

COVER MEMO

TO: NRPC Plan and Policy Committee

FROM: Dean Pierce

Via: Catherine Dimitruk

DATE: August 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Statutory Conformance Review of TWO Tactical Basin Plans

This cover memo is meant to help you navigate the large amount of material you have been asked to review. Please accept my apologies for the apparent duplication. But, with two Tactical Basin Plans under consideration, I don't know if it can be avoided.

1. Memos regarding Statutory Conformance Review of the 2026 *Missisquoi* Bay and *Lamoille* Tactical Basin Plans

This **pair** of memos each include the following introductory sections:

- Purpose and Anticipated Action
- Timeline
- Key Considerations

As part of draft formal recommendations, each also includes:

- Summary Statement
- Conformance Conclusion
- A note about 'Policy Tension'
- Recommendations regarding Prioritization (specified in statute)

The primary attachment for each memo is a three-column Conformance Matrix, structured as follows:

TBP Sector & High-Priority Strategies	NRPC Regional Plan Goal, Policy, or Action	Conformance Analysis
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This structure reflects how TBPs have been reviewed in the past—in our region and in others.

2. Plan Summaries for Getting Oriented—and links to the actual TBPs.

To help you get oriented to the TBPs themselves, I am also providing two page summaries of each. Those summaries are attached. **The Plan documents themselves are posted online (owing to size) with specific links contained in the email transmitting this memo.** (The documents were not ready for posting before I left on vacation.)

3. Table of RPC/CWSP/Municipal Implementation Measures

Finally, I thought it might be helpful to create a version of the TBP implementation tables that bring to the forefront the actions that list RPCs/the CWSP/Municipalities as implementation “partners”. It too is attached.

MEMO 1 - LAMOILLE BASIN PLAN

TO: NRPC Plan and Policy Committee

FROM: Dean Pierce

DATE: August 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Statutory Review and Conformance Recommendation for the 2026 *Lamoille* River Tactical Basin Plan (Basin 7)

Purpose and Anticipated Action

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee (a later communication will be addressed to the Board) with an analysis of the 2026 Draft Lamoille River Tactical Basin Plan (TBP) regarding its conformance with the 2026 Northwest Regional Plan. Under 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d)(2)(G), the NRPC is required to consult with the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to develop a recommendation on the TBP's alignment with regional objectives. Staff recommends that the Board vote to approve the attached conformance letter and analysis for formal submission to the ANR Secretary.

Review Timeline

- April 2026: DEC Basin Planner Karen Bates meets with the Committee.
- May–July 2026: NRPC staff reviews the "Partner Draft," and offers comments. Staff later reviews Secretary draft.
- September 9, 2026: The Plan and Policy Committee reviews the finalized draft.
- September 30, 2026: Board consideration for final statutory endorsement.

Key Considerations for the Committee/Board

- **CWSP Role:** As the Clean Water Service Provide (CWSP) for Basin 7, the NRPC will play a lead role in the implementation of non-regulatory projects identified in the plan's priority strategies.
- **Flood Resilience:** The draft incorporates high-priority "nature-based solutions" from the 2025 Lamoille River Hydraulic Modeling report, specifically targeting floodplain restoration to reduce downstream flood risks in communities like Fairfax and Georgia.
- **High-Quality Water Reclassification:** The plan identifies 13 streams for B(1) fishing reclassification and two lakes (Eden and Caspian) for Class A(1) aesthetics, bolstering the protection of the region's natural infrastructure.

- **Equity Integration:** For the first time, the TBP includes a formal Social Equity framework that fulfills the NRPC’s 2026 mandate to mitigate disproportionate environmental burdens on vulnerable populations.

DRAFT FORMAL RECOMMENDATION

1. Summary Statement

The NRPC supports the **August/September** 2026 Draft Lamoille River Tactical Basin Plan as a means for achieving implementation of the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL and regional water quality and climate resilience goals. This version of the Plan places more emphasis on “Phase 4” activities. It also includes a dedicated "Watershed Planning and Social Equity" framework, which promotes equitable distributions of benefits from clean water investments. Also, the plan’s focus on nature-based solutions and hydraulic modeling directly supports the 2026 Regional Plan’s objectives for disaster resilience.

