

**From:** Richards, Alyson [Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2015 2:17 PM  
**To:** Coriell, Scott; Green, Geoff  
**Subject:** Fwd: PRESS RELEASE: VT Governor Shumlin and USDA NRCS Announce Funding for Lake Champlain  
**Attachments:** image001.gif; ATT00001.htm; Gov Shumlin and USDA NRCS Announce Funding for Lake Champlain.docx; ATT00002.htm

For social media and maybe to post on our website? They made some of your good edits, Scott!!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Wetzstein, Heather - NRCS, Colchester, VT"  
<[Heather.Wetzstein@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Heather.Wetzstein@vt.usda.gov)>  
**Date:** January 14, 2015 at 2:00:36 PM EST  
**To:** ug-VT-nrcs <[vt-nrcs@one.usda.gov](mailto:vt-nrcs@one.usda.gov)>, Addison Eagle  
<[newmarketpress@denpubs.com](mailto:newmarketpress@denpubs.com)>, Addison Independent  
<[news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)>, Agriview  
<[alison.kosakowski@state.vt.us](mailto:alison.kosakowski@state.vt.us)>, Agriview  
<[teresa@agr.st.vt.us](mailto:teresa@agr.st.vt.us)>, American Nurseryman  
<[sbenson@mooserivermedia.com](mailto:sbenson@mooserivermedia.com)>, Associated Press  
<[apvermont@ap.org](mailto:apvermont@ap.org)>, "Barton Chronicle"  
<[news@bartonchronicle.com](mailto:news@bartonchronicle.com)>, Bennington Banner  
<[news@benningtonbanner.com](mailto:news@benningtonbanner.com)>, Berkshire Eagle  
<[news@berkshireeagle.com](mailto:news@berkshireeagle.com)>, "BFP Sam Hemingway"  
<[shemingway@burlingtonfreepress.com](mailto:shemingway@burlingtonfreepress.com)>, Brattleboro Reformer  
<[news@reformer.com](mailto:news@reformer.com)>, Burlington Free Press Newsroom  
<[metro@burlingtonfreepress.com](mailto:metro@burlingtonfreepress.com)>, Caledonian Record  
<[news@caledonian-record.com](mailto:news@caledonian-record.com)>, Charlotte News  
<[news@charlottenewsvt.com](mailto:news@charlottenewsvt.com)>, Colchester Sun  
<[news@colchestersun.com](mailto:news@colchestersun.com)>, County Courier  
<[couriereditor@gmail.com](mailto:couriereditor@gmail.com)>, Deerfield Valley News  
<[news@vermontmedia.com](mailto:news@vermontmedia.com)>, Eagle Times  
<[news@eagletimes.com](mailto:news@eagletimes.com)>, Essex Reporter  
<[news@essexreporter.com](mailto:news@essexreporter.com)>, "Farming: The Journal of  
Northeast Agriculture" <[farmingpr@mooserivermedia.com](mailto:farmingpr@mooserivermedia.com)>, Fox  
44 <[news@fox44now.com](mailto:news@fox44now.com)>, Goddard College <[wgdr-  
psa@goddard.edu](mailto:wgdr-psa@goddard.edu)>, Hardwick Gazette  
<[news@thehardwickgazette.com](mailto:news@thehardwickgazette.com)>, Healthy Hippie  
<[taraleigh@healthyhippie.net](mailto:taraleigh@healthyhippie.net)>, Hinesburg Record

