**AGENDA**

**Act 73 Working Group and Advisory Council on Water Quality Funding**

**National Life, Davis 5th Floor, Montpelier**

**Call-In Number: (802) 448-4858**.

**Friday, September 8, 2017**

**9:00-10:30 AM**

Review Agenda

Introductions

Review Statutory Mandate, 2017 Act 73 § 26

Recap of Working Group’s Work to Date

* Treasurer’s Report “Funding Gap” Estimate
* Review Existing Revenue Sources in FY18-19 State Budget
* Prepare Refined Estimates of Anticipated FY2020-2024 Clean Water Needs
* Review Current Cost-Share, by Sector
	+ Grants vs. Loans
* Explore Other Revenue Sources and Financial Instruments
	+ Administrative Options for Parcel or Impervious Surface Fee
	+ Data Needs for Parcel or Impervious Surface Fee

Review Report Outline and Proposed Schedule

*Discussion*

* *Major concerns that should be addressed in the Report?*
	+ *Administrative challenges presented by different models?*
* *Differing levels of cost share, by sector?*
	+ *Cost share for private landowners?*
	+ *Cost share for regulatory versus non-regulatory activities?*
* *Opportunity to provide incentives to accelerate implementation?*
* *Role of innovation?*

**Website**

 <http://anr.vermont.gov/about/special-topics/act-73-clean-water-funding>

**Future Meetings**

 Working Group: September 22, 9:00-10:30

 Meeting #2 with Advisory Council: Early October

 Meeting #3 with Advisory Council: Early November

 November 15 – Report Due to Legislature

**2017 Act 73 § 26. WORKING GROUP ON WATER QUALITY FUNDING**

1. Establishment. There is established the Working Group on Water Quality Funding to develop recommendations for equitable and effective long-term funding methods to support clean water efforts in Vermont.

(b) Membership. The Working Group shall be composed of the following six members:

(1) the Secretary of Natural Resources or designee (**Julie Moore**);

(2) one member from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, appointed by the Board of Directors of that organization (**Dominic Cloud**);

(3) the Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets or designee (**Anson Tebbetts**);

(4) a representative of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information **(John Adams**);

(5) the Commissioner of Taxes or designee (**Kaj Samsom**);

(6) one member representing commercial or industrial business interests in the State, to be appointed by the Governor, after consultation with other business groups in the State (**John Grenier**);

(c) Advisory Council. The Working Group shall be assisted by an Advisory Council to be made up of:

(1) the State Treasurer or designee (**Beth Pearce**);

(2) the Secretary of Transportation or designee (**Joe Flynn**);

(3) one member from the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers

Association appointed by the Executive Board of that organization (**Dawn Custer**);

(4) one member from the Vermont Mayors Coalition appointed by that organization (**John Hollar**);

(5) a representative of an environmental advocacy group appointed by the Speaker of the House (**Jared Carpenter**);

(6) a representative of the agricultural community appointed by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (**Jill Arace**); and

(7) a representative of University of Vermont Extension appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate (**Chuck Ross**).

(d) Powers and duties. The Working Group on Water Quality Funding shall recommend to the General Assembly draft legislation to establish equitable and effective long-term funding methods to support clean water efforts in Vermont.

(e) Consultation with Advisory Council. The Working Group shall meet at least three times with the Advisory Council for input on the report to be submitted to the General Assembly under subsection (f) of this section. The Advisory Council’s comments shall be included in the final report.

(f) Report. On or before November 15, 2017, the Working Group on Water Quality Funding shall submit to the General Assembly a summary of its activities, an evaluation of existing sources of funding, and draft legislation to establish equitable and effective long-term funding methods to support clean water efforts in Vermont.

(g) Meetings.

(1) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall call the first meeting of the Working Group to occur on or before July 1, 2017.

(2) The Secretary of Natural Resources shall be the Chair of the Working Group.

(3) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

(4) The Working Group shall cease to exist on March 1, 2018.

(5) No specific state appropriations shall be used to support the working group or advisory council.

(h) Assistance. The Working Group on Water Quality Funding shall have the administrative, technical, and legal assistance of the Agency of Natural Resources and the Department of Taxes. The Working Group on Water Quality Funding shall have the technical assistance of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information or designee.