



Senate Institutions Committee
January 11, 2018

FY18-19 Capital Construction and State Bonding Act

Status of VHCB Funding

FY18

Section 11 (d)

(1) Statewide water quality improvement projects or other conservation projects:

\$2.8 million (\$2.8 million committed)

(1) Water quality farm improvement grants or fee purchase projects:

\$1.0 million (\$411,000 committed)

Section 17 (a)

Housing

\$1.2 million (\$1.2 million committed)

FY19

Section 11 (g)

Statewide water quality improvement projects or other conservation projects:

\$2.8 million

Section 17 (b)

Housing

\$1.2 million



FY17 & FY18 Farmland Conservation Investments

- \$5M in VHCB matching funds leveraged \$16M in federal NRCS/FRPP
- 47 projects conserved 6,518 acres
- VHCB has funded 16 farmland conservation easements that match state dollars with federal funds from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant focused on improving water quality in the Lake Champlain Basin.
- All farms with surface waters (91%) have water quality protections in the easement
- 27 projects facilitated transfers to new owners
- 11 of the transfers are to new farmers (buying their first farm)



Choiniere Farm 1999

Choiniere Family Farm, Highgate Missisquoi Bay Watershed

The Choinieres implemented numerous conservation practices: installed buffers along the river, installed cattle lanes and fencing, and kept manure under cover using bedded pack barns. The farm now produces milk without feeding grain. The Choinieres are in the process of purchasing a neighboring conserved farm.



O'Neill Farm in Hinesburg

259-acre add-on to a conserved organic dairy owned by Joe and Emily Donegan. The property has 8,800 feet of frontage on the LaPlatte River. The easement will require additional water quality protections such as a 50-foot riparian buffer along the river as well as a wetland protection zone. DEC will also acquire a river corridor easement overlay, limiting activities within the flood zone.



Norris Berry Farm in Monkton

108-acre fruit and vegetable farm transferring to a young farming couple, Stephen and Sarah Park. The property has 3,500 feet of frontage on a stream draining into Lewis Creek. The easement will have a 50-foot riparian buffer provision as well as special protections for three recorded archeological sites on the property.



Marquis Farm, Newport Center

With VHCB and federal funding, Marc and Tiffany Marquis conserved their farmland, working with the Vermont Land Trust. Buffer zones on all ditches and wet meadows, a new manure pit, paving the barnyard and adding fencing will all improve water quality.



Locker Farmland in Waitsfield

19 acres of agricultural soils with 1,300 feet of Mad River frontage. The property will be bought by Aaron Locker, a successful organic vegetable producer. The easement will contain a 4-acre ecological protection zone along the river and a 2-acre wetland protection zone.

A photograph of a man in a plaid shirt and a green and white cap standing in the doorway of a barn. He is looking down at a brown cow in a metal stall. The barn has wooden walls and a concrete block wall on the right. The scene is lit by natural light from the doorway.

Dorset Peak Jerseys, Danby Water Quality Grant

In the Otter Creek subwatershed of Lake Champlain, Caleb and Jessie Smith milk 65 cows. VHCB Water Quality grant funds will support building a new freestall barn and covered barnyard, year round manure storage, and associated pumping and transfer facilities. The new manure collection and storage system will improve water quality.

