



**White River
Natural
Resources
Conservation
District**

28 Farmvu Drive
White River Junction, VT 05001
www.whiterivernrcd.org
whiterivernrcd@gmail.com
(802) 369-3167

White River and Ottauquechee Conservation Districts' 2024 Local Funding Pool Proposal

On March 14, 2023, the Orange/Windsor County Local Working Group met virtually, and was attended by 20 individuals representing dairy, beef, sheep, and vegetable farm operations, as well as representatives from state, federal, and local government including experts in renewable energy and community engagement. The Local Working Group discussed the following guiding questions relating to natural resource funding priorities:

1. What is your vision for the future of your community as it relates to: agriculture and food security? natural resources and the environment?
2. Identify specific or emerging issues in your community related to the following: agriculture and food security? natural resources and the environment?
3. Where are they happening? What brought these issues to your attention? Why are these issues important to you?
4. What are the top solutions (that you are aware of) to address the issues that you mentioned above?
5. What are the barriers (if any) to achieving those solutions and addressing resource issues in your community?

Overall, the community envisions a future where agriculture is sustainable, farmers are supported, local food is accessible, and the environment is protected. The identified issues include economic viability, climate change, water quantity and quality, invasive species, loss of farmland, and the need for education and resources. Collaboration, education, and accessible funding are seen as key to bridging the gap between the current situation and the desired future.

The main points of the discussion regarding the vision for the future of the community in relation to agriculture, food security, and the environment are:

- Access to local food and knowing where food comes from is important.
- Farmers should have the resources to steward the environment and make a good living.
- Environmental outcomes coming off farms should be considered.
- Utilizing open land for food production and promoting the use of underutilized food sources is valuable.
- Economic viability of farms and supporting small-scale farms is crucial.
- Climate change impacts, such as droughts and storms, are affecting small farms.
- Protecting water quantity and quality is important, including managing water to prevent flooding and to deal with the impacts of droughts.



**White River
Natural
Resources
Conservation
District**

28 Farmvu Drive
White River Junction, VT 05001
www.whiterivernrcd.org
whiterivernrcd@gmail.com
(802) 369-3167

- Invasive pests and plants pose challenges and require management.
- Loss of farmland and development threaten the agricultural landscape.
- Education and awareness about sustainable farming practices and local food sources are needed.
- Collaboration between different organizations and agencies is necessary to address these issues effectively.
- Access to funding and resources for farmers is a barrier that needs to be addressed.
- Addressing the needs of underserved populations and ensuring meaningful representation is important.

Farm viability and food security were the main themes of the Local Working Group's discussion, but since those topics are not within the USDA-NRCS's specific directives, for the purposes of our Local Funding Pool we are prioritizing water quantity, soil health, and small-scale, diversified food production. There is also a special emphasis on evaluation and monitoring of soil health indicators (CEMAs), as requested by the Local Working Group.

Please accept this proposal for a \$150,000 Local Funding Pool for community-scale agriculture practices throughout the White River and Ottauquechee Natural Resources Conservation Districts.

Attachment B – To State Bulletin VT 440-23-07

2024 EQIP Locally Led Conservation Ranking Pool Request Form - Completed by the DC

Land Uses

Check off those land use/uses that will be applicable to the proposed ranking pool

<input type="checkbox"/>	Crop
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forest
<input type="checkbox"/>	Range
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pasture
<input type="checkbox"/>	Farmstead
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associated Ag Land

Resource Concerns

In EQIP there are 17 nationally recognized resource concern categories for the program. Zone DCs will select the top 5 resource concern priorities from the list below based on the LWG action plan, where highest priority is 1. Only 5 resource concerns are to be selected, prioritized as 1 through 5, with 1 being the highest priority.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality Emissions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aquatic Habitat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Concentrated Erosion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Degraded Plant Condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Field Pesticide Loss
<input type="checkbox"/>	Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fire Management
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inefficient Energy Use
<input type="checkbox"/>	Livestock Production Limitation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pest Pressure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Salt Losses to Water
<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil Quality Limitations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Source Water Depletion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage and Handling of Pollutants
<input type="checkbox"/>	Terrestrial Habitat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Weather Resilience
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wind and Water Erosion

Attachment B – To State Bulletin VT 440-23-07**2024 EQIP Locally Led Conservation Ranking Pool Request Form - Completed by the DC****Core Conservation Practices**

Check the conservation practices recommended to include in the proposed ranking pool. These practices must address at least one of the five resource concerns selected and ranked above.