<[therecord@gmavt.com](mailto:therecord@gmavt.com)>, Hinesburg Record  
<[junegiroux@aol.com](mailto:junegiroux@aol.com)>, It's Classified  
<[mail@itsclassified.com](mailto:mail@itsclassified.com)>, Journal Opinion  
<[editor@jonews.com](mailto:editor@jonews.com)>, "Kathleen Wanner"  
<[kwanner@comcast.net](mailto:kwanner@comcast.net)>, Lakes Region Free Press  
<[lakesregionfreepress@manchesternewspapers.com](mailto:lakesregionfreepress@manchesternewspapers.com)>, "Lisa Rathke (AP" <[lrathke@ap.org](mailto:lrathke@ap.org)>, Manchester Journal  
<[news@manchesterjournal.com](mailto:news@manchesterjournal.com)>, "Milton Independent"  
<[indy@together.net](mailto:indy@together.net)>, Montpelier Bridge  
<[mpbridge@sover.net](mailto:mpbridge@sover.net)>, Morning Ag Clips  
<[ihaveapressrelease@morningagclips.com](mailto:ihaveapressrelease@morningagclips.com)>, Mountain Gazette  
<[mtgazette@earthlink.net](mailto:mtgazette@earthlink.net)>, Mountain Times  
<[editor@mountaintimes.info](mailto:editor@mountaintimes.info)>, National Gardening  
<[charlottekidd@comcast.net](mailto:charlottekidd@comcast.net)>, Newport Daily Express  
<[editor@newportvermontdailyexpress.com](mailto:editor@newportvermontdailyexpress.com)>, News & Citizen  
<[reporter@newsandcitizen.com](mailto:reporter@newsandcitizen.com)>, News & Citizen / The Transcript <[news@newsandcitizen.com](mailto:news@newsandcitizen.com)>, News Leaks  
<[vrwa@vtruralwater.org](mailto:vrwa@vtruralwater.org)>, "North Avenue News"  
<[noavenews@aol.com](mailto:noavenews@aol.com)>, North Star Monthly  
<[northstar@kingcon.com](mailto:northstar@kingcon.com)>, Northern Woodlands  
<[mail@northernwoodlands.org](mailto:mail@northernwoodlands.org)>, Northfield News  
<[thenorthfieldnews@gmail.com](mailto:thenorthfieldnews@gmail.com)>, Organic Report  
<[bhaumann@ota.com](mailto:bhaumann@ota.com)>, Other Paper  
<[news@otherpapersbvt.com](mailto:news@otherpapersbvt.com)>, Planning Commissioners Journal  
<[pcjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pcjoffice@gmail.com)>, "Post Star, Glens Falls 1"  
<[condon@poststar.com](mailto:condon@poststar.com)>, Rutland Herald  
<[pressrelease@rutlandherald.com](mailto:pressrelease@rutlandherald.com)>, Seven Days  
<[pamela@sevendaysvt.com](mailto:pamela@sevendaysvt.com)>, Shelburne News  
<[news@shelburnenews.com](mailto:news@shelburnenews.com)>, Springfield Reporter  
<[reporter@vermontel.net](mailto:reporter@vermontel.net)>, "St. Albans Messenger"  
<[news@samessenger.com](mailto:news@samessenger.com)>, Stowe Reporter  
<[news@stowereporter.com](mailto:news@stowereporter.com)>, "The Caledonian Record"  
<[news@caledonianrecord.com](mailto:news@caledonianrecord.com)>, The Charlotte Citizen  
<[news@windridgepublishing.com](mailto:news@windridgepublishing.com)>, The Commons  
<[news@commonsnews.org](mailto:news@commonsnews.org)>, "The County Curier"  
<[countycourier@gmail.com](mailto:countycourier@gmail.com)>, The Herald of Randolph  
<[editor@ourherald.com](mailto:editor@ourherald.com)>, The Islander  
<[islander@vermontislander.com](mailto:islander@vermontislander.com)>, "The Saratogian"  
<[news@saratogian.com](mailto:news@saratogian.com)>, The Solutions Journal  
<[solutions@thesolutionsjournal.com](mailto:solutions@thesolutionsjournal.com)>, The Times Argus  
<[news@timesargus.com](mailto:news@timesargus.com)>, The Valley Reporter  
<[news@valleyreporter.com](mailto:news@valleyreporter.com)>, The Vermont Standard  
<[gstanley@thevermontstandard.com](mailto:gstanley@thevermontstandard.com)>, The Windsor Chronicle  
<[vstand@sover.net](mailto:vstand@sover.net)>, The World <[editor@vt-world.com](mailto:editor@vt-world.com)>, Times

