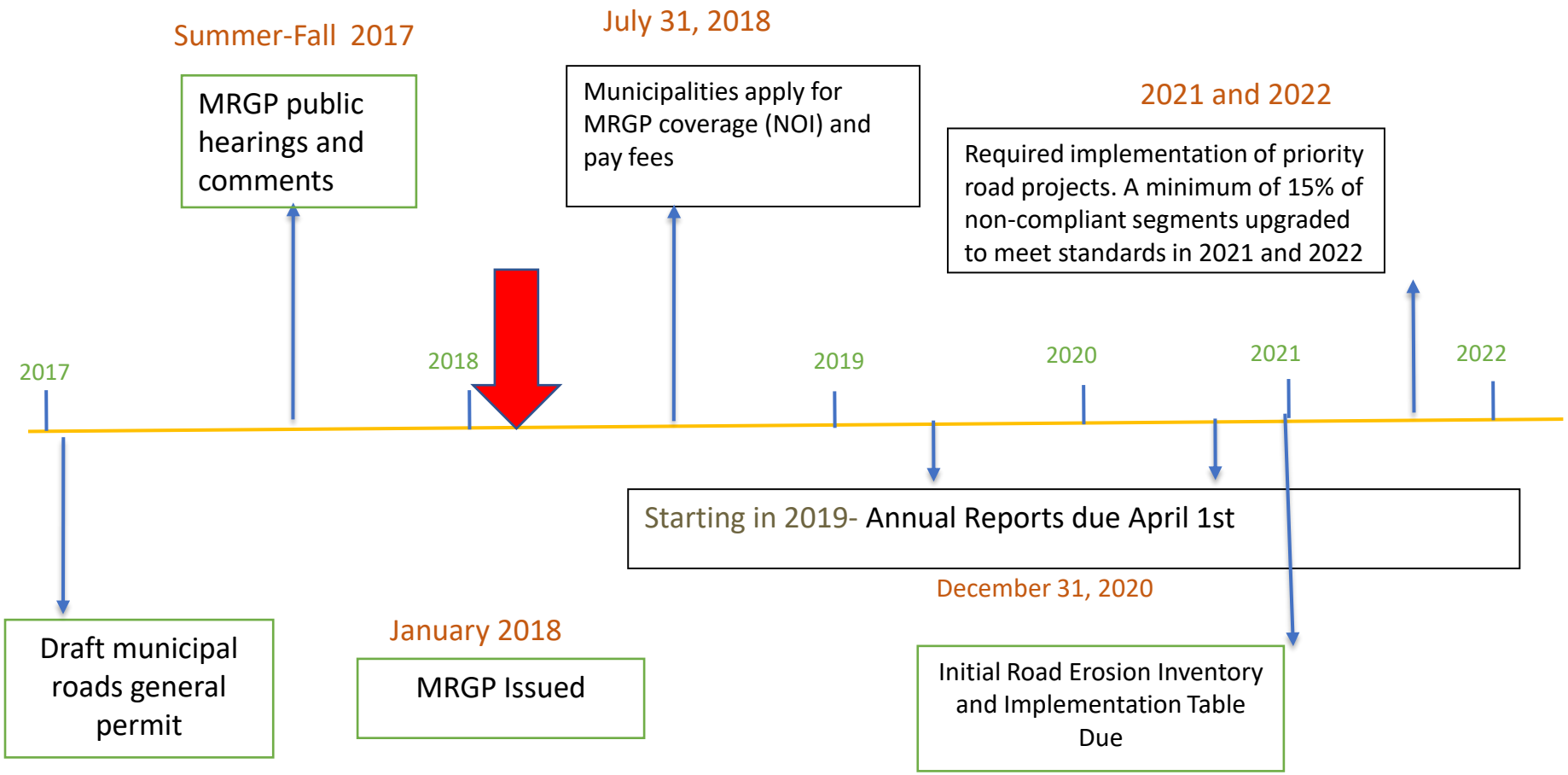
Municipal Roads Stormwater General Permit (MRGP)- Reissuance Fall 2022