2. Conformance Conclusion

NRPC finds the **August/September** Draft of the 2026 Lamoille River (Basin 7) Tactical Basin Plan to be in direct conformance with the goals, policies, and land-use strategies of the 2026 Northwest Regional Plan. The strategies identified for agriculture, developed lands, and natural resources explicitly implement regional mandates to maintain a strong working landscape while protecting significant natural infrastructure.

3. Resolution of Policy ‘Tension’

NRPC recognizes a persistent policy tension between the TBP’s priority for river corridor protection and the Regional Plan’s mandate to promote redevelopment within historic village centers. To resolve this, NRPC supports the strategic application of "corridor in-fill" methods and the adoption of DEC’s model hazard bylaws. These tools allow for economic viability and redevelopment in designated centers provided it does not exacerbate public safety risks. We propose that nature-based solutions—such as upstream floodplain restoration—be prioritized to alleviate flood pressures on downstream historic centers like Fairfax and Georgia. (More exhaustive version below)

4. Implementation and Prioritization Recommendations

Pursuant to its statutory authority under 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d)(3)(D), the NRPC providing the following input on project scoring:

- **Maximize Phosphorus Reduction Efficiency:** Priority should continue to be given to projects that achieve the highest phosphorus-removed benefit per cost ratio,

particularly as the region shifts efforts toward the more cost-effective agricultural and river sectors.

- **Recognize Co-Benefits:** Project prioritization and selection should consider the benefits of hazard mitigation, transportation safety, and Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) when considering projects.
- **Utilize Appropriate Tools:** Project prioritization should continue to rely on tools like as the Interim Phosphorus Calculator, the STP Calculator, and Functioning Floodplain Initiative (FFI) to identify the most "TP efficient" project opportunities. Tools should be updated and expanded to keep pace with project types.

ATTACHMENT: CONFORMANCE MATRIX

Conformance Matrix: Lamoille River TBP (Basin 7) to 2026 Regional Plan

TBP Sector & High-Priority Strategies	2026 Regional Plan Goal, Policy, or Action	Conformance Analysis
Agriculture: Provide support for Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) and increase field BMP implementation (Strategy 2).	Natural Resources Policy 3c: Improve surface water quality and protect it from point and non-point nutrient loading.	Direct: TBP agricultural strategies execute the regional mandate to mitigate non-point source nutrient loading in priority subbasins like the Seymour and Browns Rivers.
Developed Lands - Stormwater: Design and implement treatment practices identified in Stormwater Master Plans (SWMPs) (Strategies 8, 9).	Natural Resources Policy 3b: Ensure development mitigates water quality effects through Low Impact Development (LID) and stormwater treatment.	Direct: The TBP's focus on implementing projects from SWMPs (e.g., in Johnson and Georgia) applies the Regional Plan's requirement for site-specific stormwater mitigation.
Developed Lands - Roads: Assist municipalities in REI updates and implementing projects to meet MRGP standards (Strategy 11).	Transportation Goal 2: Use creative approaches to maintain, improve, and expand the transportation network, and ensure it is resilient to climate change.	Direct: Upgrading road drainage to meet state standards improves the structural resilience of the region's transportation network against extreme weather.
Wastewater: Support communities in planning for and installing community onsite-wastewater systems (Strategy 17).	Infrastructure Policy 2a (Table 4): New or upgraded wastewater systems will reinforce desired settlement patterns of compact centers and growth areas.	Direct: TBP support for village-scale wastewater (e.g., Wolcott) directly enables the Regional Plan's primary goal of concentrating growth in designated centers.
Natural Resources - Rivers: Implement priority	Physical Region - Natural Resources Action 2:	Direct: TBP restoration projects fulfill the RPC's

floodplain restoration, process-based restoration, and dam removals (Strategies 21, 24, 25).	Undertake necessary regional actions to implement practices in the Lake Champlain TMDL, including river corridors.	commitment to lead regional phosphorus reduction through nature-based river corridor protection.
Disaster Resilience: Support adoption of new FEMA flood maps and model river corridor bylaws (Strategy 27).	Disaster Resilience Goal 2: Reduce infrastructure damage and the financial losses incurred by municipal, residential, and industrial sectors.	Direct: Both documents move beyond water quality to emphasize "nature-based solutions" that protect the built environment from future catastrophic flooding.
Natural Resources - Forests: Provide education on AMPs and complete erosion inventories on priority properties (Strategies 38, 40).	Land Use Policy 2b: Development in forestry areas will not diminish the viability of woodland operations or fragment high-priority forest blocks.	Supporting: TBP outreach ensures that forest management remains compatible with regional land use goals while addressing legacy erosion features.
Social Equity: Ensure safe fish consumption for subsistence anglers and equitable implementation of clean water projects (Equity Section).	Statement of Inclusion - Action Steps (Table 2): Prioritization and project selection (water, transportation) should include consideration of equity and environmental justice.	Direct: The TBP's new equity framework implements the Regional Plan's mandate to prioritize resources for communities with historically higher environmental risks.

