

Clean Water Design & Implementation Block Grant Round 5 Grant Application Form

Introduction

The Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC) is pleased to announce a fifth round of funding under the Design/Implementation Block Grant (DIBG) Program. Funding is provided by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and shall be used to support state-wide improvement of surface water quality.

MARC seeks proposals from eligible applicants throughout the State of Vermont to support preliminary (30%) engineering design, final (100%) engineering design, and implementation of infrastructure projects with a primary purpose of sediment and nutrient pollution abatement. Please see the [SFY21 Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy](#) and review the following pages for additional eligibility requirements.

Please note that planning, monitoring, assessment, scoping, outreach/education, etc. projects are ineligible for funding under this program. Only engineering and construction phases are eligible for DIBG funding. However, there are a number of other current grant opportunities available through the [DEC Clean Water Initiative Program](#) and its partner organizations to support these efforts.

Grant Timeline

<i>Grant Round Announced</i>	<i>September 10, 2021</i>
<i>Application Deadline</i>	<i>October 18, 2021 by 4:30 pm EST</i>
<i>Anticipated Notification of Award</i>	<i>November 5, 2021</i>
<i>Anticipated Subgrant Agreement Execution</i>	<i>By or before December 31, 2021</i>
<i>Project Completion/Grant Close-out</i>	<i>By or before November 1, 2023</i>

Project Eligibility

Projects eligible for funding under the Design/Implementation Block Grant Program must meet each of the following eligibility criterion:

1. Must have a primary purpose of sediment and/or nutrient pollution abatement to surface waters;
2. Must have a project entry and unique identification number listed in the DEC [Watershed Projects Database](#) (WPD). If your project is not listed in the WPD, please work with the applicable [DEC Basin Planner](#) to create a project entry;
3. Must encompass one (1) of the following project phases:
 - Preliminary (30%) Engineering Design
 - Final (100%) Engineering Design
 - Implementation (Construction)
4. Must meet all applicable eligibility requirements listed in the [SFY21 Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy](#);
5. If a project is eligible through alternative funding sources, such as those administered by the [Vermont Agency of Transportation \(VTTrans\)](#) or the [Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets \(AAFM\)](#), funding should be sought from those alternative sources prior to applying for DIBG funding. Alternative funding options should be exhausted prior to applying for DIBG funding;

6. Projects that contribute to a [MS4 community](#) achieving flow and/or phosphorus reduction targets as identified through a Flow Restoration Plan (FRP) or Phosphorus Control Plan (PCP) must provide a minimum of 50% match. Projects intending to comply with MS4 Permit Minimum Control Measures are ineligible for DIBG funding;
7. Eligible subgrantees under the DIBG Program include the following:
 - Vermont Municipalities
 - Vermont Regional Planning Commissions
 - Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Districts
 - Non-profit Organizations (such as Watershed Groups)
 - State Agencies
 - State Colleges and Universities
 - Public Hospitals and Medical Centers
 - Public Schools
 - Private-sector Environmental Consulting Firms
8. Projects must be located on land owned by an eligible landowner. Please refer to Figure 5 on page 19 of the [SFY21 Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy](#) for additional landowner eligibility requirements. Note that regulatory considerations do influence landowner eligibility. Please note that a Letter of Support from the landowner must be provided with your application;
9. Non-MS4 projects **do not** require match/leverage funds under this grant program. However, match funds are incentivized through the competitive proposal scoring process.

New this funding round!

Under the new SFY21 Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy, stormwater regulatory Public-Private Partnership (P3) applications are eligible for funding! Please see the *P3 Guidance Document* in Appendix B of this application form for additional information and eligibility requirements. To learn more about stormwater regulatory public-private partnerships, please review the [Public-Private Partnership for Stormwater Management](#) Report by Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC (WCA).

If you have reviewed the [SFY21 Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy](#) document and the items listed above in detail, and still have questions regarding project eligibility, please email cwbg@marcvt.org under the subject heading “DIBG Eligibility Question.”