Jim Ryan

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIVISION
STORMWATER PROGRAM

MRGP Timeline of Deliverables (Near-Term)



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MRGP Timeline of Deliverables (Longer-Term)

On-going MRGP practice implementation and maintenance throughout

Municipalities apply for MRGP coverage (NOI) and pay fees

2023

Road Erosion Inventory- Due- fall 2027

December 31, 2025

All ***Very High Priority*** segments (except Class 4) upgraded

2025

December 31, 2028

All Class 4 ***Very High Priority*** segments upgraded

2028

December 31, 2036

All connected roads meet MRGP Standard. On-going practice maintenance forward

2036

Annual MRGP schedule updates- due June 1st

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Hydrologically-Connected Roads

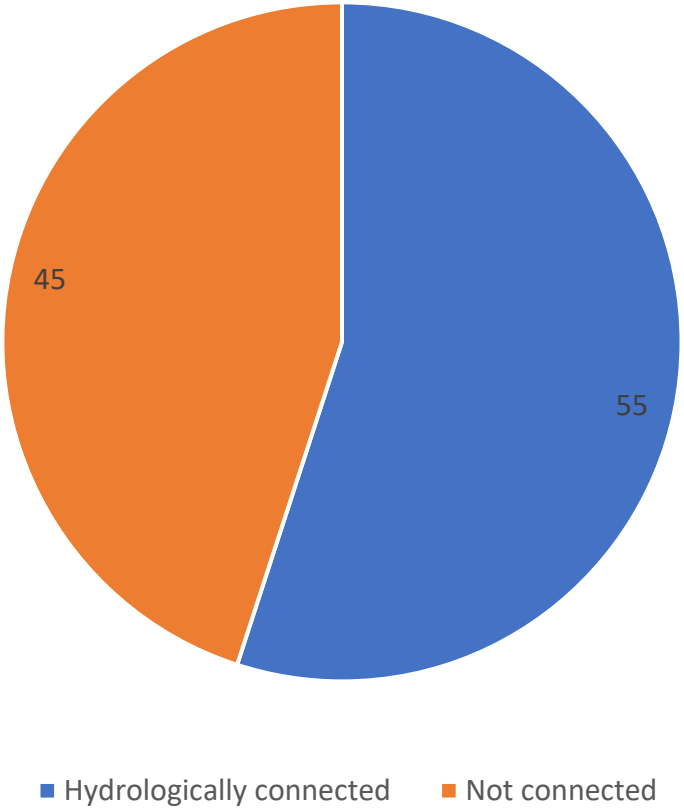
Connected Criteria:

- Within 100’ of a water resource
- Bisects (crosses) and drains to a water resource
- Located within the DEC river corridor
- Connectivity status can be changed during the inventories
- Catch basin outfalls within 500’ of a water resource and those segments associated with those outfalls

Water Resources:

- Perennial streams
- Intermittent streams/Defined channel (even if dry)
- Wetlands
- Lakes and Ponds

Percent of municipal roads hydrologically-connected and under MRGP requirements



Natural Resources Atlas | Agency

Vermont ANR - Natural Resource

anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra5/

Apps 511 - Traffic

Reading list

Natural Resources Atlas

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Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

