obvious issues regarding water need to be addressed before anyone can feel comfortable spending money on other projects. Mainly, please improve the water we drink and take necessary precautions against flooding, as that has been an issue in the past.	10/16/2020 10:04 AM

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28	The West River has serious erosion thanks to Irene that is impacting the whole river.	10/13/2020 5:08 PM
29	It seems important to direct funding to the nexus of Wastewater, Innovation, and Agriculture.	10/13/2020 2:14 PM
30	Sewage should be tertiary filtration, whereby raw sewage is treated thrice and not once nor twice before it is discharged into Lake Champlain, our drinking water supply. Plus legislation regarding careless disposal of cigarette butts must be passed to stop the disposal of butts directly through grates and into roadways, sidewalks, land and streams, which poisons the land, waters and our drinking water.	10/13/2020 11:21 AM
31	Agriculture is doing its part - municipalities need to step up! They have taxing power, they shouldn't get a free ride everytime their system overflows - farmers don't!!	10/12/2020 5:39 PM
32	How can you ask for percentage allocation of funds when you don't provide the percent allocation under the TMDL or the estimated percentage breakdown of sources of P or sediment?	10/12/2020 10:17 AM
33	The big dairy farms need to clean up their act!	10/8/2020 11:24 AM
34	It's hard to make such a judgement call without knowing which sectors are more heavily influencing poor water quality, and their associated land use percentages in Vermont.	10/8/2020 7:39 AM
35	I moved to VT in 1981 and I believe (my memory is) water quality/water problems have been an age-old problem. It is beyond shameful L.Champlain closures are still happening. Vermonters treasure our swim & fish & recreate areas AND our health. Getting this right (FIX THIS) is extremely important to health economy and environment. PLEASE DO IT.	10/7/2020 5:13 PM
36	I very much would like Vermont to look at natural infrastructure / nature-based solutions - Blue / Green infrastructure funding and development of mechanisms for that.	10/7/2020 4:14 PM
37	Improving the water-holding capacity of soil is my top priority. Healthy soil, roots in the ground year-round, reducing or eliminating ecocide, improving natural habitat using Nature's methods is the way to go.	10/7/2020 4:07 PM
38	Restoring ecosystems and regenerating the soil have benefits across the board and I believe should be the basis for projects that involve protecting and cleaning up our water.	10/7/2020 2:54 PM
39	I am assuming that the current status of all the municipal waste-water systems, and especially those leading directly into L. Champlain, are in constant need of upgrade, renovation or improving technological elements. I support putting 90% of available funds into upgrading all critical municipal wastewater systems.	10/7/2020 1:54 PM
40	\$30 million could solve so so many societal problem ills. The best thing that could be done is to purchase land and give it all the the Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust. Barring that, if we rewild as much as possible and keep our forests intact, we will have time to work on other areas (preferably while also providing food and housing to people). I don't think large machines and high technology are going to save us here — we need a new common sense on a human scale.	10/7/2020 10:51 AM
41	The largest threat to our water quality in Vermont is conventional chemically-intensive agriculture (particularly from dairy). We must put considerable resources toward assisting these farmers in making the transition to organic regenerative agriculture. Let's help them get those cows back out on pasture, eating their natural diet, increasing soil organic matter, improving the soil microbiome, creating a soil sponge to hold water and prevent erosion and sequestering significant amounts of carbon. We're missing a golden opportunity to have a serious impact on not only our water quality but also on overall human health and the health of our environment. Vermont, of all places, should be a leader on this. Rodale Institute recently published a white paper that goes into great detail on how this can be achieved and provides excellent resources. https://rodaleinstitute.org/ Additionally, our wastewater systems are significantly out of date. There's no excuse for entire municipalities to be dumping sewage directly into Lake Champlain. Let's get those systems upgraded.	10/7/2020 10:47 AM
42	A large percentage should be set aside for full-scale remedy of Combined Sewage Overflows (CSO). It is unclear where you would classify this but it should be the highest priority to allow development in existing "built" infrastructure. And any consideration of allowing development in towns with CSOs (especially with relaxed Act 250 options).	10/6/2020 5:10 PM
43	Innovation should always be strived for to maximize sustainability, of course. The main goals should be to retain as much nutrient value in soils and natural water masses and decrease	10/6/2020 2:27 PM

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toxicant content as much as possible. As climate change becomes a greater issue, we will need as much as possible to stop toxicants entering our water by way of runoff.

44	We have to deal with our aging infrastructure - waste water treatment, storm water and grandfathered private septic systems.	10/6/2020 1:30 PM
45	Close the Golf Courses	10/6/2020 12:10 PM
46	Agriculture can be a benefit for clean water if 1) we focus on building healthy soil; and 2) we get serious about the widespread damage caused by fertilizers and other agricultural inputs that ultimately bring no benefit, but rather serve to prop up a system that isn't working.	10/6/2020 11:54 AM
47	Fix the wastewater systems in Burlington and Rutland and prevent untreated sewage from spilling into our lake every time it rains. Remove and replace the staffs at each waste water facility and have State or Federal oversight put in place. We are at a critical point where there are no room for mistakes.	10/6/2020 10:23 AM
48	Prioritize vegetative buffer creation, Class 4 roads, manure mgt, residential septic system improvements	10/6/2020 7:41 AM
49	Let's face it folks, raw sewage from farms (a "sacred cow") and municipalities is by far the biggest cause of water pollution. It's time to get serious about it and do something meaningful to address both issues.	10/5/2020 7:56 PM
50	We must prevent the combined stormwater/sewage overflows from spewing into Lake Champlain. It's disgusting and we are letting a true gem slip away.	10/5/2020 7:19 PM
51	Farm run off is very evident on the Lake.	10/5/2020 4:29 PM
52	Waste water plants to handle storm water overflow	10/5/2020 12:11 PM
53	Dredge out and our remove the build up at the opening of Mill River in St. Albans Bay. It blocks 1/3 of the bay and restricts water flow in and out of the bay. This should be done at least every few years.	10/5/2020 10:41 AM
54	Cemeteries are a common, perhaps neglected, cause of pollution to brooks and rivers. Excavated soils and plastic objects are commonly dumped over the edge of riparian ravines edging many of our cemeteries (e.g. Saxtons River, Barre, etc.). Some of these streams are at risk of being obstructed with dumped soils in addition to being polluted with silts and plastics.	10/5/2020 10:29 AM
55	Focus on the biggest source of contamination. Farmers are also the most need of help due to their financial limitations. The other categories have other potential funding sources.	10/5/2020 10:12 AM
56	Water is precious. Water is life!	10/5/2020 9:48 AM
57	Roads, roads, roads	10/5/2020 7:03 AM
58	Agriculture and Developed areas should fix these efforts on their own. They created the problem, we shouldn't have to pay to fix a problem they created on their own.	10/4/2020 10:37 PM
59	Equal allocation: otherwise is special pleading. Ignore my "percentages" above, which should allow decimal fractions.	10/4/2020 9:48 AM
60	Invest in innovation and our natural resources	10/4/2020 8:26 AM
61	"Agriculture" causes 45-50% of the problem and unlike storm run off which is unavoidable and can only be repaired with money, agriculture is not only easiest and cheapest to fix it is voluntary. Banning conventional agriculture and paying farmers to convert to organic would convert an industry perennially losing money and requiring tens of millions in public support and clean up the lake in three years.	10/3/2020 10:58 AM
62	Funds should be spent in the percentages which they contribute to the water quality issues.	10/3/2020 9:15 AM
63	Please clean up our lakes!!!	10/2/2020 3:29 PM
64	Percentages awarded based on where I see the greatest problems with runoff that haven't been addressed enough.	10/2/2020 11:10 AM
65	Avoid throwing money at the problem. Get people involved. Citizen service. Two years after college. Or tax breaks for volunteering with Watershed Groups. Or generate money with fines	10/2/2020 10:01 AM

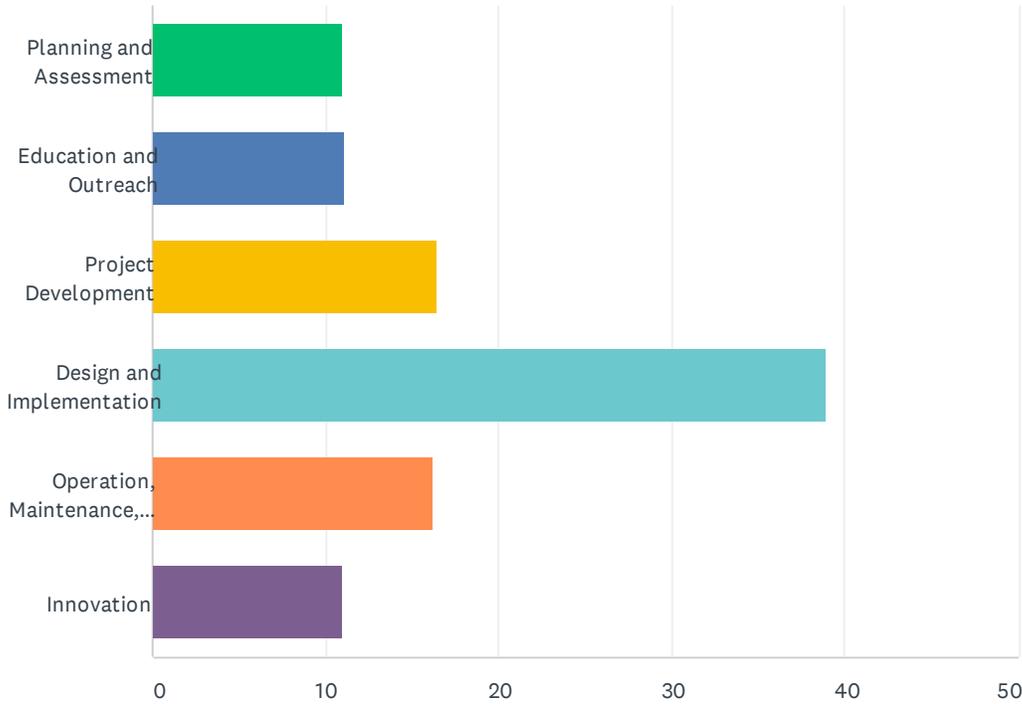
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for enforced violations. Or actively promote regenerative agriculture Or . . . Or . . . This is a big problem and it's going to need big unusual ideas.