Funding Availability

The MARC has a budget of approximately **\$1,173,800** this funding round to support grants for engineering and construction of water quality improvement projects, including subgrantee project management and grant administration expenses. The available budget per project category is as follows:

Project Category	Grant requests in excess of \$50,000	Grant requests of less than \$50,000	Total Budget
Stormwater	\$398,462	\$199,230	\$597,692
Stormwater (3-9050 Permit Compliance)	\$236,563	\$118,281	\$354,844
Natural Resources	\$147,522	\$73,761	\$221,283
TOTAL	\$782,547	\$391,272	\$1,173,819

Project Selection & Award

Submitted applications will be reviewed by MARC staff to ensure all required application elements have been submitted, all eligibility requirements are met, and that the project has been properly screened for natural resource impacts per the requirements of the *SFY21 Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy*. Upon confirmation of project eligibility, projects will be reviewed and scored by committee. Scoring considerations will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Anticipated sediment/nutrient pollutant load reductions;
2. Helps address stressed or impaired waters designation;

3. Aids in implementing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan;
4. Listed as a high priority in a relevant assessment or plan (such as a River Corridor Plan or a Stormwater Master Plan);
5. Cost effectiveness;
6. Match/leveraged funds;
7. Project co-benefits (e.g., flood resiliency, chloride or *E. coli* pollution reduction, recreational benefit, public education potential, etc.);
8. Clarity and completeness of application

MARC staff hopes to notify applicants of funding award by or before November 5, 2021, with a goal of executing all awarded subgrant agreements by December 31, 2021. Successful applicants will have roughly two years or less to complete the project and close-out the subgrant.

Design/Implementation Block Grant Application Form

Applicant Organization Information

- a. Applicant Organization Name:
- b. Organization Type:
- c. Physical Address:
- d. Point of Contact Name, Title:
- e. Point of Contact Phone #:
- f. Point of Contact Email Address:

Project Information

- a. Project Title:
- b. [Watershed Projects Database \(WPD\)](#) Identification #:
- c. Project Location Town:
- d. Project Location Watershed:
- e. Project Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (Decimal-Degrees):
- f. Landowner Type:
- g. Is a Letter of Support from the landowner included with your application? Yes No
- h. Project Type/Sector:
- i. Project Phase:

<p>j. Does your project achieve compliance with the VT DEC 3-acre (3-9050) Stormwater Permit?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If yes to "j." above, AND your project is a public-school site in the Lake Champlain or Memphremagog Basins, please note that your project is <u>ineligible</u> for DIBG funding. MARC encourages the prospective applicant to seek funding through the DEC Clean Water Initiative Program's Green Schools Initiative.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>k. Does your project contribute to a MS4 community achieving phosphorus and/or flow reduction targets identified through a Flow Restoration Plan (FRP) or Phosphorus Control Plan (PCP)?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>

<p>l. Is your project a stormwater regulatory Public-Private Partnership (P3) proposal?</p> <p><i>If yes to "l." above, please fill out the Stormwater Regulatory Public-Private Partnership Project Proposal Form included in Appendix A of this application. If your project is not a P3 proposal, please leave Appendix A blank.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>m. Is your proposal the next phase of a previously awarded Clean Water Design/Implementation Block Grant (DIBG) or DEC Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) grant?</p> <p><i>If yes to "m." above, please list the previous subgrant agreement number:</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>n. Is your project mandated under any regulatory mechanism?</p> <p><i>If yes to "n." above, please explain:</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>o. To the best of your knowledge, is your project eligible through any alternative funding source(s)?</p> <p><i>If yes to "o." above, please list the other funding source(s) through which your project has been denied funding, and a brief rationale for such denial:</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>

p. **Project Description.** Please provide a brief description of the project (*Describe the sediment/nutrient pollution issue, how the pollutant issue will be addressed, anticipated project outcomes, and any other information that may demonstrate why this project is important in terms of sediment/nutrient pollutant reduction*):

q. **Water Quality Benefits.** (Describe why this project is important in terms of magnitude of sediment and/or nutrient pollution. Is there an urgent need for this project? Please quantify the sediment/nutrient pollutant reduction potential to the best of your ability):

r. **Project Type, Milestones & Deliverables.** Please select your Project Type from the drop-down menu located at the top of the table below. Project Types are defined in Appendix B of the [SFY21 Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy](#). Please select the Project Type that best describes your project.