MEMO 2- MISSISQUOI BASIN PLAN

TO: NRPC Plan and Policy Committee

FROM: Dean Pierce

DATE: August 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Statutory Conformance Review of the 2026 *Missisquoi* Bay Tactical Basin Plan (Basin 6)

Purpose and Anticipated Action

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee (a later communication will be addressed to the Board) with an analysis of the 2026 Draft Missisquoi Bay Tactical Basin Plan (TBP) regarding its conformance with the 2026 Northwest Regional Plan. Under 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d)(2)(G), the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) must develop a written analysis and formal recommendation on the TBP's conformance with regional goals in consultation with the RPC. Staff recommends that the Committee advance to the Board a recommendation to approve the attached formal recommendation and conformance analysis for submission to the ANR Secretary.

Review Timeline

- April 2026: DEC Basin Planner Karen Bates meets with the Committee.
- May–July 2026: NRPC staff reviews the "Partner Draft," and offers comments. Staff later reviews Secretary draft.
- September 9, 2026: The Plan and Policy Committee reviews the finalized draft.
- September 30, 2026: Board consideration for final statutory endorsement.

Key Considerations for the Committee / Board

- As the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for Basin 6, the NRPC will play a lead role in the implementation of non-regulatory projects identified in the plan's priority strategies.
- Phosphorus Progress: As of SFY 2025, the basin has achieved 25% of its total TMDL reduction target. The Agriculture sector leads progress at 45.5% of its goal, while the River sector remains at 0.6%, necessitating a long-term shift toward nature-based corridor protection.
- Redirection of Effort: Because the Developed Lands sector is significantly behind its interim targets (20% achievement), the TBP proposes redirecting phosphorus

reduction efforts toward more cost-effective sectors like agriculture and natural resource restoration.

DRAFT FORMAL RECOMMENDATION

1. Summary Statement

NRPC staff review supports the **August/September** draft of the 2026 Missisquoi Bay Tactical Basin Plan as a means for achieving implementation of the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL and regional water quality and climate resilience goals. This version of the Plan places more emphasis on “Phase 4 activities.” It also includes a dedicated “Watershed Planning and Social Equity” framework, which promotes equitable distributions of benefits from clean water investments. Also, the plan’s emphasis on nature-based solutions and the Flood Safety Act (Act 121) supports regional goals for climate resilience and the restoration of natural stream equilibrium.

2. Conformance Conclusion

NRPC finds the **August/September** draft of the 2026 Missisquoi Bay (Basin 6) Tactical Basin Plan is in direct conformance with the goals and policies of the 2026 Northwest Regional Plan. The strategies identified for agriculture, developed lands, and natural resources explicitly implement regional mandates to improve water quality while reinforcing traditional settlement patterns in designated Future Land Use planning areas.

3. Resolution of Policy ‘Tension’

NRPC recognizes a policy tension between the TBP’s priority for river corridor protection and the Regional Plan’s mandate to promote redevelopment in historic village centers. To resolve this, NRPC supports the application of flexible corridor in-fill standards and the use of DEC’s model hazard bylaws. We advocate for prioritizing nature-based restoration in undeveloped rural tracts to alleviate flood pressure on downstream economic hubs like Swanton and Richford.

4. Implementation and Prioritization Recommendations

Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1253(d)(3)(D), the NRPC provides the following statutory input on project scoring:

- **Maximize Phosphorus Reduction Efficiency:** Priority should continue to be given to projects that achieve the highest phosphorus-removed benefit per cost ratio.