66	Biggest problem rests with ag run off, then run off from impervious surfaces.	10/1/2020 7:41 PM
67	Under Agriculture: add spraying liquid manure to end within next 2 years. Substitute injection. Fund sharing sharing of equipment. If we can smell it then that particulate matter is landing directly in all waterways. Under Natural Resources: stop removing dams. Repair and upgrade to allow power generation, flood control, add fish ladders. Under Wastewater: Municipal systems to be upgraded within 2-3 years via State/Federal no interest loans. Home and business systems (including farms) must all be inspected by a licensed wow engineer. All reports filed online. System failures to be replaced/upgraded within 6 months, funding available interest-free through State/federal funding. All systems must be inspected by a State Certified WW Engineer, report filed online, and going forward inspected every 2 years. Further, all property transfers require require inspection. Costs if outcomes becomes a negotiated part of the sale just the way a new roof would. Under Innovation: new technologies must be reviewed and investigated in on-going manner by State Officials. In the past State Officials have been resistant to change. Research beyond Vermont borders for already accepted solutions.	10/1/2020 10:30 AM

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

Answered: 137 Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Planning and Assessment	11	1,407	128
Education and Outreach	11	1,423	128
Project Development	16	2,145	131
Design and Implementation	39	5,255	135
Operation, Maintenance, and Monitoring	16	2,124	131
Innovation	11	1,346	122
Total Respondents: 137			

Q4 Additional Comments (if applicable)

Answered: 45 Skipped: 116

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#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Innovation, education, outreach and planning are the core of supporting this change.	10/30/2020 3:56 PM
2	Again, without details it is really hard to make these determinations. My general thoughts are: Need a lot more auditing and monitoring. Otherwise, a lot of money is going to get wasted, and if the projects don't work, we won't know until it is too late. Need more money for assessment. I am concerned that money is going to projects where landowners have stepped up to do the right thing, but not to the worst offenders. I would like to see more funding for researching the local sources of phosphorus at a very fine scale. Need more money for education. The lake is going to be hazardous for a long time and we need people to understand what to look for. The blooms form and dissipate so quickly, alerts from the health department will never be able to keep up. The public has to know what to look for.	10/30/2020 3:06 PM
3	The technology of the manure injectors mentioned on the previous page is already developed. However, designing and implementing these machines into Vermont farms will require funding. The design and implementation budget is currently the largest budget, and by using some of this money to work with farmers and begin the process of a large scale shift in manure management. Designs of these machines may vary between farms and surrounding terrain, and the implementation budget will be able to address that. Transportation of these machines will also require resources that can come from the implementation budget. We can prevent a percentage of the agricultural runoff plaguing Lake Champlain and the Missisquoi Bay. A shift like this will not happen in one year, but with continual resources, over a long period of time, the state could transition smoothly.	10/30/2020 11:53 AM
4	Funding needs to support and reward good stewardship practices. We do not need to make yet more noise about the issue or the problem, nor do we benefit from research that fails to take in big-picture, cumulative effects, and integrated systems concepts.	10/29/2020 9:14 PM
5	Innovation is something that should be integrated into each area.	10/29/2020 8:50 PM
6	Dont need to spend any money on education.	10/29/2020 1:15 PM
7	Innovation needs to be raised dramatically for my solution. If we wanted to test the Polonite on a larger scale then more money needs to be issued to this area. First, a small test can be done, and then more money can be issued to the branch. It's important to start putting more money into our future. We need to contain these problems because the effects are exponential and it becomes more difficult every year.	10/28/2020 8:12 PM
8	The Living Machine would benefit the most from Design and Implementation, as well as operation. The Living Machine is used in many places already, so the steps of creating the design and knowing if it works is not as important in this scenario.	10/28/2020 6:14 PM
9	It would have been easier to answer this if the headings under which we assign resources were the same as those for how spending is done at present. The only opinion I wanted to express was that more importance should be given to research and to monitoring interventions' effectiveness	10/28/2020 6:05 PM
10	In addition to use of [wishful thinking] P loading reduction coefficients, progress must also include some targeted watershed based WQ & land use monitoring	10/28/2020 12:45 PM
11	The polinate dam would benefit the most from operation. There is not much data on the Polonites's effectiveness. It takes time to make sure that everything is working so if the state checks it regularly then we will be okay but if they leave it then the dam might stop doing its job.	10/28/2020 11:43 AM
12	My commented problem/solution from question 1 would benefit most from the category of "operation, maintenance, and monitoring." This is due to the fact that the solutions already put in place such as stormwater drains and wastewater facilities are not doing their best to ensure that the collected water/waste is not leaking or being dumped into the water. This is partially due to the collection points no longer being able to hold the contaminants. Thus, we need more money put into ensuring that these solutions or any others put into place are consistently performing at their optimal levels. Additionally, putting forth more time, money, and effort in order to address how possible new projects/solutions will maintain their intended purpose for as long as possible is majorly important when water is highly susceptible to contamination.	10/27/2020 6:39 PM
13	Innovation would be the most important of the categories above for implementing the required use of composting toilets. Composting toilets are not traditional, so people would only be on	10/27/2020 1:15 PM

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board if the new toilets are easy to use and efficient. That makes it important to develop the best model of composting toilet, so innovators need money to fund the process.

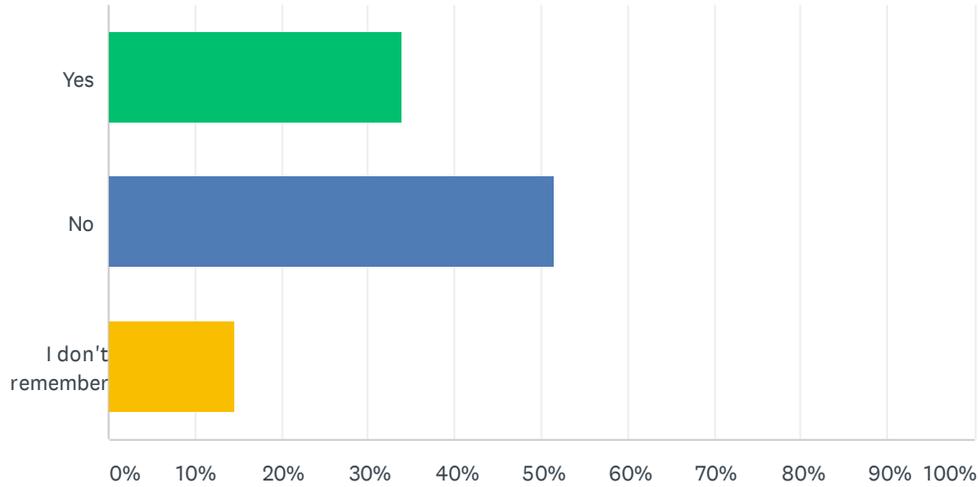
14	Allocations should also be informed by where Clean Water funding can attract multipliers in partner capacity, synergy with other agency or organization's purviews, or additional funding? Aim for NET value of fund allocations to include multipliers in funding and impacts.	10/26/2020 11:32 AM
15	If a someone cannot maintain, then we shouldn't do the project; that is their cost-share. We need to help the three-acre permit holders.	10/22/2020 12:51 PM
16	Avoid assigning costs of projects to senior citizens on fixed incomes.	10/21/2020 11:47 AM
17	Enforcing existing agricultural laws would be a inexpensive and highly productive approach. The elephant in the room is the cow manure in vermont waterways. Farmers need to have a septic system for their cows. It makes no sense to highly regulate human septic systems when 10 times as many cows are unregulated. If hundreds of thousands of humans were openly dedicating in our waterways there would be an uproar. Why are farmers allowed a pass here? This is not the 1800 hundreds. Our waterways are showing the result of poor farming and mining practices from the past. Why are these practices allowed to continue? All the planning and nice projects will not help our waterways as much as dealing with the big causes of water pollution....cows!!	10/20/2020 8:23 AM
18	O&M needs additional funding if these practices are too last. Especially if Act 76 is making O&M a requirement of implementers.	10/19/2020 1:33 PM
19	we need innovation and education- most farming and water issues have been only looked at from what has been done in the past- our soil and water are the keys to life and sustainability- most farming is chemical based and destroys our soils and water over time- there are proven approaches to organic food systems and vital water approaches to creating sustainable soil systems that can be demonstrated to produce higher quality nutritious food, no till farming solutions and retaining and creating vital soil systems and using less water for irrigation	10/19/2020 1:16 PM
20	I believe it is better to have fewer of the *right* projects designed with a broader understanding and buy-in of the greater benefits than more projects on the ground that fail because there isn't enough understanding or follow up built in. Short sighted--we need to think longer.	10/16/2020 2:41 PM
21	Performance Measure and Monitor.	10/15/2020 6:50 AM
22	Volunteer monitoring by water quality groups is very important to communities and education and outreach from these groups is free!	10/13/2020 3:42 PM
23	Need new policy regarding the careless disposal of litter, cig butts, garbage, recyclables, sewage so that the removal of toxics from our Lake is less of an issue due to an awesome prevention effort	10/13/2020 11:26 AM
24	Too much money into engineering!! Let's get this stuff done and work on implementing and maintenance	10/12/2020 5:40 PM
25	This is really hard to read when the color coding and the terminology on your diagrams and survey choices do not match. This could be one simple timeline left to right with percentages and a single arrow back or the word "repeat".	10/12/2020 10:24 AM
26	Where is the enforcement piece? The big farms have been "educated" about what they need to do for years. We need enforcement!	10/8/2020 11:26 AM
27	The categories we are given don't match the categories in the chart. How is "project development" different from "design"?	10/8/2020 9:48 AM
28	This is a misguided question to ask the public. These percentages are for those who know the territory to assign.	10/7/2020 4:08 PM
29	With education everyone can be a part of the solution and play a part in regenerating our soils and restoring ecosystems. Healthy soils build the soil carbon sponge and result in less runoff, greater infiltration rates (reducing impact of flooding and drought), reduced need for chemical inputs, healthier plants and more nutrient dense crops. It's a win-win-win across all sectors.	10/7/2020 3:02 PM
30	You should focus on innovating with appropriate (read: affordable, preferably free) technologies and then teaching these techniques to land owners everywhere, not just farmers and business owners. You should be thinking of solutions a small farmer can implement themselves without spending millions of dollars.	10/7/2020 10:55 AM

State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 Clean Water Budget Public Comment Online Questionnaire

