

Town Administrator

From: Brown, Thomas <Thomas.Brown@vermont.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 3:26 PM
To: Town Administrator
Cc: Thomas, Terisa
Subject: CWSRF Sponsorship Discussion 8/9/18

Hi Valerie,

Thank you for your time this afternoon in discussing our outreach effort happening in early on August regarding the ACT 185 and the Sponsorship Program that we are kicking off in the CWSRF Program.

Below is the bulk of the email invitation that was sent out by our consultant, Northbridge Environmental, announcing the meeting. We are very glad to have your support that day in representing our moderate sized Vermont municipalities. Below is the agenda and details regarding this event.

As I mentioned, I will be away that day, but Terisa will be there to represent our program.

Please let Terisa and I know if you have any questions and Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom

We are inviting municipalities, utilities and natural resource groups in Vermont to participate in an in-depth group discussion on implementation of the new Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Sponsorship Program authorized by Act 185 recently passed by the Vermont legislature. The sponsorship concept allows a municipality or utility to receive financial incentives to help implement a natural resource project (such as land conservation, lake protection or stream restoration) in addition to a traditional wastewater or stormwater infrastructure project. Here's an example of how it works:

- A municipality pairs a \$1 million pipe replacement project with a \$100,000 land conservation easement project. The sponsored (natural resource) project may be owned and maintained by either the municipality or a nonprofit organization
- The municipality takes out a loan for \$1.1 million and the administrative fee rate is lowered from 2% to 1%.
- Over the life of the loan, the municipality pays back less than it would on a traditional project resulting in a similar or lower overall project cost, and, therefore gets "two projects for the price of one."

To ensure this exciting new opportunity is well-utilized in Vermont, we want to hear your opinions and ideas on how to structure the program, potential partnerships, outreach mechanisms, incentives for participation, and all the other details that will help the CWSRF Sponsorship Program to be appealing and effective in generating widespread participation. The discussion group will consist of you and others with similar involvement in helping communities implement water quality and wastewater infrastructure in Vermont, along with myself and another moderator. I'm helping to organize and facilitate the focus group on behalf of the DEC. My company is the national contractor for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs, and as such, have expertise on how similar CWSRF sponsorship programs are structured and implemented around the country.

This discussion will be held at the **Vermont Statehouse from 9:00am to 12:30pm on Thursday, August 9th**. Complimentary lunch and morning refreshments will be provided. The DEC, as the sponsor for this research

project, is unable to reimburse participants for travel and accommodations. Detailed location information is provided below.

The agenda is as follows:

8:45 a.m.	Registration and coffee
9:00 a.m. – 11:30am	Awareness, mechanics and incentives for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund sponsorship program
11:30am – 12:15pm	Complimentary working lunch
12:15 – 12:30	Next steps
12:30 – 2:00	<i>DEC will be available for optional follow-up discussions</i>

We will end the focus group promptly at 12:30 p.m. DEC will be available for follow-up discussions from 12:30 – 2:00.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me. You may also contact Terisa Thomas with the DEC at Terisa.Thomas@vermont.gov

Location:

**Vermont Statehouse, Room 10
115 State St
Montpelier, VT 05633**

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