Chalker Farm, Vergennes Water Quality Grant

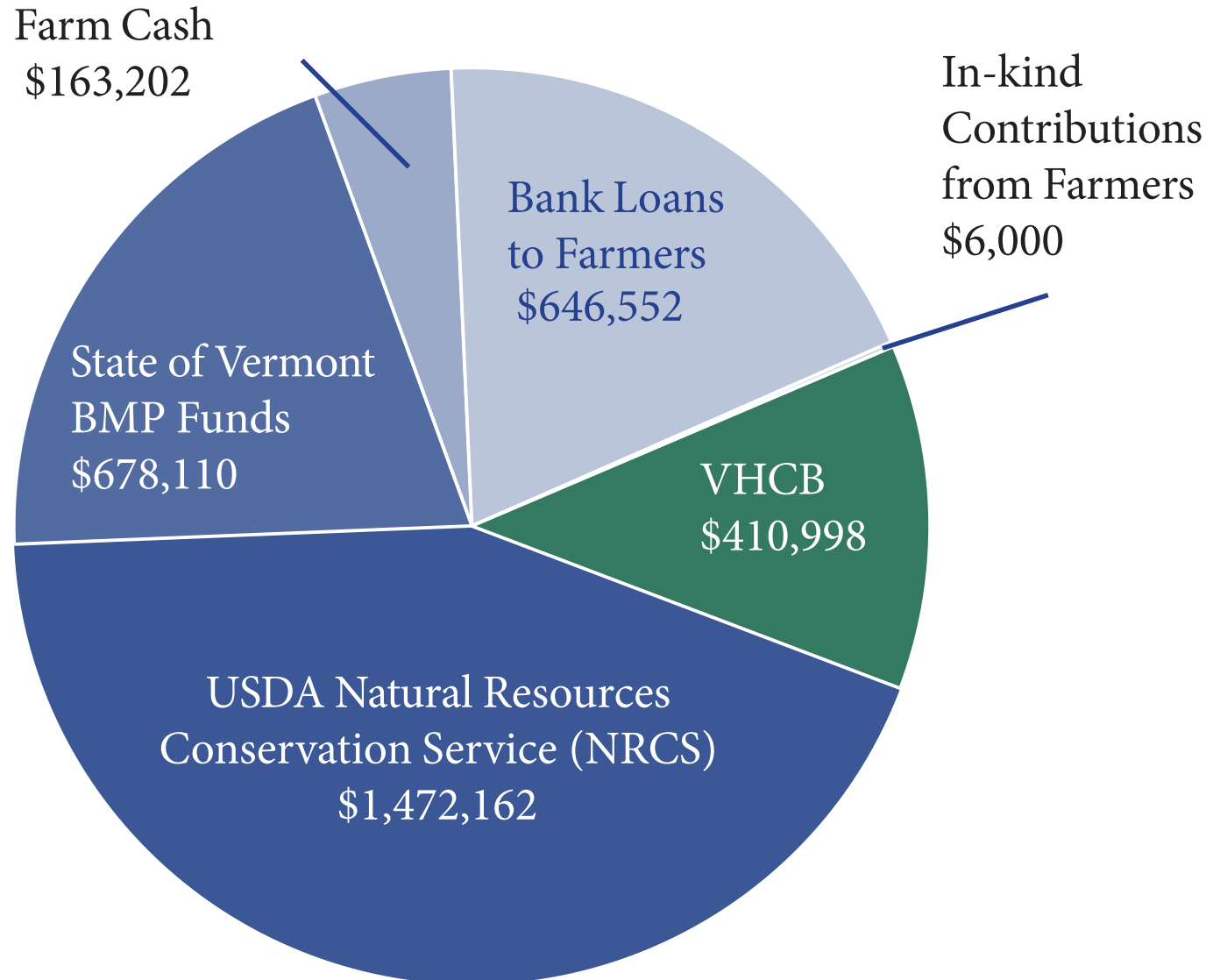


Brian and Cindy Kayhart used a \$11,829 Water Quality grant to implement a rotational grazing plan, converting cropland along the river back into sod, reducing erosion and soil compaction. The project will have positive impacts on soil health, cattle health, and farm profitability. The Kayharts operate a 30-cow dairy and raise 75 head of beef cattle.

Farm Viability Program Water Quality Grants

Total funding sources for all projects (as of 1/11/18)

\$3,377,324 of VHCB & leveraged funds





Catamount Outdoor Family Center photo

The Trust for Public Lands will conserve the Catamount Community Forest in Williston.

