



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst
Date: October 4, 2012
Subject: Grant Requests

Enclosed please find four (4) items that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration, including the establishment of 21 limited service positions.

JFO #2582 – \$104,178,965 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Vermont Health Access. This request includes the establishment of **20 limited service positions**. Funds will be used to continue the process of establishing a health benefits exchange required by the federal Affordable Care Act. **Expedited review has been requested. Joint Fiscal Committee members will be contacted by October 18th with a request to waive the balance of the review period and accept this grant.**

[JFO received 10/01/12]

JFO #2583 – Donation of \$12,008 worth of patio furniture from VFW Post #6471 to the Vermont Veterans' Home.

[JFO received 10/01/12]

JFO #2584 – \$170,000 grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program to the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets. These funds will be used to provide 100% of the cost to farmers of implementing conservation practices designed to reduce phosphorus pollution in Lake Champlain. Because this project calls for implementing these practices this fall, **expedited review has been requested. Joint Fiscal Committee members will be contacted by October 18th with a request to waive the balance of the review period and accept this grant.**

[JFO received 10/03/12]

JFO #2585 – Request to establish **one (1) limited service position** in the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. This position will be responsible for implementing Vermont's Green Infrastructure Initiative Strategic Plan. The Plan was created in 2011 for the purpose of reducing urban stormwater runoff. This position is funded by a grant from the U.S. Forest Service.

[JFO received 10/03/12]

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at (802) 828-1488; nlavery@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like an item held for Joint Fiscal Committee review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by October 18 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.



State of Vermont
 Department of Finance & Management
 109 State Street, Pavilion Building
 Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

[phone] 802-828-2376
 [fax] 802-828-2428

Agency of Administration

JFO 2584

**STATE OF VERMONT
 FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM**


Grant Summary:		This grant in addition to the federal and state resources already available allows for a 100% cost-share incentive to farmers for installing conservation field practices on tracts of land within the Missisquoi Bay Watershed.			
Date:		9/27/2012			
Department:		Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets			
Legal Title of Grant:		Missisquoi Watershed Critical Source Area Partner Cost Share for Implementation of Conservation Practices			
Federal Catalog #:		NA			
Grant/Donor Name and Address:		New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) 54 West Shore Road Grand Isle, VT 05458			
Grant Period:		From:	To:		
		9/1/2012	12/31/2016		
Grant/Donation		\$170,000			
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Total	Comments
Grant Amount:	\$45,000	\$75,000	\$50,000	\$170,000	
Position Information:	# Positions	Explanation/Comments			
	0				
Additional Comments:					
Department of Finance & Management <i>JH</i>		<i>J 9/28/12</i>		(Initial)	
Secretary of Administration		<i>nc 9/28/12</i>		(Initial)	
Sent To Joint Fiscal Office		<i>10/2/12</i>		Date	

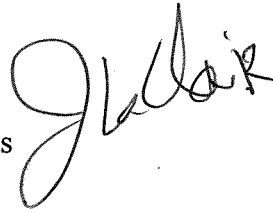
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JOINT FISCAL OFFICE



MEMORANDUM

TO: Nathan Lavery
Fiscal Analyst

FROM:  Secretary Chuck Ross, Jr.
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets



DATE: September 25, 2012

SUBJECT: Request to Expedite Grant Acceptance

This request is to expedite the grant approval for the Missisquoi Bay Watershed Critical Source Area (CSA) project. This project includes providing cost share to farmers for conservation practices early this fall, thus having funds available to make cost share payments is of high priority. Thank you.

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
1. Agency:	Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets			
2. Department:				
3. Program:	Water Quality			
4. Legal Title of Grant:	Missisquoi Watershed Critical Source Area Partner Cost Share for Implementation of Conservation Practices			
5. Federal Catalog #:	N/A			
6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:				
New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC)				
Lake Champlain Basin Program(LCBP)				
54 West Shore Rd				
Grand Isle, VT 05458				
7. Grant Period:	From:	9/1/2012	To:	12/31/2016
8. Purpose of Grant:				
Agricultural Water Quality Improvements in Lake Champlain Watershed				
9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:				
Additional cost share for Best Management Practices installed in the Missisquoi Bay Watershed to farmers signed up with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), under the America's Great Outdoors initiative Critical Source Area project, to provide a total cost share rate for these conservation practices of 100%. Without this grant farmers will likely not participate thereby reducing the project's chances of success.				
10. BUDGET INFORMATION				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
Expenditures:	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	
Personal Services	\$	\$	\$	
Operating Expenses	\$	\$	\$	
Grants	\$45,000	\$75,000	\$50,000	
Total	\$45,000	\$75,000	\$50,000	
Revenues:				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$	\$	\$	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source LCBP & Great Lakes Fishery Commission)	\$45,000	\$75,000	\$50,000	
Total	\$45,000	\$75,000	\$50,000	

SEP 27 2012

STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT (*) ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

Appropriation No:	2200040000	Amount:	\$170,000
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
		Total	\$47,250

PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION

11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts? Yes No
 If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.