vermont.gov

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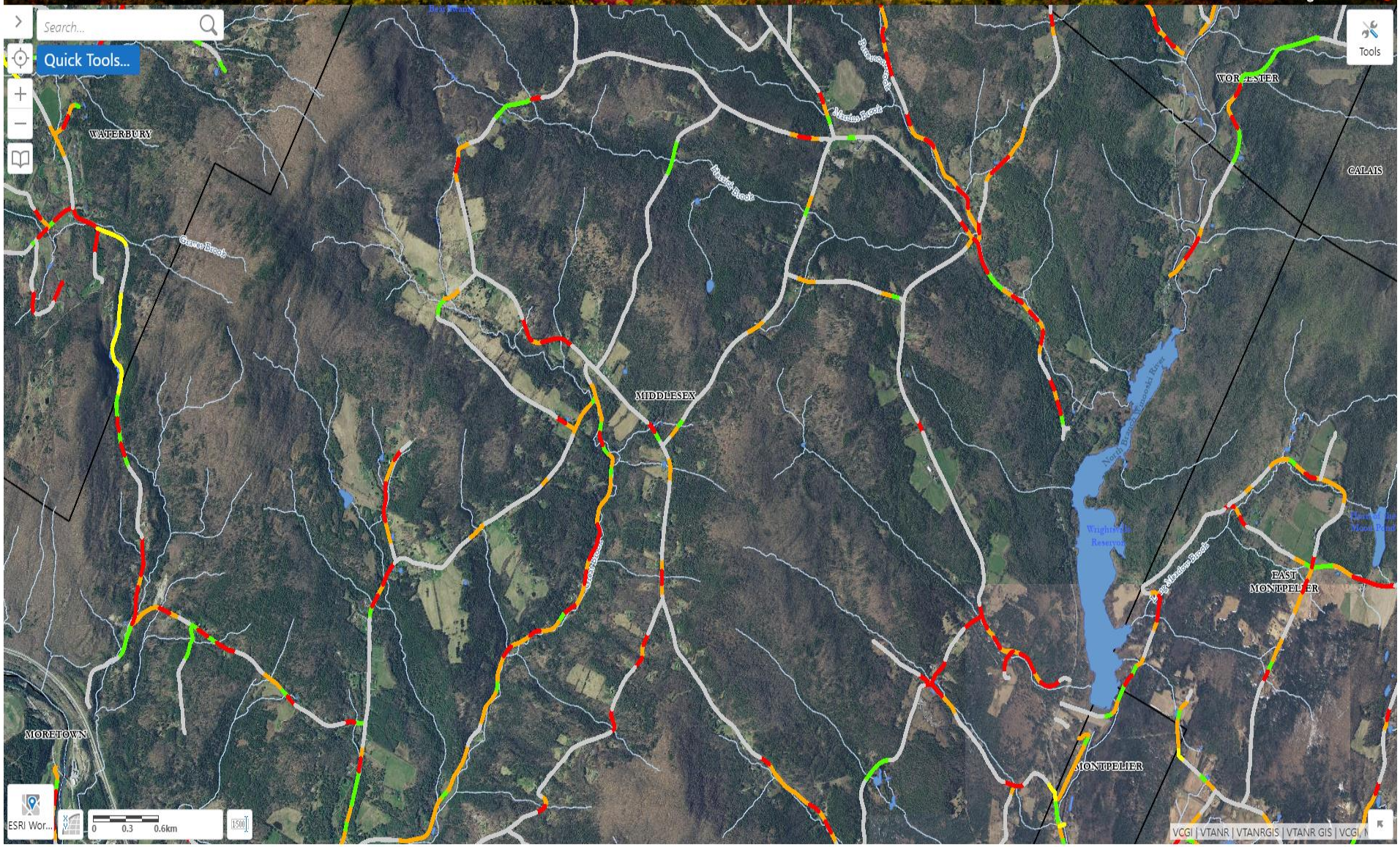
Tools



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Types of Erosion

Rill erosion 1” to <12” deep

Gully erosion 12” plus

Standards Check List:

Does your road have a good crown?

Are the road shoulders lower than the travel lane?

If no, question- do you have an adequate ditch?

Is your ditch stone lined if 8 percent or higher?

Is your ditch stone lined or have check dams or have 2 cross culverts or turnouts if 5-7.99 percent slope?

Are your ditches turned away from water and/or stable?

Are your drainage and drive culverts adequately sized and not eroding?

