

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2020

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CHITTENDEN COUNTY RPC TO ASSIST STATE TACTICAL BASIN PLANNING

Winooski, VT – The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is pleased to announce expanded outreach and services to municipalities and the public to enhance water quality and tactical basin planning efforts for the Lamoille River (Basin 7). “As Watershed Planners, we value the role regional planning commissions play given their strong ties to the municipalities. This collaboration makes our plans stronger and more tailored to the communities the plans are written to serve,” said Danielle Owczarski of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The work is supported through a grant provided by the DEC. Activities began this fall and will continue through July 2021.

Tactical Basin Plans help identify and focus efforts needed to protect or restore specific watersheds through the state. Owczarski is leading the update of the Basin 7 Tactical Basin Plan (TBP) for the DEC. CCRPC staff will assist the Watershed Planner by facilitating enhanced municipal and public input during the drafting process so that the TBP accurately reflects local concerns and priorities. Basin Plans act as an umbrella for planning initiatives, including Stormwater Master Planning and River Corridor Planning, to strategically address regional watershed priorities. A formal draft of the TBP is anticipated to be released in the fall of 2021. For more information on the Tactical Basin Planning process, please visit this [story map](#).

The CCRPC will work with its member municipalities to encourage efforts to improve water quality. These may include recommendations for zoning bylaw protections (such as river corridor protections), assistance with securing funding for project development and implementation, or helping towns comply with the recently released DEC General Permit 3-9050, aka the “developed lands” permit.

Lastly, the grant provides funding for CCRPC to participate in formative meetings and trainings for the planned Basin Water Quality Councils for the Northern Lake Champlain and Winooski basins. These Councils will be formed in 2021 to begin to work with each basin’s designated Clean Water Service Provider to identify and prioritize non-regulatory water quality projects (primarily in natural resources restoration) to help further reduce phosphorus loading into Lake Champlain and/or Lake Memphremagog.

The CCRPC provides planning and technical assistance in the areas of community development, transportation, natural resources, housing, economic development, and emergency management to the 19 municipalities of Chittenden County and to the public, while remaining consistent with federal and state requirements. The collaboration between the CCRPC, Chittenden County municipalities and other related resources agencies results in the development and implementation of plans that support sustainable development and improve the region’s environment and quality of life. For more information about the CCRPC, please visit www.ccrpcvt.org.

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