

# Missisquoi Bay Basin CWSP/BWQC Interim Public Participation Policy

Adopted by BWQC: June 29, 2022

Adopted by CWSP: \_

## Policy

It shall hereafter be the policy of the CWSP and BWQC for the Missisquoi Bay River basin to: (1) ensure public notice of CWSP and BWQC meetings, decisions, and actions; (2) promote transparency and public participation when identifying and selecting clean water projects; (3) give specific consideration to minority, limited English proficiency, and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities and stakeholders; and (4) comply with the Department of Environmental Conservation's nondiscrimination policy.

## Practices

Both the CWSP and the BWQC consider public participation of be of great importance. To promote public participation consistent with the above policy, the CWSP and BWQC will comply with the State's open meeting law, use plain language in their communications, and provide public access to data and methods used to prioritize clean water projects. The CWSP and BWQC will also make use of current and emerging best practices for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, such as:

- identifying and compensating community connectors;
- publicizing meeting notices using diverse communication channels;
- scheduling and locating meetings with due consideration given to accessibility;
- translating materials (upon request) free of charge; and
- engaging with and providing programmatic support targeted towards historically underrepresented communities (this includes giving consideration to the Agency of Natural Resource's Limited English Proficiency Accessibility Plan, Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act, and NRPC's Title VI Public Participation Plan).

## Amendment and Refinement

This policy was developed as part of the CWSP and BWQC start-up phase. It may be amended as deemed appropriate by the CWSP and BWQC. Additionally, a working group of the BWQC will be created to focus on this public participation policy.

## Adoption

Adopted by the CWSP on \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Catherine Dimitruk, CWSP Director

Adopted by the BWQC on \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lauren Weston, Chair