

SECTION 10

CLEAN WATER

SEC. 10 APPROPRIATIONS: CLEAN WATER

The sum of \$26,050,000 is the total amount requested for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for Clean Water.

The following requests are made for FY2020:

1. Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

A. Agricultural Water Quality Projects.....\$1,100,000

Farm Improvement - VHCB uses this funding to award grants to farmers for water quality-related capital improvements. Eligible projects include production area improvements, manure management projects, farm equipment and pasture management. Grants typically help farmers pay for project components that state and federal grant programs cannot cover. In cases of significant hardship, the grants may assist farmers who are otherwise unable to fully meet the cost share requirements for priority AAFM BMP or Natural Resources Conservation Service projects.

Farmland Retirement - VHCB will work closely with other partners – particularly AAFM and ANR – to identify agricultural land that is difficult to farm without adversely impacting water quality. These funds allow VHCB to help fund the purchase and/or conservation of such properties with a goal of taking them all or mostly out of production. All grants require perpetual conservation restrictions.

VHCB requests language similar to previous years clarifying that the grants can be used by farmers to meet state or federal program cost share requirements.