

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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September 28, 2018

Dear Town Selectboard Chairs,

As you are aware, since the passing of Vermont's Clean Water Act (Act 64) in 2015 there has been a statewide push to improve the health and quality of Vermont's waters. This has included the establishment of the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP), which addresses road-related runoff impacting waterways. As a part of the development of the MRGP, new municipal road practice standards will be developed to mitigate stormwater-related erosion, which all towns in the state must adhere to by 2036.

Due to recent state-wide regulations, including the establishment of MRGP, many funding sources are now available to provide municipalities with resources to help improve their infrastructure, and to protect our state waters from unregulated nonpoint source runoff, including nutrient and sediment pollution. Many projects in your town are eligible for grant programs. These upcoming grant opportunities, and other funding options available to support projects designed to improve the health and quality of Vermont waters through education and outreach, are outlined below.

ACRPC would like to assist your town in both the identification of potential projects, and the grant applications for any of the grants listed below. If you are interested in identifying potential projects or applying for funding to fix existing stormwater, invasive species, or related water quality problems (in this cycle or in the future) please contact me as soon as possible.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Allie Dinwiddie

*Water Quality Planner*  
ACRPC

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting



## Upcoming Grant Opportunities

### Transportation Alternatives Grant Program, SFY 2019:

**Deadline:** October 17<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

**Maximum Award:** \$300,000

**Match:** 80% Federal/ 20% Local split

The Transportation Alternatives Program specifies that all program grant funds for SFY18 and SFY19 are reserved for municipalities for environmental mitigation projects relating to stormwater and highways, including eligible salt and sand shed projects.

Grants funded through this program must have a transportation link. The enabling legislation that determines eligibility follows:

“Any environmental mitigation activity, including pollution prevention and pollution abatement activities and mitigation to address stormwater management, control, and water pollution prevention or abatement related to highway construction or due to highway runoff.”

All projects must be developed in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations, and in accordance to the guidelines published in the *Municipal Assistance Bureau – Local Projects Guidebook for Municipally Managed Projects*. All applications require a letter of support from their Regional Planning Commission.

This is a reimbursement program, municipalities must submit invoices for completed work to be reimbursed appropriately up to the grant amount. All projects must be completed or all federal funds will be required to be paid back.

For more information about the program, project eligibility, or application, please visit their website at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/local-projects/transport-alt>.

### Better Roads Program, SFY 2020:

**Deadline:** October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:30pm

**Maximum Award:** Dependent upon category (*see below*)

**Match:** 20% Local split

The Vermont Better Roads Program’s goal is to promote the use of Best Management Practices for erosion control and maintenance techniques that save money while protecting and enhancing Vermont’s Lakes and streams. The grant funds are provided by the VT Agency of Transportation with partnership through the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

There are four categories of grants (A, B, C and D) outlined below:

- **Category A:** grants are for inventories of roadway erosion and/or stormwater management issues in compliance with the Municipal Roads General Permit protocol, and capital budget planning, max award \$8,000
- **Category B:** grants are for correction of road related erosion and/or construction of stormwater management projects, max award \$20,000
- **Category C:** grants are for the correction of streambank and/or slope related erosion problems, max award \$40,000

- **Category D:** grants are for replacement or installation of roadway structures/culverts equal to or larger than 36" as part of the project, max award \$60,000

More information regarding the program and application can be found on their website at <http://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>.

**Lake Champlain Basin Program – Request for Pre-proposals, SFY 2020:**

**Deadline:** November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Maximum Award:** Range from \$25,000 up to \$300,000

**Match:** Non-federal match is not required

The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) is pleased to announce a Request for Pre-Proposals (RFP) for projects to further the mission of the program and address tasks in the comprehensive Lake Champlain management plan, *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin*. LCBP is particularly interested in funding projects that address:

- Research or innovative demonstration projects that reduce pollution to Lake Champlain (nutrients, de-icing agents, and emerging contaminants of concern).
- Research or implementation projects that use publicly available datasets to create outputs leading to improved water quality.
- Projects that fill knowledge gaps or improve diversity of native aquatic and riparian species in the Lake Champlain Basin.
- Projects that quantify benefits of existing best management practices or optimize existing practice for pollution reduction goals.
- Projects that research and support sustainable agricultural practices that address water quality concerns and are economically sustainable.

Applicants are required to submit a two-page conceptual pre-proposal, and a subset of pre-proposal applicants will be invited to submit an eight-page full proposal. Grant recipients will be selected from the pool of full proposals, and can expect to begin in early 2020. To learn more about the program, guidelines or eligibility, please visit their website: <http://www.lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/request-for-proposals-rfps/>

**Lake Champlain Basin Program – Local Implementation Grants, SFY 2019:**

**Deadline:** November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:30PM

**Maximum Award:**

**Match:** Non-federal match is not required

Local Implementation Grants support local community involvement in the implementation of the comprehensive management plan, *Opportunities for Action: An Evolving Plan for the Future of the Lake Champlain Basin* ([plan.lcbp.org](http://plan.lcbp.org)). Four categories of grants (A, B, C, and D) are available:

- (A) Pollution Prevention & Wildlife Habitat Conservation:** grants are for projects addressing priorities identified in *Opportunities for Action* such as reducing nonpoint source inputs of phosphorus; reducing toxic substance inputs from urban and/or agricultural areas; improving

wetland, riparian, or aquatic habitats; or implementing of flood resilience practices, max award \$20,000.

**(B) Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention:** grants are for projects preventing introduction of aquatic invasive species to and/or from the Lake Champlain Basin and limiting the impact and spread of these species, max award \$15,000.

**(C) Education and Outreach:** small and large grants are for education and outreach projects to inform students and/or adults about key Lake Champlain Basin issues identified in the management plan *Opportunities for Action* to develop awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment on a Basin issue.

1) Small education and outreach grants have a max award of \$10,000.

2) Large education and outreach grants have a minimum award of \$15,000 and a max award of \$50,000.

**(D) Organizational Support:** grants are for increasing organizational capacity and long-term effectiveness of watershed organizations working to implement elements of *Opportunities for Action*, max award \$4000.

More information regarding the program and grant applications can be found at the following website:

<http://www.lcbp.org/about-us/grants-rfps/request-for-proposals-rfps/>

### **Ecosystem Restoration Grants, SFY 2019:**

**Deadline:** January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 4:30pm

**Maximum Award:** Dependent on available funding, typical budgets range between \$20,000 - \$75,000

**Match:** MS4's 50% required local split; all other applicants incentivized match

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Clean Water Initiative Program administers the Ecosystem Restoration Grants. The goal of the program is to support projects that will restore and protect Vermont's rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands from nutrient and sediment pollution.

In order to be eligible, projects must address issues beyond flooding problems, mitigation, and drainage. Projects must provide for nutrient, bacteria or sediment pollutant reductions beyond general outreach and education. The ERP strongly favors eligible projects that are identified in VTDEC Tactical Basin Plans and associated river corridor plans or stormwater master plans. Applicants must contact their respective VTDEC Watershed Coordinator during the preparation of proposals. The Watershed Coordinators will help to ensure that project proposals target major problem areas that are contributing to surface water pollution. Please note each application can only containing one project, although each project may contain multiple phases. For more information, please visit the DEC's grants page here:

<http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/grants#Ecosystem%20Restoration>.