



House Corrections & Institutions Committee

FY22-23 Capital Budget
Section 10: Clean Water

February 11, 2021



Vermont Housing & Conservation Board Statutory Purpose



“the dual goals of creating affordable housing for Vermonters, and conserving and protecting Vermont’s agricultural land, forestland, historic properties, important natural areas, and recreational lands of primary importance to the economic vitality and quality of life of the State.”

10 V.S.A.15 §302

.... and Protecting Water Quality



“... the protection of lands for multiple conservation purposes, including the protection of surface waters and associated natural resources.

10 V.S.A.15 §303



33 Years of Housing & Conservation

- 269,423 acres of working forests, natural areas and recreational lands
- 13,773 affordable homes— rental and homeownership
- 167,00 acres on 758 farms
- 72 historic buildings have been restored for community use
- 850 businesses have enrolled in the Farm & Forest Viability Program

COVID Response and Recovery

Housing for the Homeless; Business Support for the Farm, Food & Forestry Sectors



Managed \$33 M in CRF for 26 projects securing **247 new homes and beds** for those **experiencing homelessness as well as improvements to 12 shelters** around the state for health and safety during COVID.

VHCB's Farm & Forest Viability Program used \$192,000 in CRF funding to provide rapid-response **business coaching for more than 500 enterprises**, helping them apply for state and federal relief programs, work on financial planning, re-orient to new markets, connecting to health and wellness resources and manage human resource challenges.

Capital Construction and State Bonding Act

VHCB Sections FY22 Proposed (Compared to FY21)

Section 10 Clean Water

Agricultural water quality projects: \$0.9 M (- \$0.2 M)

Land Conservation and WQ Projects – \$1.3 M (- \$0.4 M)

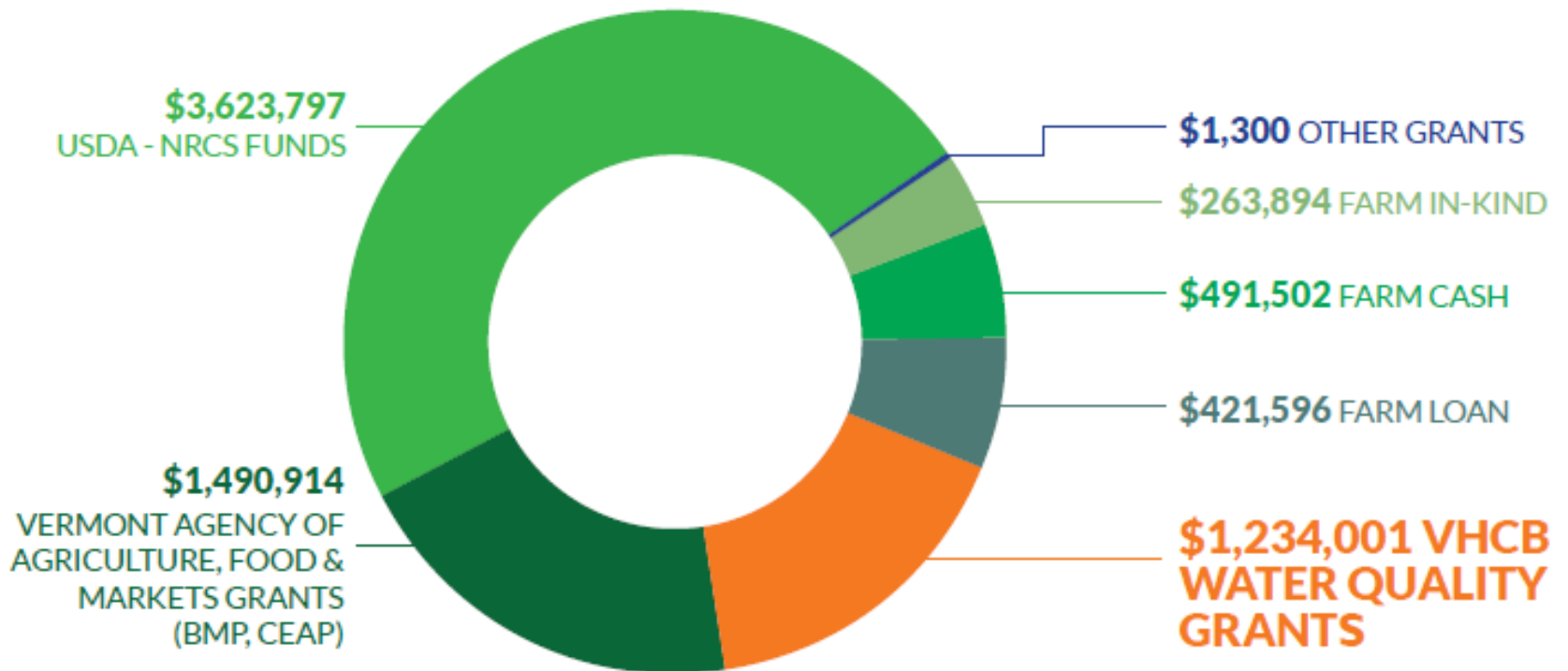
Section 16 Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