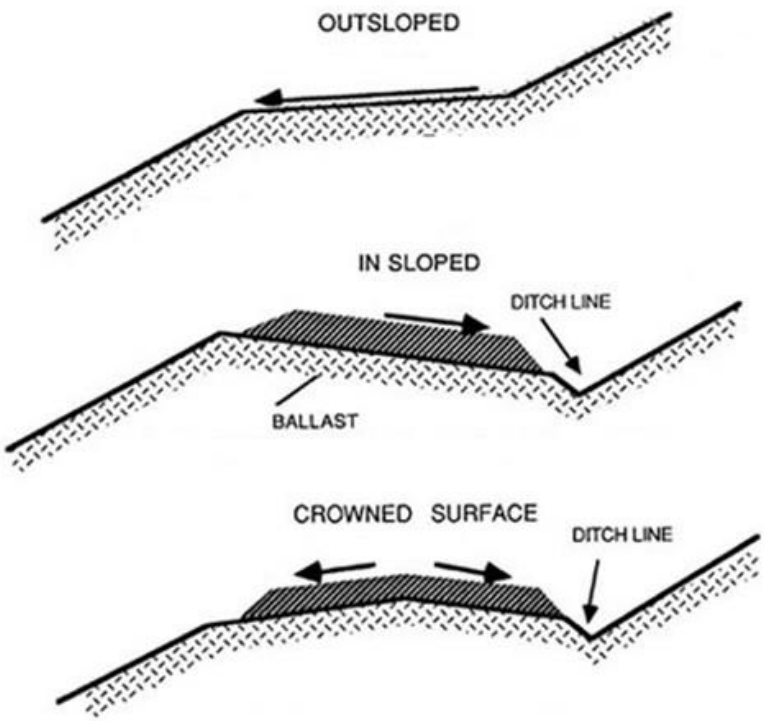
Standards Implementation "Exemptions"

- Historic trees
- Historic stone walls
- Buried utilities
- Excessive ledge
- Lakeshore vegetation- (vegetation within 250' of a lakeshore)
- Acquisition of land needed
- Public Safety (NEW)

Erosion control requirement

- Any bare soils on connected segments stabilized within 5 days
- Stabilization includes seed and mulch, hydroseeding and/or stone stabilization

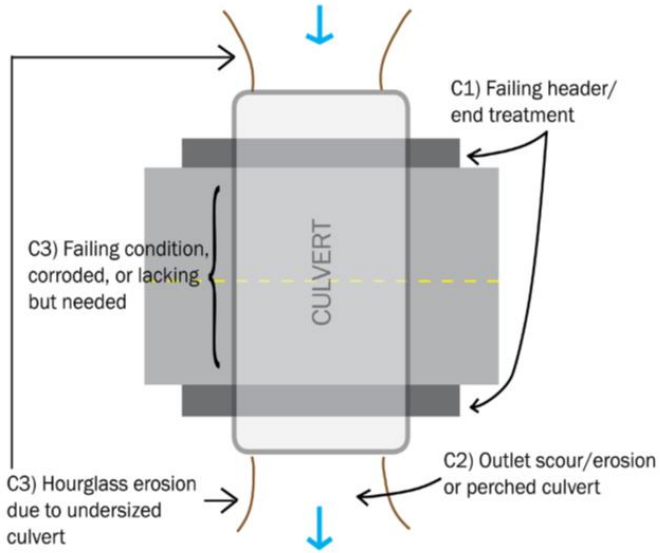
We are in the 5th and last year of the first MRGP permit cycle



- DEC reconvened the MRGP Core Team to assist in the re-issuance of the MRGP for the second 5-year permit cycle
- The Core Team consists of stakeholder representatives from VTrans, DEC, regional planning commissions and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns

MRGP is being Re-issued in January 2023

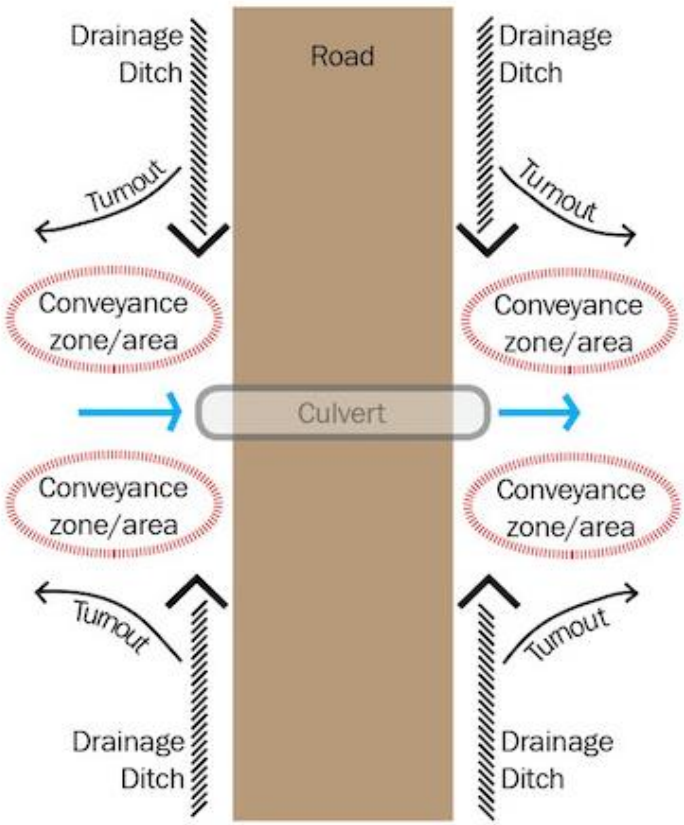
- The second 5-year permit cycle will run 1/26/2023- 1/26/2028, approximately. (NEW)
- Towns will have to re-apply for coverage under the new permit before 1/26/2023 (NEW)
- Towns will be required to pay Administrative Processing Fee and Permit Review fees totaling $640. (NEW)
- Annual Report Forms and Annual Fees (NEW) will be due April 1st each year



Culvert Cross Section

Proposed Changes for the MRGP in the Second 5-Year Permit Cycle

- REI due by October 31, 2027 for all connected segments (NEW)
- New REI compliance scoring and prioritization template based on % of practice in place, degree of erosion and road slope (NEW)
- Implementation requirements- 7.5% of non-compliant segments upgraded annually (same as current requirement)
- 20% of Very High Priority segments upgraded to MRGP standards annually (NEW)



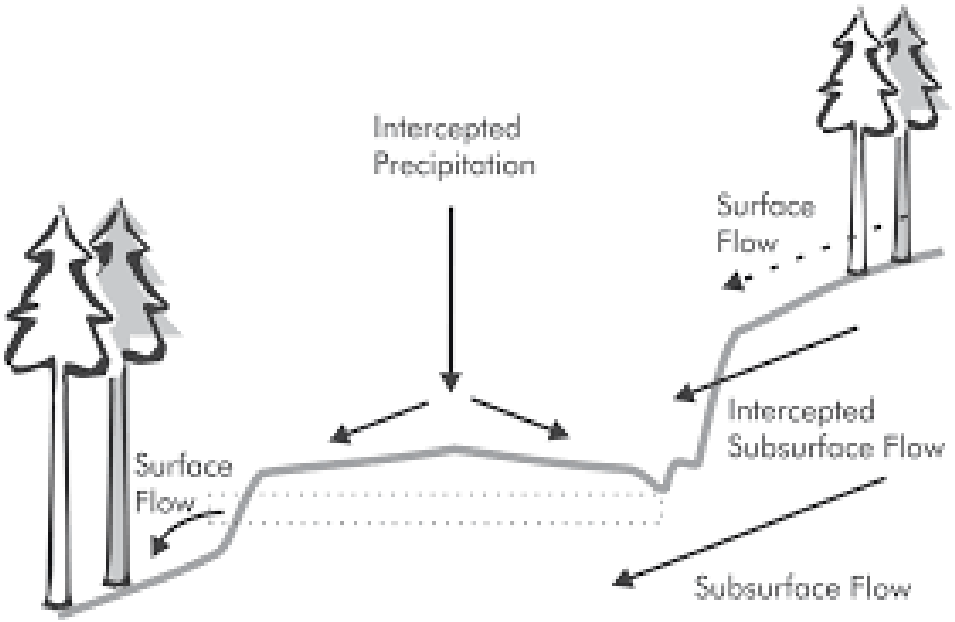
Conveyance Diagram

New Very High Priority- “Fast Track” Implementation

- DEC may assess individual segments ahead of the new REI deadline when there is a potential serious road-related water quality threat. (NEW)