31	If Innovation occurs through out the previously funded projects (as described above), why is it listed as a separate category? Also, data is provided as to what was funded but does not provide data as to effective spending, completion or qualitative rating. There is not enough information available here to allow appropriate assessment.	10/6/2020 5:15 PM
32	The planning plays too small a role in the process. No matter the scale of time, planning should be a massive priority to make the process of construction more efficient. My concentration of work is definitely off, but at least 10% of the process dedicated to preparation seems better than 4%. I expect things to take longer if there is less time to iron out any kinks before construction, where things can be shut down for months if something goes wrong.	10/6/2020 2:31 PM
33	Innovation is vague, so I gave it less. What concerns me is what's missing here is nature: clean water yields from functioning, biodiverse ecosystems and the preservation and rehabilitation of our forested areas, wetlands, and other landscapes should be *the cornerstone* of our water policy.	10/6/2020 11:59 AM
34	Some of these functions should be able to be folded together or treated as matching actions	10/6/2020 7:46 AM
35	As Nike says..."Just do it". It's not rocket science. For example, Burlington needs to increase the capacity of their sewage treatment plant. Farmers need to build earth mounds to retain water runoff.	10/5/2020 8:03 PM
36	Get it done.	10/5/2020 10:43 AM
37	Cemeteries are a common, perhaps neglected, cause of pollution to brooks and rivers. Excavated soils and plastic objects are commonly dumped over the edge of riparian ravines edging many of our cemeteries (e.g. Saxtons River, Barre, etc.). Some of these streams are at risk of being obstructed with dumped soils in addition to being polluted with silts and plastics.	10/5/2020 10:29 AM
38	Water is life! Water is precious. Let's protect our waterways, people and animals from blue-green algae.	10/5/2020 10:01 AM
39	Many innovations have/or are already been done in the wastewater industry. It is such a shame that agriculture in VT is recreating the wheel to reduce phosphorous and manage manure.	10/5/2020 9:43 AM
40	As an engineer in another field, I know that the general public are unable to imagine this proper allocation. Please ignore my percentages above, which are pro forma.	10/4/2020 9:51 AM
41	The state has been trying for fifty years to prove that there is nothing wrong with farming per se while simultaneously acknowledging that the largest most easily fixed source of lake pollution is the paradigm called conventional farming, the predominant modality. Banning conventional farming , which by the way loses over \$100M annually from operations and costs the taxpayers an additional \$135M to prop up and clean up after is the easiest fastest and cheapest way to reach our WQSs.	10/3/2020 11:06 AM
42	I have no professional experience with these types of projects, so please do not put much stock in these numbers...	10/3/2020 9:19 AM
43	Why you making me do math! Lol	10/2/2020 3:49 PM
44	Once state funds are invested in implementation of a project it should be the responsibility of the receiving entity to maintain the practice - not the state. Monitoring compliance should be the only state responsibility.	10/1/2020 1:49 PM
45	Need more funds to support monitoring as without this information, we are flying blind.	10/1/2020 10:23 AM

Q5 Have you seen clean water project signs posted around the state?

Answered: 136 Skipped: 25



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	33.82%	46
No	51.47%	70
I don't remember	14.71%	20
TOTAL		136

Q6 Additional Comment (if applicable)

Answered: 26 Skipped: 135

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#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	They do seem familiar, but I can't recall any specific locations.	10/30/2020 11:54 AM
2	Are the signs constructed from recycled materials?	10/29/2020 9:15 PM
3	I think that where streams and rivers are crossed over or are parallel to, should have signs identifying their respective watersheds.	10/29/2020 8:53 PM
4	Not once and drive around everyday for work,	10/29/2020 1:15 PM
5	If signage has been and will continue to be deployed then some focus needs to be directed to periodic inspection AND maintenance of signed projects. You might be surprised at the current appearance of many signed projects.	10/28/2020 12:48 PM
6	Signage is so old-fashioned. How about an making this interactive? Set up instagram or an app and encourage people to ask questions, announce/share local success stories, create a platform for citizen action-taking. Get kids involved, provide hands on education during COVID	10/27/2020 8:17 PM
7	In Richmond on Stage Road	10/27/2020 10:35 AM
8	I recently noticed one at a CRC project site. Good to see!	10/26/2020 11:32 AM
9	nice sign. need more of them	10/22/2020 12:51 PM
10	Nice projects...small potatoes....farm run off and wastewater treatment plant failures seem to be where you should be spending your dollars.	10/20/2020 8:25 AM
11	would love to see more	10/19/2020 1:16 PM
12	Usually these are near roads or large construction projects; not agricultural projects (which is too bad).	10/16/2020 2:41 PM
13	Not important to me.	10/15/2020 6:51 AM
14	I wish they were more educational. What is the project, and why is it important? What waterbody does it affect? How can my actions help/harm the project?	10/8/2020 7:42 AM
15	I would really like to see the State add road signs about hydrologic basins - see California; City of Occidental. You can also check with OAEC WATER institute to ask about their work in developing the best road signs. The Vermont ones really don't give much information. I also think hydrologic signs should go into Vermont State Parks.	10/7/2020 4:18 PM
16	Since every clean water project has a long paper trail, including a long term plan for the watershed where it is located, I would suggest the signs would be more effective with additional information. Include the watershed name with a URL for the watershed plan and information on the what and why of the project.	10/6/2020 5:20 PM
17	I have not seen any in public water areas	10/6/2020 2:32 PM
18	Some projects could benefit from temporary kiosks that explain the projects and benefits	10/6/2020 7:47 AM
19	These signs offer opportunities to educate by including brief statements about the problem being addressed: e.g. "stream bank erosion protection"	10/5/2020 10:29 AM
20	I am happy to have learned that when cans and bottles are not returned for redemption at the store, their value will be added to the Clean Water Fund if they are put in recycling bins.	10/5/2020 10:01 AM
21	They are too cryptic: Explain what is being done there.	10/4/2020 9:52 AM
22	Calling these "clean water" projects implies that they are protecting our water which is already clean. Wouldn't it be more productive to call them pollution abatement projects until we actually have achieved clean water? Aren't you inadvertently discouraging taxpayer buy in? Whom are we trying to fool?	10/3/2020 11:10 AM
23	great idea though!	10/3/2020 9:20 AM
24	Keep doing this! It shows the public what is being implemented near them and keeps them engaged	10/2/2020 2:08 PM
25	Sign should be more descriptive as to what exactly the project is.	10/2/2020 11:56 AM

26

Waste of money! Most projects are off the beaten path and even if near a road nobody sees the sign driving by!

10/1/2020 12:36 PM

Q7 General Comments (if applicable)

Answered: 41 Skipped: 120

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#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I the state of Vermont has to do a better job of educating people on this issue, making a plan and obtaining results.	10/30/2020 3:57 PM
2	Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the Clean Water budget. I would like to see a lot more funding for monitoring. I am not at all convinced that the projects that are being completed will have a discernible impact on the lake quality in our lifetimes. If they are not working, we need to know sooner rather than later. I would like to see more funding for researching the local sources of phosphorus at a very fine scale. I am concerned that there may be a few very bad actors who are responsible for a disproportionate share of the problem, and that they are escaping detection. I would like to see more funding for volunteer monitoring to identify where the runoff is the worst and which septic systems are leaking into the lake during high water. I would like to see more funding for land conservation, retiring farms in sensitive areas, or compensating farmers to grow something with fewer impacts. I would like to see more funds go to land conservation and restoration. (i.e. Line 4b: Water Quality Farm Improvement Retirement Projects and Line 5: Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects, and Line 7: Natural Resources Restoration) Protecting wetlands has many benefits that go beyond their ability to filter the pollutants. I would like to see more funding for wastewater treatment, both at the town and septic level. The costs are high but the benefits are spread out lake wide. I don't think you can expect small towns to face huge bills when most of the benefit will be for areas outside of their area. The state needs to increase their portion of the funding if we really want it to happen, especially given the large federal match. The current numbers seem to be a fraction of what is needed. I would like to see more money for education. We need to get people to stop using fertilizer. We need to make sure that everyone has the ability to identify hazardous lake conditions. We can't rely on alerts from the health department. The lake is too large, and the blooms change too rapidly. Lastly, I would like to see all of the funding increased. I know that this is a bad year for the budget but it was a very bad year for cyanobacteria and it is going to get worse. I am a volunteer cyanobacteria monitor at the LCC and was pretty horrified by the extent of the problem this year. In my opinion, there were times when large portions of the lake had low level blooms that looked like they were very close to exploding into a major widespread bloom. One of the water intakes in the islands showed some cyanobacteria in their intake and this is a warning sign of what is to come. If we don't reverse course, a major water shut down like what happened in Toledo is probably going to occur and it will be devastating to our economy, and Vermont's image as a green state. Cyanobacteria is the wrong kind of green. Your FY22 budget is only \$47 per person (based on 2019 population). That is not even close to being adequate to address a problem of this magnitude. What will it cost to try to get water to everyone when the water intakes are shut down?	10/30/2020 3:30 PM
3	Public outreach to inform & provide links to more info is key. It would be helpful to add a QR code to each sign so people could link to a site to learn more.	10/30/2020 10:31 AM
4	It is my opinion that Vermont cares only about PFAS, lead, and phosphorus in the water supply. Zero attention is given to the cumulative impacts of pesticide over-use. I have been saying for years that we need to test for Atrazine contamination... other states did this two decades ago. Why do we not care about such a powerful chemical? The Clean Water Fund should support municipalities and agricultural entities that manage their lands without pesticides; as it stands now, many such organizations are doing that entirely on their own and making a significant difference.	10/29/2020 9:21 PM
5	I think the buffer zones of agricultural lands next to rivers and streams is laughable. They do nothing, especially where these streams and rivers flood their banks onto the flood plain!	10/29/2020 8:56 PM
6	The farmers have gotten money. The roads have gotten money. Its time to start looking at the wastewater treatment s facilities in this State.	10/29/2020 1:24 PM
7	I will look fo them	10/28/2020 1:24 PM
8	Allow property owners affected by 3 acre rule who cannot comply to contribute to a land and or riparian acquisition fund. Conservation of land is one of the best (if not THE best) WQ protection measures we have.	10/28/2020 12:53 PM
9	I live on lake Carmi. We need funding to identify and implement projects that will reduce the runoff of phosphorous into the lake. We had significant algae blooms this season.	10/23/2020 4:36 PM
10	You need to help the three-acre permit holders. This work is expensive. Help should include engineering. This is a large pollution source. You should evaluate the uses to sure every cent	10/22/2020 1:00 PM

State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 Clean Water Budget Public Comment Online Questionnaire

to verify that funding is going to highest priorities, such as three-acre permit compliance.

