

**St Albans Bay Watershed
Action Plan 2018 to 2020**

Strategy I: Locally-Led/Farmer Engaged Conservation **Complete - X**

Actions:	Description	Who is responsible?	Begin Month-Year	End Month-Year	
Assist with Watershed Planning Group Meetings.	Assist NRCS with planning and conducting 2-3* Watershed Action Planning Group meetings each year of the agreement (Year 1, January 1 to December 31, 2018; Year 2, January 1 to December 31, 2019). (*As scheduled by NRCS, if less are scheduled this deliverable is reduced).	UVM & NRCS	Mar-18	Mar-19	
Assist with Watershed Planning Group Meetings.	Year 2 of the above.	UVM & NRCS	Apr-19	Mar-20	
Provide peer-to-peer farm education and networking opportunities.	Collaborate with NRCS, education & non-profit organizations.	UVM & NRCS	Mar-18	Mar-20	
Attend and report to other farmer groups	Report on what farmers are doing and estimated reductions in phosphorus runoff to the Farmers Watershed Alliance and Farm Bureau.	UVM & NRCS	Mar-18	Mar-20	

Strategy 2: Technical Assistance to Farmers

Actions:	Description	Who is responsible?	Begin	End	
Develop a plan to provide technical assistance to farmers.	Include target audiences, key messages, expected outcomes and timeline.	NRCS & UVM	Mar-18	Sep-18	
Serve as a case manager for farmers. Maximum to provide is 5 farmers.	Using the farmer's preferred method of communication, either by email or letter offer to serve as a case manager for farms by assisting farmers in the Hungerford Brook Watershed in developing their NRCS EQIP contract application (including assisting them with completing the application form and associated documents necessary to be considered eligible for NRCS program benefits) especially related to agronomic practices (assist the participant in identifying fields for the application of cover crops, no-till, nutrient management plans and other practices). Provide the case manager services as requested by farmers.	UVM	Mar-18	Mar-20	

Outreach to farmers to encourage use of Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool.	Obtain one participant permission to participate in the evaluation. Obtain necessary data from cooperating farm to run the tool and evaluate 10-20 representative fields depending on farm size.	UVM	Mar-18	Mar-19	
Initiate individual contact each year with at least 50% of the 32 farmers (16 total per year) in the watershed to explain water quality issues in St Albans Bay Watershed.	Present the goals of the watershed planning group as it relates to the EPA TMDL. Inform the farmers of financial assistance programs available to help them implement conservation practices to improve soil health, reduce nutrient and sediment run-off and to address other water quality concerns with the intent of improving water quality.	UVM	Mar-18	Mar-19	
Initiate individual contact each year with at least 50% of the 32 farmers (16 total per year) in the watershed to explain water quality issues in St Albans Bay Watershed.	Year 2 of the above.	UVM	Apr-19	Mar-20	
Contact 1-3 farmers each year whose farmsteads are located outside of the watershed but manage land inside the watershed.	Present the goals of the watershed planning group as it relates to the EPA TMDL. Inform the farmers of financial assistance programs available to help them implement conservation practices to improve soil health, reduce nutrient and sediment run-off and to address other water quality concerns with the intent of improving water quality.	UVM	Mar-18	Mar-19	
Contact 1-3 farmers each year whose farmsteads are located outside of the watershed but manage land inside the watershed.	Year 2 of the above.	UVM	Apr-19	Mar-20	
Each year identify farmers willing to share conservation practices implemented on their farm but were not contracted in EQIP and with farmer written permission record these practices into "Vermont State Partner Database."	Year 1.	UVM	Mar-18	Mar-19	

