



To: Otter Creek BWQC
From: Otter Creek CWSP
RE: Halnon/Wainwright Dam proposed project
Date: April 19, 2026

The Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District has applied for funding through the Otter Creek Clean Water Service Provider for removal of a partially failed dam called the Wainwright Dam located on Halnon Brook in Salisbury, VT. The CWSP recommends a project score of 42 or 62 out of 100 based on the BWQC's scoring rubric as described below..

The funding request is for \$252,888 and the estimated Phosphorus reduction according to the Functioning Floodplain Initiative tool is 7.8 kg/year. This P-reduction efficiency gives a cost score between 30 and 50 points out of 70 in our scoring rubric; the variation comes from whether dam removal should be considered as having a 10-year or 15+-year design life.

The applicant self-scored the co-benefits of the project. The CWSP agrees that the self reported score is accurate. The applicant's scoring would result in an additional 4.4 points out of 20 in the BWQC's scoring rubric.

The project has a high likelihood of success. It is supported by the landowner and has statewide and local advocates. Final design has been completed by a reputable engineering firm, SLR Consulting. On April 6 there was a site visit for the project. Attendees included District staff, VNRC, design engineers and permitting authorities from DEC, Fish and Wildlife, and Army Corps. While permits are not in hand at this time, and the stream alteration permit may require some back and forth, the consensus was that the project could be permitted. The CWSP recommends a score of 8 out of 10 in the likelihood of success category.

The CWSP recommends approval of funding for this project. The CWSP has approximately \$650,000 available this year and we anticipate receiving more in the next fiscal year. We are not aware of large projects on the verge of requesting funding, and therefore do not anticipate missed opportunity costs.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR CLEAN WATER PROJECTS

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

PROPOSALS DUE June 14, 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. Any proposed projects must be consistent with the [Clean Water Initiative Program \(CWIP\) Funding Policy](#). Applicants must 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 \$650,000 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 by reducing phosphorus loading. Projects must not be required by a permit (10 V.S.A, 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 [CWIP 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 [CWIP FY23 funding policy](#).

- i. Project Identification and Assessment - Identify areas within a watershed or municipality with the highest contributions of pollutants and recommend potential clean water projects/best management practices (BMPs).
- ii. Project Development - scoping work to determine feasibility, constraints, and overall suitability for implementing a project.
- iii. Preliminary Design - review and stakeholder engagement resulting in a 30% engineering design.
- iv. Final Design - securing landowner access agreement and developing a 100% design or equivalent.
- v. Implementation - mobilization of effort to install the clean water project including putting work out to bid for contractors, securing all remaining permits, sourcing materials, and installing the project in alignment with designs, permits, and other programmatic guidance

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. Projects will be scored according to the following criteria:

- Phosphorus reduction cost efficiency (70 points)
- Likelihood of project success (10 Points)
- Co-benefits as defined by the [BWQC co-benefits policy](#) (20 points)

Potential co-benefits include:

- Flood resilience/hazard mitigation
- Education
- Ecosystem improvement
- Local pollution prevention
- Community support
- Recreation and community
- Environmental justice

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.
- Once funding is awarded, applicants should anticipate completing projects before June 30, 2025

6. Required Application Materials

To apply, please submit the following documents by email to the Contact below:

1. [Cover Page](#) - please use the link provided here or request a pdf of the Cover Page link from the CWSP.
2. Detailed Project Description (2 pages max.). Description should provide reviewers sufficient information to understand the nature, stage, likelihood of success of the project. It should also address any co-benefits beyond phosphorus reduction the project may have as defined by the [Otter Creek BWQC co-benefits policy](#).



3. Map of Project Area including latitude and longitude. Applicants may use the [Vermont ANR Natural Resources Atlas](#) to generate maps. Contact the CWSP if assistance is needed.
4. 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*)
5. Demonstration of sponsoring entity's capacity to complete the project including resumes of key individuals and examples of prior, similar projects. (5 pages max.)
6. Completed Natural Resources Screening Form ([Appendix A: CWIP Project Eligibility Screening Form](#)) of the CWIP funding policy. Required only for projects in preliminary design, final design, or implementation stage)
7. Detailed project budget. Budget should be itemized by Task with anticipated costs for personnel, equipment, materials, subcontracted services, and other costs as appropriate for the specific project.
8. Detailed project timeline broken down by Task or Milestone as identified in [Appendix B Project Types Table](#) of the CWIP Funding Policy
9. Letter of support from landowner (if applicable)
10. Any other relevant documents (e.g. preliminary engineering report, site photos, bid documents, etc.)

7. Contact

For additional information, to submit an application, or if you have any questions, please contact

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