- If the DEC assessed segments score as Very High Priority, towns will be notified and have 2 years to bring those segments up to MRGP standards.(NEW)

Segment Upgrades and Annual Reporting

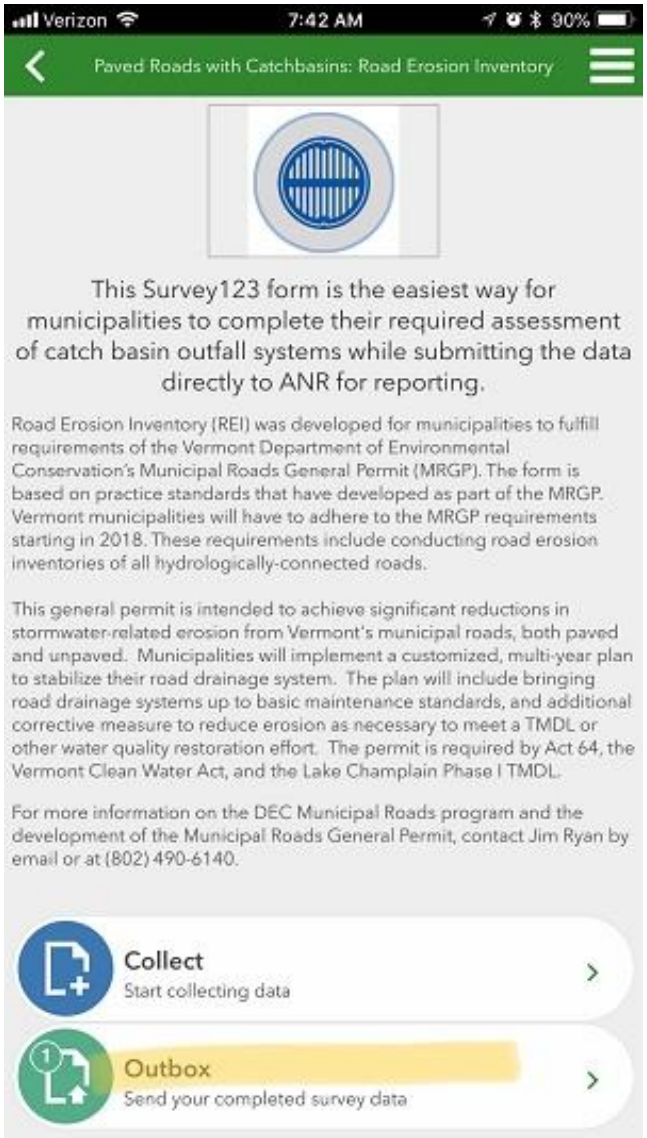


- Towns will continue to upgrade a minimum of 7.5% of non-compliant road segments annually. (Same)
- Those upgrades will be documented by reassessing individual segments using the DEC REI Survey Form app tool or web-based Reporter tool. (Same)
- Any segments upgraded to Fully Meets status starting in the 2023 field season, will not have to be reassessed as part of the town-wide REI reassessment (NEW)

New REI App Tool

- DEC and the Agency of Digital Services will be developing a new Survey 123 REI field form (app) that towns will be required to use in conducting REIs and for segment upgrades (NEW)

- The new scoring formula will be conducted in the Survey 123 form so that segment compliance scores will be calculated and available for immediate viewing (NEW)



New REI Schedule

- The new REI Survey 123 form will be **<u>required</u>** for townwide and individual segment assessments in spring of 2023. (NEW)
- DEC and ADS will provide REI training in early spring 2023. (NEW)
- The baseline (original) REI will be used to determine implementation requirements until the new REI reassessment is complete. (NEW)

