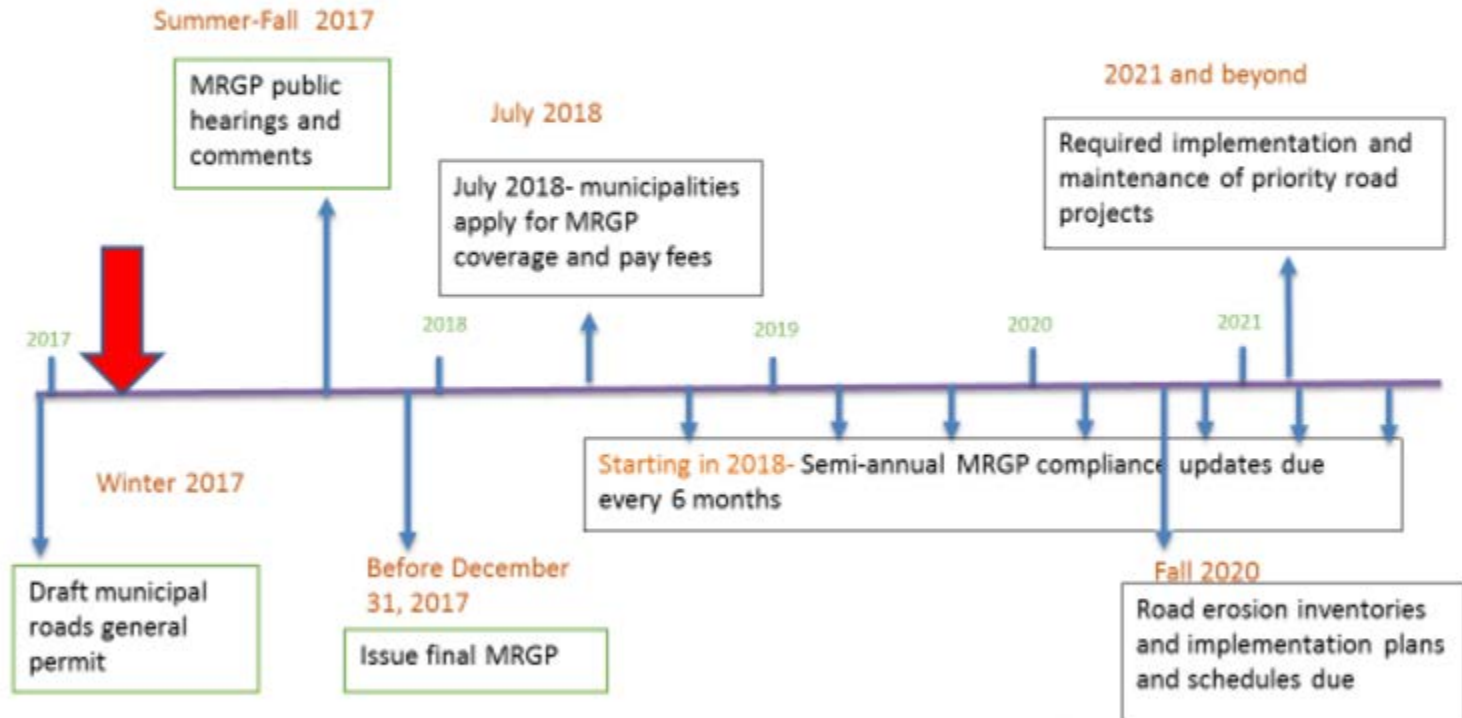


Clean Water Advisory Committee

Two Rivers-Ottawa-Quebec Regional Commission

March 28, 2017

MRGP Timeline of Deliverables 2017-forward



VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
STORMWATER PROGRAM

Basics

- Priority Road Segments (hydrologically connected)
- Paved, gravel, and Class 4 Roads
- Drainage culverts no in-stream culverts
- Stone-line ditch requirement: **8% not 5%**
- Road Erosion Inventories for all towns to develop the Road Stormwater Management Plan

