

## East Creek Watershed Action Plan 2018-2020

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<b>Strategy 1_ Locally-Led/Farmer Engaged Conservation</b>					<b>Complete X</b>
Actions:	Description	Who is responsible?	When Begin Month-Year	When End Month-Year	
Assist with Watershed Planning Group Meetings.	Assist NRCS with the leadership of the East Creek Watershed Planning Group and assist with planning and implementation of approximately of 3-5* meetings in the first year. The purpose of the meetings is to identify key strategies to accelerate implementation of conservation practices, and to develop a Watershed Action plan to implement the key strategies. The plan to also include the group's consensus goal for phosphorus reduction and estimated EQIP funding required to meet the goal. (*As scheduled by NRCS, if less are scheduled the deliverable is to be reduced).	UVM & NRCS	Mar-18	Feb-19	
Assist with Watershed Planning Group Meetings.	Assist with an additional 2-3* Watershed Planning Group Meetings in the second year of the agreement. (*As scheduled by NRCS, if less are scheduled the deliverable is to be reduced).	UVM & NRCS	Mar-19	Feb-20	
Collaborate with NRCS, educational and non-profit organizations to provide peer-to-peer farmer education and networking opportunities.		UVM & NRCS	Mar-18	Feb-20	
Conduct 4 meetings on farm in watershed	Farmers within watershed will host demos/ field days showing different practices	Farmers, UVM, NRCS	Mar-18	Feb-20	
<b>Strategy 2: Technical Assistance to Farmers</b>					
Actions:	Description	Who is responsible?	When Begin	When End	
Develop technical assistance plan.	Include target audiences, key messages, expected outcomes and timeline. <Part of Watershed Action Plan>	UVM & NRCS	Mar-18	Sep-18	

Initiate individual contact each year with at least 50% of the 25 farmers (12-13 total per year) in the watershed to explain water quality issues in East Creek Watershed	Present the goals of the watershed planning group as it related to the EPA TMDL.	UVM	Mar-18	Feb-19	
Initiate individual contact each year with at least 50% of the 25 farmers (12-13 total per year) in the watershed to explain water quality issues in East Creek Watershed	Same as above	UVM	Mar-19	Feb-20	
Contact 1-3 farmers each year whose farmsteads are located outside of the watershed.	Inform the famers 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 in East Creek.	UVM	Mar-18	Feb-19	
Contact 1-3 farmers each year whose farmsteads are located outside of the watershed.	Inform the famers 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-19	Feb-20	
Serve as a case manager for farms by assisting farmers. Maximum to provide is 5 farmers.	Using the famer's preferred method of communication, either by email or letter offer to serve as a case manager for farms by assisting farmers in the East Creek 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	Feb-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 (10 fields for farms less than 500 acres, and 20 fields for farms over 500 acres) <u>by one year after award</u>	UVM	Mar-18	Feb-19	
Identify conservation practices implemented by farmers that were not contracted in EQIP.	Record this practice implementation using the "Vermont State Partner Database."	UVM	Mar-18	Feb-19	
Identify conservation practices implemented by farmers that were not contracted in EQIP.	Same as above.	UVM	Mar-19	Feb-20	
Track accomplishments.	Practices contracted and implemented as well as tracking available monitoring results made in meeting P goals and realign action plan as needed.	NRCS & UVM	Mar-18	Feb-19	
Track accomplishments.	Same as above	NRCS & UVM	Mar-19	Feb-20	
Water Sampling	Continue water sampling within the East Creek	UVM & DEC	Mar-18	Dec-18	
Tile Drain Water Sampling	Water sample testing on tile drain site. Two year study with potential extensions.	UVM, Agency of Ag, VACD	Mar-18	Dec-19	

<b>Strategy 3: Financial Assistance to Farmers</b>					
<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>	<b>When Begin</b>	<b>When End</b>	
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	Feb-19	
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-19	Feb-20	
RCPG Grant	RCPG grant for cover crop, no-till. Waiving EQIP time limitations on the practices. Possibly a shorter day corn tied in to cover crop scenario.	DEC	Jun-18	Sep-19	
RCPG Grant	Receive grants to provide funding for NRCS Nutrient Management Plan updates	VACD	06/01/18	09/30/19	
Stabilize CWIP funding	CWIP is year to year funds. Get this to be more stabilized funding source	UVM	03/02/18	Feb-20	
Other sources of funding	Apply to sources of funds	Farmers	03/02/18	Feb-20	
<b>Strategy 4: Outreach and Education</b>					
<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>	<b>When Begin</b>	<b>When End</b>	
Develop outreach/education plan.	Include target audiences, key messages, and expected outcomes.<Part of Watershed Action Plan>	NRCS & UVM	Mar-18	Sep-18	
Work with minimum of 1 farmer to establish an on-farm demonstration.	Work to establish on-farm demonstration that highlight conservation practices including, but not limited to, cover cropping, no-till, buffers, soil health, etc.	UVM	Mar-18	Feb-19	
Conduct at least one on-farm field day.	Conduct at least one on-farm field day in one or more of the 2 watersheds (McKenzie or East Creek) showcasing the conservation practices applied.	UVM	Mar-18	Feb-20	

Identify & contact 1 farmer to be profiled in a published success story.	Identify and contact 1 East Creek watershed farmer who is willing to be profiled in published success stories with the intent of motivating other farmers to adopt conservation practices. This success story can be regarding the totality of the farmer's conservation efforts or how they successfully implemented a conservation practice or completed and EQIP contract, or otherwise wisely steward their natural resources. Coordinate with the NRCS Vermont Public Affairs Specialist to develop an outreach press release to the general public.	UVM	Mar-18	Feb-19	
Promote NRCS programs	Promote NRCS programs/ practices that are available. Focusing on underutilized practices.	UVM, Farmer, VACD, DEC, <b>NRCS</b> , Agency of Ag	Mar-18	Feb-20	
Bus Tour	To educate the general public and legislators.	<b>OCNRCD</b> , VACD, UVM, CVFC	Mar-18	Feb-20	
Conservation Farmer of the Year	Choose a farmer in the East Creek Watershed to be featured as the Conservation Farmer of the Year. Promote the "why" they were chosen.	VACD	Mar-18	Feb-20	
Legislative Breakfast	Have at least 1 farmer within the watershed and attend at least 1 of the 4 legislative Breakfast/yr	CVFC	Mar-18	Feb-20	
Identify & contact 1 farmer to be profiled in a published success story.	Identify 1 positive story to share with the media.	NRCS	Mar-18	Feb-20	
Field trials	Have cover crop trials, short season corn, soil admendment, and hayland manure injection in the East Creek Watershed.	UVM	Mar-18	Feb-20	
CEAP/ Direct to farmer funds	Capital Equipment Assistance Program \$ amount aviable/ priority watersheds. Educate farmers/ TSPs on sources of funds	<b>UVM</b> , NRCS, CVFC, Agency of Ag.	Mar-18	Feb-20	