- Recognize Co-Benefits: Project prioritization and selection should consider the benefits of hazard mitigation, transportation safety, and Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) when considering projects.
- Utilize Appropriate Tools: Project prioritization should continue to rely on tools like as the Interim Phosphorus Calculator, the STP Calculator, and Functioning Floodplain Initiative (FFI) to identify the most "TP efficient" project opportunities. Tools should be updated and expanded to keep pace with project types.

ATTACHMENT: CONFORMANCE MATRIX

Conformance Matrix: Missisquoi Bay TBP (Basin 6) to 2026 Regional Plan

TBP Sector & High-Priority Strategies	NRPC Regional Plan Goal, Policy, or Action	Conformance Analysis
Agriculture: Implement field and production area BMPs, maintain Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs), and address tile drain nutrient loss (Strategies 2, 5, 6, 7).	Natural Resources Policy 3c: Improve surface water quality and protect it from point and non-point nutrient loading.	Direct Conformance: TBP strategies to mitigate agricultural runoff directly execute the regional mandate to reduce non-point source nutrient loading in high-priority subbasins like the Rock and Pike Rivers.
Developed Lands - Stormwater: Implement practices identified in Stormwater Master Plans (SWMPs) and promote residential solutions (Strategy 9).	Natural Resources Policy 3b: Ensure development mitigates water quality effects through Low Impact Development (LID) and stormwater treatment.	Direct Conformance: The TBP's focus on implementing SWMPs and residential BMPs applies the Regional Plan's requirement for site-specific stormwater mitigation and LID.
Developed Lands - Roads: Update Road Erosion Inventories (REIs), implement MRGP projects, and address private road erosion (Strategies 11, 12, 14).	Transportation Goal 2: Use creative approaches to maintain and improve the transportation network and ensure it is resilient to climate change.	Direct Conformance: Upgrading municipal and private road drainage improves the structural resilience of the region's transportation network against extreme weather, a core goal of the Regional Plan.
Wastewater: Support community onsite-wastewater planning for villages and lakeshore systems (Strategies 16, 17).	Infrastructure Policy 2a: New or upgraded wastewater systems will reinforce desired settlement patterns of compact centers and growth areas.	Direct Conformance: TBP support for village-scale wastewater (e.g., Montgomery) directly enables the Regional Plan's primary goal of concentrating growth in designated centers.

Natural Resources - Rivers: Prioritize floodplain restoration, riparian plantings, dam removal, and culvert upgrades for habitat (Strategies 20, 21, 22, 25, 26).	Physical Region - Natural Resources Action 2: Undertake regional actions to implement practices in the Lake Champlain TMDL, including river corridors.	Direct Conformance: TBP restoration projects fulfill the RPC's commitment to lead regional phosphorus reduction through nature-based river corridor protection and restored connectivity.
Natural Resources - Wetlands: Restore degraded wetlands and protect high-elevation seeps (Strategies 34, 35).	Natural Resources Goal 1: Protect significant natural resources, including wetlands, wildlife, and wildlife habitat.	Direct Conformance: The TBP identifies specific candidate Class I wetlands (Missisquoi Delta, Franklin Bog, Fairfield Swamp) that align with regional conservation priorities.
Natural Resources - Forests: Provide outreach on Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) and erosion inventories for logging roads (Strategies 37, 38, 39).	Land Use Policy 2b: Development in forestry areas will not diminish the viability of woodland operations or fragment high-priority forest blocks.	Supporting Conformance: TBP outreach ensures that sustainable forest management remains compatible with regional land use goals while protecting water quality from legacy erosion.
Climate & Flood Resilience: Support municipal adoption of updated FEMA maps and Act 121 (Flood Safety Act) river corridor bylaws (Strategies 27, 28).	All-Hazards Disaster Resilience Element: Mitigate fluvial erosion and flood hazards through land use regulation and avoidance strategies.	Direct Conformance: Both documents move beyond water quality to emphasize "nature-based solutions" that protect the built environment from future catastrophic flooding.
Social Equity: Ensure equitable access to clean water and recreation; engage with the indigenous populations (Chapter 4 - Equity Section).	Regional Plan Table 3 (Introduction): Mitigate disproportionate burdens on environmental justice populations and ensure equitable benefits.	Direct Conformance: The TBP's new equity framework implements the Regional Plan's mandate to prioritize resources for communities identified as having higher risks for water pollution and climate impacts.