Road Stormwater Management Plan

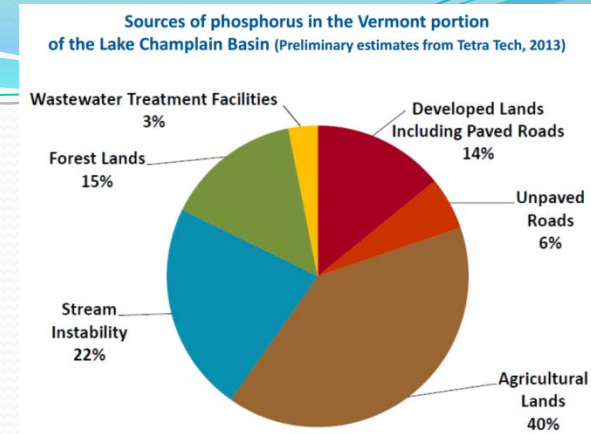
- Road Map: Total miles of road by class
- Total miles of Priority Road Segment (hydro-connected)
- Miles of PRS
- Miles of PRS that *don't* meet standards
- Road Stormwater Management Plan/Implementation Plan
 - Projects and Priorities (based on inventories): to be implemented in next **5 years**
 - Recommended treatments
 - Construction and cost estimates

Fees

- \$400 application fee (one-time fee)
- \$240 administrative fee (every 5 years)
- \$2,000 annual fee

Initial TRORC Comments

- 5 year inventory refresh: Too frequent!
 - Better to spend money on doing inventories or implementing projects?
- RSMS network requirement for VTrans Highway certificate: Combine with road erosion inventory
- Efficient use of resources: roads are a small slice of the pie: road fixes vs “natural erosion” (landslides)
- Annual fee sliding scale based on total mileage or population



Jim Ryan (new) presentation and (draft) Framework

- http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/stormwater/docs/Permitinformation/MunicipalRoads/sw_MRG_P_presentation.pdf
- http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/stormwater/docs/Permitinformation/MunicipalRoads/sw_MRG_P_Draft_Framework.pdf

Better Roads Grant Program: Address MRGP compliance

- 35 TOTAL GRANTS Submitted
 - 11 Category A: Road Erosion (and culvert)Inventories:
 - 4 Category B: Ditch improvements
 - 5 Category C: Bank stabilizations
 - 15 Category D: Culvert and bridge replacements

