

WPP NEWSLETTER

March 2024



THE WATERSHED PLANNING PROGRAM

Greetings from the [Watershed Planning Program](#) team! At WPP, we support clean water project implementation in the State in a variety of ways. One of the main tools we use to organize clean water project prioritization is through watershed management plans, called Tactical Basin Plans. These plans summarize current water quality conditions and prioritize surface water protection and restoration. This newsletter issue is short, but has updates, a summit reminder, and more. Enjoy!



REMINDER: CLEAN WATER SERVICE NETWORK SUMMIT

The Clean Water Service Network Summit is happening on 5 April! We can no longer guarantee complimentary lunch for future registrants, but we still invite you to [RSVP](#) and partake in the summit. It will take place at St. Leo's Hall (109 Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05676), from 8:30 AM to around 3:00 PM. You can view a summary of the agenda below or a [detailed agenda](#) on our website. We hope to see you there!



SUMMIT AGENDA

(8:30 - 9:00am) Arrive, refreshments, mingle

(9:00am) Welcome and Keynote Speaker Introduction - Neil Kamman, Water Investment Division Director

(9:00 - 9:15am) Keynote Speaker - Secretary Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources

(9:15 - 10:00am) Panel Discussion: The vision of Act 76 of 2019 and where are we now?

(10:00 - 11:00am) Basin Slam: 7-10 minutes from each basin

(11:00 - 11:15am) Coffee Break

(11:15am - 12:00pm) Progress Towards Targets and System Capacity

- (11:15 - 11:30am) DEC presentation of system wide progress in relation to targets
- (11:30am - 12:00pm) Capacity Presentation and Discussion

(12:00 - 1:00pm) Lunch

(1:00 - 2:00pm) Project Topic Updates - "Slam style"

(2:00 - 3pm) Problem solving panel discussion – Project Identification and Development



BASIN 17 (MEMPHREMAGOG) UPDATE

The [Vermont Housing and Conservation Board](#) serves as the Clean Water Service Provider for the Lake Memphremagog Basin. Lake Memphremagog has a phosphorus TMDL that we approved by the EPA, which necessitates long-term investments of both monetary and staff resources to reduce phosphorus runoff into the watershed. The Basin 17 CWSP and their respective Basin Water Quality Council have been working together to strategically direct these resources towards projects that will have a substantial impact on meeting this TMDL and the combined target of 91.8 kg for FY 2023 and 2024 as directed by DEC.

The Memphremagog Watershed is unique in that it spans across national borders. The majority of the lake is contained in Quebec, and many residents rely on it for their water supply. Because of this, many have a vested interest in improving water quality of the lake, and efforts need to be coordinated not only between partner organizations in the U.S., but also in Quebec.

VHCB so far has had two funding rounds for this program, with the third recently closing. The organizations that have submitted proposals to date are the Memphremagog Watershed Association and the Orleans Natural Resources Conservation District with a total of \$271,000 awarded for seven projects. The project types that have been selected for funding include stream, floodplain, and wetland restoration, riparian buffer planting, and project development. Most of these projects have been for designs and project development, and the combined phosphorus reductions are estimated to be 111 kg/yr.

The two implementation-phase projects that have been funded are a riparian buffer planting and a multi-faceted restoration project on a retired farm (Farrow Farm) owned by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. This site is under perpetual conservation protection and stewardship, to be managed as a public access area following completion of the restoration activities. The first phase is mostly complete, with the designs for the second phase to be completed by next January. This is an exciting, holistic project that addresses not only phosphorus runoff but several co-benefits as well. Because of this project, many adjacent landowners have expressed interest in seeing restoration work done on their properties, and it is expected that this project will lead to future opportunities down the road.

NOFA-VT: WINTER CONFERENCE KEYNOTE & UPCOMING SYMPOSIUM

The [Northeast Organic Farming Association-VT](#) Winter Conference took place on 17-18 February. Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin provided the [keynote meditation](#), now released to the public, during which he “focused on what is possible when, together, we shift our attention to the source of our current food system’s failures, calling us to reframe the narrative of communities struggling for food sovereignty as an opportunity for an intellectual insurgency centered on rethinking the concepts of ownership, control, and governance in agriculture.”

NOFA is also hosting a [Virtual Symposium](#) on 29-30 March. The symposium will feature seven workshops covering important topics in agriculture and our food systems.



VNRC: WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

The [Vermont Natural Resources Council](#) is hosting a [film festival](#) of short films about stewardship, recreation, and environmental resilience. It will take place at Woodstock Town Hall Theatre in Woodstock, VT on 4 April 2024 and at Main Street Landing in Burlington on 18 April 2024. Doors open for both shows at 5:30 pm and the program begins at 6:30 pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to Nathanael Johns for their contribution to this month’s newsletter. If you have any information or materials that you would like to present in a future newsletter, reach out to Jack at Jack.Reed@Vermont.gov.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

If you speak a language other than English or need reasonable accommodation for effective communication, [ANR offers free language assistance](#) for its programs and materials. You may also upload this document into [Google Translate](#) for a translation.