

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
--FOR CLEAN WATER PROJECT ADOPTIONS--
IN THE MISSISQUOI/ROCK/PIKE
AND
LAMOILLE BASINS
ISSUED JUNE 8, 2026

PROPOSALS ACCEPTED NOW THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027 @ 5:00 PM
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/50889e80b0d14921913555a8758bb980>

A. Introduction

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 Adoptions." Adoption is the formal process by which the CWSP assumes the long-term Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and verification responsibilities for a previously implemented clean water project in exchange for the associated phosphorus reduction credits. This program aims to provide a cost-effective method for meeting phosphorus reduction targets while ensuring that established water quality projects continue to function effectively throughout their intended design life

B. Eligible Projects

To be eligible for adoption, a candidate project must satisfy the following criteria:

- **Non-Regulatory Status:** The project must be a voluntary "Clean Water Project" not compelled by any federal or state permit.
- **Database Record:** The project must have a preexisting implementation-phase record in the Watershed Projects Database (WPD).
- **Funding Source Restrictions:** The project **cannot have been funded using a Water Quality Restoration Formula Grant**. Eligible original funding sources include Capital Funds, Clean Water Funds, or WISPr Funds.
- **Historical ERP Projects:** Projects implemented via the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) between **2011 and 2014** are eligible to be added to the WPD for adoption purposes.
- **Functional Condition:** The project must be in a condition that allows for cost-effective maintenance or requires only reasonable upfront repairs to restore its function.
- **Verification Capability:** Adoption is currently limited to project types for which DEC has established a certified verification checklist.

C. Eligible Entities

Applications may be submitted by landowners, original project implementers, or current O&M responsible parties. For entities seeking to serve as long-term maintainers or landowner liaisons under a CWSP contract, NRPC typically works with its prequalified partner organizations, including:

- **Missisquoi Basin:** FCNRCD, MRBA, LCPC, VRC, LCCD, ONRCD, FNLC, FWC, Town of Westfield, NRPC, and VLT.
- **Lamoille Basin:** LCPC, CCRPC, VRC, FCNRCD, LCCD, FNLC, Town of Georgia, CNRCD, NRPC, VFWD, VLT, and WNRCD.

D. Evaluation Process

Applications are accepted on a **rolling basis**. Unlike standard implementation bids, this form serves as a "**Transfer of Stewardship**" assessment. Evaluation will be conducted by NRPC staff and the relevant Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) based on:

1. **Cost-Effectiveness:** Estimated annual phosphorus reduction relative to the cost of adoption and long-term O&M.
2. **Current Condition:** Findings from an initial verification visit conducted by a certified Tier II verifier.
3. **Maintenance Complexity:** The anticipated effort (e.g., routine mowing vs. complex sediment removal) required for stability.
4. **Co-Benefits:** Alignment with Tactical Basin Plans and provision of additional benefits such as ecosystem services or flood resilience.

E. Awards Process

The formal adoption process involves the following steps:

1. **BWQC Review:** The BWQC evaluates the project and votes on whether to approve adoption.
2. **Legal Agreements:** NRPC works with the landowner to execute a **Site Access License** (for projects under \$200,000) or a **Site Access Easement** (required for projects over \$200,000).
3. **WPD Update:** Project data is updated in the WPD to reflect current phosphorus accounting methodologies.
4. **Portfolio Integration:** The project is integrated into the CWSP's routine schedule for verification visits (typically every three years) and maintenance.

F. Application

All proposals must be submitted via the online Clean Water Project O&M Adoption Application Form at the following link:

- <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/50889e80b0d14921913555a8758bb980>
- Documentation sought in the application includes:
 - Initial Verification Checklist: Completed Survey123 or paper form
 - Site Map: Locator map depicting the project area and nearby natural resources
 - Draft Site Access Agreement: Includes a drafted O&M plan and landowner statement of intent
 - P-Calculator Results: Completed spreadsheet or FFI tool export

G. How this call for projects compares with earlier rounds

This call for applications for Project Adoptions supplements the existing NRPC expedited calls for Project Development and Implementation. While implementation grants focus on new construction, this program focuses on maintaining the state's existing "clean water assets". Applying for adoption does not limit an entity's ability to apply for other funding rounds.

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.