Upon identification of your Project Type, please enter the standardized Milestones and Deliverables associated with that Project Type in the table below, based on Appendix C of the [SFY21 Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy](#). Please do not deviate from the standardized Milestones and Deliverables provided in the Funding Policy.

Note that the table below may include more rows than is necessary for your project. Please leave extra rows blank.

Project Type:	
Milestone	Deliverable(s)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		

- s. **Performance Measures.** Please enter the standardized performance measure(s) associated with your Project Type as defined in Appendix B of the [SFY21 Clean Water Initiative Program Funding Policy](#). Please enter the anticipated quantitative value resulting from your project for each performance measure. *Note that your Project Type may only have one standardized Performance Measure associated with it, in which case please leave the second-row blank.*

	Performance Measure	Anticipated Quantitative Value
Performance Measure 1:		
Performance Measure 2 (if applicable):		
<i>Example:</i>	<i>Acres of Wetland Restored</i>	<i>3.5</i>

- t. **Natural Resources Screening.** Please complete the following steps to properly screen your project for natural resources impacts. Note that an incomplete natural resources screening process will result in denial of your funding application.

Step 1: Please use the DEC [Water Quality Project Screening Tool](#) to screen your project for natural resources impacts. Upon entering your project information into the Screening Tool, the Tool will provide contact information for potentially applicable regulatory and non-regulatory DEC staff.

Step 2: Please use the [ANR Atlas](#) to create a Natural Resources Screening Map for your project. Please use the [Natural Resources Screening and Project Locator Map Instructions, updated 5/23/2017](#) to create your map. Note that on page 6 of the Mapping Instructions, the applicable map layer necessary to create your map is referred to as the “Ecosystem Restoration Grant Screening” layer. The name of the applicable map layer has since been changed to the “Clean Water Initiative Program Grant Screening” layer.

*Step 3: Using your Natural Resources Screening Map, please answer each of the questions provided in the table below. Anytime you answer “yes” to a question in the table below, please contact the applicable DEC staff person using the contact information provided in [Step 1](#) above. Each applicable DEC staff person should complete and sign the Project Review Form included in **Appendix C** of this application. Completed Project Review Form(s) must be submitted with your application.*

Natural Resources Screening Form

This form helps to identify any lakeshore, river, and/or wetland conflicts and permitting requirements at your project site.

I. Act 250

Have any Act 250 Permits been issued within the same parcel as your project?

If yes, please contact the applicable Act 250 District Coordinator and provide the permit number/any water resource issues or natural resource issues identified:

Permit Number:

Resource Issue(s) (if applicable):

Yes

No

II. Lakeshore

Is the project site located within 250' of a lakeshore edge?

Yes

No

If yes, please contact the applicable Lake and Shoreland Regional Permit Analyst.

Please note that you may need a Shoreland Protection Act Permit or an Encroachment Permit.

Project approved by DEC Lakes & Ponds Program?

Yes

No

N/A

III. River Corridor & Flood Hazard Area

Is any portion of the project located within 100' of a mapped river corridor and/or mapped FEMA flood hazard area?

Yes

No

If yes, please contact the applicable River Scientist and Floodplain Manager.

Project approved by DEC Rivers Program?