Ink! <[news@timesinkvt.org](mailto:news@timesinkvt.org)>, "Tree Services Magazine" <[tsletters@mooserivermedia.com](mailto:tsletters@mooserivermedia.com)>, "Tri-State Pennysaver Press" <[pennysaver@jcpgroup.com](mailto:pennysaver@jcpgroup.com)>, Valley News <[news@vnews.com](mailto:news@vnews.com)>, Valley Voice <[info@vvoice.org](mailto:info@vvoice.org)>, Vermont Environmental Report <[info@vnrc.org](mailto:info@vnrc.org)>, "Vermont Journal" <[editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com)>, Vermont Local Banquet <[caroline@localbanquet.com](mailto:caroline@localbanquet.com)>, VPR <[news@vpr.net](mailto:news@vpr.net)>, Waterbury Record <[news@waterburyrecord.com](mailto:news@waterburyrecord.com)>, WBTV-AM <[wbtv@svc.edu](mailto:wbtv@svc.edu)>, "WBTV-FM (VPR" <[contact@vpr.net](mailto:contact@vpr.net)>, WCAX <[news@wcax.com](mailto:news@wcax.com)>, WCVR-AM <[ray@listenvermont.com](mailto:ray@listenvermont.com)>, WDEV-AM <[news@radiovermont.com](mailto:news@radiovermont.com)>, WEAV-AM <[jamiedennis@thezone960am.com](mailto:jamiedennis@thezone960am.com)>, WETK-TV <[jmerone@vpt.org](mailto:jmerone@vpt.org)>, WGLY-FM <[mail@thelightradio.net](mailto:mail@thelightradio.net)>, WIKE-AM <[mwaggoner@nassaubroadcasting.com](mailto:mwaggoner@nassaubroadcasting.com)>, Williston Observer <[editor@willistonobserver.com](mailto:editor@willistonobserver.com)>, WJEN-FM <[catcountry@catamountradio.com](mailto:catcountry@catamountradio.com)>, WKVT-AM <[pc@wkvt.com](mailto:pc@wkvt.com)>, WKXH-FM <[kix105@kix1055.com](mailto:kix105@kix1055.com)>, WLVB-FM <[wlvb@radiovermont.com](mailto:wlvb@radiovermont.com)>, WOKO-FM <[woko@woko.com](mailto:woko@woko.com)>, "WSNO-AM (Radio" <[jseverance@greateasternradio.com](mailto:jseverance@greateasternradio.com)>, WTNN-FM <[john@eaglecountry975.com](mailto:john@eaglecountry975.com)>, WTSA-AM The Ticket <[tj@wtsa.net](mailto:tj@wtsa.net)>, WTWK-AM <[gm@eve1070.com](mailto:gm@eve1070.com)>, WVMT-AM <[talk@am620wvmt.com](mailto:talk@am620wvmt.com)>, WVMY-TV <[programming@abc22.com](mailto:programming@abc22.com)>, "WVPR-FM (VPR" <[reactionline@vpr.net](mailto:reactionline@vpr.net)>, WYKR-FM <[wykr@kingcon.com](mailto:wykr@kingcon.com)>, Abe Collins <[abenewsoil@gmail.com](mailto:abenewsoil@gmail.com)>, Alan Calfee <[alan@calfeewoodland.com](mailto:alan@calfeewoodland.com)>, "Alexander, Toby - NRCS, Colchester, VT" <[Toby.Alexander@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Toby.Alexander@vt.usda.gov)>, "Allan.Strong@uvm.edu" <[Allan.Strong@uvm.edu](mailto:Allan.Strong@uvm.edu)>, "Allen, Robin - NRCS, Colchester, VT" <[Rob.Allen@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Rob.Allen@vt.usda.gov)>, Andy Fisk <[afisk@ctriver.org](mailto:afisk@ctriver.org)>, Andy French <[andrew\\_french@fws.gov](mailto:andrew_french@fws.gov)>, "April Moulaert, Ducks Unlimited" <[april.moulaert@gmail.com](mailto:april.moulaert@gmail.com)>, Artie McCollum <[Arthur\\_McCollum@fws.gov](mailto:Arthur_McCollum@fws.gov)>, "Barry Cahoon" <[barry.cahoon@state.vt.us](mailto:barry.cahoon@state.vt.us)>, "Blodgett, David - NRCS, Newport, VT" <[david.blodgett@vt.usda.gov](mailto:david.blodgett@vt.usda.gov)>, Brian Jerosse <[jerosse@together.net](mailto:jerosse@together.net)>, "Brink, Corey - NRCS, St. Albans, VT" <[corey.brink@vt.usda.gov](mailto:corey.brink@vt.usda.gov)>, Calvin Blessing <[cblessin@vtc.edu](mailto:cblessin@vtc.edu)>, Chris Smith <[chris\\_e\\_smith@fws.gov](mailto:chris_e_smith@fws.gov)>, Cris Coffin <[ccoffin@farmland.org](mailto:ccoffin@farmland.org)>, Dan Hudson <[djhudson@uvm.edu](mailto:djhudson@uvm.edu)>, Dave Adams <[dave.adams@state.vt.us](mailto:dave.adams@state.vt.us)>, Dave Rogers <[dave@nofavt.org](mailto:dave@nofavt.org)>, Dave Tilton <[dave\\_tilton@fws.gov](mailto:dave_tilton@fws.gov)>, David Dean <[ddeen@ctriver.org](mailto:ddeen@ctriver.org)>, David Sausville <[david.sausville@state.vt.us](mailto:david.sausville@state.vt.us)>, Doug Lantagne