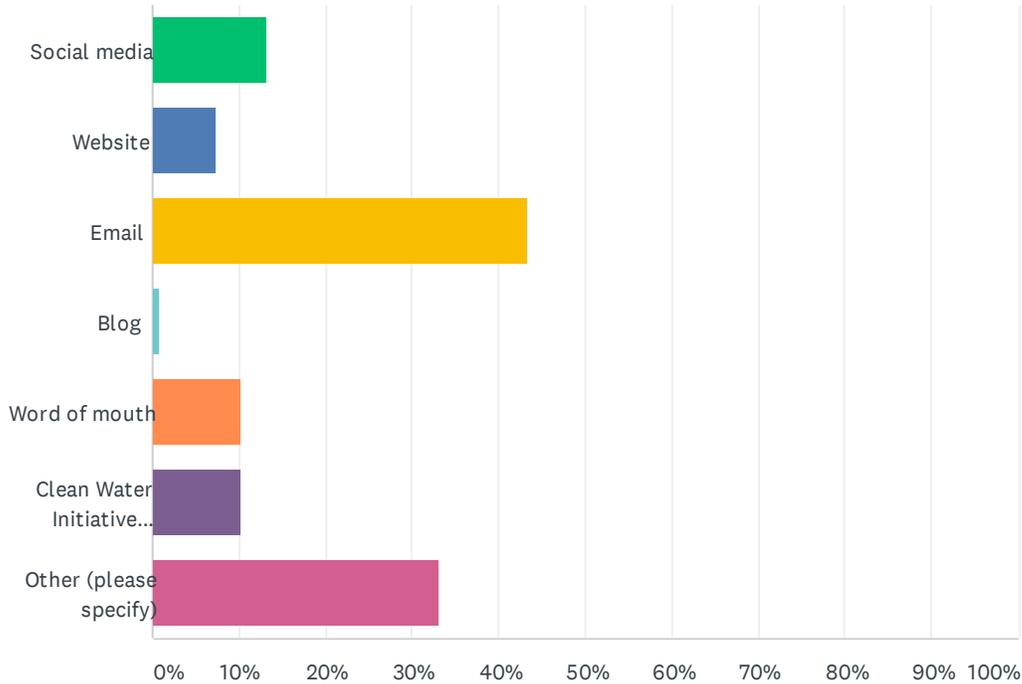
11	Seems like you could be using this questionnaire to educate people on where most of our water pollution really comes from....farm run off and industrial wastes from the past haunting us. Use your time and money to educate people about these and help correct the situation,	10/20/2020 8:29 AM
12	read a recent article by this author with her key points: Nina Prater, Soil Specialist, National Center for Appropriate Technology Benefits of Healthy Soil ■ Increased carbon sequestration ■ Reduced greenhouse gas emissions ■ Increased drought resilience ■ Enhanced water quality through filtration of pollutants ■ Enhanced crop yield ■ Increased nutrient availability ■ Provision of habitat for soil microbes and pollinators ■ Suppression of many plant diseases I would add nutrition and the health of our children and seniors and would love to see some innovation and demonstration projects so we may become food secure, clean environment, healthy and vital in all areas of our lives	10/19/2020 1:21 PM
13	Vermont's clean water initiative should team up with small grass based farms to support a beautiful and sustainable but fragile part of vermont's agricultural sector. This should be a priority.	10/16/2020 4:36 PM
14	While I think that built (engineered) projects have their place and are important, I would really like to see more dollars go to support natural systems that support water quality, like rotational grazing, wetland restoration, rain gardens, etc. These systems should last much longer than riprap or culverts (and indeed, could reduce enough water flow to extend the life of those built items!).	10/16/2020 2:45 PM
15	Urine reclamation is very low-hanging fruit for diverting nitrogen from the waste stream and preventing nutrient pollution. I highly encourage state support for urine diversion and reuse initiatives.	10/14/2020 10:06 AM
16	We know what and where the problem areas predominantly are. Time for maximum impact. Lake Champlain in particular is going downhill	10/13/2020 5:36 PM
17	Vermont can utilize the many conservation groups in the state to help with water quality. They have a vested interest in their local waterways and want to help...help them!	10/13/2020 3:44 PM
18	I, personally, cannot drink the tap water. I buy bottled water to the tune of nearly, and, sometimes, over \$100/month. The reason for this: When I drink tap, whether it's in Burlington or the Islands, I get ostensibly nauseous and very sick. When I stop, this abates.	10/13/2020 11:32 AM
19	Please consider projects that focus on leachate from wastewater plants. Chemicals (including medications) that have a large environmental impact end up in landfill leachate, and the plants need assistance with identifying and removing these chemicals.	10/12/2020 1:01 PM
20	New onsite grey water and wastewater regulations could advance innovation significantly. Lower cost solutions need more attention in this area and regulation can be a significant barrier to change.	10/10/2020 4:08 PM
21	Again, having moved to VT in 1981 I am disgusted and alarmed run off and L. Champlain shut downs(beaches) are still happening. Urgency does not express how important ACTION On this is to me as it affects Vermonters' health, our economy (c'mon NY! work with us) and our love of swimming and fishing etc in all our waterways. This MUST be addressed NOW.	10/7/2020 5:17 PM
22	We need more projects! I support clean water projects. Please budget for ongoing maintenance.	10/7/2020 4:26 PM
23	Regenerative agricultural practices should be implemented all over the state and the world, to prevent runoff, increase water-holding-capacity of soils, sequester carbon, and ultimately grow healthier food that grows healthier people and livestock.	10/7/2020 4:13 PM
24	I am a seed dealer in Southwest VT. Farmers know they should use cover crops. There are endless obstacles to using them. They are profitable for the farmer, but I do not see significant growth in the use of cover crops without some incentive.	10/7/2020 1:38 PM
25	Encourage tree-based regenerative gardening, natural building, and state-wide bike paths and polluted water won't be an issue much longer.	10/7/2020 10:58 AM
26	This Clean Water Budget Public comment questionnaire appears to be an insincere attempt to state that public input was included in the annual budget. The information provided is minimal and is not helpful in analyzing how well money was spent and the best options for the future.	10/6/2020 5:31 PM

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27	I felt unprepared to be asked how to portion out funds.	10/6/2020 5:09 PM
28	The main question will be what specific designs are in mind for this budget, and how the initiative plans on educating the public about these issues. A public survey is not enough. Maybe a mailed pamphlet to residents around the state may help.	10/6/2020 2:36 PM
29	I wrote about water policy for American Prospect's issue on the Green New Deal. I close the piece with the observation that what is good for water is good for us. Here is the essay. https://prospect.org/greennewdeal/healing-waters/	10/6/2020 12:04 PM
30	It should be priority #1 for us to stop the pollution going into our lake.	10/6/2020 10:25 AM
31	There is a growing need for water quality projects, esp. at the local level.	10/6/2020 7:50 AM
32	Again, the 800 pound gorilla standing in the middle of the room is really a 1,600 pound cow. You know what must be done. Do you have the political will to do it?	10/5/2020 8:07 PM
33	Bigger better wastewater treatment plants must be built, now. The filth in Lake Champlain is a tragedy.	10/5/2020 7:33 PM
34	Storm water run off	10/5/2020 12:23 PM
35	Regulate farm run off and sewage releases with strict fines and civil punishment. It's absolutely disgusting to have these issues as a normal occurrence that effect our lakes ect.	10/5/2020 10:47 AM
36	Cemeteries are a common, perhaps neglected, cause of pollution to brooks and rivers. Excavated soils and plastic objects are commonly dumped over the edge of riparian ravines edging many of our cemeteries (e.g. Saxtons River, Barre, etc.). Some of these streams are at risk of being obstructed with dumped soils in addition to being polluted with silts and plastics.	10/5/2020 10:29 AM
37	I want municipalities to stop dumping untreated sewage into our streams and lakes.	10/5/2020 10:01 AM
38	Stop coddling farmers, who should be required to plant cover crops after harvesting their actual crops, then plow the cover crops under before planting their actual crops (which conflicts with "no-till").	10/4/2020 9:56 AM
39	Only a fool would apply the same tactics to remedy a problem for sixty years and expect different results. The state has never asked itself why it is necessary to farm conventionally let alone made any attempt to regulate the three practices the conventional dairy industry deploys that pollute the lake: importation and application of artificial fertilizer (2) importation and feeding of high phosphorus feed supplements and (3) the stocking of more than one cow for every three acres under management on which that cow's feed is harvested and her manure is spread. It takes no money to ask this question and none to implement the change in practices. But we're the state to divert the roughly \$35M/year now appropriated to fix the contribution from dairy, money that is empirically wasted, to converting dairy to organic, dairy's contribution would be cut in half in three years.	10/3/2020 11:21 AM
40	For gods sake, can we fix the storm water/wastewater overflow issues? All the work on agriculture, green infrastructure, wetland and headwater protections kind of goes to waste when town on our major rivers have to spew wastewater overflow into the lake because of lack of suitable infrastructure.	10/2/2020 8:40 PM
41	ANR needs to fund more water quality improvement projects that are already on the state identified priority list. Streamline the process to get more money out there so we can start seeing the benefits!	10/1/2020 12:39 PM

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

Answered: 136 Skipped: 25



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Social media	13.24%	18
Website	7.35%	10
Email	43.38%	59
Blog	0.74%	1
Word of mouth	10.29%	14
Clean Water Initiative mailing list	10.29%	14
Other (please specify)	33.09%	45
Total Respondents: 136		

