

# The Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program (WISPr)

Municipal Day, 2023

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Water Investment Division

Watershed Planning Program

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# What is WISPr?

Water

Infrastructure

Sponsorship

Program

- Sponsorship program that incentivizes natural infrastructure that supports water quality
- Supports projects to protect, conserve, or restore natural resources, including the acquisition of easements and land for the purpose of providing water quality benefits (24 VSA Chapter 120 4752)

# How does WISPr work?

Clean Water State Revolving Fund  
(CWSRF)



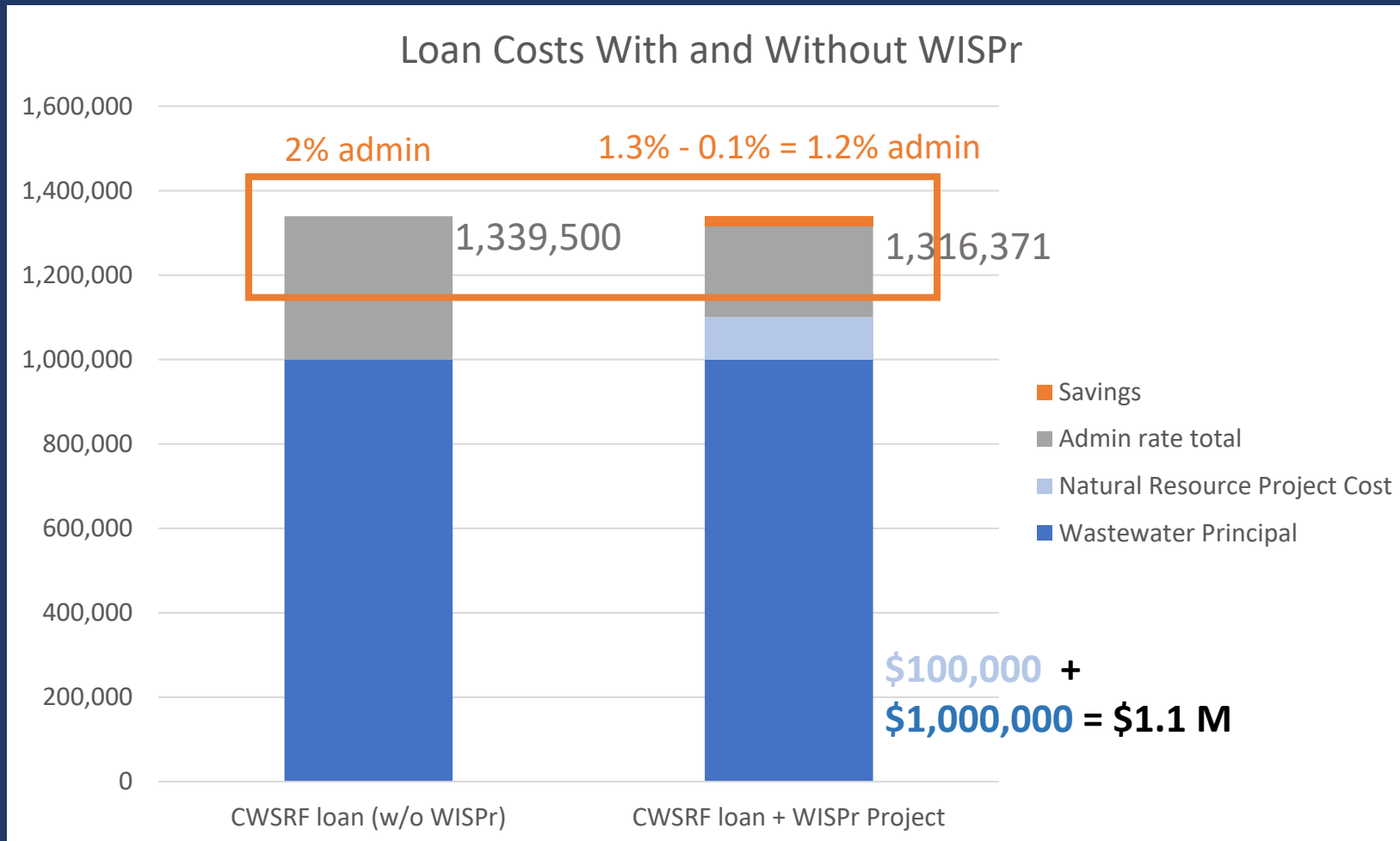
Municipal Sponsor

Sponsorship



Natural Resource  
Project

# How does WISPr work?



**0.1% admin fee reduction** leads to savings of \$23,129 on a \$1M CWSRF loan

# WISPr Project Types

Natural Resource Projects: protect, conserve, or restore natural resources, including the acquisition of easements and land for the purpose of providing water quality benefits (24 VSA Chapter 120 4752)