TRORC Category A Road Erosion Inventory

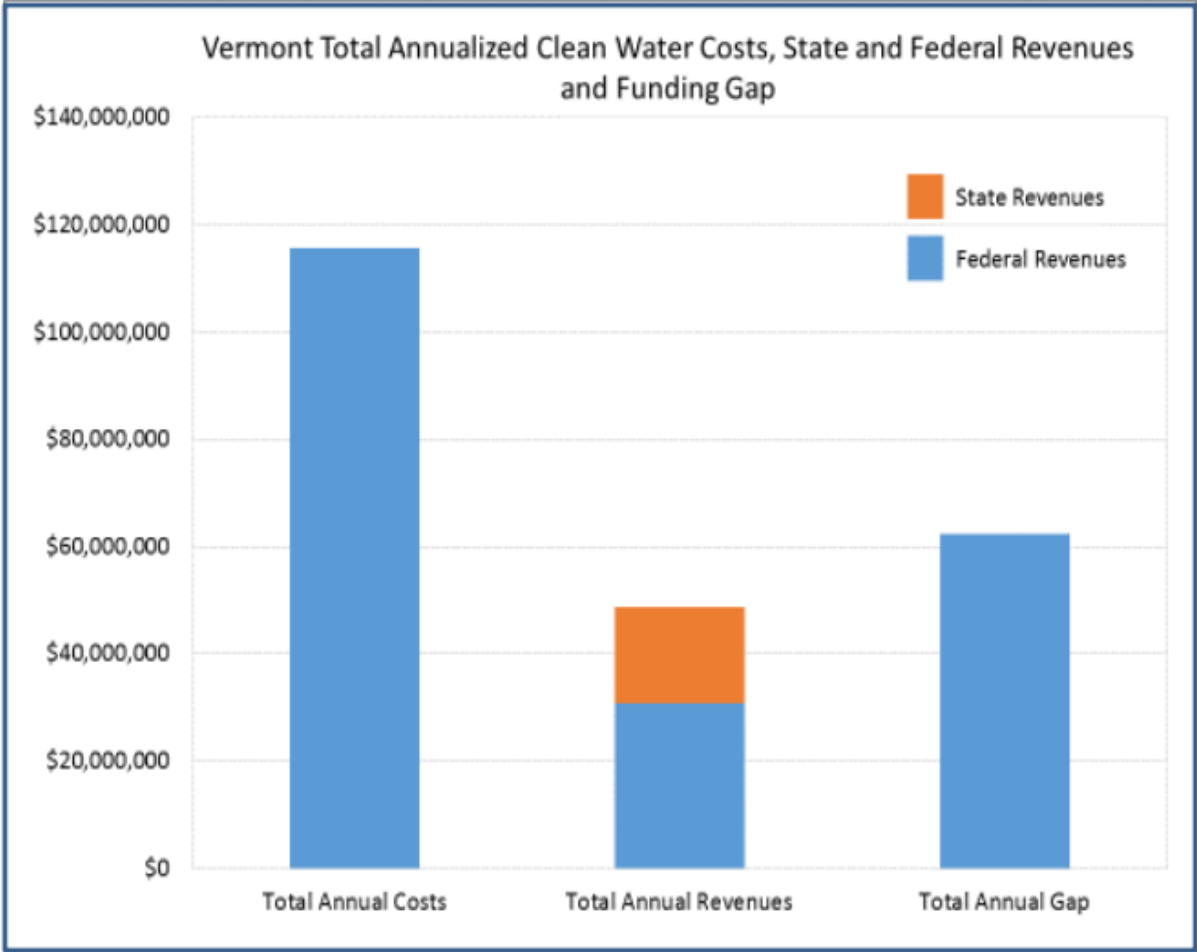
- 2017
 - Bridgewater
 - Strafford
 - Corinth
 - Stockbridge
- 2017/2018
 - Fairlee
 - Norwich
 - Vershire
 - Braintree
 - Hancock
 - Granville
 - Sharon
 - Thetford
 - Randolph
 - Chelsea
 - Pittsfield

Treasurer Report: Clean Water Investment Report (long-term funding)

- Shared resource = shared cost.
- http://www.vermonttreasurer.gov/sites/harry2015/files/FINAL_CleanWaterReport_2017.pdf