<[doug.lantagne@uvm.edu](mailto:doug.lantagne@uvm.edu)>, "Ela Chapin" <[ela@vhcb.org](mailto:ela@vhcb.org)>, Enid Wonnacott <[elila@sover.net](mailto:elila@sover.net)>, Eric Noel <[ericrnoel@hotmail.com](mailto:ericrnoel@hotmail.com)>, Eric Palmer <[eric.palmer@state.vt.us](mailto:eric.palmer@state.vt.us)>, Eric Perkins <[perkins.eric@epa.gov](mailto:perkins.eric@epa.gov)>, "Ferris, Marie - RD, Montpelier, VT" <[marie.ferris@vt.usda.gov](mailto:marie.ferris@vt.usda.gov)>, Ginger Anderson <[ginger.anderson@state.vt.us](mailto:ginger.anderson@state.vt.us)>, Grant Mecozzi <[gmecozzi@nwtf.net](mailto:gmecozzi@nwtf.net)>, Ian Hartman <[ian@vhcb.org](mailto:ian@vhcb.org)>, Jeff Carter <[jeff.carter@uvm.edu](mailto:jeff.carter@uvm.edu)>, Jeff Cook <[jeff.cook@state.vt.us](mailto:jeff.cook@state.vt.us)>, Jeff Farber <[jeff.farber@vacd.org](mailto:jeff.farber@vacd.org)>, Jennifer Colby <[jcolby@uvm.edu](mailto:jcolby@uvm.edu)>, Jenny Nelson <[jenny\\_nelson@sanders.senate.gov](mailto:jenny_nelson@sanders.senate.gov)>, Jill Arace <[jillarace@gmail.com](mailto:jillarace@gmail.com)>, "Jim Shallow" <[jshallow@audubon.org](mailto:jshallow@audubon.org)>, John Austin <[johnM.austin@state.vt.us](mailto:johnM.austin@state.vt.us)>, Jolinda LaClair <[jolinda.laclair@state.vt.us](mailto:jolinda.laclair@state.vt.us)>, Jon Satz <[woodsmarketgarden@msn.com](mailto:woodsmarketgarden@msn.com)>, Joshua Powers <[Bushrod.Powers@valley.net](mailto:Bushrod.Powers@valley.net)>, Justin Kenney <[Justin.Kenney@state.vt.us](mailto:Justin.Kenney@state.vt.us)>, "Kaija, Kevin - NRCS, White River Jctn, VT" <[Kevin.Kaija@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Kevin.Kaija@vt.usda.gov)>, Kari Dolan <[kari.dolan@state.vt.us](mailto:kari.dolan@state.vt.us)>, "Honkonen, Karl W -FS" <[karlwhonkonen@fs.fed.us](mailto:karlwhonkonen@fs.fed.us)>, Kent Henderson <[hugamoo@comcast.net](mailto:hugamoo@comcast.net)>, Kimberly Hagen <[kimberly.hagen@uvm.edu](mailto:kimberly.hagen@uvm.edu)>, Kira Jacobs <[jacobs.kira@epa.gov](mailto:jacobs.kira@epa.gov)>, Kirsten Workman <[Kirsten.workman@uvm.edu](mailto:Kirsten.workman@uvm.edu)>, "Ladue, Brenda - FSA, St. Albans, VT" <[Brenda.Ladue@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Brenda.Ladue@vt.usda.gov)>, "Lary, Christine - FSA, White River Jctn, VT" <[christine.lary@vt.usda.gov](mailto:christine.lary@vt.usda.gov)>, Laura DiPietro <[laura.dipietro@state.vt.us](mailto:laura.dipietro@state.vt.us)>, Laurie Ristino <[lrlistino@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:lrlistino@vermontlaw.edu)>, "Lawrence, Julie - NRCS, Berlin, VT" <[julie.lawrence@vt.usda.gov](mailto:julie.lawrence@vt.usda.gov)>, "Leon Berthiamue" <[leon\\_berthiaume@stalbanscooperative.com](mailto:leon_berthiaume@stalbanscooperative.com)>, Linda Berlin <[linda.berlin@uvm.edu](mailto:linda.berlin@uvm.edu)>, Lisa Sausville <[lisa@vtcoverts.org](mailto:lisa@vtcoverts.org)>, Liz Royer <[lroyer@vtruralwater.org](mailto:lroyer@vtruralwater.org)>, "Madrid, Colleen -FS" <[cmadrid@fs.fed.us](mailto:cmadrid@fs.fed.us)>, "Marli Rupe" <[marli.rupe@state.vt.us](mailto:marli.rupe@state.vt.us)>, "McGuire, Nanci - NRCS-CD, Rutland, VT" <[nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net](mailto:nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net)>, Michelle Gudorf <[michelle.gudorf@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.gudorf@gmail.com)>, Mike Kline <[mike.kline@state.vt.us](mailto:mike.kline@state.vt.us)>, Mike Middleman <[michael.middleman@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.middleman@state.vt.us)>, Mike Raker <[mmraker@aol.com](mailto:mmraker@aol.com)>, Nancy Everhart <[neverhart@vhcb.org](mailto:neverhart@vhcb.org)>, "Paquin, Robert - FSA, Colchester, VT" <[robert.paquin@vt.usda.gov](mailto:robert.paquin@vt.usda.gov)>, "Parker, Lawrence - FSA, Williston, VT" <[Lawrence.Parker@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Lawrence.Parker@vt.usda.gov)>, "Passut, Patricia