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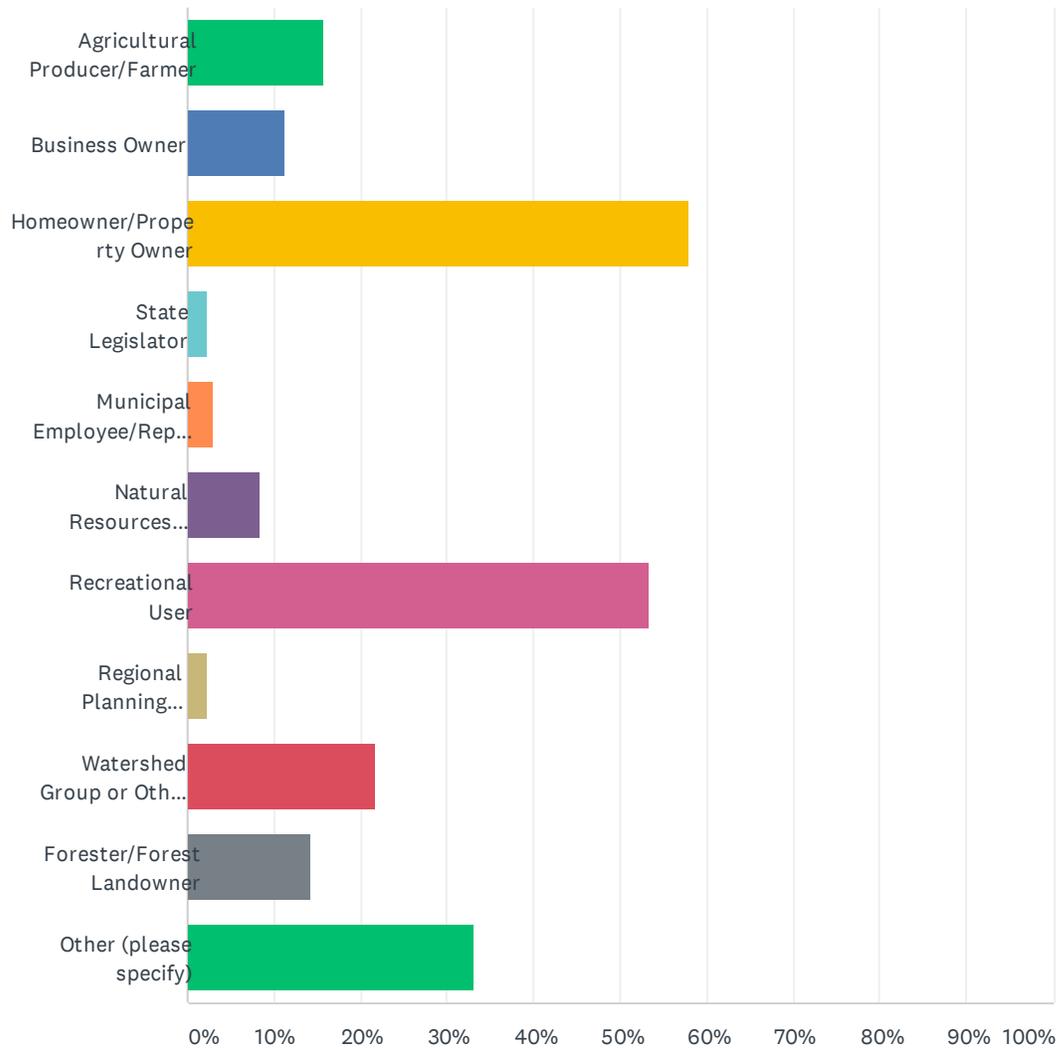
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	My teacher	10/30/2020 3:57 PM
2	AP Environmental Science Teacher	10/30/2020 1:08 PM
3	My Science Teacher	10/30/2020 1:00 PM
4	Stowe High School, Advanced Environmental Science class.	10/30/2020 11:55 AM
5	from CCRPC	10/30/2020 10:31 AM
6	SOuth Burlington WWTF	10/29/2020 1:24 PM
7	It's an assignment for school	10/29/2020 12:50 PM
8	My teacher	10/28/2020 9:08 PM
9	School	10/28/2020 6:15 PM
10	I was asked to complete it as a supervisor of an NRCD	10/28/2020 6:07 PM
11	part of a school project!	10/28/2020 3:50 PM
12	high school environmental studies class	10/28/2020 2:23 PM
13	School	10/28/2020 1:59 PM
14	ear to the ground	10/28/2020 12:53 PM
15	school	10/28/2020 12:05 PM
16	school	10/28/2020 12:04 PM
17	Teacher	10/28/2020 11:16 AM
18	School/Classrooms	10/27/2020 6:39 PM
19	discussions with clean water advocates	10/27/2020 1:32 PM
20	Vermont Digger article	10/26/2020 11:35 AM
21	Conservation Law Foundation	10/22/2020 2:09 PM
22	vermont news	10/20/2020 8:29 AM
23	Facebook Page	10/11/2020 2:34 AM
24	Radio	10/9/2020 5:00 PM
25	radio	10/8/2020 11:27 AM
26	Front Porch Forum	10/8/2020 7:43 AM
27	a VPR story I believe (or it might have been WCAX tv)	10/7/2020 5:17 PM
28	Front porch forum	10/6/2020 5:09 PM
29	Ag-Clips e-newsletter	10/6/2020 1:35 PM
30	Public radio	10/6/2020 7:50 AM
31	VT DIGGER	10/6/2020 6:10 AM
32	Radio	10/5/2020 8:07 PM
33	VPR	10/5/2020 7:33 PM
34	WCAX	10/5/2020 4:35 PM
35	TV	10/5/2020 12:23 PM
36	tv news report WPTZ	10/5/2020 12:08 PM
37	VPR	10/5/2020 10:29 AM

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38	wcax	10/5/2020 10:17 AM
39	VTDigger (press release)	10/5/2020 10:01 AM
40	Newspaper!	10/4/2020 9:56 AM
41	vtDigger press release	10/3/2020 9:21 AM
42	Facebook	10/3/2020 6:34 AM
43	press release VtDigger	10/2/2020 11:56 AM
44	VT. Digger	10/2/2020 11:41 AM
45	VT Digger	10/2/2020 11:17 AM

Q11 We are interested to know who is completing this survey. Which groups do you belong to or identify with? Select all that apply.

Answered: 133 Skipped: 28



State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 Clean Water Budget Public Comment Online Questionnaire

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agricultural Producer/Farmer	15.79%	21
Business Owner	11.28%	15
Homeowner/Property Owner	57.89%	77
State Legislator	2.26%	3
Municipal Employee/Representative	3.01%	4
Natural Resources Conservation District	8.27%	11
Recreational User	53.38%	71
Regional Planning Commission	2.26%	3
Watershed Group or Other Nongovernmental Organization	21.80%	29
Forester/Forest Landowner	14.29%	19
Other (please specify)	33.08%	44
Total Respondents: 133		

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#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	LCC volunteer cyanobacteria monitor	10/30/2020 3:30 PM
2	High School Student	10/30/2020 1:08 PM
3	Student	10/30/2020 1:00 PM
4	High school student and resident.	10/30/2020 11:55 AM
5	Land steward	10/29/2020 9:21 PM
6	Field Biologist	10/29/2020 8:56 PM
7	Residuals Management Company	10/29/2020 1:24 PM
8	Student	10/29/2020 12:50 PM
9	Student	10/28/2020 9:08 PM
10	Stowe High School (AP Environmental)	10/28/2020 8:13 PM
11	student	10/28/2020 3:50 PM
12	Conservation Commission	10/28/2020 1:24 PM
13	school	10/28/2020 12:04 PM
14	Student	10/28/2020 10:23 AM
15	Federal Government	10/28/2020 9:57 AM
16	Selectboard member	10/27/2020 8:20 PM
17	High school student	10/27/2020 6:39 PM
18	student	10/27/2020 5:13 PM
19	all former roles as I am now retired - except recreation	10/27/2020 1:32 PM
20	Advocate group for clean up Lake Champlain	10/27/2020 11:02 AM
21	Conservation Commission	10/24/2020 12:14 PM
22	NOFA, Vermont Compost Assoc. and retired health care innovator	10/19/2020 1:21 PM
23	Someone tired of the lack of clean water in her area	10/16/2020 10:14 AM
24	tenant; hiker; cyclist; kayaker, when I can	10/13/2020 11:32 AM
25	State environmental agency employee	10/12/2020 10:25 AM
26	Person With Learning Disability	10/11/2020 2:34 AM
27	Wastewater innovator - entrepreneur	10/10/2020 4:08 PM
28	Gardener	10/9/2020 5:00 PM
29	Student of water law & policy, environmental management	10/7/2020 4:19 PM
30	Concerned citizen of Earth	10/7/2020 4:13 PM
31	Brattleboro Conservation Commission	10/7/2020 3:05 PM
32	former Board Member at L. Champlain Intl' (LCI)	10/7/2020 1:58 PM
33	clean water loving human concerned about inappropriate development and wasted resources.	10/6/2020 5:31 PM
34	Resident of Vermont	10/6/2020 5:09 PM
35	A concerned citizen	10/6/2020 2:36 PM
36	Environmental Journalist	10/6/2020 12:04 PM
37	fisherman	10/6/2020 10:25 AM

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38	Member CVRPC/retired Mass. Environmental Police Sgt.	10/5/2020 12:23 PM
39	Actual tax payer	10/5/2020 10:47 AM
40	Practicing environmental engineer	10/5/2020 10:17 AM
41	TAXPAYER	10/3/2020 11:21 AM
42	Consulting Engineer Technician	10/2/2020 2:11 PM
43	town Conservation Commission	10/2/2020 11:17 AM
44	former business owner, former legislator, former river steward	10/1/2020 11:19 AM

From: Zack Porter <zporter@clf.org>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 3:38 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT; Bird, Emily
Cc: Moore, Julie; Kamman, Neil
Subject: Comments re: Draft FY22 Clean Water Budget | VT Clean Water Advocates
Attachments: FY22 Draft Clean Water Budget Comment Letter - Clean Water Advocates - Final - 10-30-20.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Dear Ms. Bird,

Attached please find comments on the Draft FY22 Clean Water Budget from Conservation Law Foundation, Connecticut River Conservancy, Audubon Vermont, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Lake Champlain Committee, Vermont Conservation Voters, and The Nature Conservancy in Vermont.

Thanks in advance for your consideration, and we invite you to get in touch directly to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,

Zack

Zack Porter
Lake Champlain Lakekeeper
Conservation Law Foundation
Pronouns: he/him/his

15 East State Street, Suite 4
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October 30, 2020

Vermont Clean Water Board
c/o Emily Bird, Program Manager
Clean Water Initiative Program
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Water Investment Division
Davis Building - 3rd Floor
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-3510
ANR.CleanWaterVT@vermont.gov

Re: State Fiscal Year 2022 Draft Clean Water Budget

Dear Ms. Bird:

Conservation Law Foundation, Connecticut River Conservancy, Audubon Vermont, Vermont Natural Resources Council, Lake Champlain Committee, Vermont Conservation Voters, and The Nature Conservancy in Vermont submit the following comments regarding the Agency of Natural Resources’ Clean Water Budget for the 2022 fiscal year. This budget fails to allocate enough funding to natural resource restoration and conservation to rise up to the challenge – and the opportunity – of this moment in history, coming up short of providing sufficient dollars to meet required water quality targets for Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, the Connecticut River, and other watersheds.

Specifically, our concerns are (1) this budget is generally too low to achieve mandated clean water restoration goals; (2) in recognition of their cost-effectiveness and multiple co-benefits, funding for natural resource restoration and conservation projects should be kept level or increased; and 3) more clarity should be provided in the draft budget so that the public can determine how tax dollars will be spent.

Investing in clean water isn't just good business, it's required by law. Vermont is almost a quarter of the way into its 20-year plan to bring Lake Champlain's pollution under control. Yet the state is only 8% of the way towards reaching phosphorus reduction goals basin-wide.¹

As we grapple with how to overcome the greatest economic downturn in most Americans' lifetimes, clean water investment can help drive our economic recovery. While it will take a suite of strategies to recover from this unprecedented crisis, increasing investments in clean water and climate resilience should be high on the list.

Clean water is priceless

The 2017 Clean Water Report by the Vermont Office of the State Treasurer shines light on the exceptional value of clean water to Vermont's economic wellbeing:

"Over \$2.5 billion is spent annually in the State of Vermont by visitors and vacation homeowners in tourism, much of that linked to the lakes and rivers throughout the state. Per a University of Vermont (UVM) study, visitor spending contributed \$318 million in tax and fee revenues in 2013 and supported an estimated 30,000 jobs for Vermonters.² That \$318 million contributed \$115 million to the general fund, \$188 million to the education fund and \$15 million to the transportation fund. Data from several communities demonstrate the positive impact our natural resources have on Vermont's appeal and on the lives of its citizens. Our lakes and rivers are part of the state's assets. Not only must these assets be protected, but clean water should also be viewed as an investment in a healthier, more prosperous state for all Vermonters."³

Investment in clean water and climate resilience can help create new jobs and put our economy back on track while protecting our natural environment. Nationwide, the restoration economy annually generates around 221,000 jobs, \$6.27 billion in labor income, and \$24.86 billion in economic output.⁴ Project planning, engineering, earthmoving, construction, forestry, and landscaping are among the many trades that stand to benefit from a focused effort on cleaning up our waters. And additional jobs for young adults and others in tree planting and other activities can be created through natural resources restoration projects that have important water quality benefits. Clean water investment in this time of economic downturn is a win for both our economy and environment in the short and long term.