Missisquoi Bay Basin 6 Tactical Basin Plan (2026 Draft)

Plan Overview

The TBP is a five-year strategic guide developed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to protect and restore surface waters in Basin 6, which covers 58% of Lake Champlain's Missisquoi Bay watershed (the remainder is in Quebec). The plan integrates water quality assessments, identifies impaired and high-quality waters, and prescribes regulatory and voluntary strategies for restoration and protection. It fulfills state and federal requirements, including the Clean Water Act and the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL.

Key Audiences:

- State and local government officials
- Watershed partners and conservation groups
- Municipalities and landowners
- Regulatory agencies

Document Structure and Key Sections

The plan is organized into five main chapters, each with specific roles:

Executive Summary (p. 9)

- Summarizes basin conditions, major impairments, and the plan's strategic approach.
- Outlines the 41 priority strategies for the next five years, organized by land use sector (agriculture, stormwater, roads, wastewater, lakes, rivers, wetlands, forests).

What is a Tactical Basin Plan? (p. 12)

- Explains the TBP's purpose, planning cycle, and regulatory context.
- Describes how the plan integrates monitoring data and stakeholder input.

Basin Description and Conditions (Chapter 1)

- Details geography, land use (66% forest, 25% agriculture, 6% developed), and climate change impacts.
- Summarizes water quality monitoring programs and key findings for rivers, lakes, and wetlands.
- Highlights climate resilience as a cross-cutting theme.

Priority Areas for Surface Water Protection (Chapter 2)

- **Important for identifying high-value waters.**
- Lists streams and wetlands recommended for higher protection (reclassification/designation).
- Describes the process for public involvement in protection efforts.

Priority Areas for Surface Water Restoration (Chapter 3)

- **Important for understanding restoration needs.**
- Identifies impaired and altered waters, sources of impairment (nutrients, sediment, E. coli, mercury, acid, invasive species), and TMDL requirements.

- Details progress and targets for phosphorus reduction by sector (agriculture, developed lands, wastewater, rivers, forests).
- Includes tables and figures summarizing impaired waters and reduction targets.

Strategies to Address Pollution by Sector (Chapter 4)

- **Important for implementation review.**
- Breaks down strategies by sector:
 - Agriculture: Nutrient management, BMPs, targeted outreach, and funding programs.
 - Developed Lands: Stormwater management, road erosion control, private road inventories, and winter salt reduction.
 - Wastewater: Facility upgrades, septic system outreach, village wastewater solutions.
 - Natural Resources: River corridor protection, dam removal, riparian buffers, wetland and forest restoration.
- Each sector includes regulatory and voluntary approaches, technical/financial assistance, and priority geographic areas.

Implementation Tables (Chapter 5)

- **Reference for tracking progress and accountability.**
- Lists 41 priority strategies with responsible partners, funding sources, and priority areas.
- Includes progress reporting, public participation, and coordination mechanisms.

Appendices and Supporting Materials

- Appendix A: Dam inventory and removal priorities.
- Appendix B: Responsiveness summary to public comments.
- Acronyms and References: Useful for technical review.

Key Themes and Recommendations for Review

- **Phosphorus Reduction:** Central to meeting TMDL targets for Lake Champlain and Lake Carmi. Review sector-specific targets and progress (Tables 11–14, Chapter 3).
- **Climate Resilience:** Strategies to address increased flooding, erosion, and changing precipitation patterns are woven throughout (see climate change sections in Chapter 1 and flood resilience in Chapter 4).
- **Regulatory vs. Voluntary Actions:** The plan balances regulatory compliance (e.g., permits, TMDLs) with voluntary projects (e.g., buffer plantings, dam removals).
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Public participation and partner coordination are emphasized (Chapter 5, public participation section).
- **Monitoring and Data Gaps:** Ongoing monitoring priorities are identified to fill data gaps and track progress (see monitoring tables in Chapter 1 and 5).

