

Proposed Replacement for VHCB language presented April 19, 2019

Sec. 7. LAND CONSERVATION AND WATER QUALITY

The State's success in achieving and maintaining compliance with Vermont Water Quality Standards depends in part on strategic land conversation. There are a variety of factors that drive prioritization of land conservation statewide, including but not limited to water quality benefits, agricultural uses, natural area protection, flood and climate resilience, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation. The Secretary shall convene a stakeholder group, which shall report back to the General Assembly on or before January 15, 2020 with a recommended prioritization statewide land conservation framework. The stakeholder group shall include the following individuals or their designees: the Secretaries of the Agencies of Natural Resources and Agricultural, Food, and Markets; the Executive Director of the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the President of the Vermont Land Trust, and the State Director of the Nature Conservancy. The Secretary shall also invite the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service to participate.