## WISPr Eligible Project Types:

- ✓ Dam removal where there is a water quality benefit
- ✓ Floodplain/Stream Restoration
- ✓ Forest Conservation
- ✓ Land Acquisition for the benefit of water quality
- ✓ River corridor/Wetland easement
- ✓ Riparian Buffer Planting
- ✓ Wetland Restoration
- ✓ Lake Shoreland restoration/erosion repair

# Determining WISPr Eligibility

## WISPr Eligible Project Types:

- ✓ Dam removal where there is a water quality benefit
- ✓ Floodplain/Stream Restoration
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**AND**

## Provide water quality benefit through:

Restoring a natural resource.

**OR**

Protecting a natural resource,  
Now and in perpetuity.

# Example Project Types

## Land Acquisition and Floodplain Restoration



# Example Project Types

## Dam Removal

Before Removal



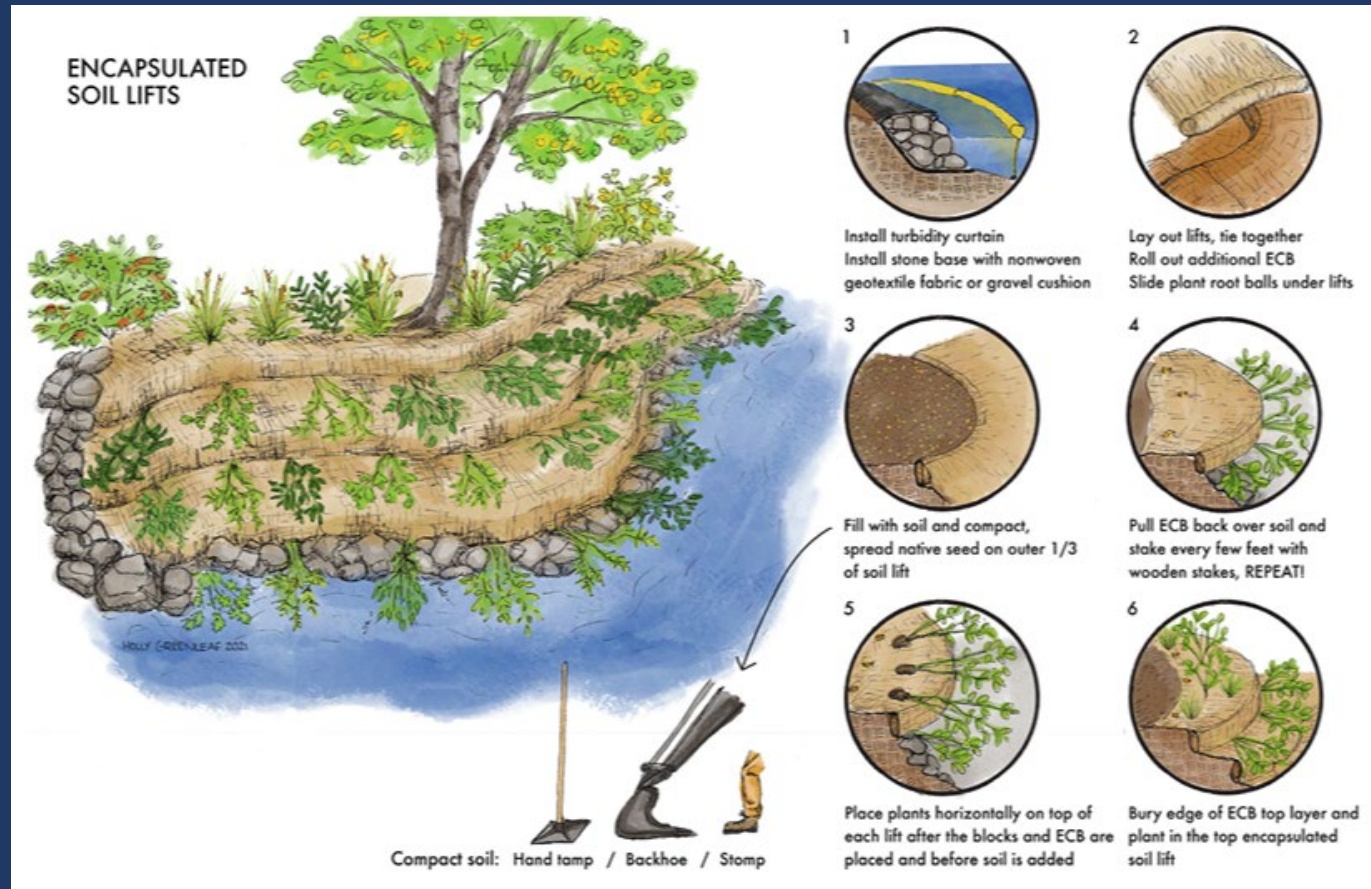
After Removal





# Example Project Types

## Lake Shoreland Restoration (using Lake Wise Principles)



# Example Project Types

## Wetland Restoration



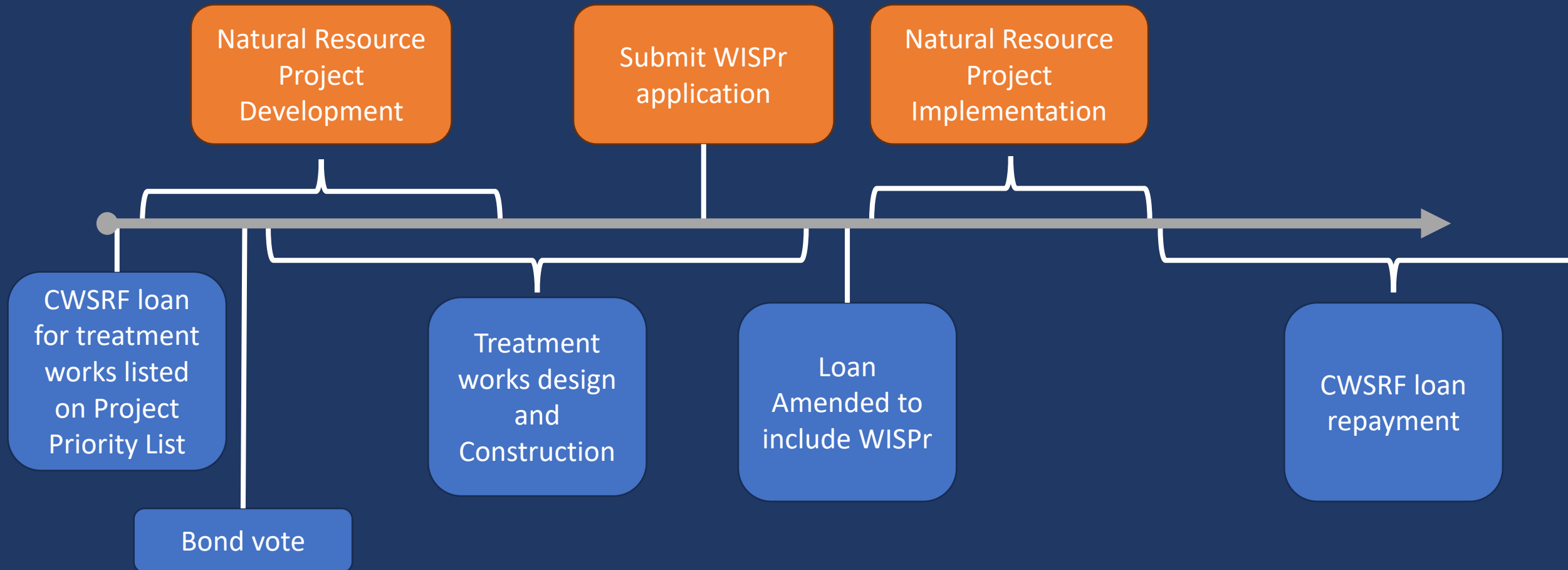
Vermont Land Trust

# Who can do WISPr projects?

- Municipality
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party
  - Non-profit
  - Regional Planning commission
  - Conservation District
  - Watershed Groups
  - Other Municipality



# The WISPr Process



# Why Sponsor a WISPr Project?

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- Savings associated with discount on administrative fees
- Improving water quality locally
- Good public relations



# Questions?

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