Housing and Conservation Projects - \$1.8 M (- \$2.0 M)

Clean Water Initiative Agricultural Water Quality Grants

In FY20, VHCB awarded \$1.234 million for water quality grants to 37 farmers for infrastructure improvements to reduce runoff and improve water quality. The awards leveraged nearly \$6.3M in other funding to help farmers and the state meet their clean water goals.

FUNDING SOURCES FOR FY20 PROJECTS
\$7,527,003 OF VHCB & LEVERAGED FUNDS



Agricultural Water Quality Projects



The O'Donnells milk Holsteins on their farm in Westfield along the headwaters of the Missisquoi River. With a VHCB Water Quality Grant, they purchased a manure injection system to help them manage phosphorus and nitrogen levels in the soil, reduce nutrient runoff, and increase crop yields.

Agricultural Water Quality Projects



Kelsey Chandler & Phelan O'Connor operate Pigasus Meats, raising pork and chicken on the conserved Landon farm in **South Hero**. A \$40,000 VHCB Water Quality Grant for a bedded pack hoop barn for winter hog housing allows for efficient manure management with no liquid manure, reducing runoff.



In **Charlotte**, at the Grass Cattle Company, a beef operation, Steve Schubart used a \$8,150 Water Quality grant to install laneways to move cattle without harming the pasture, building organic soil matter, and storm water to reduce runoff and support drought resistance. He has also installed buffer fencing around waterways on the conserved property.

Woodlawn Holsteins, Pawlet



Seth and Brian Leach are the next generation at Woodlawn Holsteins. They received a \$25,000 VHCB grant towards the purchase of a \$51,769 no-till grain drill to be able to fully implement their transition to a no-till planting system. They previously received funding from VAAFMM for a no-till corn planter.

Farm Retirement



Fee acquisition of targeted flood-prone farmland parcels critical to improving water quality is the right strategy in some locations.

Fitzgerald Farm, Colchester



Managing manure was a difficult challenge for the Fitzgerald Farm, a dairy in Colchester with 1 ½ miles of frontage on the Winooski River. The retirement of the farm and acquisition of 143 acres by the Department of Fish and Wildlife with capital bill funds through VHCB has enabled extensive restoration of riparian and floodplain forest. The land is added to the Intervale Wildlife Management Area providing better public access for fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing.

Land Conservation and Water Quality



Marquis Farm, Newport Center

- 90-cow grass-based organic dairy
- 124-acre parcel conserved in 2015; 122-acre home farm conserved in 2017
- Located in Mississquoi watershed (critical source area for phosphorus loading)
- Buffers in easement for small streams protect surface water
- Farm needed manure pit, barnyard, ditching, pasture watering system—all installed in 2017 with NRCS cost share



North Williston Cattle Company, Essex Junction and Williston

The Whitcomb family milks 240 Holsteins in Williston and raises heifers and crops at their Essex Junction farm. As a part of the VHCB conservation project, a portion of their land in Essex was set aside for absorption of storm water from the village of Essex Junction. There are more than 2.5 miles of frontage along the Winooski River which is buffered in the easement. A water quality grant helped them purchase a no-till planter to reduce soil erosion, keeping nutrients in the soil and out of the surface water.