Yes

No

N/A

<p>If the project is not within or in close proximity to a mapped river corridor and/or flood hazard area, is there any portion of the project that may contribute point source stormwater runoff into a river or stream?</p> <p><i>Example: A stormwater pond overflow pipe discharging into a mapped river corridor.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>If yes, please contact the applicable River Scientist.</p>	<p>Project approved by DEC Rivers Program?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Does any portion of the project involve work on a streambank?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>If yes, please contact the applicable DEC Stream Alteration Engineer.</p> <p><i>Please note that you may need a Stream Alteration Permit. The Stream Alteration Rule regulates activities that take place in or along streams. Activities that are regulated include streambank stabilization, road improvements that encroach on streams, bridge construction or repair, and other similar activities.</i></p>	<p>Project approved by DEC Stream Alteration Engineer?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>IV. Wetlands</p>	
<p>Is any portion of the project located in or within 100' of a mapped wetland, wetland advisory layer, or hydric soil area?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Is there any reasonably clear indication that there may be an unmapped wetland at the project site?</p> <p><i>Please see the Landowners Guide to Wetlands for additional information regarding identification of wetlands.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>If yes to either or both of the above, please contact the applicable District Wetland Ecologist.</p> <p><i>The District Wetland Ecologist can assist in determining the approximate location of a wetland and whether you need to hire a Wetland Consultant to conduct a wetland delineation. Any activity within a Class I or II wetland or wetland buffer zone (100' and 50' respectively) which is not exempt or considered an "allowed use" under the Vermont Wetland Rules requires a permit. Note that all permits must go through a public notice process.</i></p>	<p>Project approved by DEC Wetland Ecologist?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>N/A</p>

V. Stormwater	
Will the project disturb more than one (1) acre of land during construction?	Yes No
Will this project add impervious surface, create new development or otherwise require a Stormwater Permit?	Yes No
If yes to either or both of the above, please contact the applicable Stormwater Analyst.	Project approved by DEC Stormwater Program? Yes No N/A
VI. Basin Planner	
Has the project received the support of the applicable DEC Basin Planner? <i>Note that the Basin Planner need not complete the Project Review Form. However, a Letter of Support from the DEC Basin Planner is helpful.</i>	Yes No

Step 4: Please include a PDF version of your Natural Resources Screening Map, and completed Project Review Form(s) with your final application submission. Please see "Required Application Content & Submittal Instructions" below for additional information.

- u. **Project Budget.** Please provide your requested grant budget, match funds, and total project cost below. You will be required to include more detailed budget information in the DIBG Budget Form.
1. Total Grant Funds Requested:
 2. Eligible Match/Leverage Funds Provided:
 3. Total Project Cost (*Grant Funds Requested + Match Provided = Project Cost*):
- v. **Additional Information.** If there is any additional information that the Review Committee should be aware of when reviewing your application (innovative water quality solutions, exciting or innovative partnerships, noteworthy site history, obscure sources of match/leverage funding, or any other information), please provide:

Required Application Content & Submittal Instructions

Please ensure that your application includes each of the following elements, submitted in the following manner. Failure to properly submit your application as described in this Section may jeopardize your funding request.

The following elements must be submitted as one (1) PDF document, arranged in the following order:

- Completed Application Form (this document);
- Completed Budget Form;
- Bid(s), Quote(s) or Estimate(s) from engineering and/or construction firms;
- Natural Resources Screening Map;
- Completed and signed Project Review Sheet(s) from applicable DEC staff;
- Landowner Letter of Support;
- Documentation of Operations & Maintenance (O&M) responsible party;
- Other Letter(s) of Support, if applicable (e.g., DEC Basin Planner, Watershed Groups, etc.);
- Site photograph(s) clearly demonstrating the water quality concern;
- Documentation of match/leverage funds, if applicable (e.g., grant award letter from eligible match source, municipal match commitment letter, etc.)

The following must be submitted as a second, single PDF document:

- Preliminary or final engineering design plans, if applicable;
- Engineering design report, if applicable;
- Local, state and/or federal permit authorization(s) (if an implementation phase project¹);

Please submit your completed application via email (as two PDF attachments as described above) to cwbg@marcvt.org under the subject heading “*DIBG Application Submission – Organization Name*” by no later than **Monday, October 18, 2021 by 4:30 pm** Eastern Standard Time (EST). MARC staff will respond to your application submission email to provide confirmation of receipt. **Late or incorrectly submitted applications will not be considered.**

If your organization intends to submit two or more applications, please submit each application by separate email.

