

TOWN OF  
EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT  
SELECTBOARD

Amy Willis (2017 – 2020)  
Gene Troia (2018 – 2020)

Seth Gardner (2018 – 2021)  
Carl Etnier (2019 – 2022)

November 18, 2019

Gianna Petito, District Manager  
Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District  
617 Comstock Road, Suite 1  
Berlin, VT 05602

Re: Letter of Support for WNRCD Proposal for Morse Farm Stormwater Project Design

Dear Ms. Petito:

The Town of East Montpelier is submitting this letter to demonstrate our enthusiastic support for the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District's application to bring the proposed Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks stormwater project from 30% to 100 design.

In addition to development along our river corridors, East Montpelier experiences erosion as a result of moderate slopes and poor soils, contributing to sediment and nutrient loading in surface waters. When precipitation falls, particularly in steep areas, vegetation helps to keep soils in place and slow down the water as it flows over the ground. However, when this vegetation is removed, these areas become unstable and are prone to failure in large storm events. This process is exacerbated by the poor soils present throughout town. These stormwater runoff related issues decrease aquatic habitat health, increase flooding and erosion, threaten infrastructure, and prevent use and enjoyment of our water resources.

During 2017-2019, the town developed a Stormwater Master Plan with assistance from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC). The project consultants met with town stakeholders and CVRPC on two occasions to solicit information on problem areas in the town. Following these meetings, a list of potentially important sites was provided to the project team. A total of 66 locations were identified for field investigation. These locations were evaluated during 2018, after which a final list of 36 potential best management practices (BMP) projects were evaluated and prioritized by the town.

The Morse Farm Maple Sugarworks proposed stormwater BMP project ranked third out of the top 20 potential BMP projects. It is a high priority for our town to see these concepts moved from design to implementation and we express our full support for your funding application.

Sincerely,

Seth B. Gardner  
Chair, East Montpelier Selectboard