



Co-Benefit Scoring for Memphremagog Basin Water Quality Council

Project Selection Process

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB)

Finalized: **DATE**

| Co- Benefit Criteria   | Score | Score Maximum |
|--|-------|---------------|
| <b>Environmental Justice:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritizes vulnerable communities (SVI flags of project location)<br/>1 point: 1-3 SVI flags<br/>2 points: 4-5 SVI Flags<br/>3 points: 6-9 SVI flags</li> <li>• 1 Point: Involves community stakeholders</li> <li>• 1 Point: Honor traditional ecological knowledge</li> <li>• 1 Point: Improves access to clean water and food</li> <li>• 1 Point: Protects sacred resources and indigenous land</li> </ul>   |       | Max 7         |
| <b>Clean Water and Sanitation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 point for reduction/treatment of each pollutant:<br/>Nitrogen<br/>Sediments<br/>Road Salts<br/>Microplastics/plastics<br/>Heavy Metals<br/>Pathogens<br/>Sewage/wastewater<br/>Contaminants of emerging concern</li> </ul>  |       | Max 8         |
| <b>Ecosystem Services and Climate Resiliency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon sequestration</li> <li>• Flood resiliency and reduction</li> <li>• Reduced runoff and erosion</li> <li>• Supports native pollinator species               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes biodiversity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reduces spread of aquatic invasive species</li> <li>• Improves terrestrial and aquatic habitat connectivity</li> <li>• Addresses high risk areas due to past environmental degradation</li> </ul> |       | Max           |
| <b>Recreation and Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Point: Inclusive of accessibility of natural areas for local communities</li> <li>• 1 Point: Aesthetics and Green Space (Mental Health Benefits)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Points: Adds or increases outdoor recreation opportunities</li> <li>• Increasing Urban Tree Canopy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |       | Max 4?        |
|  |       |               |

**Commented [KL1]:** Should all these pollutants be listed for Memph? Any to add or take away?

**Commented [KL2]:** How do we want to score each of these co-benefits?  
Option 1: each co-benefit included could be 1 point.  
Option 2: each co-benefit could have different tiers of points, for example: Reduces runoff and erosion- 1 point for 1-3 acres influenced. 2 points for 3-5 acres, 3 points for 5+ acres.  
Additional options?

**Commented [KL3]:** Do we need this in the Memph watershed? Not much that is considered Urban- although tree canopy on beaches or other recreational areas could be included.



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 point: Includes watershed education and awareness of environmental problems             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 points: Promotes Trust among Communities, Scientists, and Agencies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Max 3</b></p> |
| <p><b>Economic Growth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job Creation, Retention, and Workforce Development             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Point: temporary job creation</li> <li>• 2 Points: permanent job creation                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Points: workforce training</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Max 5</b></p> |
| <p><b>Bonus points for other criteria not captured above</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-3 points [ this must be clearly defined; be used sparingly and be equally available/applicable to every application)</li> </ul>   |   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Max 3</b></p> |
|   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCORE</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAX</b></p>   |

**Commented [KL4]:** The DEC report also includes: promote sustainable energy practices, carbon reduction via GSI, and Increased property values as three additional categories in economic growth. I'm didn't include these as they didn't feel relevant, but certainly open to adding those in here if others see value in those co-benefits for the watershed.