

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

2 § 1285. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND PROTECTION; GRANT

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

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

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

12 Sec. 2. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND PROTECTION GRANT  
13 PROGRAM; FY 2018 APPROPRIATION

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

17 Sec. 3. CLEAN WATER IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

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

22 (b) The Board shall seek approval from the State Treasurer for each project  
23 that it is recommending for a capital appropriation. The State Treasurer's

1 approval shall consist of a written notification that the project meets all  
2 applicable State and federal requirements to receive funding through the  
3 issuance of general obligation bonds.

4 (c) On or before December 1, 2017, the Board and the State Treasurer shall  
5 provide to the Chairs of the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions,  
6 and the Senate Committee on Institutions, with the list of projects  
7 recommended for capital fund support and with the written notification of the  
8 Treasurer's approval for each project on the list.

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