

**FIFTH CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR CLEAN WATER PROJECTS IN
THE MISSISQUOI/ROCK/PIKE BASINS**

ISSUED APRIL 17, 2024

PROPOSALS DUE MAY 22, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a491ae5d6de84767a530478dc921f4d3>

A. Introduction

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC), in its role as the Clean Water Service (CWSP) Provider for Basin 6 (Missisquoi/Rock/Pike watersheds), is again accepting applications for funding for projects that improve water quality. Projects must be in keeping with the vision set forth by Act 76, the Clean Water Service Delivery Act, and policies and guidance set forth by [the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation](#) to implement the Act. **The CWSP has ample funding available to carry out eligible projects in the basin.**

B. Eligible Projects

Projects eligible for funding must be best management practices or other programs designed to improve water quality. Projects must not be required by a permit (10 VSA, Chapter 47), or subject to the requirements of Vermont Agricultural Water Quality statutes (6 V.S.A, Chapter 215). Funding may be available for the portion of projects that exceed requirements set forth in the statutes above. Project eligibility shall be determined by the Clean Water Initiative Program [FY23 funding policy, as updated](#), along with [Appendix A \(Screening form\)](#) and [Appendix B \(regarding project types\)](#).

• **Generic Eligible Project Types**

Agricultural Pollution Prevention –Engineering Design
Agricultural Pollution Prevention – Implementation
Road Project – Preliminary Engineering Design
Road Project – Final Engineering Design
Road Project – Implementation
Stormwater Master Plan - Project Identification
Stormwater – Preliminary Engineering Design
Stormwater – Final Engineering Design
Stormwater – Implementation
Roads/Stormwater Gully - Design
Roads/Stormwater Gully - Implementation
Forestry – Design
Forestry – Implementation
Lake Wise Assessments - Project Identification
Lake Watershed Action Planning (LWAP) - Project Identification
Lake Shoreland – Preliminary Engineering Design
Lake Shoreland – Final Engineering Design
Lake Shoreland – Implementation
Stream Geomorphic Assessment Phase 1 - Project Identification
Stream Geomorphic Assessment Phase 2 (River Corridor Plan) - Project Identification
Dam Removal – Preliminary Engineering Design
Dam Removal – Final Engineering Design
Dam Removal – Implementation
Floodplain/Stream Restoration – Preliminary Engineering Design
Floodplain/Stream Restoration – Final Engineering Design
Floodplain/Stream Restoration – Implementation
River Corridor and Wetland Easement – Design
River Corridor and Wetland Easement – Implementation
Riparian Buffer Planting
Wetland Restoration – Preliminary Engineering Design
Wetland Restoration – Final Engineering Design
Wetland Restoration – Implementation
Project Development
Block Grants
Operations and Maintenance
Agricultural Pollution Prevention –Engineering Design
Agricultural Pollution Prevention – Implementation
Road Project – Preliminary Engineering Design
Road Project – Final Engineering Design
Road Project – Implementation
Stormwater Master Plan - Project Identification
Stormwater – Preliminary Engineering Design
Stormwater – Final Engineering Design
Stormwater – Implementation
Roads/Stormwater Gully - Design

- **Currently Eligible Project Phases**

- i. Assessments / Identification
- ii. Development
- iii. Design
 - 30% AKA Preliminary
 - 100% AKA Final
- iv. Implementation ¹

For details relating to the eligible project types and phases , see DEC’s updated [FY23 funding policy](#) .

C. Eligible Entities

The CWSP is authorized to provide grant funding to qualified non-profit watershed organizations, natural resource conservation districts, regional planning commissions, other non-profit organizations, and municipalities. Projects not sponsored by one of these entities may still be eligible for funding via contracted services. Ineligible entities include Private citizens, individuals; Private for-profit businesses and industries; Private for-profit colleges and universities; Federal agencies.

D. Evaluation Process

All design and/or implementation projects will be evaluated using the CWSP’s prioritization system. This system emphasizes phosphorus reduction benefits (estimated using DEC’s [Interim Phosphorus Reduction Calculator Tool](#) and other DEC approved methods) and phosphorus reduction cost effectiveness. The model also considers project life span, operation and maintenance costs, conformance with applicable Tactical Basin Plan, and Co-benefits identified in the application materials.

A list or lists of eligible projects will be presented to the CWSPs Basin Water Quality Council ([BWQC](#)). The BWQC will meet quarterly to evaluate projects and recommend qualified projects for advancement.

E. Awards Process

Determination of project awards will take place at or following the quarterly BWQC meetings. Once the BWQC finalizes a list or lists of projects for funding and the CWSP confirms the project’s eligibility, they will take one of the two paths below.

1. For projects with a sponsor that is an eligible prequalified entity, the CWSP will determine if the entity has the experience and financial and staffing capacity to carry out the project. If so, the CWSP will develop a subgrant or contract with the sponsoring entity, depending on the nature of the work. If not, the project will follow the second path.
2. For projects lacking an eligible prequalified sponsor, or if the sponsor does not have the capacity to manage the project, the CWSP will either manage the project or identify another entity to manage the project following the CWSPs procurement process.

¹ Although the Funding Policy authorizes use of CWSP funds for Operation and Maintenance activities, those activities will be the subject of a Call for Applications issued in the next few months.

F. Application

- To apply, please fill out the new project application form for this funding round. <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a491ae5d6de84767a530478dc921f4d3>
- In addition to answering the questions in the form, you will need to upload the following documents:
 - Indication of Landowner support (if applicable);
 - Completed [DEC screening form](#);
 - Completed DEC [Interim Phosphorus Reduction Calculator Tool](#) (if applicable) or [Functioning Floodplain Initiative Tool](#) outputs;
 - Project budget;
 - Map of Project Area;
 - Project Schedule.
- If applicable, you also need to supply a [Vermont Division for Historic Preservation Project Review Form](#). We encourage you to pay close attention to DEC's cultural resource assessment requirements, as they can have an impact on both project schedule and budget.

G. How this call for projects compares with earlier rounds

- This call for projects will resemble previous ones in most respects. The CWSP strongly desires to receive applications for projects at all stages of development, including 1) early stage (ID/Assessment and development), 2) design (preliminary, final), and 3) implementation. If you have an idea for a project application, we very much want hear about it.

H. Additional Information

For additional information, or if you have any questions, please contact

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Also please visit the CWSP Projects & Funding page at

<https://www.nrpcvt.com/services-programs/water-resources/cwsp-projects-funding/>

and NRPC's RFQ page at

<https://www.nrpcvt.com/about-nrpc/rfp-rfq/>

for any updates relating to the application process.