101	CNMP Design and Implementation Activity
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
106	Forest Management Plan
110	Grazing Management Plan
116	Soil Health Management Plan
120	Agricultural Energy Design
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
140	Transition to Organic Design
144	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Design
148	Pollinator Habitat Design
157	Nutrient Management Design and Implementation Activity
158	Feed Management Design
159	Grazing Management Design
160	Prescribed Burning Design
161	Pest Management Conservation System Design
162	Soil Health Management System Design
163	Irrigation Water Management Design
164	Improved Management of Drainage Water Design
165	Forest Management Practice Design
199	Conservation Plan
201	Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - Data Collection and Evaluation
202	Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring - System Installation
207	Site Assessment and Soil Testing for Contaminants Activity
209	PFAS Testing in Water or Soil
216	Soil Health Testing
217	Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management
218	Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment
221	Soil Organic Carbon Stock Measurement
222	Indigenous Stewardship Methods Evaluation
223	Forest Management Assessment
224	Aquifer Flow Test
228	Agricultural Energy Assessment
309	Agrichemical Handling Facility
311	Alley Cropping
313	Waste Storage Facility
314	Brush Management
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment
316	Animal Mortality Facility
317	Composting Facility
319	On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility
325	High Tunnel System
326	Clearing and Snagging
327	Conservation Cover
328	Conservation Crop Rotation
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
330	Contour Farming
332	Contour Buffer Strips
333	Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products
334	Controlled Traffic Farming

Attachment B – To State Bulletin VT 440-23-07**2024 EQIP Locally Led Conservation Ranking Pool Request Form - Completed by the DC**

338	Prescribed Burning
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
350	Sediment Basin
351	Well Decommissioning
353	Monitoring Well
355	Groundwater Testing
360	Waste Facility Closure
362	Diversion
366	Anaerobic Digester
367	Roofs and Covers
368	Emergency Animal Mortality Management
372	Combustion System Improvement
374	Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation
378	Pond
379	Forest Farming
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation
381	Silvopasture
382	Fence
384	Woody Residue Treatment
386	Field Border
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
393	Filter Strip
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
396	Aquatic Organism Passage
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
412	Grassed Waterway
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
422	Hedgerow Planting
430	Irrigation Water Conveyance
436	Irrigation Reservoir
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation
442	Sprinkler System
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
449	Irrigation Water Management
464	Irrigation Land Leveling
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet
472	Access Control
484	Mulching
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
500	Obstruction Removal
511	Forage Harvest Management
512	Pasture and Hay Planting
516	Livestock Pipeline
520	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment
521	Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner

Attachment B – To State Bulletin VT 440-23-07

2024 EQIP Locally Led Conservation Ranking Pool Request Form - Completed by the DC

522	Pond Sealing or Lining – Concrete
528	Prescribed Grazing
533	Pumping Plant
554	Drainage Water Management
557	Row Arrangement
558	Roof Runoff Structure
560	Access Road
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
570	Stormwater Runoff Control
574	Spring Development
575	Trails and Walkways
576	Livestock Shelter Structure
578	Stream Crossing
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
582	Open Channel
585	Stripcropping
587	Structure for Water Control
590	Nutrient Management
592	Feed Management
595	Pest Management Conservation System
601	Vegetative Barrier
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers
604	Saturated Buffer
606	Subsurface Drain
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
614	Watering Facility
620	Underground Outlet
627	Wastewater Treatment – Milk House
629	Waste Treatment
632	Waste Separation Facility
633	Waste Recycling
634	Waste Transfer
635	Vegetated Treatment Area
636	Water Harvesting Catchment
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin
642	Water Well
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
647	Early Successional Habitat Development-Management
649	Structures for Wildlife
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment
655	Forest Trails and Landings
656	Constructed Wetland
657	Wetland Restoration
659	Wetland Enhancement
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning
666	Forest Stand Improvement
670	Energy Efficient Lighting System
672	Energy Efficient Building Envelope
782	Storage Facility – Nursery Substrate
805	Amending Soil Properties with Lime

Attachment B – To State Bulletin VT 440-23-07

2024 EQIP Locally Led Conservation Ranking Pool Request Form - completed by the DC

808	Soil Carbon Amendment
810	Annual Forages for Grazing Systems
812	Raised Bed
821	Low Tunnel Systems

Attachment B – To State Bulletin VT 440-23-07

2024 EQIP Locally Led Conservation Ranking Pool Request Form - completed by the DC

Applicability and Category Question (if submitting a geospatial layer request, specify this in the space below and include a detailed explanation of what the boundaries are):

Program Questions

Question Number	Question	Points
1	Is the applicant enrolled in CRP-TIP?	5
2		
3		
4		
5		
Total Points		200

Resource Questions

Question Number	Question	Points
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
Total Points		200

Ranking Component Weights

Total ranking component weight must equal 100%. Zone DCs will select vulnerability, program priorities and resource priorities percentages. Percentages for each must be between the minimum and maximum percentage located in the EQIP national ranking template, as outlined below. The planned practice points and efficiency percent are set nationally.

	Min %	Max %	Suggested Weight
Vulnerabilities	10	40	
Planned Practice Points	15	15	15
Program Priorities	5	15	
Resource Priorities	20	60	
Efficiency	10	10	10
TOTAL			100%

Attachment B – To State Bulletin VT 440-23-07

2024 EQIP Locally Led Conservation Ranking Pool Request Form - completed by the DC

Funds Being Requested (\$)

Ranking Pool Deadlines

Check here if the preferred funding cycle for the Locally Led Conservation Ranking Pool proposal is to follow the State funding cycle for 2024.

For a separate funding cycle, specific to this proposal, provide the following:

	Suggested Date
Application Sign Up Deadline	
Application Ranking Deadline	
Application Obligation Deadline	