



## MEMO

**TO:** Otter Creek BWQC

**FROM:** Otter Creek CWSP Staff

**DATE:** June 20, 2023 *Revised July 13, 2023*

**RE:** FY23 Round 2 Proposals Received

*Revisions July 13. Numbers for the Middlebury College project have been updated to reflect additional information received and feedback from VT DEC. Those revisions have also led to changes in Table 2.*

The Round 2 call for project proposals for the Otter Creek CWSP closed on Wednesday June 14th. We received four proposals: two for projects and two for identification and assessment. Subsequently, one of the implementation proposals was withdrawn as they received funding from another source. The CWSP recommends funding all proposals. The rest of this memo will provide background information on each of the remaining proposals, links to more information on the proposals, and a status update on CWSP funding for FY23.

TABLE 1: Summary of proposed round 2 projects

Project Description	Funding Requested	Estimated P reductions (kg/yr)	Tentative Co-benefit Score (out of 20)	CWSP Recommendation
Floodplain Restoration - Middlebury College	\$67,200	7.4	7.4	Fund
Wainwright Dam Removal	Withdrawn			
Project Identification - Shoreham	\$20,000	NA	NA	Fund
Project Identification - Vergennes	\$24,000	NA	NA	Fund



The top scoring project was a proposal for [floodplain restoration on lands owned by Middlebury College](#). The project would restore approximately two acres of floodplain-clayplain wetland that drains to the Otter Creek. The wetland is at the terminus of an agricultural ditch that drains 250 acres of active agricultural land. The requested funding would be for completion of a planting plan and actual planting. The Natural Resources Inventory is complete and no significant impediments were identified. Riparian buffer plantings are listed as a project type exempt from State Historic Preservation Review. Co-benefits for the project include minimal reduction of flood impacts or hazards, potential for educational benefit because of the association with the college, reduction of runoff and erosion, restoration of habitat, promotion of native species and removal of invasive species, promotion of biodiversity, and reduction of sediment loading.

The second project that would directly lead to reduction of phosphorus loading is the Wainwright Dam removal that the BWQC has reviewed previously. Project applicants withdrew the proposal after receiving implementation funding from the Vermont Emergency Management Flood Resilient Communities Fund.

The third and fourth proposals are for project identification and assessment. [The Town of Shoreham](#) requested funding to identify and assess five projects with the intent of developing the three most feasible for future funding. [The City of Vergennes](#) requested funding for identification of 15 projects, assessment of six of those, and development of three projects for future CWSP funding. The Vergennes project would build on a now outdated Stormwater Master Plan; the CWSP believes Shoreham would be starting from scratch.

Identification and development projects can not be evaluated based on phosphorus reduction or co-benefits because of the speculative nature of the projects. They are however eligible for CWSP funding at the discretion of the BWQC. The CWSP formula grant included \$64,847 specifically for project identification and development (7% of the overall allocation), but recognized that requests for such funding were likely to be higher in the early years of the program. The BWQC funded an identification and development project in West Rutland during the first round of funding.



TABLE 2: Status of CWSP funding and P load reductions

	Dollars	P Reductions (kg/yr)	P Reductions Developed (kg/yr)
At CWSP Contract	\$930,594	27.77 (target)	
Allocated Rd. 1	\$107,359	10.5	60.95
Allocated Rd. 2 (assuming all projects funded)	\$111,200	7.4	
Remaining from year 1	\$712,035	9.87	