



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR CLEAN WATER PROJECTS

IN THE OTTER CREEK, LEWIS CREEK, AND LITTLE OTTER CREEK BASINS

PROPOSALS DUE February 8, 2023

1. Introduction

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC), in its role as the Clean Water Service (CWSP) Provider for Basin 3, the Otter Creek, Lewis Creek, and Little Otter Creek watersheds, is issuing a request for proposals for projects that improve water quality in Basin 3. The request here modifies an RFP that was released on December 7, 2022 to incorporate revised [Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy](#), respond to additional input from our Basin Water Quality Council and DEC, and extend the deadline for applicants. We provided the additional timeline to provide applicants with the ability to consult with DEC staff on potential project impacts on natural resources, like wetlands or river corridors and to give DEC 30 days to review project impacts.

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 approximately \$1,000,000 available to fund eligible projects this year.

2. 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 controlled by the [Clean Water Initiative Program FY23 funding policy](#).



a. Eligible Project Types

- i. sub-jurisdictional practices related to developed lands
- ii. River corridor restoration and protection
- iii. Floodplain restoration and protection
- iv. Wetland restoration and protection
- v. Riparian and lakeshore corridor protection and restoration
- vi. Natural woody buffers associated with riparian, lakeshore, and wetland protection and restoration
- vii. Forestry projects that provide water quality protection and restoration beyond the requirements of the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation Acceptable Management Practices
- viii. Projects on agricultural land if the farm in question does not meet the minimum eligibility criteria for the Required Agricultural Practices to apply
- ix. Natural resource restoration projects on a jurisdictional farm if confirmed by the VT Agency of Agriculture

b. Eligible Project Phases - complete definitions of project phases can be found in Appendix D of the [Clean Water Initiative Program FY23 funding policy](#).

- i. Project Identification and Assessment - Compiling a list of potential projects within a watershed or municipality
- ii. Project Development - scoping work to determine feasibility, constraints, and overall suitability of a project.
- iii. Preliminary Design - efforts needed to develop a 30% engineering design
- iv. Final Design - securing landowner access agreement and developing a 100% design or equivalent
- v. Implementation - project construction or its equivalent

3. Eligible Entities

The CWSP is authorized to provide grant funding to non-profit watershed organizations, natural resource conservation districts, other non-profit organizations, and municipalities. Projects not sponsored by one of these entities may still be eligible for funding via contracted services. If such projects are selected, the determination of how such services would be contracted will be made by the CWSP.

4. Evaluation Process

All projects except Developed Land projects will be evaluated for cost effectiveness using the [Interim Phosphorus Reduction Calculator Tool v1.0](#) developed by the DEC. Developed Land projects will be evaluated using the [DEC Stormwater Treatment Practice Calculator](#). A list of eligible projects will be presented to the CWSPs Basin Water Quality Council ([BWQC](#)). The BWQC meets at least quarterly to evaluate projects and recommend qualified projects for advancement. The BWQC will finalize a scoring system by January 25, but we anticipate the criteria below will be weighted



similarly to what was in the December 7 version of this RFP. The BWQC will judge projects based on their:

- cost/benefit as determined by the Phosphorus Reduction Calculator Tool,
- likelihood of success of the project at reducing phosphorus loading
- potential co-benefits of the project.

Likelihood of success will be evaluated based upon landowner relations, the demonstrated ability of the sponsoring organization to carry out projects, and the likelihood that the final project will be implemented and maintained. Possible co-benefits may include, but are not limited to:

- Environmental justice concerns,
- Other pollutants addressed by the project
- Ecosystem services and climate resilience
- Recreation and community enhancement
- Education opportunities
- Economic growth opportunities

5. Awards Process

Determination of project awards will take place at a BWQC meeting. Once the BWQC identifies projects for funding and the CWSP confirms the project's eligibility, they will take one of the two paths below.

- For projects with a sponsor that is an eligible entity for subgrants, 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 with the sponsoring entity. If not, the project will follow the second path.
- For projects lacking an eligible 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. All services will be procured via subcontracts.

6. Application

To apply, please fill out a [project application form](#) or contact the CWSP for a pdf version of the form. In addition to answering the questions in the form, you will need to upload the following documents:

- Map of Project Area
- Completed DEC [Interim Phosphorus Reduction Calculator Tool v1.0](#) , **or** for Developed Land Projects, report from [DEC Stormwater Treatment Practice Calculator](#). (*Contact CWSP for assistance if needed*)
- Demonstration of sponsoring entity's capacity to complete the project including resumes of key individuals and examples of prior, similar projects.
- Natural Resources Screening Form (Appendix A pp. 34-42 in [Clean Water Initiative Program FY23 funding policy](#). Required only for projects in preliminary design, final design, or implementation stage)
- Detailed project budget



- Detailed project timeline
- Letter of support from landowner (if applicable)

7. Additional Information

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

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