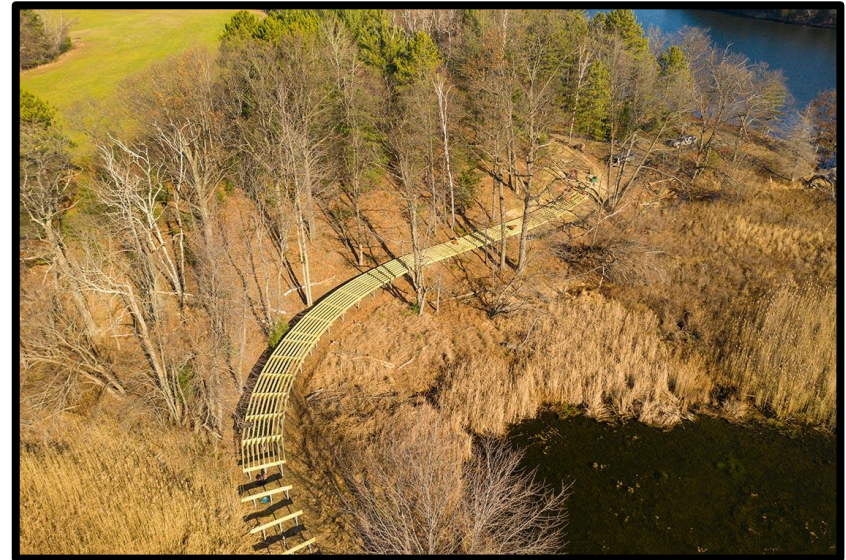
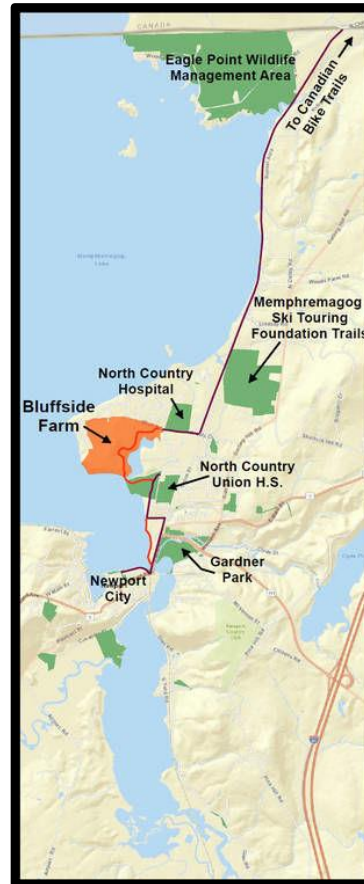
Farmland Conservation

Choiniere Family Farm, Highgate

The Choinieres implemented numerous conservation practices, installing buffers along the river, cattle lanes and fencing, and keeping manure under cover using bedded pack barns. The farm now produces milk without feeding grain. The Choinieres purchased a neighboring conserved farm last year and sold river corridor restrictions along the Rock River.

Conservation and Rural Economic Development

VHCB committed \$199,000 targeted to economic and community development in the Northeast Kingdom towards a recreation corridor and bridge connecting Bluffside Farm with Newport's Prouty Beach and trails in downtown Newport and Quebec. REDI helped secure an additional \$678,000 in federal grants for the project.