¹ Applicants are strongly encouraged to secure all required permit authorizations during the final design phase, or otherwise prior to applying for DIBG implementation funds. However, you may be eligible to receive implementation funds prior to securing permits. You must clearly demonstrate in your application all permitting requirements, and a plan to secure all necessary permit authorizations prior to commencement of any construction activities.

APPENDIX A – STORMWATER REGULATORY PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (P3) PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Please complete this form only if your application is a stormwater regulatory public-private partnership (P3) proposal. If your project is not a P3 proposal, please leave this form blank.

Applicant Organization:

Project Title:

Watershed Projects Database ID #:

Date of Proposal Form Submission:

Provide a brief description of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to be designed and/or installed (Please specify type(s) of BMP(s), number of BMP(s), and what type of land they will be located on (i.e., public, private, etc.):

Question 1: Does the project lead to a private landowner/permittee achieving compliance with the Three-Acre General Permit for a privately-owned site?

Select One:	Please provide the requested details:
Yes	<i>Which private site(s) from the State's "3-acre list" will this project serve? How many acres would be treated?</i>
No	<i>If no, this project does not meet the P3 definition, and thus cannot be considered a stormwater regulatory public-private partnership (P3) proposal. Please do not complete the rest of this form.</i>
Unsure	<i>Why are you unsure? Is parcel listed on the State's "3-acre list"? Please provide details about the private site, current permitting conditions, and acre to be treated.</i>

Question 2: Does the project help a municipal landowner/permittee either a) achieve compliance with the Three-Acre General Permit for its municipally owned/operated site, or b) implement an MS4 permit regulatory project?

Select One:	Please provide the requested details:
Yes	<i>Please explain which public permit obligation(s) will be met. How many regulated acres would be treated?</i>
No	<i>Skip to Question 3. Please note that in order for the project to be considered a stormwater regulatory public-private partnership you must select “yes” or “unsure” for either Question 2 or Question 3. If you select “no” for both Question 2 and Question 3, your project does not meet the P3 definition.</i>
Unsure	<i>Why are you unsure? Please provide details about the current permitting and stormwater management conditions and acres under jurisdiction.</i>

Question 3: Is the project sufficiently upsized to provide treatment of additional non-regulatory/sub-jurisdictional stormwater runoff sourced from offsite privately and/or publicly owned land?

Select One:	Please provide the requested details:
Yes	<i>Please describe the additional stormwater runoff (where it’s coming from, number of proposed unregulated acres to be treated, why it’s sub-jurisdictional).</i>
No	<i>Please note that in order for the project to be considered a stormwater regulatory public-private partnership, you must select “yes” or “unsure” for either Question 2 or Question 3. If you select “no” for both Question 2 and Question 3, your project does not meet the P3 definition.</i>
Unsure	<i>Why are you unsure? Please provide any details about the additional stormwater load the BMP would treat and/or acres treated.</i>

Question 4: What entity or entities have agreed to be responsible for ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) of the proposed BMP(s)? Please describe the proposed responsible entity's experience with maintenance of similar BMPs, and available equipment and resources. Please include documentation of the O&M responsible party's commitment to O&M.

Question 5: What entity or entities have agreed to pay for the operations and maintenance (O&M) of the proposed BMP(s)? Please include documentation of the commitment to fund O&M.