2016 Clean Water Initiative: Investment Report

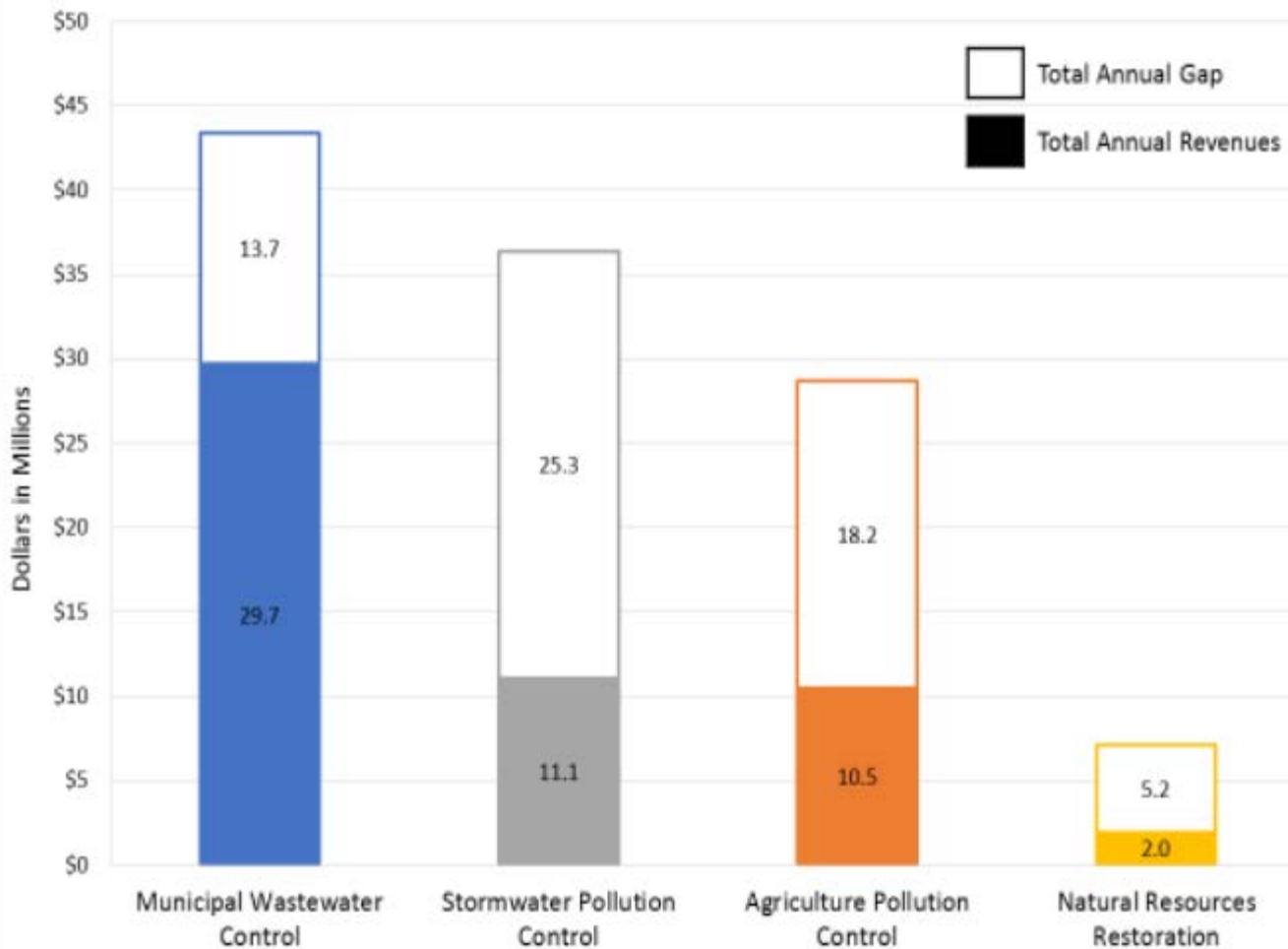
- <http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/erp/docs/2016CleanWaterInitiativeInvestmentReport.pdf>



- Summary:**
- Total Annual Costs: \$115.6 million
 - Total Annual Revenues: \$53.2 million
 - Total Annual Gap: \$62.4 million per year



Vermont Total Annualized Clean Water Costs, Revenues and Funding Gap



Stormwater Utilities: local or regional

- Private or public entity that generates revenue by charging fees for stormwater-related services
 - Maintenance, repair, and replacement of stormwater infrastructure

Bonds?

- Only in combination with existing or new revenue sources
- Use existing fee or tax to generate revenue stream to leverage dollars through bonding
- Use a portion of transportation infrastructure bond (TIB) revenue to support local transportation needs
 - \$5 M for next 2 years: VTrans and municipal projects

Recommendations

- Extend Clean Water surcharge on property transfers for one additional year (FY 19)
- Predictable, reliable existing resources and revenues
- Parcel and/or impervious surface fees
 - Nexus to water quality
 - Incentivize BMPs