¹ ["Vermont Clean Water Initiative 2019 Performance Report"](#) (Vermont Agency of Administration, Jan 2020)

² Jones, Kenneth – Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, "Benchmark Study of the Impact of Visitor Spending on the Vermont Economy: 2013: Tourism is Vital to Vermont."; Vermont Department of Tourism & Marketing, "The Vermont Travel & Tourism Industry – 2013"

³ ["Clean Water Report Required By Act 64 of 2015,"](#) (Vermont Office of the State Treasurer, 2017)

⁴ ["The Economic Impacts of the US Ecological Restoration Sector"](#) (Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 2016).

Grow the clean water pie; don't settle for smaller slices

We recognize that the State of Vermont faces revenue challenges due to the impacts of the ongoing pandemic. However, inadequate support for our clean water goals will only delay Vermont's ability to recover economically per the comments in the 2017 Clean Water Report issue by the Treasurer. Moreover, years of inadequate funding and staffing for clean water has compounded the fiscal impact of the Coronavirus. It is time to reverse this trend as Vermont works to address the impacts of the pandemic.

The State Legislature in enacting Act 76 tasked the Clean Water Board to recommend new funding sources in order to expand the projects and programs needed to meet our TMDL targets. ANR has projected the state funding need for the CWF at approximately \$27 million annually by FY24, and total need (state and federal sources) between \$50 to \$60 million. This projection is mirrored in Act 76. Even pre-COVID, the Clean Water Fund was projected to be about \$19 million in state funds annually, so approximately \$8 million short of the annual need.

10 VSA 1387(a)(3) To ensure success in implementing the Clean Water Initiative, the State should commit to funding the Clean Water Initiative in a manner that ensures the maintenance of effort and that provides an annual appropriation for clean water programs in a range of \$50 million to \$60 million as adjusted for inflation over the duration of the Initiative.⁵

Under Act 76, the Clean Water Board is required to suggest revenue sources if the Fund will not adequately achieve the state's pollution reduction goal. As this shortfall is already known, the Board should start a discussion on new revenue sources now. Pursuant to Act 76, if revenue shortfalls exist the Clean Water Board shall take the following steps:

- (C) if the Board determines that there are insufficient funds in the Clean Water Fund to issue all grants or financing required by sections 925-928 of this title, conduct all of the following:
 - (i) Direct the Secretary of Natural Resources to prioritize the work needed in every basin, adjust pollution allocations assigned to clean water service providers, and issue grants based on available funding.
 - (ii) Make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on additional revenue to address unmet needs.
 - (iii) Notify the Secretary of Natural Resources that there are insufficient funds in the Fund. The Secretary of Natural Resources shall consider additional regulatory controls to address water quality improvements that could not be funded.⁶

⁵ [Vermont Act 76](#) (2019)

⁶ Ibid.

While (C)(i) is being addressed through the Clean Water Service Provider program and with (C)(iii) the Secretary is aware of the funding shortfall, it is appropriate for the Clean Water Board to begin consideration of additional funding sources to recommend to the State Legislature.

Vermonters do not need to settle for a false choice between allocating scarce funds to stormwater management on developed lands vs conserving important headwater forests and riparian wetlands. Our investments should be commensurate with the value of clean water. Current and future generations of Vermonters deserve higher levels of investment across the board.

The Importance of Natural Solutions

It is well established that the conservation and restoration of natural resources is a cost effective means to reduce pollution and meet the requirements of the Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog TMDLs.⁷ The same investments in natural resources will also help Vermont meet the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act, as well as other state targets for biodiversity and habitat preservation, such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan and the Agency of Natural Resources' 2018 "Vermont Conservation Design."

Healthy forests, wetlands, and floodplains filter water pollution, store carbon, provide critical habitat to fish and wildlife, and reduce risk to communities on the frontlines of climate change and endangered by the ravages of natural disasters⁸ – like Tropical Storm Irene – that are certain to return.

It is estimated that the Champlain Basin has lost half of its wetlands since European settlement. Wetlands comprise just 4% of Vermont's land area, yet they play an outsized role in protecting communities from flooding, supporting biodiversity, and removing excess nutrients.

Restoring wetlands in the Vermont portion of the Lake Champlain Basin could achieve 15% of the pollution reduction goals required for the lake by the EPA, according to a study by the Gund Institute at the University of Vermont and The Nature Conservancy.⁹ Wetlands offer critical habitat for 35% of Vermont's threatened and endangered plant species and 21% of imperiled animals.¹⁰

⁷ ["Vermont's Return on Investment in Land Conservation"](#) (Trust for Public Land and Vermont Forest Partnership, 2018).

⁸ Keri B. Watson et al., "Quantifying Flood Mitigation Services: The Economic Value of Otter Creek Wetlands and Floodplains to Middlebury, VT," *Ecological Economics* 130 (2016): 16-24.

⁹ N. Singh, J. Gourevitch et al., [Optimizing wetland restoration to improve water quality at a regional scale](#), *Environmental Research Letters* (2019); [Restore Wetlands to Cut Flood Costs, Phosphorus Pollution: TNC-Gund Study](#) (2019).

¹⁰ E. Thompson, E. Sorenson, and R. Zaino, *Wetland, Woodland, Wildland: A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont* (2d ed., 2019)

A UVM study of the buffering effect that wetlands had during Tropical Storm Irene found that the wetlands reduced the maximum height of floodwaters in Middlebury, VT by 6-10 feet, saving 20-50 structures from flooding, estimated at \$500,000 to \$1,800,000 in damages averted.¹¹ The researchers estimated that the annual savings to Middlebury (from less catastrophic flooding events) was \$125,000 to \$450,000 per year.¹²

A recent study by The Trust For Public Land found that Vermont's wetlands provide an estimated \$590 per acre annually in natural goods and services (particularly flood protection and wildlife habitat), more than three times as much as the next highest land cover type, deciduous forests.¹³ These benefits will only grow in importance with the escalating impacts of climate change.

Specific Budget Concerns

Despite compelling reasons to maintain or increase funding for natural resource conservation and restoration, this category of project investment will suffer the most from proposed cuts in the Draft FY22 budget. Instead of level or increased investment in natural resource projects, the draft budget appears to shift dollars to projects addressing water pollution on developed lands that are already required by law.

The three-acre permit is a critical strategy to reduce phosphorous pollution in Lake Champlain.¹⁴ However, the current Clean Water Budget is not transparent as to how dollars will be allocated to entities that are legally required to comply with the three-acre permit.

In reviewing the proposed budget, line items 5 and 7 represent an \$835,000 cut to natural resource restoration and conservation. Of particular note is the 35% reduction in funding for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, which grants funds for natural resource conservation and restoration projects throughout the state. Meanwhile, the budget for Line 13, "Stormwater Project Delivery, Planning, and Implementation," has increased by over \$600,000.

We must implement all of the clean water strategies identified in the State's clean up plan for Lake Champlain, including cleaning up stormwater runoff from developed lands and protecting water quality by restoring forests and wetlands. We recognize that the state faces revenue challenges due to the pandemic, but cutting funds for clean water projects that can help accelerate our economic recovery is not the solution. The State should be focused on increasing the size of the overall budget through strategic investments in clean water, rather than redistributing precious-few dollars between an increasingly large number of projects.

¹¹ [Quantifying flood mitigation services: The economic value of Otter Creek wetlands and floodplains to Middlebury, VT](#), K. Watson, T. Ricketts, et al., Ecological Economics, October 2016.

¹² Id.

¹³ Vermont's return on investment in land conservation (Trust for Public Land, 2018), p. 48.

¹⁴ [2018 State of the Lake and Ecosystem Indicators Report](#), Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Conclusion

Clean water investment is a short-term economic stimulus opportunity with multiple long-term benefits to the state. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with ANR and other members of the Clean Water Board to increase revenue for all clean water investment.

Thanks for your consideration. We invite you to get in touch directly to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,



Zack Porter
Lake Champlain Lakekeeper
Conservation Law Foundation



Lori Fisher
Executive Director
Lake Champlain Committee



David Mears
Executive Director
Audubon Vermont



Lauren Hierl
Executive Director
Vermont Conservation Voters



Jon Groveman
Policy and Water Program Director
Vermont Natural Resources Council



Kathy Urffer
River Steward
Connecticut River Conservancy



Philip Huffman
Director of Government Relations and Policy
The Nature Conservancy in Vermont

From: Jennifer Hollar <jennifer@vhcb.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Bird, Emily
Cc: Byrne, Emily; Seelig, G; Moore, Julie; ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: Comments on CWB
Attachments: VHCB Comments on FY22 Draft CW Budget - Final.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Emily,

As promised, I'm submitting VHCB's comments on the draft Clean Water budget. It appears the capital bill will not be as constrained as was thought when the draft was constructed. If the budget is adjusted as a result, either by the Board or in the Governor's capital construction budget proposal, we hope a restoration of the \$600,000 reduction will be considered. If not, we ask that the cut be applied to our two programs as explained in our letter.

Thank you,
Jen

Jennifer Hollar

Director of Policy and Special Projects



802-828-5865 Office ~ 802-793-7346 Mobile
58 East State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602
www.vhcb.org



October 27, 2020

Clean Water Board
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Secretary Young and Members of the Clean Water Board,

The draft FY22 Clean Water Budget continues two activities that are administered by the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board: *Water Quality Farm Improvement and Retirement Projects* and *Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects*. The draft includes a \$600,000 reduction in *Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects*. As I noted during the public hearing last week, our current understanding of the demand and potential impact of these two activities indicates the reduction should be more proportionally split between the two activities.