APPENDIX B – PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (P3) GUIDANCE

Stormwater Regulatory Public-Private Partnership (P3) definition: Collaboration of municipal and private landowners to complete stormwater treatment design and construction projects that maximize stormwater treatment and cost-effectiveness, resulting in a private landowner/permittee achieving compliance with the Three-Acre General Permit for its privately-owned site, and at least one of the following:

1. Municipal landowner/permittee
 - a. achieves compliance with the Three-Acre General Permit for its municipally-owned/ operated site; and/or,
 - b. implements an MS4 permit regulatory project (MS4 permit regulatory project definition: Project that contributes to an MS4 community meeting MS4 permit flow and/or phosphorus reduction targets, including projects identified by the MS4 community in a flow restoration plan (FRP) and/or phosphorus control plan (PCP). Excludes MS4 projects implemented to meet road standards.
2. Treatment of additional offsite non-regulatory/sub-jurisdictional stormwater from privately and/or publicly-owned land.

Clarifying Points:

1. The existence of a stormwater regulatory public-private partnership (P3) in a project's proposed scope of work is incentivized in the following ways:
 - It allows access to implementation funds for Permit 3-9050 compliance for regulatory projects involving private land (without a partnership, private regulatory projects can only access design funds for Permit 3-9050 obtainment).
 - It removes the 50% leveraging requirement for MS4 community/private permittees.
2. Projects envisioned under this partnership are to address a single BMP or a cluster of BMPs on a single site or on adjacent sites. Multiple BMPs can be packaged under one stormwater regulatory public-private partnership project if more than one BMP is needed to cost effectively manage stormwater from the site(s). BMPs packaged under a single project must be geospatially and functionally related such that BMPs can progress through a single design and implementation plan fulfilling regulatory requirements, obtaining permit coverage and achieving permit compliance (construction) on the same timeline. Proposed projects may not “bundle together” geospatially distinct BMPs (for example, one project on a private site, and a second project on a public site far across town) to meet this stormwater regulatory public-private partnership (P3) definition.

Goals for CWIP in incentivizing P3 partnerships:

1. Additionality. CWIP hopes that Vermont can achieve greater cost-effectiveness in the design and construction of stormwater treatment practices and operations and maintenance (O&M) of those practices and reduce the strain on existing engineering and construction capacity by combining projects or permit requirements or scaling up to include sub-jurisdictional treatment.
2. Agreed upon and technically competent O&M party. CWIP is clarifying that the O&M party does not have to be the municipality but would like to see a named entity with prior O&M or stormwater experience and access to the necessary equipment, staffing and tools to perform needed O&M tasks. If a permittee chooses to engage in a partnership that identifies a separate entity to perform O&M tasks, the permittee is still ultimately responsible for ensuring successful completion of this work. Depending on the nature of the partnership agreement with the O&M entity, the permit holder may or may not still be expected to finance the O&M.

APPENDIX C – DEC STAFF PROJECT REVIEW FORM

Please complete the Natural Resources Screening Form included in the MARC Design/Implementation Block Grant Application Form, using your Natural Resources Screening Map. Anytime you answer “yes” to a question on the Screening Form, please forward this form to the applicable DEC staff-person. Contact information for applicable DEC staff is provided through the DEC [Water Quality Project Screening Tool](#).

All applicable DEC staff must have an opportunity to review the project prior to submitting your grant application. Please provide this form and pertinent project information to applicable DEC staff no less than two weeks prior to the application deadline to ensure DEC staff have sufficient time to review the project.

The prospective applicant should complete questions 1-6 below, then forward along to applicable DEC staff to complete the remainder of the form. Please include completed Project Review Form(s) with your final application submission. Note that you may need to submit multiple completed Project Review Forms with your application.

- 1. Applicant Organization:**
- 2. Project Title:**
- 3. Watershed Projects Database ID #:**
- 4. Project Type/Sector:**
- 5. Project Phase:**
- 6. Brief Project Description:**

DEC Staff Reviewer Name, Title:

DEC Program (e.g., Rivers Program):

Supportive of project

Conditionally supportive of project

If conditionally supportive, please list conditions here (e.g., 30% design check-in required):

Unsupportive of project

Optional DEC Reviewer Comments:

DEC Reviewer Signature: _____

Date: _____