

## **1. New Section 6 to Cover AAFM Small Farm Fees in FY2016**

### **Sec. 6. SMALL FARM ANNUAL OPERATING FEE**

(a) In fiscal year 2016, an owner or operator of a small farm authorized under 6 V.S.A. chapter 151 to sell milk to a milk handler shall pay to the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets the following operating fee:

(1) \$250.00 for farms that house less than 100 mature dairy animals; and

(2) \$500.00 for farms that house 100 to 199 mature dairy animals.

(b) The fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund under 6 V.S.A. § 4803.

(c)(1) The definitions of 6 V.S.A. § 2672 shall apply to this section.

(2) As used in this section:

(A) “Animal feeding operation” shall have the same meaning as in 6 V.S.A. § 4857.

(B) “Small farm” means an animal feeding operation that houses no more than 199 mature dairy animals.

## **2. Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund**

Sec. 7. 6 V.S.A. § 4803 is added to read:

### § 4803. AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY SPECIAL FUND

(a) There is created an Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Fees collected under this chapter, including fees for permits or certifications issued under the chapter, shall be deposited in the Fund.

(b) The Secretary may use monies deposited in the Fund for the Secretary’s implementation and administration of agricultural water quality programs or requirements established by this

chapter, including to pay salaries of Agency staff necessary to implement the programs and requirements of this chapter.

(c) Notwithstanding the requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 588(3), interest earned by the Fund shall be retained in the Fund from year to year.

### **3. Appropriations for AAFM Staff**

#### Sec. 14. APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARKETS STAFF

In addition to any other funds appropriated to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets in fiscal year 2016, there is appropriated from the Agricultural Water Quality Special Fund created under 6 V.S.A § 4803 to the Agency \$1,056,000.00 in fiscal year 2016 for the purpose of hiring 7 positions for implementation and administration of agricultural water quality programs in the State.

### **4. Compensation of Clean Water Fund Board Sec. 35 of Dr 1.2 Consolidated Amendment.**

#### 10 V.S.A. § 1389(e) Compensation and expense reimbursement.

(1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General Assembly, any legislative members of the Clean Water Fund Board shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 406.

(2) Other members of the Board who are not employees of the State of Vermont and who are not otherwise compensated or reimbursed for their attendance shall be entitled to per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1010, to be paid from the budget of the Agency of Administration.

## **5. Appropriations for ANR Staff**

### Sec. 42. APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

#### STAFF

In addition to any other funds appropriated to the Agency of Natural Resources in fiscal year 2016, there is appropriated from the Environmental Permit Fund created under 3 V.S.A § 2805 to the Agency of Natural Resources \$1,312,556.00 in fiscal year 2016 for the purpose of hiring 13 positions for implementation of the State water quality initiative, including implementation of the total maximum daily load plan for Lake Champlain.