



Recommendations for the Proposed FY27 Budget

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Recap of FY26 Clean Water Budget Priorities

- 1) Repeal of the 2027 Sunset of the Property Transfer Tax Clean Water Surcharge – ***Passed.***
- 2) \$14.5 million for state match to draw down \$73.4 million in funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) / Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) – ***Passed.***
- 3) \$850,000 for ANR CAFO database project / contract support and two Full Time Employees for the ANR CAFO Program – ***Passed***



Key Requests to Consider for FY27 Budget

- 1) Support a One-Time Funding Request in the Governor's FY27 Budget Proposal for \$500,000 for the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) to support our outdoor recreation economy;
- 2) One-time funding in the amount of \$200,000 to DEC to implement the initial stages of (now) S.218 Chloride Contamination Reduction Program; and,
- 3) Base funding in the amount of \$600,000 for four additional Full Time Employees (FTEs) for the DEC Office of Water Programs for the full and timely implementation of Act 121, the Flood Safety Act.



Funding in the Amount of \$500,000 to Support Vermont's Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

VOREC AT A GLANCE

VOREC is a state program administered by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) in partnership with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD).

A 15-person Steering Committee of public/private partners from across Vermont represent different sectors of outdoor recreation economy and inform the direction of the program.

Our work strengthens connections between Vermont's outdoor recreation resources and the benefits that come from participation in outdoor recreation using Data, Technical Assistance, Policy, Funding, and Storytelling.

Example of VOREC Project



The goal of this Barre City River Access Master Plan is to remove barriers to the enjoyment of our rivers for all Barre residents and visitors. It is an inclusive master planning and design effort to improve and connect existing and potential river access sites, and to develop wayfinding and interpretive signs that highlight these features of the City.

In part, the funding enabled FWR to develop:

- Public input from 4 engagement events;
- Access opportunities at 10 sites of an 18 initial sites assessed;
- Illustrative site plans for 4 representative sites, with plan-view and section drawings;
- Cost estimates for these 4 representative sites;
- Dimensions and specifications for an integrated set of four signs for wayfinding and site-specific information



S.218 'An act relating to reducing chloride contamination of State waters' has four main components:

1. Establishes best management practices for salt application,
2. Sets certification programs for commercial and municipal applicators,
3. Study on salt storage facilities in proximity to waters and costs to cover, and
4. Provides liability protection for applicators that complete and follow the certification program.





S.218 Initial One-Time Funding of \$200,000

As a first step, ANR requires one-time funding of \$200,000 for:

- The initial fee report (due January 15, 2027), and
- The initial solicitation for third party vendors (also due January 15, 2027) in order to establish the Best Management Practices upon which to base the Certification Program (rule adopted by July 1, 2027).

The next step is for ANR to establish the Certification Program to educate and train commercial applicators on the Best Management Practices and for VTrans to update the VT Local Roads Program for municipal applicators. This will require funding in subsequent years.



Overview of Act 121: The Flood Safety Act Has Three Goals

1. Limits development in our most dangerous and flood-vulnerable areas – our river corridors – and creates both a minimum development standard and a study committee for improving flood resilience in our floodplains.
2. Strengthens oversight and maintenance requirements for dam owners and invests in the removal of those dams that exacerbate flooding, together enhancing public safety.
3. Improves mapping and reporting of wetlands and establishes a wetland net-gain policy, which should reverse historic wetland loss and, consequently, mitigate flood damages.



Timeline of Secs. 3, 10, 11 Rivers

Sec 3 Rivers

Education / Outreach between	Jan 1, 2025 and Jan 1, 2027
ANR Permit pre-rulemaking begins	July 1, 2025
Mapping completed by	Jan 1, 2026
Rules for flood hazard area standards by	Jan 1, 2026
Municipal compliance with flood standards	Jan 1, 2026 (Sec 29)
Permit rules for mapped river corridors adopted by	July 1, 2027
Mapping Report to Legislature due	Jan 15, 2027
Permitting starts	Jan 1, 2028
Adopt State Flood Hazard Standards by	Jan 1, 2028

Sec 10 Study Committee on National Flood Insurance

Natl Flood Insur Study Comm Report Due	Aug 15, 2025
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Sec 11 Transition (also in Sec 3)

Permit pre-rulemaking by	July 1, 2025
Permit rules adopted by	July 1, 2027
Permitting starts	Jan 1, 2028



Act 121 Funding in FY25 Budget

Base Funding

Authorizes 15 DEC Positions ...

Dam Safety Program

- One Administrative Services Coordinator
- Two Environmental Engineers
- Two Environmental Technicians

Rivers and Wetlands Programs

- Ten Environmental Analysts

... but the Budget did not provide funding for 15 positions, only \$1.625 million for 11 positions

- *Breakdown:* \$1.625 / \$150,000 per FTE = 10.8 FTEs

One-Time Funding

State Flood Hazard Area Standards	\$225,000
River corridor mapping and implementation	\$1.5 million
Wetland mapping and rulemaking	\$150,000
Dock foam education	\$50,000
Dam Safety Revolving Loan Fund	\$4 million
<i>One-Time Total</i>	<i>\$5.925 million</i>



Four DEC positions were authorized in the FY25 Budget and remain unfunded

- The Joint Fiscal Office estimated funding level for one Full Time Employee (FTE) is \$150,000.
- Must be in Base Funding, not One-Time, as the funds will be needed annually for staff.
- The four FTEs for the Office of Water Programs would provide for additional Environmental Analysts (the budgetary term) in the Rivers Program to assist with the implementation of the requirements of the Flood Safety Act.