Land Conservation, Water Quality and Recreation



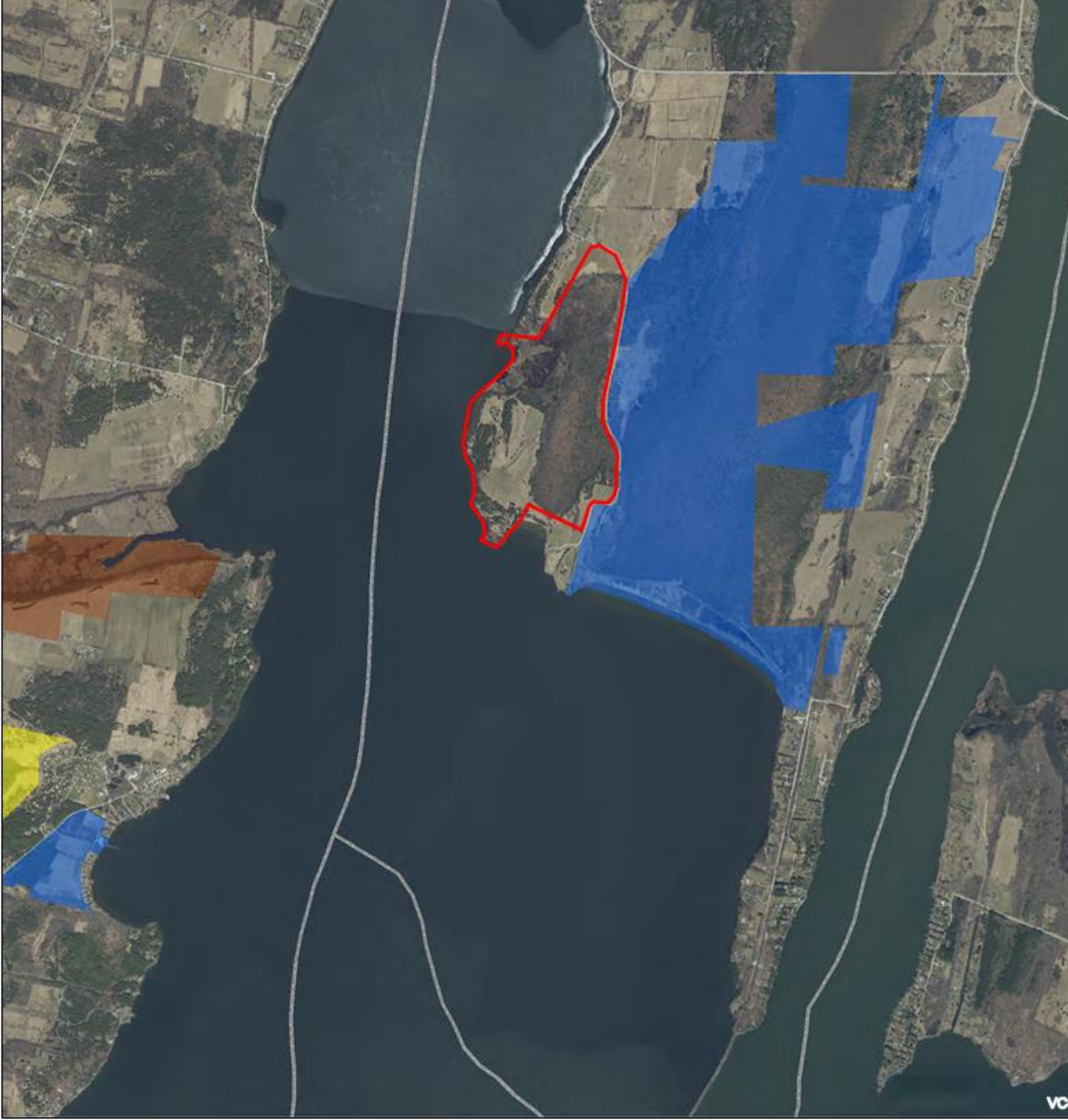
5.5 acres conserved by the Vermont River Conservancy, providing permanent public access to the river along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail while also improving flood resiliency and protecting water quality.

An irreplaceable Lake Champlain property, an addition to Alburgh Dunes State Park



One of the last large stretches of undeveloped, unprotected Lake Champlain shoreline

VHCB funds are needed to match \$554,500 of Federal LWCF funds



1-mile of
lakeside cliffs
and beaches

160-acres will
join 600+ acres
conserved over
the past 25
years by the
Department of
Forest, Parks
and Recreation,
The Nature
Conservancy
and VHCB

Whetstone Brook River Corridor



Cersosimo - Conceptual Site Plan



Text here...

FLOOD STORAGE
• A restored floodplain will provide storage capacity during high water events, reducing peak flows and helping protect downstream property

WATER QUALITY
• Stormwater runoff will be redirected into a wetland, protecting Whetstone Brook's water quality

