

1 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 1285 is added to read:

2 § 1285. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND PROTECTION; BLOCK

3 GRANT

4 (a) The Secretary shall administer an ecosystem restoration and protection  
5 block grant program to provide financial assistance to projects that enhance,  
6 protect, or restore water resources. The Secretary may issue a block grant to a  
7 third party to administer all or a portion of the program.

8 (b) The Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that the funds are used  
9 in an appropriate manner and that the projects selected result in the  
10 enhancement, protection, and restoration of the State's waters.

11 (c) Administrative costs associated with a capital eligible block grant shall  
12 not exceed 10 percent of the amount of the block grant.

13 Sec. 2. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND PROTECTION GRANT

14 PROGRAM; FY 2018 APPROPRIATION

15 In FY 2018, the Secretary of Natural Resources may use up to  
16 \$1,000,000.00 in Sec. 11(b)(2) of this act for the Ecosystem Restoration and  
17 Protection Block Grant Program established in 10 V.S.A. § 1285.

18 Sec. 3. CLEAN WATER IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS

19 (a) On or before September 1, 2017, the Clean Water Fund Board,  
20 established in 10 V.S.A. § 1389, shall review and recommend Clean Water Act  
21 implementation programs that may be funded in FY 2019 from capital fund  
22 appropriations.

1           (b) On or before December 1, 2017, the Board shall provide to the Chairs  
2           of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, and the Senate  
3           Committee on Institutions, with the list of programs recommended for FY  
4           2019 capital fund appropriations.

5           (c) The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall separately  
6           account for capital and general funds appropriated to the Clean Water Fund,  
7           established in 10 V.S.A. 1388, to support FY 2019 Clean Water Act  
8           implementation projects.

9           Sec. 4. CLEAN WATER FUNDING; TREASURER APPROVAL

10           In FY 2018 and 2019, any agency that receives capital funding for clean  
11           water implementation projects shall consult with the State Treasurer to ensure  
12           that the projects are capital eligible.