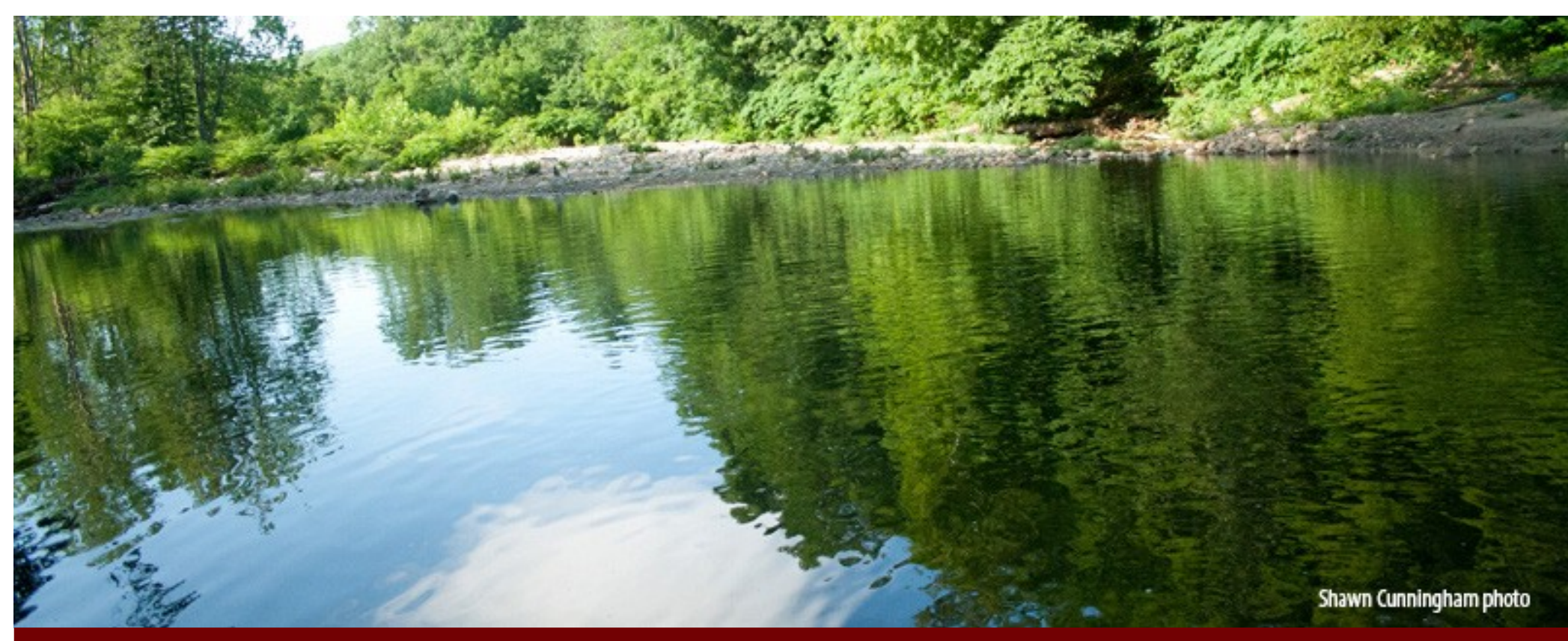
FY17 & FY18 Recreational Economy Investments

- 17 recreation projects
- 2,581 acres
- 32 miles of public trails
- 4,350 feet of accessible public lakeshore
- 4 public swimming sites



Kehoe Camp, Castleton

VHCB funding helped the Agency of Natural Resources Department of Fish and Wildlife acquire the Kehoe Camp on Lake Bomoseen. A trail system winds throughout the property's 105 acres featuring a mix of grass, meadows, forests, and a stream. Much of the property overlooks Lake Bomoseen and the Taconic Mountains. Fish and Wildlife use the facility for natural resources-related special events such as youth hunter education celebrations, Halloween wildlife festivals, and more.



Rainbow Rock Swimming Hole, Chester

The Vermont River Conservancy acquired a popular swimming hole, conserved it, and transferred it to the town. With over 700 feet of river frontage on the Williams River, this swimming hole is popular on hot days for swimming and fishing. Permanent public access is preserved through a combination of local fundraising, foundation funds, and a VHCB grant.

Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area



In Ira and Poultney, The Conservation Fund protected 2,874 acres to be transferred to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department for addition to the WMA. The acquisition protects a large block for hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife habitat in the Taconic Mountains and protects the headwaters of the Castleton, Poultney and Clarendon Rivers.



John G. VanHoesen photo



At Fort Ethan Allen in Essex, the Champlain Housing Trust is using Capital Bill funds to convert student housing into homeownership opportunities in historic duplexes.



The Park House has been upgraded to add private bathrooms and address code and safety concerns, including adding a sprinkler system and elevator. Congregate housing with shared common areas for elder residents of Rochester and surrounding towns.



Rural Edge is upgrading Park View, 12 family apartments with rental assistance in Newport. New interior finishes, life safety updates, energy efficiency work and new siding. Paving of walkways and sidewalks, and accessibility improvements.



In Poultney, the Housing Trust of Rutland County acquired Heritage Court, securing 17 affordable homes for seniors with rental assistance.

Improvements to energy efficiency and accessibility. Health care coordination services will be provided through the SASH program.



Vermont Housing &

Conservation Board

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