Reversing the \$600,000 reduction would best allow us to advance projects in the pipeline and water quality. As of this writing, it appears that the Capital Debt Affordability Committee recommendations will allow the same approximate level of spending as in FY20-21. If this is the case, we respectfully request that the \$600,000 cut be restored. If that is not possible, VHCB proposes reducing *Water Quality Farm Improvement and Retirement Projects* by \$200,000 to \$900,000 and *Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects* by \$400,000 to \$1,300,000.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jen Hollar

Jennifer Hollar
Director of Policy and Special Projects

Cc: Gus Seelig, Executive Director, VHCB
Emily Byrd, Manager, CWIP, DEC



58 East State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 TEL: 802-828-3250 WEB: www.vhcb.org

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VERMONT HOUSING and CONSERVATION COALITION

October 30, 2020

Dear Clean Water Board members,

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

After reviewing your Draft FY22 Clean Water budget, we respectfully urge you to **restore line item #5, VHCB Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects, to at least the enacted FY21 level of \$1.7M. In addition, we urge you to maintain at least \$1.1M for line item #4, VHCB Water Quality Farm Improvement and Retirement Projects, as enacted for FY21 and as proposed for FY22.**

Maintaining the State's investment in these programs at least at enacted FY21 levels is essential and makes good fiscal sense for a host of reasons:

- As the stories highlighted by Jennifer Hollar, VHCB's Director of Policy and Special Projects, in oral testimony before you on October 22nd illustrate, these programs advance strategic water quality and land conservation projects that are making a real difference on the ground and in our waters. Additional examples abound of successful land conservation and restoration projects in recent years that are having tangible water quality benefits across the state – from the Champlain Basin to the Connecticut River Valley, from the Lake Memphremagog watershed to the Battenkill.
- The pipeline of potential new projects that are lined up for these programs, and the associated demand for funding, are strong. Conservation organizations have roughly 80 projects in various stages of development all around the state, and many of these are time-bound, one-time opportunities that are at risk of being lost if adequate State funding is not available. In many cases, the likely alternative outcome is continued water quality degradation and/or development with negative water quality impacts.
- Land conservation and natural resources restoration projects are cost-effective approaches to achieving water quality gains and Clean Water Act compliance relative to other strategies. The permanent conservation of agricultural, forest, natural area, and outdoor recreation lands 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 degraded 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.

- With the same one-time investment, land conservation and natural resources restoration projects also provide a host of invaluable co-benefits for people and nature in Vermont, including those highlighted on the Clean Water Board webpage and fact sheet:
 - public health and safety;
 - flood protection for downstream landowners and communities;
 - habitat for native fish, wildlife and plants;
 - public access for a range of outdoor recreation, with associated economic and well-being benefits;
 - climate mitigation through carbon sequestration and storage in soils, trees and other vegetation;
 - facilitating within-family transfers of agricultural and forest lands to the next generation of owners;
 - creating town forests that are vital assets for our rural communities;
 - protecting the landscape on which our agricultural, forestry, and outdoor recreation economies depend;
 - generating jobs for Vermonters in the sponsoring organizations, contractors, youth crews, and others who implement these types of projects.
- Reducing state funding for VHCB’s land conservation and farm-related water quality projects will have a direct impact on the ability to bring in and match federal funding that is essential for Vermont to meet its water quality obligations. There will be increased federal funding available in FY22 through key matching programs under the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and cutting VHCB’s funding risks leaving badly needed federal dollars on the table. This would be fiscally short-sighted and counter-productive.
- Pressures on our natural and working lands are growing as more people from outside the state seek out the safe haven that Vermont offers from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the climate-related disasters that are affecting much of the rest of the country. As these pressures increase, the opportunities for land conservation, natural resources restoration, and farm-related projects that achieve water quality goals and provide so many co-benefits will be constrained, and the costs will increase. The time for sustaining and growing strategic investments in these kinds of projects is now.

In summary, maintaining or increasing the State’s investments in VHCB’s water quality-related work is a wise, cost-effective use of public funds. Cutting these programs would be a significant lost opportunity to accelerate headway on the State’s TMDL obligations, avoid degradation of currently high-quality waters, and achieve many other public purposes simultaneously. We therefore again urge you to **restore funding for VHCB Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects to at least the enacted FY21 level of \$1.7M and maintain at least \$1.1M for VHCB Water Quality Farm Improvement and Retirement Projects.**

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective and request.

Sincerely,

Phil Huffman, Director of Government Relations and Policy, The Nature Conservancy in Vermont
Tracy Zschau, Vice President for Conservation, Vermont Land Trust

From: Kate Kelly <katekelly01@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 1:20 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: Public comment on FY22 Clean Water Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Hello,

I'd like to submit comments on the FY22 Clean Water budget. In particular, I feel that line 6, which includes program and partner support, should not be decreased at all from last year's budget. This partner support is crucial, as watershed groups and volunteers provide a large amount of water quality sampling and data, as well as local on-the-ground knowledge and efforts to implement non-regulatory water quality projects (that our state agencies often don't have time or footing to work on). Please maintain the line item in this budget.

Thank you.

--

Kate Kelly
573-465-1774
katekelly01@gmail.com

From: Jeff van den Noort <henrytheherodog@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 3:34 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: Clean Water Board Comments

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I completed the survey and added these comments to the last comment box on the survey. As they are a little long, I wanted to make sure you got them, so I have also included them here. They are identical so if you got them in the survey, you can delete these.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the Clean Water budget.

I would like to see a lot more funding for monitoring. I am not at all convinced that the projects that are being completed will have a discernible impact on the lake quality in our lifetimes. If they are not working, we need to know sooner rather than later.

I would like to see more funding for researching the local sources of phosphorus at a very fine scale. I am concerned that there may be a few very bad actors who are responsible for a disproportionate share of the problem, and that they are escaping detection. I would like to see more funding for volunteer monitoring to identify where the runoff is the worst and which septic systems are leaking into the lake during high water.

I would like to see more funding for land conservation, retiring farms in sensitive areas, or compensating farmers to grow something with fewer impacts.

I would like to see more funds go to land conservation and restoration. (i.e. Line 4b: Water Quality Farm Improvement Retirement Projects and Line 5: Land Conservation and Water Quality Projects, and Line 7: Natural Resources Restoration) Protecting wetlands has many benefits that go beyond their ability to filter the pollutants.

I would like to see more funding for wastewater treatment, both at the town and septic level. The costs are high but the benefits are spread out lake wide. I don't think you can expect small towns to face huge bills when most of the benefit will be for areas outside of their area. The state needs to increase their portion of the funding if we really want it to happen, especially given the large federal match. The current numbers seem to be a fraction of what is needed.

I would like to see more money for education. We need to get people to stop using fertilizer. We need to make sure that everyone has the ability to identify hazardous lake conditions. We can't rely on alerts from the health department. The lake is too large, and the blooms change too rapidly.

Lastly, I would like to see all of the funding increased. I know that this is a bad year for the budget but it was a very bad year for cyanobacteria and it is going to get worse. I am a volunteer cyanobacteria monitor at the LCC and was pretty horrified by the extent of the problem this year. In my opinion, there were times when large portions of the lake had low level blooms that looked like they were very close to exploding into a major widespread bloom. One of the water intakes in the islands showed some cyanobacteria in their intake and this is a warning sign of what is to come. If we don't reverse course, a major water shut down like what happened in Toledo is probably going to occur and it will be devastating to our economy, and Vermont's image as a green state. Cyanobacteria is the wrong kind of green.

Your FY22 budget is only \$47 per person (based on 2019 population). That is not even close to being adequate to address a problem of this magnitude. What will it cost to try to get water to everyone when the water intakes are shut down?

--

Jeff van den Noort
PO Box 144
North Hero, VT 05474
henrytheherodog@gmail.com
802 378 5119

From: Joel Bedard <jtb@ashnanresource.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:06 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: 10/22 Public Hearing Accommodations

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello--I believe that I was already signed up for tomorrow's hearing. My comment request would simply be 3 points:

Introduction statement

Statement of appreciation to all members supporting this effort

A reflection from the sidelines regarding the constant investment in Vermont's water quality issues and the perception of nominal tangible results. This may involve some extemporany, but I prefer to be brief. The parting question is one of public relations/communications; and access to opportunity/audience for more than the standard players. That is to say, how does someone with a relatively aligned background and novel ideas become a part of the solution?

Thank you!
Joel T Bedard
Jericho Center, VT

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ashley Sullivan <ashley@rozaliaproject.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:27 AM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing because I strongly urge you to support more funding to clean up Vermont's waters in the Clean Water Budget for FY22. I believe that clean water is key to Vermont's economic recovery and I want Lake Champlain to be safe for my family and friends to swim.

Natural resource conservation projects are the most cost-effective way to enhance water quality and protect our natural environment. Transparent investments in clean water projects will benefit our economy, public health, and the natural environment, and pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable future. Ensuring funding is not cut and that funding is fairly allocated among these projects is key.

Ashley Sullivan,
87 Dodds Court,
BURLINGTON, VT
ashley@rozaliaproject.org

From: Cathleen Maine <cathleen@newildernesstrust.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 8:36 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

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Cathleen Maine,

,
, VT
cathleen@newildernesstrust.org

From: Damon Reed <dreed@gmavt.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 9:24 AM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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Damon Reed,
395 Lincoln Brook Rd,
Warren, VT
dreed@gmavt.net

From: George Ely <grmtnelly@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 3:18 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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George Ely,
,
Middlebury, VT
grmtnelly@myfairpoint.net

From: CLAUDE PHIPPS <here4now2@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 11:39 AM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing because I strongly urge you to support more funding to clean up Vermont's waters in the Clean Water Budget for FY22. I believe that clean water is key to Vermont's economic recovery and I want Lake Champlain to be safe for my family and friends to swim.

Natural resource conservation projects are the most cost-effective way to enhance water quality and protect our natural environment. Transparent investments in clean water projects will benefit our economy, public health, and the natural environment, and pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable future. Ensuring funding is not cut and that funding is fairly allocated among these projects is key.

CLAUDE PHIPPS,
151 Southview Rd,
Newbury, VT
here4now2@myfairpoint.net

From: Jan Rancatti <jcran@sover.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 5:45 AM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing because I strongly urge you to support more funding to clean up Vermont's waters in the Clean Water Budget for FY22. I believe that clean water is key to Vermont's economic recovery and I want Lake Champlain to be safe for my family and friends to swim.

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Jan Rancatti,
273 Heartwellville View Rd,
Readsboro, VT
jcran@sover.net

From: Joyce Cusimano <jcusimano@ezcloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 4:33 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

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Joyce Cusimano,
4352 Hollister Hill Rd,
Marshfield, VT
jcusimano@ezcloud.com

From: Mary Harbaugh <mary@strongstreet.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 3:30 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I urge you to support more funding to clean up Vermont's waters in the Clean Water Budget for FY22. Clean water is key to Vermont's economic recovery. I also want Lake Champlain to be safe for my family and friends to swim. We must also think about longer-term clean water needs, both for people and wildlife, as we confront climate change and loss of biodiversity. Please, let's make good decisions now, for both the short and long terms. Please clean up Vermont's waters! Natural resource conservation projects are the most cost-effective way to enhance water quality and protect our natural environment. Transparent investments in clean water projects will benefit our economy, public health, and the natural environment, and pave the way for a more resilient and sustainable future. Ensuring funding is not cut and that funding is fairly allocated among these projects is key.

Mary Harbaugh,
100 Congress St,
Saint Albans, VT
mary@strongstreet.com

From: Patricia Vincent <patriciavincent@tds.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 3:33 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

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I'm writing because I strongly urge you to support more funding to clean up Vermont's waters in the Clean Water Budget for FY22. I believe that clean water is key to Vermont's economic recovery and I want Lake Champlain to be safe for my family and friends to swim.