Key items pertaining to NRPC Towns:

Town	Notable Features/Actions
Bakersfield	Kings Hill Pond (acid impairment), dam removals, stormwater mapping, road upgrades, buffer restoration
Berkshire	Trout Brook Reservoir Dam removal, impaired streams, stormwater mapping, ag BMPs
Enosburg	Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF), stormwater mapping/master plan, Giddings Brook, road upgrades, river corridor bylaws
Fairfield	Fairfield Pond/Swamp (AIS), stormwater mapping, Lake Wise, wetland restoration, river corridor bylaws
Franklin	Lake Carmi (Lake in Crisis), alum treatment, ag BMPs, wetland restoration, dam inventory
Highgate	Missisquoi Delta (wetland), WWTF, stormwater mapping, new community wastewater system
Montgomery	Trout River (Wild & Scenic), new wastewater system, stormwater mapping, river corridor bylaws
Richford	WWTF, stormwater mapping/master plan, dam inventory, buffer restoration, road upgrades
Sheldon	WWTF, stormwater mapping/master plan, road upgrades, buffer restoration
Swanton	WWTF, stormwater mapping/master plan, Green Schools, dam inventory, road upgrades

Lamoille Basin 7 Tactical Basin Plan (2026 Draft)

Plan Overview

The TBP is a five-year strategic guide developed by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to protect and restore surface waters in Basin 7, which encompasses the Lamoille River watershed in northwest Vermont and drains a major portion of Lamoille County into Lake Champlain. The plan integrates water quality assessments, identifies impaired and high-quality waters, and prescribes regulatory and voluntary strategies for restoration and protection. It fulfills state and federal requirements, including the Clean Water Act and the Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL.

Key Audiences:

Same as for Missisquoi basin; see above.

Document Structure and Key Sections

The plan is organized into five main chapters, same as for Missisquoi basin above,

Watershed Overview

- Basin 7 covers 706 square miles in northwest Vermont, draining into Lake Champlain.
- The landscape is 76% forested, 13% agricultural, and 5% developed.
- The plan addresses 38 lakes/ponds and numerous rivers/streams, with a focus on both protection and restoration.

Water Quality Status

- Most surface waters exceed Vermont Water Quality Standards (VWQS), but some are candidates for higher classification due to excellent conditions.
- Impairments are primarily due to nutrients (especially phosphorus), sediment, mercury, acid deposition, invasive species, and altered flows from dams.
- Climate change is increasing flood and drought risks, requiring adaptive management.

Protection Priorities (Chapter 2)

- Four lakes and six streams are prioritized for reclassification to higher protection status.
- The Sandbar Wetland is designated as Class I; Molly Bog and Flagg Pond Cedar Swamp are candidates.
- Public involvement is encouraged for identifying additional high-quality waters.

Restoration Priorities (Chapter 3)

- Four lakes and eight stream segments are targeted for restoration due to impairments.
- Restoration focuses on reducing phosphorus, sediment, and other pollutants, and on addressing altered flows and invasive species.
- The plan implements Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for phosphorus (Lake Champlain), mercury, and acid-impaired waters.

Sector-Based Strategies (Chapter 4)

- Agriculture: Focus on nutrient management, cover cropping, manure injection, and riparian buffer restoration, especially in high-loading subbasins (e.g., Seymour River, Browns River).

- Developed Lands & Stormwater: Implement stormwater master plans, promote green infrastructure, and address runoff from roads and private properties.
- Roads: Prioritize erosion control, culvert upgrades, and winter salt management, especially in impaired subbasins.
- Wastewater: Support facility upgrades, onsite system management, and village-scale solutions, with targeted outreach to lakeshore communities.
- Natural Resources: Promote river corridor and wetland restoration, dam removals, riparian plantings, and forest road/trail improvements.

Implementation and Accountability (Chapter 5)

- The plan lists 42 detailed strategies, each with priority areas, partners, and funding sources.
- Progress is tracked through the Clean Water Initiative Program and reported annually.
- Public participation and partner coordination are emphasized throughout the planning and implementation process.

Appendices and Supporting Materials

- Appendix A. Dams: Inventory of dams in Basin 7, including hazard ratings and ecological value of removal. Useful for understanding infrastructure and restoration opportunities.
- Appendix B. Responsiveness Summary: Summarizes public comments received on the draft plan and the Agency's responses. Important for transparency and understanding stakeholder concerns..
- Acronyms and References: Useful for technical review.

