

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR EXPEDITED
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING
IN THE MISSISQUOI/ROCK/PIKE
AND
LAMOILLE BASINS**

***Originally open for submittals September 6, 2024
Initially Extended through December 31, 2025
Later Extended through June 30, 2026
Deadline Now Extended through December 31, 2026***

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) and Basin 7 (Lamoille River watershed), is accepting applications for “Project Development” funding. The call for applications is in response to motions approved by the Missisquoi and Lamoille Basin Water Quality Councils (BWQCs). These motions called for the creation of an expedited system for distributing Project Development funds to prequalified partner organizations. Prequalified Partner organizations in the Missisquoi Basin may apply for up to \$10,000, and Prequalified Partner organizations in the Lamoille Basin may apply for up to \$5,000. (Prequalified Partner organizations lacking a valid, executed Master Agreement with NRPC must execute such an agreement as a precondition to receiving these funds.)

B. Eligible Activities

Project Development is a category of work that is eligible for funding provided by Clean Water Service Providers as established in the Clean Water Initiative Program [FY23 “Funding Policy”, as updated](#) and Project Development [Standard Operating Procedure](#) (SOP).

****NOTE:** Release of an updated Funding Policy is anticipated in late 2025 or (more likely) the first half of 2026 . Be certain to verify the latest version as you consider preparing an application. Changes to the Funding Policy may necessitate changes to the text below. ******

The current Funding Policy defines Project Development as "scoping work on any non-regulatory project type to determine feasibility, constraints, and overall suitability for implementing the project". This definition emphasizes that project development focuses on evaluating and preparing a project for potential implementation.

The Funding Policy further explains that project development can involve a two-step process:

General Project Scoping: This step involves identifying potential projects for development, even without specific projects in mind at the outset. It aims to create a list of projects worthy of further development.

Specific Project Development: This step involves gathering information and securing commitments to assess a project's feasibility and readiness to proceed. It includes activities such as:

- Working with relevant staff to ensure the project aligns with water quality goals.
- Engaging with landowners and securing their support.
- Identifying and securing support from the party responsible for the project's operation and maintenance.
- Reviewing potential environmental concerns and permitting requirements.
- Creating basic concept drawings to facilitate communication and support.

The policy distinguishes "Project Development" from other project phases, namely Assessment and Planning and Design Work.

Assessment and Planning: Activities like Lake Wise assessments, road erosion inventories, and development of prioritized plans fall under separate funding initiatives and are **not considered "Project Development"**.

Design Work: "Project Development" does not include tasks related to the design or implementation phase of a project. While it may involve creating basic concept drawings, it should not result in the completion of detailed designs.

C. Eligible Entities

Entities eligible to apply for these funds are those listed below. As indicated above, Prequalified Partner organizations lacking a valid, executed Master Agreement with NPRC must execute such an agreement as a precondition to receiving these funds. This list may be expanded via the prequalification process.

Organization

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)

Caledonia Natural Resources Conservation District (CNRCD)

Vermont River Conservancy (VRC)

Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD)

Friends of Northern Lake Champlain (FNLC)

Franklin Watershed Committee (FWC)

Lamoille County Conservation District (LCCD)

Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC)

Missisquoi River Basin Association (MRBA)

Orleans Natural Resources Conservation District (ONRCD)

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD)

Vermont Land Trust

Town of Jericho

Town of Fairfax

Town of Georgia

Town of Westfield

D. Application and Evaluation Process

Applications must be submitted using the online forms [found here for the Missisquoi Basin](#) and [found here for the Lamoille Basin](#).

Missisquoi- <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/be88cf1c36ec492a84ae359ef6ba7011>

Lamoille- <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/72f4a5ad6ba7446ab0518297dc2c2520>

Evaluation will be focused on establishing that the partner organization continues to have capacity to manage the funds.

Partner organizations must specify a Watershed project database ID number for the work they wish to carry out. This ID number may be a new one issued for the work being contemplated by the partner. Alternatively, they may use the ID number established for use by the CWSP and partner organizations seeking project development funds from it. In the Missisquoi Basin, that ID number is 12697. In the Lamoille Basin, that ID number is 12908. (See attached.)

E. Awards Process

After the CWSP has confirmed that a) the entity continues to have capacity to carry out the work and b) a project ID number has been obtained, the CWSP will develop a subgrant with the partner organization. Required materials will include a project description, project schedule, project budget, and project maps or plans.

The subgrant will take the form of a Task Award.

F. Application

- **To apply for funding as a prequalified partner in the Missisquoi Basin, fill out the application form found [here](#).**
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/be88cf1c36ec492a84ae359ef6ba7011>
- **To apply for funding as a prequalified partner in the Lamoille Basin, fill out the application form found [here](#).**
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/72f4a5ad6ba7446ab0518297dc2c2520>
- After completing the online application, prequalified partners will be asked to provide a project description and WPD ID, budget, and schedule, and any other items needed to establish a Task Award.

G. How this call for projects relates to earlier rounds

- This call for applications supplements the calls for applications made previously. Those calls for applications will continue. And applying in response to this call for applications in no way limits your ability to apply in response to other calls for applications.

H. Additional Information

Deadline: The extended deadline for responses is December 31, 2026; this deadline may be extended. New deadlines will be listed on the NRPC web site RFQ page noted below.

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

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802-524-5958

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.