

Hi Chair Durfee,

Gianna Petito at the Clean Water Initiative was kind enough to provide the following responses in blue to questions I posed to them after testimony about the Clean Water Fund almost two weeks ago (March 12). I know these questions were forwarded to Secretary Moore and Claire Madden at ANR, who presented later in the week and they may have been answered then but wanted to provide this information to forward to the committee in case they were not. Neil Kamman, the Director of the Water Investment Division at ANR-DEC is cc'd in case there are any follow-up questions. In addition to the responses in blue, the response in black about the remainder of ARPA unobligated funds comes from me, and tracking down that answer during crossover is entirely the reason for the delay!

*How has climate change impacted progress toward meeting TMDL goals?*

The Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog TMDLs do consider the impacts of climate change and the potential for higher loading in the future as a result of changing rainfall patterns caused by climate change. Both TMDLs include a margin of safety in modeled phosphorus reduction targets to account for uncertainty associated with the impacts of climate change. Please also see pages 68-69 of the Clean Water Initiative SFY23 Performance Report for a two-page narrative consideration of the impacts of climate change on our TMDL progress that you can pull from:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/WID/CWIP/Clean%20Water%20Initiative%202023%20Performance%20Report.pdf>

If folks would like more information this might be an interesting presentation to watch: Clean Water Conversation by Matt Vaughan: March 7, 2024: [Phosphorus Loading into Lake Champlain Post 2023 Flooding](#)

*How does the Clean Water Fund generate interest income?*

The Treasurer's Office provided the following information:

The Clean Water Fund (VISION special fund 21932) was established in 2015 Act 64 Sec 37 as 10 V.S.A. § 1388. Subsection (b) of that section has been interpreted to mean that the fund is to earn interest. This fund is included in what is called the small funds interest process. The average monthly cash balance in the VISION special fund is calculated and a monthly interest earnings rate is applied. The monthly interest earnings rate is calculated by the Office of the State Treasurer and is the net interest rate earned by the State's invested and interest earning pooled cash. This fund is accounted for separately in the state accounting system while the actual cash is included in pooled cash for cash management purposes.

*How much federal funding (outside of ARPA) is leveraged for clean water projects?*

10 V.S.A. §1389a(d)(3) states that "On or before September 1 of each year, the Secretary of Administration shall submit to the Joint Fiscal Committee a report regarding the information required under subdivision (b)(5) of this section relating to available federal funding." Title 10 V.S.A. 1389a(b)(5) requires "A summary of available federal funding related to, or for, water quality improvement efforts in the State." The most recent Federal Fund Report can be found here:

[https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/erp/docs/2023\\_Vermont%20Federal%20Clean%20Water%20Funding%20Report\\_V.2.pdf](https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/erp/docs/2023_Vermont%20Federal%20Clean%20Water%20Funding%20Report_V.2.pdf)

*How much ARPA funding allocated to the Clean Water Board remains unobligated?*

According to a [presentation](#) at the December 11, 2023 Joint Fiscal Committee meeting, Clean Water Board programs have \$7.8 million in unobligated funds (see page 9). I would emphasize that additional funds could have been obligated since then and that the obligation process is more complicated for capital intensive programs and projects, like those undertaken by Clean Water Fund programs and their partners.

Best,

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