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Patricia Vincent,
PO Box 87,
Roxbury, VT
patriciavincent@tds.net

From: Richard Hiscock <rch@gmavt.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 4:33 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

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Richard Hiscock,
34 Fecteau Cir Apt 26,
Barre, VT
rch@gmavt.net

From: jean Ceglowski <rupvet@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 5:48 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

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jean Ceglowski,
PO BOX 38,
Rupert, VT
rupvet@myfairpoint.net

From: Shannon Leigh Broughton-Smith <tuthmose@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 6:57 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

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Shannon Leigh Broughton-Smith,
1412 Vt Route 12,
Woodstock, VT
tuthmose@myfairpoint.net

From: Shannon Leigh Broughton-Smith <tuthmose@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 6:57 PM
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Shannon Leigh Broughton-Smith,
1412 Vt Route 12,
Woodstock, VT
tuthmose@myfairpoint.net

From: Paula Wanzer <ucanu@myfairpoint.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2020 2:30 PM
To: ANR - Clean Water VT
Subject: I support clean water funding in Vermont

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

I'm writing because I strongly urge you to support more funding to clean up Vermont's waters in the Clean Water Budget for FY22. I believe that clean water is key to Vermont's economic recovery and I want Lake Champlain to be safe for my family and friends to swim.

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Paula Wanzer,
82 Waukegan Street,
Meredith, NH
ucanu@myfairpoint.net

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

Date/Time: Thursday, October 22, 2020, 12:00-2:00 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting details available at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/board/meetings>

1. Welcome, Review Agenda and Virtual Meeting Ground Rules **12:00-12:05 pm**
Agency of Administration Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair Susanne Young

Welcome from Secretary Young to Board members, and guests at this public hearing.

2. Clean Water Funding Background and Budget Process **12:05-12:10 pm**

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

Emily Bird provided a review of the clean water fund (CWF) and process, an overview of next year's budget targets, the purpose of the CWF, and the budget process and timeline.

Materials discussed in the presentations during this hearing are in the packet of public hearing materials.

The draft budget subject to this meeting has been posted for 30-day comment period through 10-31. An online questionnaire is available (a pdf of this is included in meeting materials).

The total estimated revenue in the proposed budget is \$29.4M (\$18.4M projected revenue to the CWF and \$11M proposed Capital Appropriations).

3. Draft SFY 2022 Clean Water Budget Line Items by Agency **12:10-12:50 pm**

- a. Laura DiPietro, Water Quality Director, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFMM) reviewed proposed expenditures related to Lines 1-3
- b. Jennifer Hollar, Director of Policy Support and Special Projects, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) reviewed proposed expenditures related to Lines 4 and 5.
- c. Emily Bird, Clean Water Initiative Program Manager, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) reviewed proposed expenditures related to Lines 6, 7, 8, 13 and 17.
- d. Danielle Fitzko, Director of Forests, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation reviewed proposed expenditures related to Lines 9 and 10.
- e. Terisa Thomas, Water Infrastructure Financing Program Manager, Department of Environmental Conservation reviewed proposed expenditures related to Line 18.
- f. Joel Perrigo, Municipal Assistance Bureau Project Manager, Agency of Transportation reviewed proposed expenditures related to Lines 11 and 12.
- g. Mike Middleman, Senior Budget Analyst, Agency of Administration reviewed proposed expenditures related to Lines 14 and 20.
- h. Chris Cochran, Community Planning and Revitalization Director, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Department of Housing and Community Development reviewed proposed expenditures related to Lines 15 and 16.

4. Public Questions on Presentations **12:50-12:55 pm**
Secretary Susanne Young

1. Dan Albrecht – CCRPC

- a) Line 6 – what are the amounts for FY22? Will tactical basin planning outreach stay at \$500k? Emily Bird– yes, mostly likely this is the level of support. Emily's program will take broader line items and develop an annual spending plan with greater detail for all line items after Governor's budget release during the legislative session.
- b) Project development – current FY is \$260K– assume same amount? Emily – trying to ramp up this funding where possible. Project development is important to support as it is a key piece of moving projects forward.
- c) Line 6 – subsection c – referring to Basin Water Quality Council participation. Is this a separate pot of funds from Clean Water Service Provider start-up funds that will start March/April? Emily – language in line item description is consistent with the BWQC participation by the statutory partners noted in 10

VSA §1253d. This falls within \$500K of basin planning grants. Details on other aspects of how BWQC will be funded are still to be determined.

- d) Is CWSP administrative money in this budget? Any baseline funds for CWSP operations to get ready for grants starting in July 2022? Emily – CWSP will receive restoration formula grants starting July 2022 (FY 23 budget). In interim, state plans (in FY21 and into 22) to carve out a component of this funding to support CWSP start up to build up organizational capacity in advance of grants in FY23.
- e) Line 13 – stormwater program delivery – presuming the Design/Implementation grant is in here? Emily - No major changes to ongoing funding programs in interim while developing future programs.
- f) For Joel (VTrans) – many of MS4 municipalities in Chittenden county have received mitigation program funds for phosphorus control plans. Not listed here. Joel – these are federal funds so not included here, however they are captured in the annual Clean Water Performance report.

2. Kathy Urffer –

- a) For AAFM – some of the clean water funds are supporting staff payroll. What % of staff payroll is covered by CWF? Laura Dipietro– don't have the exact number but can calculate. A fair portion of staff are supported through base general funds and special funds. Clean water funds cover the bulk of staff doing inspections on the ground.
- b) Line 6 – total \$2,134,000 – split between 3 programs – can you tell us the anticipated breakdown among those programs? Emily - still to be determined in next few months, but anticipate innovation category will build on VPIC program. For Act 76 related to technology development, anticipate this at about \$100K. Remaining funds will be to support partners. This will be in detailed in the Clean Water Initiative Program annual FY22 Spending Plan. This will be shared publicly.
- c) Re skidder bridges – what % cost share is this providing (between state and user)? Danielle – 25% from logger, 75% from state funds.

5. Public Comments

12:55-1:55 pm

Secretary Susanne Young

- a. Sign-up to comment by completing the [RSVP online form](#) by Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 4:00 pm. Time will be allotted per individual depending on the number of commenters.
- b. Commenters are encouraged to submit verbal comments in written form to ANR.CleanWaterVT@vermont.gov to ensure accuracy in public hearing minutes.
1. Joel Bedard – Seems to be a mad rush towards resources and great work is being done but I am not seeing primary issues in state begin resolved. This seems like band aid approach – for example not addressing Montpelier or Burlington wastewater treatment and raw sewage into systems. Looking forward to a larger master plan bringing in innovation from private section to resolve soil and water quality issues.
Secretary Moore will follow up.
2. Christina Adams – no comment.
3. Sheila Connelly –just participating. No questions.
4. Phil Huffman – The Nature Conservancy – comments are as TNC director of government relations and policy and as co-chair of Vt Housing Coalition.
Supporting Tracy Zscahu comments from last meeting and thanking the board and member agencies and staff for hard work. TNC urges board to reconsider cuts to VHCB water quality related programs and to ANR NR restoration lines (4,5,7). Maintaining these investments at FY21 levels as a minimum are important.
 - a) Funds are critical to strategic water quality and land conservation projects that are making a real difference restoring and protecting waters. There is a real pipeline of projects here and associated demand for funding is very strong.
 - b) Natural resource and land conservation projects have been proven to be cost-effective as durable lasting gains. These also provide all other benefits for people and nature; flood protection, habitat, outdoor recreation. Projects also generate and support jobs implementing projects, including youth crews.
 - c) Reduced state funds for land conservation and natural resource projects will have a direct impact on the state's ability to bring in and match federal funds that help meet water quality goals. There is more federal funding in FY22 than in recent years, especially given perpetuation of the Land and

Water Conservation Fund, and if we cut funding, we risk leaving badly needed funds on table. This would be short-sighted.

5. Rationale for moving forward with natural resource and conservation projects are more important as pressures on working and natural lands are growing. More of the public are seeking public land as a response to Covid. We need to move quickly to move projects forward.
6. Carol O'Connell – no comment
7. Dan Albrecht - no further questions.
8. Karen Horne – VLCT – not attending (n/a)
9. Bob Flaherty – Trimble Water – n/a
10. Sandy Greg - -n/a
11. Zach Porter – Conservation Law Foundation– wants to echo Phil Huffman comments. As we grapple with overcoming probably the greatest economic downturn, clean water investments should be part of getting back to where we want to be. Clean water drives the economy. CLF recognizes the challenges in revenue but hope we won't continue to split a smaller and smaller pie but rather look at new creative revenue sources. Too important to the future of VT to not put towards all this good work. Wants more discussion of how to add funds into the mix. Natural resource solutions also most effectively capture carbon and reduce impacts of flooding and other natural resource disasters – projects can address multiple challenges of our day. CLF is concerned with cuts in line 5 and 7. Cuts are \$835K. VHCB is a 35% reduction alone from FY21. This will have a significant impact moving critical projects forward. e.g. wetlands – it is estimated that restoring wetlands in the Lake Champlain basin could achieve 25% of reduction goals. Can simultaneous benefit fish and wildlife species. Further, CLF is concerned about transparency, as many details are still to be determined. CLF would like additional clarity on planned expenditures towards stormwater.
12. Rob Evans - Franklin Watershed Comm president, VP of Carmi Campers Assoc. Grateful for state support in the Lake Carmi watershed, yet the work is not done, and we still see impacts of algae. Franklin Watershed Committee is requesting a revision of current Lakes in Crisis (LIC) plan, to take into account past work and data gathering, and plans for future projects to impact hot spots. Also, FWC supports an increase of LIC funds offered by legislature to help do critical outreach and collaboration with partners. Lake Carmi is the only LIC so should continue to be prioritized.

End of list of signups to comment.

No additional comments submitted during meeting.

Sec Young concluded public comments at 1:29 pm

6. Determine Next Steps, Closing Remarks

1:55-2:00 pm

Secretary Susanne Young

Reminder of Oct 30 deadline for public comments.

Communications will be compiled and provided to the board and public and will move into next stage of process in early December. The board will then finalize the draft budget based on comments and prepare the recommendation for submission by the Agency of Administration for the Governor's consideration. There will then be time for additional comments after the Governor's budget is announced in January and during the legislative session.

7. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 1:32pm.

2:00 pm

Supporting Materials:

1. Clean Water Budget Public Hearing Ground Rules
2. Clean Water Funding Factsheet
3. SFY 2022 Clean Water Budget Public Comment Online Questionnaire
4. Draft SFY 2022 Clean Water Budget
5. Draft SFY 2022 Clean Water Budget Line Item Descriptions