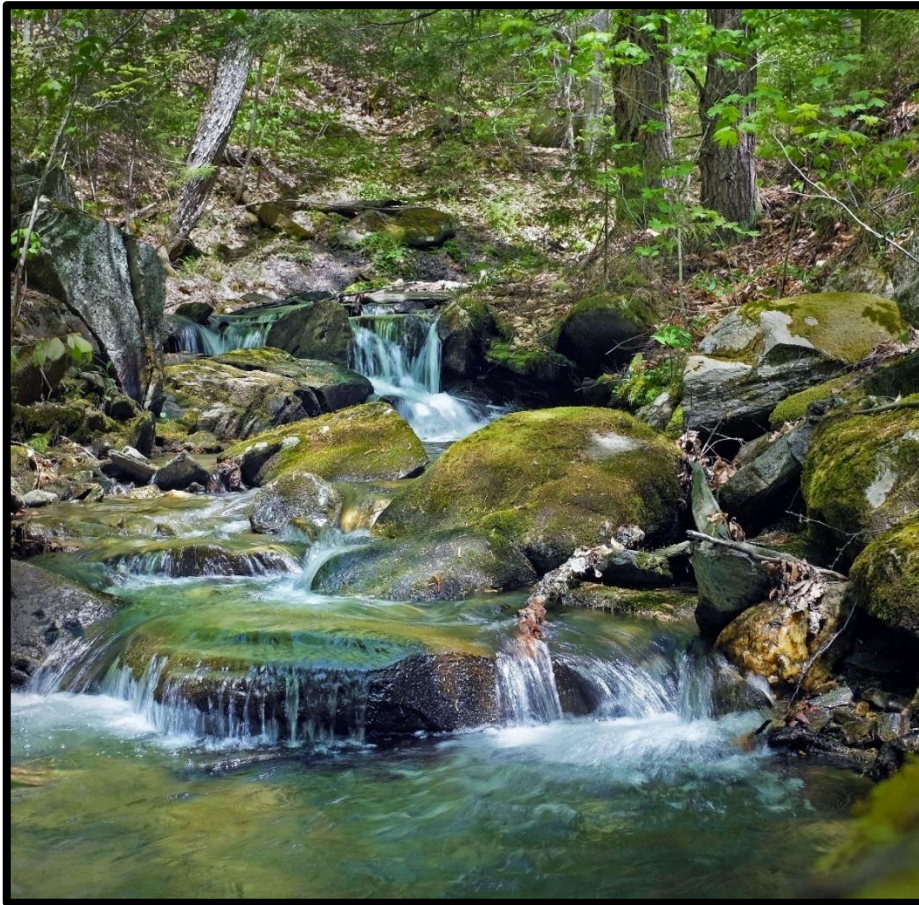
PUBLIC ACCESS
• A pedestrian trail will meander through the restoration area, and provide river access
• Through partnerships, other public uses are possible, such as community gardens, a conservation nursery, a picnic area, or a playground

WILDLIFE HABITAT
• The restoration effort will create wildlife habitat, including grasslands and riparian forests, restoring species present prior to conversion to a lumber yard.



Natural Resource Conservation and Water Quality

Bridgewater Hollow Bramhall Preserve



Green River Floodplain, Guilford

There are many more opportunities to protect headwaters, streams, rivers, wetlands and shoreline. VHCB has a short-term pipeline of 63 natural resources and recreational areas projects seeking \$6 million.

Impaired Waters in Every Watershed



Hudson River Drainage Basin

1. [Battenkill, Walloomsac, Hoosic](#)

Lake Champlain Drainage Basin

South Lake Champlain Basin

2. [Pouliny, Mettawee](#)

3. [Otter Creek, Little Otter Creek, Lewis Creek](#)

4. [Lower Lake Champlain](#)

North Lake Champlain Basin

5. [Upper Lake Champlain, LaPlatte, Malletts Bay, St. Albans Bay, Rock, Pike](#)

6. [Missisquoi](#)

7. [Lamoille](#)

8. [Winooski](#)

Connecticut River Drainage Basin

-North Connecticut River Basin

15. [Passumpsic](#)

16. [Upper Connecticut, Nulhegan, Willard Stream, Paul Stream](#)

-Mid Connecticut River Basin

9. [White](#)

14. [Stevens, Wells, Waits, Ompompanoosuc](#)

-South Connecticut River Basin

10. [Ottawaquechee, Black](#)

11. [West Williams, Saxtons](#)

12. [Deerfield](#)