Road Type Name Changes

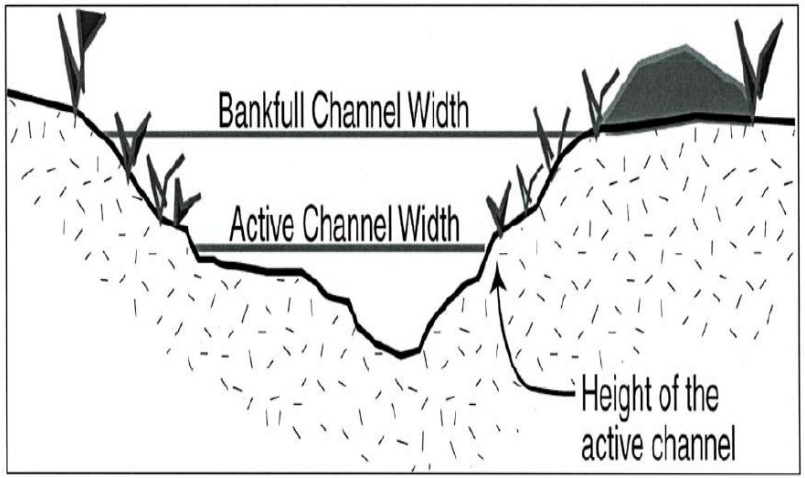
Current Road Type Names:.

- Paved Roads with Curbs and Catch Basins
- Paved and Gravel Roads with Open Drainage Systems
- Class 4 Roads

Road Type Names (NEW):

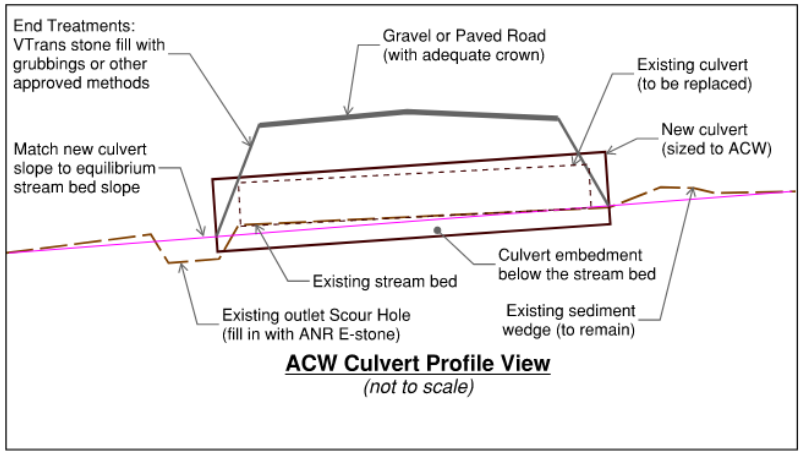
- Roads with Closed Drainages
- Roads with Open Drainages
- Class 4 Roads