Key Themes and Recommendations for Review

- Comprehensive Assessment & Priorities: Detailed evaluation of water quality, land use, and high-quality versus impaired waters (see Chapters 2 & 3 priority lists).
- Phosphorus Reduction: Focused on meeting Lake Champlain TMDL targets across agriculture, developed lands, roads, wastewater, and forests (evaluating progress and regulatory requirements).
- Sector-Based Strategies: Clear implementation pathways across all sectors, detailing partner roles, feasibility, and clarity (Chapter 4).
- Climate & Flood Resilience: Integration of adaptation, nature-based solutions, and updated regulations like the Flood Safety Act woven throughout.
- Implementation & Accountability: Review of the 42 priority strategies, geographic focus, funding, and tracking via dashboards (Chapter 5, Tables 19–26).
- Equity & Public Engagement: Commitment to environmental justice, community participation, and stakeholder input across basin projects.
- Gaps & Supporting Data: Identifying monitoring, data, and partner capacity needs, utilizing Appendices A (Dams) and B (Responsiveness Summary) for context.

Key items pertaining to NRPC Towns:

Georgia: Focus on Silver Lake protection, stormwater management, flood resilience, and dam safety. **Fairfax:** Emphasis on wastewater facility upgrades, stormwater and road erosion projects, Silver Lake, and floodplain management. **Fletcher:** Opportunities for river and floodplain restoration (notably Stones Brook), dam safety, and participation in road and stormwater initiatives.

Strategies Where Involvement of NRPC/CWSP or municipalities is Proposed

Sector	Strategies	Partners
Developed Lands - Stormwater Strategies	Complete stormwater Master Plans where supported by ANR.	NRCDs, RPCs, municipalities, FNLC, MRBA
ditto	Design and implement stormwater treatment practices identified in stormwater mapping reports and Stormwater Master Plans.	NRCDs, RPCs, VTrans, municipalities, FNLC, MRBA
ditto	Promote campaigns to raise awareness of residential stormwater management solutions.	NRCDs, RPCs, municipalities, FNLC, MRBA
Developed Lands - Roads Strategies	Assist municipalities in updating REI inventories and prioritizing and implementing roads projects to meet the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP).	RPCs, NRCDs, NVDA, VTrans
ditto	Provide support for towns in developing capital budget plans and applying for Better Roads grants and Grant-in-Aid funding to maximize the effectiveness of projects for improving water quality.	NRCDs, NRPC, NVDA, VTrans
ditto	Complete private road erosion inventories and address private road erosion issues that are identified.	NRCDs, NRPC, NVDA, watershed groups, DEC, LPMPP
ditto	Support municipal investment in winter maintenance technology to reduce use of salt, including ability to adjust salt distribution, measure pavement temperature and plows with multiple sort segments.	Lake Champlain Sea Grant, RPCs
Wastewater Strategies	Support communities in planning for and installing community onsite-wastewater systems.	NRPC, NVDA, LCRPC
Natural Resources – Rivers Strategies	Complete river hydraulic models with DEC Rivers Program consultation.	LCRPC, DEC, NRPC
ditto	Remove obsolete dams in the watershed.	NRCDs, LCRPC, VNRC, CWSP, watershed groups
ditto	Scope, design, and implement high-priority culvert replacements prioritized by AOP work group.	NRPC, LCRPC, NRCDs, Towns, VFWD, USFWS, NVDA, MRBA
ditto	Provide technical support to towns in adopting new FEMA flood maps using state model inundation bylaw or similarly protective language.	NRPC, NVDA, LCRPC, CCRPC, LCSG
ditto	Enhance community understanding of river and floodplain processes and role in protecting flood resilience.	LCSG, TNC, DEC, VRC, RPCs, NRCDs
Natural Resources – Wetlands Strategies	Support outreach to local communities around updated wetland maps.	DEC, NRCDs, RPCs, AAFM, NVDA, NRPC
ditto	Increase local capacity for designing and implementing low tech wetland restoration projects.	NRCDs, DEC, AAFM, NVDA, CWSPs, LTPBR Network
Natural Resources – Forest Strategies	Implement forest road and trail practices identified through inventories.	NRCDs, FPR, NRCS, CWSPs, watershed groups

The strategies identified for RPC, CWSP, and/or municipal involvement emphasize coordination, technical assistance, project development, and local implementation across developed lands and natural resource sectors.

RPCs and municipalities are central to stormwater planning and implementation, road erosion inventories, MRGP compliance, capital budgeting, and adoption of flood-resilience protections.

CWSP involvement is concentrated in natural resources strategies, including dam removal, low-tech wetland restoration, and forest road and trail practices, where partners can help advance priority water quality projects from assessment through design and implementation.