Fee types

- \$50 flat fee per parcel: \$16.7 million
 - Easiest administration; not equitable
- \$3 per acre per parcel: \$15 million
 - Easy administration
- Impervious parcel fee: \$18 million
 - Fair administration
- Impervious acre parcel fee: \$18 million
 - Hard administration

House Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife (2/28): Proposed Revenue Sections

- Extend the .2% Clean Water Surcharge on Property Transfer Tax: \$4.7-\$5 million
- Fines collected by Ag of Ag for WQ violations: \$175,000-\$225,000
- Fines collected by ANR for WQ violations: \$200,000
- Fines collected by Attorney General for WQ violations
- Sales tax on rental of marina slip spaces and limousine services: \$820,000

- 1⁰% increase in rooms tax to 10⁰%: \$5.3 m
- 1⁰% increase in meals tax to 10⁰%: \$11.7
- 1⁰% increase in alcohol tax to 11⁰%: \$1.9m
 - 5⁰% of rooms, meals, alcohol tax to Clean Water Fund

- TOTAL: 30.8-31.1 million

- <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2018/WorkGroups/House%20Natural/Committee%20Bills/17-0230%20An%20act%20relating%20to%20clean%20water%20ofunding/Drafts/DRREQ17-0230~Michael%20O'Grady~Draft%203.5%20Summary%20of%20Proposed%20Revenue%20Sections~2-28-2017.pdf>

VAPDA position paper

- Statewide Approach: Raise funds statewide to address water quality problems statewide (not just Lake Champlain)
- Cost-effective: biggest bang for buck
- Real need: Funding gap for municipalities
- Immediacy: extend property transfer tax surcharge to 2019
- Nexus of funding and relation to water quality
- Parcel-fee
- Regional Role to manage water projects

CT River Dam Relicensing: Timeline

- Preliminary Licensing Proposal (PLP) Filed: 3/1/2017
- Study Report meeting 3/30/2017
- **File Final License Application 4/30/2017**
 - **Comments within 30 days (5/30/2017)**
- Stakeholders file disagreements/requests to amend study plan (5/14/2017)
- Stakeholders file responses to disagreements/amendment requests: 6/13/2017
- FERC Determination on disagreements/amendments: 7/13/2017

RPC opportunity: Recreation

Regional Plan and Abutting Towns

- **TRORC 2015 Regional Plan: Natural Resources:**
- **Goal 1.** Improve surface water quality and quantity for purposes of recreation, aquatic habitat, and drinking water (where designated).
- **Goal 5.** Encourage watershed based cooperation of towns and people that live, work, and play in the watershed in the protection and enhancement of surface water quality.
- **Policy 1.** Maintenance or enhancement of recreation, fisheries, wildlife habitat, and quality aesthetics are high priorities. Water use decisions at all levels of government and the private sector should protect these resources and serve to protect their existing and desired uses and conditions.
- **Policy 2.** Within each of the basins of the region, state, regional and local decisions relating to surface water must reflect:
 - The public high interest in the use and enjoyment of rivers and streams for recreation, fishing, and aesthetics;
- **Policy 3.** Efforts of public and private sectors to abate pollution in the region's rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds are required. Existing water pollution problems, as identified in State of Vermont- Agency of Natural Resources Basin Plans, Water Quality Assessment, and the Clean Water Strategy shall be considered high priority for abatement. These problems include:
 - erosion, sedimentation, and water crossings from construction sites and other land disturbance, road and ditch runoff, streambank destabilization, impoundments, and logging

TransCanada Erosion Study (2/17)

- “Normal Project operations that contribute to notching and overhangs that characterize the initial stages in the cycle of erosion are unavoidable, but contribute only a small fraction of the total sediment transported and deposited by the Connecticut River within the impoundments.
- High natural flows cannot be controlled by Project operations do affect sedimentation...and play a much larger role in causing unavoidable adverse impacts on other resources...
- **Effects caused by Project operational flows and impoundment fluctuations appear to be minimal to none in most cases.**
- Water level and flow fluctuations caused by the operations of the Projects are considered within the context of naturally occurring flows and water level fluctuations.