Each year identify farmers willing to share conservation practices implemented on their farm but were not contracted in EQIP and with farmer written permission record these practices into "Vermont State Partner Database."	Year 2.	UVM	Apr-19	Mar-20	
Each year NRCS and UVM are to track accomplishments (practices contracted and implemented as well as tracking available monitoring results, etc.) made in meeting phosphorous goals and realign action plan as needed.	Utilizing this information, estimate annual P reduction using the EPA BMP modeling tool and annually report back to the Watershed Planning Group.	NRCS & UVM	Mar-18	Mar-19	
Each year NRCS and UVM are to track accomplishments (practices contracted and implemented as well as tracking available monitoring results, etc.) made in meeting phosphorous goals and realign action plan as needed.	Year 2 of the above.	NRCS & UVM	Apr-19	Mar-20	
Each year NRCS will provide aggregate EQIP practice implementation data for the SAB watershed to DEC.	Conservation practice data for the prior calendar year will be tabulated by NRCS and reported to DEC.	NRCS		2/28/19 and 2/28/20	
Strategy 3: Financial Assistance to Farmers					
Actions:	Description	Who is responsible?	Begin	End	
Assist NRCS with certification of conservation practices.	Practices to include cover crops, no-till & cropland buffers for minimum of 2 farms and max of 5 farms per year.	UVM	Mar-18	Mar-19	
Assist NRCS with certification of conservation practices.	Year 2 of the above.	UVM	Apr-19	Mar-20	

Seek increased funding for agronomic practices as farmers are yet to experience the economic benefit of healthy soils as the soils are in early stages of recovery.	-Agronomic practices to include manure injection, cover cropping and reduced tillage (more than three-five years). One vehicle to pursue is an NRCS RCPP Grant and "Adjustment of terms." -Seek higher rates for cover crops that are established earlier in the year. -Seek increased rate per acre for reduced tillage.	VTDEC	Jun-18	Sep-19	
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Strategy 4: Outreach and Education

Actions:	Description	Who is responsible?	Begin	End	
Develop an outreach/education plan.	Include target audiences, key messages, and expected outcomes.	NRCS & UVM	Mar-18	Sep-18	
Identify & contact 1 farmer to be profiled in a published success story.	Story can be regarding the totality of the farmer's conservation efforts or successful implementation of a conservation practice or completed an EQIP contract.	UVM	Mar-18	Mar-19	
Work with minimum of 1 farmer to establish an on-farm demonstration.	Highlight conservation practices. Will be available for other farms to visit.	UVM	Mar-18	Mar-19	
Conduct at least one on-farm field day.	In one of the 4 watersheds (Rock River, Pike River/Lake Carmi, St Albans or Hungerford Brook) showcasing the conservation practices applied. <Have farmers tell their experience with the implementation of conservation practices, why they did it, how they did it, how it worked.>	UVM	Mar-18	Mar-19	
Collaborate with the St Albans Watershed Association and UVM on the grant project titled "Exploring the links between harmful algal blooms and human well-being."	Assist with identifying a farmer/s that would be willing to participate in a storytelling event. And if deemed appropriate a member of the St Albans Bay watershed planning group will participate along with a SAB farmer.	UVM, SAWA and NRCS	Mar-19	Mar-20	
Prepare and distribute press release for local media outlets	Focus on conservation practices that farmers have implemented and the resulting benefits, as well as report on estimated reductions in phosphorus runoff. Goal is to publish 1 press release per year highlighting the measureable conservation results in the target watersheds. This will also help measure outreach effectiveness.	NRCS	Mar-18	Mar-19	

Prepare and distribute press release for local media outlets	Year 2 of the above.	NRCS	Apr-19	Mar-20	
Report to farmers what other phosphorus contributors are doing	Specifically, stormwater, road networks, and other contributors. This will be done as part of the Basin Plan 5 - Northern Lake Champlain tactical basin plan. St Albans Bay watershed is part of Basin 5.	VTDEC	2019	2020 TBD	
Educate and inform farmers of available technical and financial resources for implementing conservation and protecting resources.	Coordinate a direct mailing to all farmers in the watershed which provides info, highlights, how-to-access, and contact info for conservation assistance available from NRCS, AAFM and VHCB.	UVM and NRCS	Jun-18	Sep-18	
Target private landowners via a fact sheet about ACEP-ALE/WRE, Vermont State Restoration Grants (River Corridor Easements) and other easement programs available.	Highlight local, state, and federal programs available for easements.	NRCS and VTDEC	Jun-18	Mar-19	
Report to other watershed groups	Report on what farmers are doing and estimated reductions in phosphorus runoff to St Albans Area Watershed Alliance and the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain.	UVM and NRCS	Mar-18	Mar-20	