Appointing Authority Name: _____ Agreed by: _____ (initial)

12. Limited Service Position Information:	# Positions	Title
Total Positions		

12a. Equipment and space for these positions: Is presently available. Can be obtained with available funds.

13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT

I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):

Signature: <i>Debbie Battaglia</i>	Date: <i>9/27/12</i>
Title: <i>Deputy Secretary</i>	
Signature: _____	Date: _____
Title: _____	

14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

Approved: _____ (Secretary or designee signature) Date: *09/28/12*

15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR

Check One Box:
 Accepted
 Rejected


 (Governor's signature) Date: *10/3/12*

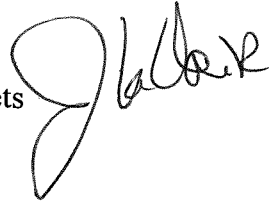
16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED

- Required GRANT Documentation**
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Request Memo | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable) | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement | <input type="checkbox"/> Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Budget | |

MEMORANDUM

TO: Secretary Spaulding

FROM:  VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
Secretary Chuck Ross, Jr.



DATE: September 25th, 2012

SUBJECT: Missisquoi Bay Watershed Critical Source Area (CSA) Project

A recently conducted study by Stone Environmental Inc. identified areas within the Missisquoi Bay watershed that have potential to contribute more phosphorus to Lake Champlain relative to other areas within the landscape. These areas of potentially high phosphorus contribution are termed critical source areas (CSAs), and they provide a new tool for preventing nutrient loading into Lake Champlain. The power of having clearly identified CSAs within a given landscape is enormous, as it allows for a targeted approach to preventing phosphorus loading.

Through collaboration with partners, this project offers a 100% cost share incentive to farmers for installing conservation field practices on tracts of land within the Missisquoi Bay watershed that contain critical source areas for phosphorus. The bulk of the funds (75-90%) for this project are made available by the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) Vermont's America's Great Outdoor (AGO) initiative as part of their Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP). The remaining funds (10-25%) will be matched by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFAM) and the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). Farms were ranked for priority according to total phosphorus load per acre/year from the CSAs identified on their land.

For each practice, the NRCS has put together projected project costs per designated unit. Both the NRCS payments and partner payments will be based off of the NRCS's cost estimates. The practice cost estimates factor in hidden costs that cannot be easily accounted for, such as the costs of increased management, and therefore the costs for this project, including all partner contribution is expected to be approximately \$1,000,000.00, of which LCBP is contributing \$170,000.00. Once the NRCS has finalized their list of participants, an updated budget and list of project participants will be provided to both VAAFAM and LCBP. The LCBP intends to transfer their \$170,000 contribution to the VAAFAM, who will administer the partner payments upon receipt of NRCS form 1245, which certifies that a practice has been completed. All of the funds in this grant are expected to be used by the end of state fiscal year 2015.



54 West Shore Road
Grand Isle
Vermont 05458

(802) 372-3213
1-800-468-LCBP
www.lcbp.org

Mr. Charles Ross, Secretary of Agriculture
Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
116 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620

September 14, 2012

Dear Secretary Ross,

I am writing this letter to confirm to you that the Lake Champlain Basin Program now has obtained the funds (\$170,000) that we have budgeted to contract with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) for the implementation of the Missisquoi Bay watershed critical source area (CSA) project. These funds are provided to LCBP by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission for our use to improve water quality in Lake Champlain.


LCBP (including our fiscal management team at the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission) and the VAAFM already have come to mutual agreement on the general language of contracts, and LCBP has approved the VAAFM workplan that will guide the project. At this point, the impending contractual agreement that will govern the application of these funds now needs to be processed to signatures. Under the impending contract, LCBP will provide this support to be used as matching funds to the USDA-NRCS and the VAAFM funds. The Missisquoi Bay CSA project will then be able to offer farmers 100% cost share for implementing agronomic conservation practices on land identified within a tract as a critical source area for phosphorus loading. A critical source area is an area within the landscape that contributes a disproportionately high amount of phosphorus to Lake Champlain, relative to other areas within the landscape.

The critical source areas that are being targeted were identified by Stone Environmental Inc. in a Lake Champlain Basin Program computer modeling project. Through the identification of CSAs, we are able to target funding for conservation practice implementation, increasing the overall efficacy of these programs. This project is the first of its kind, and will serve as an example for similar programs in the future, with opportunities to refine and expand this approach throughout the Lake Champlain Basin.

As I envision our partnership effort, funding for this excellent project will be a combination NRCS America's Great Outdoors initiative funding, Lake Champlain Basin Program funding, and funding from the VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. NRCS will be providing 75-90% cost share, and the remaining 10-25% will be matched through a combination of the funds designated in this letter and additional funds from the VAAFM's Farm Agronomic Practice (FAP) program. The total estimated project costs are expected to be approximately \$1,000,000.

Please direct any questions to me at my office in Grand Isle, VT.

Regards,


William G. Howland, Manager
Lake Champlain Basin Program

cc: David Mears, Chair, LCBP Steering Committee