ILP Next Steps

- Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) peer review
- TRORC submitting formal comments during final license application

Study Results with TransCanda

- Fairfield Inn and Suites (102 Ballardvale Drive) White River Junction
 - Thursday, 3/30
 - 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

**TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.
Study Results Meeting March 30, 2017**

**Vermont Conference Room of the Fairfield Inn and Suites,
102 Ballardvale Drive, White River Junction, VT**

9:00 – 9:15 Introduction

9:15 – 10:30

Study 27	Floodplain, Wetland, Riparian, and Littoral Vegetation Habitats
Study 30	Recreation Facility Inventory, Use and Needs Assessment
Study 10	Fish Assemblage
Study 17	Upstream Passage of Riverine Fish Species
Study 6	Water Quality
Study 25	Dragonfly and Damselfly Inventory
Study 14/15	Resident Fish Spawning in Impoundments and Riverine Sections
Study 23	Fish Impingement, Entrainment and Survival
Study 33	Phase II Archeological Survey – Vermont

10:30 – 10:45 Break

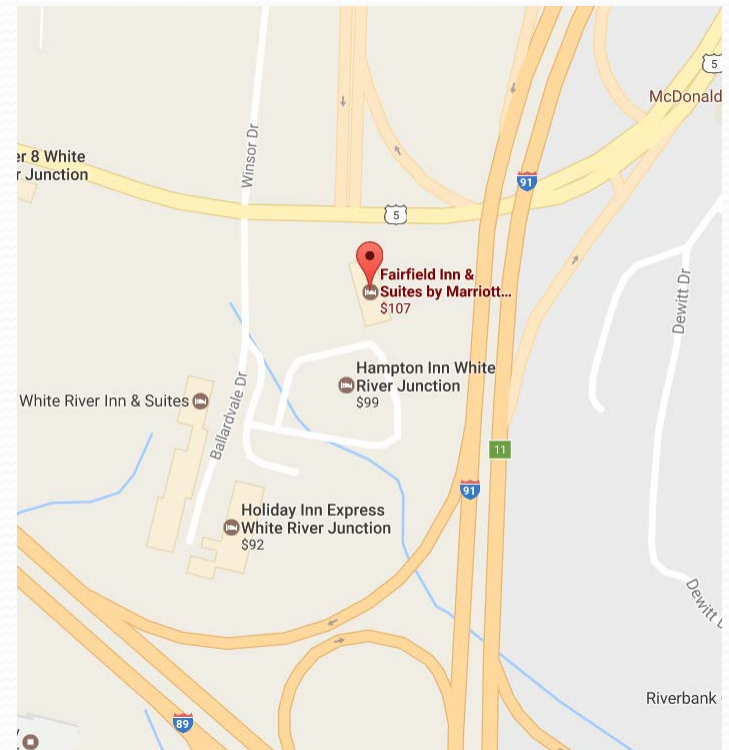
10:45 – 12:00

Study 18	American Eel Upstream Passage
Study 19	American Eel Downstream Passage
Study 21	Adult American Shad - Vernon
Study 22	Downstream Migration of Juvenile American Shad

12:00 – 12:30 Lunch – provided

12:30 – 4:30

Study 2/3	Riverbank Transect and Riverbank Erosion
Study 24	Co-occurring Mussel
Study 9	Instream Flow



Contact

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Brandon Cherry

202-502-8434

Brandon.cherry@ferc.gov

ERP Grants in TRORC Region

- Randolph Stormwater Master Plan: Randolph Village and East Randolph
- Ayers Brook River Corridor Easement Outreach
- River Corridor Easement: 9 acres in Stockbridge
 - Adjacent to Gaysville Campground
- Riparian Buffer Planting on the White River
 - 1,000 trees by VYCC

Current Status at the Legislature

- Water Quality project management and implementation
- Block Funding and the Transportation Model