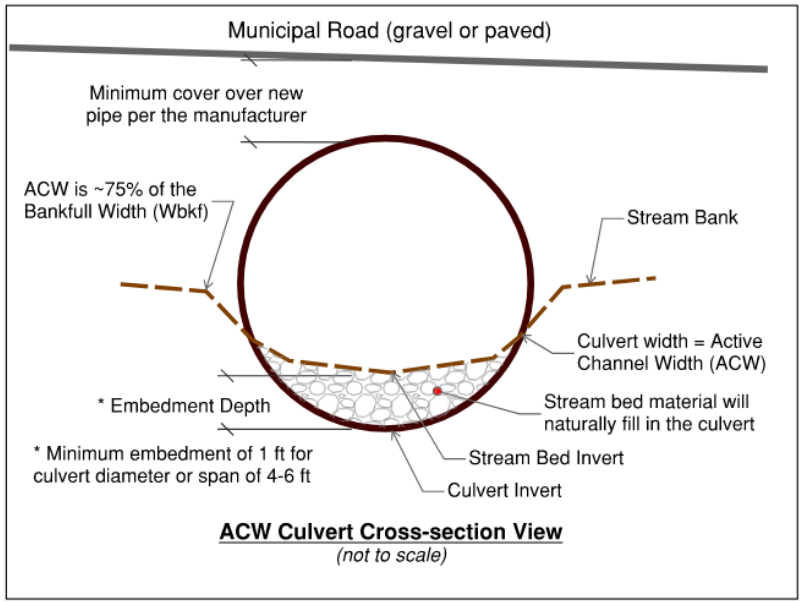
Change to the MRGP Standards

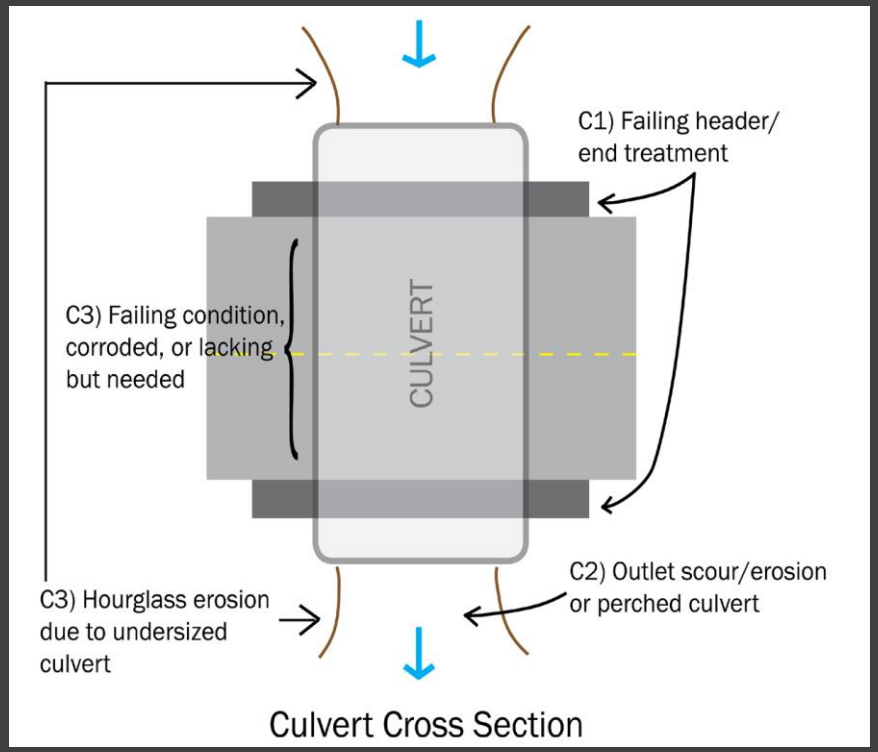


- The current "recommended" Active Channel Width intermittent stream culvert size will now be <u>required</u> for non-compliant intermittent stream culverts. (NEW)
- Non-compliant intermittent stream culverts requiring upgrades are those that are eroding or failing due to inadequate size and for new construction.
- Stone headers and outlet stabilization required for road slopes 5% or greater (same as current requirement)

Intermittent Stream Crossing Profile and Cross Section and Embedding Situations







Erosion from lack of culvert headwall/header

MRGP Re-issuance Public Input

- The MRGP public notice period will begin shortly after Labor Day 2022 for a 45-day comment period
- Public meetings will be held on October 10th (virtual- Teams meeting invite 5:00-7:00) and October 11th (in-person at the ANR Annex Building in Montpelier 1:00-3:00)
- There will be a Comment Responsiveness Report prepared
- The permit will be re-issued in late November 2022
- Towns will re-apply for coverage and pay fees from November through January 26, 2023 (all MRGP towns will be notified)

Assistance to Towns

- Funding Sources:
  - Municipal Grants-in-Aid – For upgrading segments (VTrans)
  - Better Roads- for inventories and remediation (VTrans)
  - Outreach and Technical Assistance

VTrans and DEC Road Roundtable Trainings

Held in-person and virtually

Topics include:

- How to upgrade segment status using the DEC App or desktop
- Correct practice installation (grading, ditching, berm removal, and turnouts) and maintenance and correct equipment use
- Culvert sizing and installation
- Grant funding sources

For Additional information:

https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/permit-information-applications-fees/municipal-roads-program

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jim.ryan@vermont.gov

(802) 490-6140