

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR EXPEDITED
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT FUNDING
IN THE MISSISQUOI/ROCK/PIKE
AND
LAMOILLE BASINS**

Open for submittals September 6, 2024

A. Introduction

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC), in its role as the Clean Water Service (CWSP) Provider for Basin 6 (Missisquoi/Rock/Pike watersheds) and Basin 7 (Lamoille River watershed), is accepting applications for "Project Development" funding. The call for applications is in response to motions approved by the Missisquoi and Lamoille Basin Water Quality Councils (BWQCs). These motions called for the creation of an expedited system for distributing Project Development funds to prequalified partner organizations. Prequalified Partner organizations in the Missisquoi Basin may apply for up to \$10,000, and Prequalified Partner organizations in the Lamoille Basin may apply for up to \$5,000.

B. Eligible Activities

Project Development is a category of work that is eligible for funding provided by Clean Water Service Providers as established in the Clean Water Initiative Program [FY23 "Funding Policy", as updated](#) and Project Development [Standard Operating Procedure](#) (SOP).

The Funding Policy defines Project Development as "scoping work on any non-regulatory project type to determine feasibility, constraints, and overall suitability for implementing the project". This definition emphasizes that project development focuses on evaluating and preparing a project for potential implementation.

The Funding Policy further explains that project development can involve a two-step process:

General Project Scoping: This step involves identifying potential projects for development, even without specific projects in mind at the outset. It aims to create a list of projects worthy of further development.

Specific Project Development: This step involves gathering information and securing commitments to assess a project's feasibility and readiness to proceed. It includes activities such as:

- Working with relevant staff to ensure the project aligns with water quality goals.
- Engaging with landowners and securing their support.
- Identifying and securing support from the party responsible for the project's operation and maintenance.
- Reviewing potential environmental concerns and permitting requirements.
- Creating basic concept drawings to facilitate communication and support.

The policy distinguishes "Project Development" from other project phases, namely Assessment and Planning and Design Work.

Assessment and Planning: Activities like Lake Wise assessments, road erosion inventories, and development of prioritized plans fall under separate funding initiatives and are **not considered "Project Development"**.

Design Work: "Project Development" **does not include tasks related to the design or implementation phase of a project**. While it may involve creating basic concept drawings, it should not result in the completion of detailed designs.

C. Eligible Entities

The entities eligible for these funds are those listed below.

Missisquoi/Pike/Rock AKA Missisquoi Bay Basin:

- Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC)
- Vermont Rivers Conservancy (VRC)
- Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD)
- Missisquoi River Basin Association (MRBA)
- Lamoille County Conservation District (LCCD)
- Orleans Natural Resources Conservation District (ONRCD)
- Friends of Northern Lake Champlain (FNLC)
- Franklin Watershed Committee (FWC)
- Town of Westfield
- Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC)

Lamoille Basin:

- Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC)
- Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)
- Vermont Rivers Conservancy (VRC)
- Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District (FCNRCD)
- Lamoille County Conservation District (LCCD)
- Friends of Northern Lake Champlain (FNLC)
- Town of Georgia/Conservation Commission
- Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District (CNRCD)
- Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC)

D. Evaluation Process

Evaluation will be focused on establishing that the partner organization a) continues to have capacity to manage the funds and b) has obtained a Watershed project database ID number for the work they wish to carry out. The ID number is likely to be a new one issued for the work being contemplated by the partner. However, the possibility exists the ID number will be one issued previously. (The CWSP is attempting to obtain ID numbers in advance to reduce the effort required by the partner organization.)

E. Awards Process

After the CWSP has confirmed that a) the entity continues to have capacity to carry out the work and b) a project ID number has been obtained, the CWSP will develop a subgrant with the partner organization. The subgrant will take the form of a Task Award.

F. Application

- To apply for funding as a prequalified partner in the Missisquoi Basin, fill out the application form found [here](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/be88cf1c36ec492a84ae359ef6ba7011).
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/be88cf1c36ec492a84ae359ef6ba7011>
- To apply for funding as a prequalified partner in the Lamoille Basin, fill out the application form found [here](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/72f4a5ad6ba7446ab0518297dc2c2520).
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/72f4a5ad6ba7446ab0518297dc2c2520>

G. How this call for projects relates to earlier rounds

- This call for applications supplements the calls for applications made previously. Those calls for applications will continue. And applying in response to this call for applications in no way limits your ability to apply in response to other calls for applications.

H. Additional Information

Deadline: The deadline for responses is December 31, 2024; this deadline may be extended.

New deadlines will be listed on the NRPC web site RFQ page noted below.

For additional information, or if you have any questions, please contact Dean Pierce

dpierce@nrpcvt.com

802-524-5958

Also please visit the CWSP Projects & Funding page at

<https://www.nrpcvt.com/services-programs/water-resources/cwsp-projects-funding/>

and NRPC's RFQ page at

<https://www.nrpcvt.com/about-nrpc/rfp-rfq/>

for any updates relating to the application process.