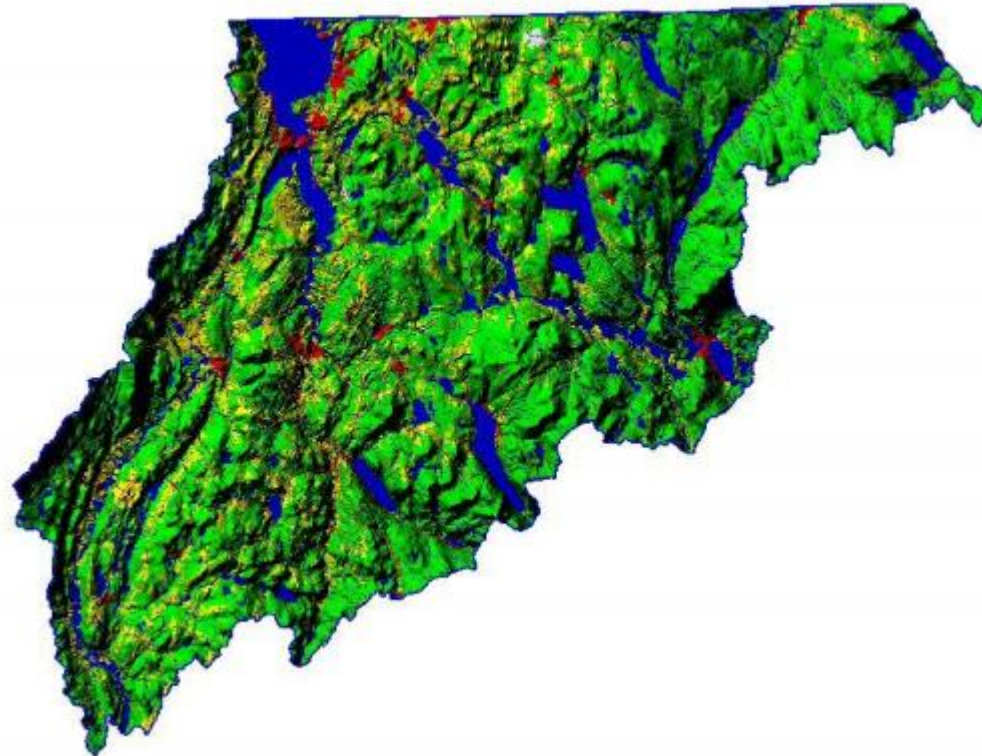
Lake Memphremagog Drainage Basin

17. [Lake Memphremagog \(Barton, Black, Clyde\), Goaticook, Tomifobia](#)

- Lake Memphremagog TMDL
- Deerfield River segment
- Rock River segment
- Connecticut River TMDL Pending
- Lake Carmi TMDL
- Otter Creek
- Winooski River segment
- White River, third branch
- Hoosic River
- Mettawee River segment
- Lake Champlain TMDL

VHCB to act as Clean Water Service Provider for the Lake Memphremagog District

Beginning in 2021, VHCB has been selected to serve as CWSP for the district, collaborating with partners to protect and improve water quality in the 687-square mile basin (489 square miles in Vermont and 198 square miles in Quebec).





Fairbanks Museum, St. J

Bridgewater Community Center

Bayview Crossing, South Hero

18-Month Project Pipeline

Housing, Conservation & Historic Preservation

- \$37 million for 54 rental housing developments, homeownership and accessibility
- \$10.5 million for 35 farmland conservation projects
- \$5.7 million for 63 natural resources and recreational areas projects
- \$1.2 million for 22 historic community buildings



**The new Deer Run Nature Preserve
in Dummerston, Newfane and Brookline will
have frontage along the West River.**

Gus Seelig

Executive Director

Jen Hollar

Director of Policy & Special
Projects



www.vhcb.org

Summary of VHCB State Funding

Governor's FY22 Budget Recommendation

Statutory Amount in FY22: \$29,302,000

Summary of State Funding	FY2021 Budget & Capital Bill	FY2022 Governor's Recommend
Property Transfer Tax to VHCB	\$10,580,695	\$10,804,840
Capital Bill Appropriations	\$6,600,000	\$4,000,000
One-time Appropriation		\$20,000,000
FY2021 and FY2022 State Funding	\$17,180,695	\$34,804,840
Special Initiative		
CRF Appropriation – Housing for Homeless	\$32,899,499	
CRF Appropriation – Farm & Forest Business Advising	\$192,000	