- FSA, Saint Johnsbury, VT" <[Patricia.Passut@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Patricia.Passut@vt.usda.gov)>,  
"Peck, Kim - FSA, Colchester, VT" <[kim.peck@vt.usda.gov](mailto:kim.peck@vt.usda.gov)>,  
Putnam Blodgett <[put@valley.net](mailto:put@valley.net)>, Rachel Gilker  
<[rachel.gilker@uvm.edu](mailto:rachel.gilker@uvm.edu)>, Ralph McNall  
<[tworvfm@together.net](mailto:tworvfm@together.net)>, "Remillard, Paul - FSA, St. Albans,  
VT" <[Paul.Remillard@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Paul.Remillard@vt.usda.gov)>, Rick Hopkins  
<[rick.hopkins@state.vt.us](mailto:rick.hopkins@state.vt.us)>, "Robinson, David - RD,  
Washington, DC" <[david.robinson@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:david.robinson@wdc.usda.gov)>, Roger  
Fainville <[rcra@pivot.net](mailto:rcra@pivot.net)>, Rom Berry  
<[tom\\_berry@leahy.senate.gov](mailto:tom_berry@leahy.senate.gov)>, Ron Rhodes  
<[rrhodes@ctriver.org](mailto:rrhodes@ctriver.org)>, Rose Paul <[rpaul@tnc.org](mailto:rpaul@tnc.org)>, "Roy,  
Steve -FS" <[sroy@fs.fed.us](mailto:sroy@fs.fed.us)>, Shelly Stiles <[bccd@sover.net](mailto:bccd@sover.net)>,  
"steve.sinclair@state.vt.us" <[steve.sinclair@state.vt.us](mailto:steve.sinclair@state.vt.us)>,  
"Brady, Ted - RD, MONTPELIER, VT" <[Ted.Brady@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Ted.Brady@vt.usda.gov)>,  
Tom Gates <[tom\\_gates@stalbanscooperative.com](mailto:tom_gates@stalbanscooperative.com)>, Vermont  
Farm Bureau <[vtfb@vtfb.org](mailto:vtfb@vtfb.org)>, Watersheds United  
<[watershedsunited@gmail.com](mailto:watershedsunited@gmail.com)>, "Richards, Alyson"  
<[Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us](mailto:Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us)>, Agriview  
<[alison.kosakowski@state.vt.us](mailto:alison.kosakowski@state.vt.us)>, "Mears, David"  
<[David.Mears@state.vt.us](mailto:David.Mears@state.vt.us)>, "Rupe, Marli"  
<[Marli.Rupe@state.vt.us](mailto:Marli.Rupe@state.vt.us)>, "DiPietro, Laura"  
<[Laura.DiPietro@state.vt.us](mailto:Laura.DiPietro@state.vt.us)>, "Ross, Chuck"  
<[Chuck.Ross@state.vt.us](mailto:Chuck.Ross@state.vt.us)>, "LaClair, Jolinda"  
<[Jolinda.LaClair@state.vt.us](mailto:Jolinda.LaClair@state.vt.us)>, "[susan.warner@state.vt.us](mailto:susan.warner@state.vt.us)"  
<[susan.warner@state.vt.us](mailto:susan.warner@state.vt.us)>, "Riddell, Linda"  
<[Linda.Riddell@state.vt.us](mailto:Linda.Riddell@state.vt.us)>, "Berry, Tom (Leahy)"  
<[Tom\\_Berry@leahy.senate.gov](mailto:Tom_Berry@leahy.senate.gov)>

**Subject: PRESS RELEASE: VT Governor Shumlin and USDA  
NRCS Announce Funding for Lake Champlain**



For immediate release, see attached

***Heather J. Wetzstein***

Resource Conservationist / USDA NRCS

356 Mountain View Drive Suite 105 / Colchester, VT 05446

M, W, F: 802-951-6796 ext 223

Tu, Th: 518-569-3874

Fax: 802-655-0638

[Heather.Wetzstein@vt.usda.gov](mailto:Heather.Wetzstein@vt.usda.gov)

[www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov)

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.



United States Department of Agriculture

# News Release

## Natural Resources Conservation Service

356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 105  
Colchester, VT 05446  
Voice 802.951.6796  
Email: [vicky.drew@vt.usda.gov](mailto:vicky.drew@vt.usda.gov)  
Web: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/vt/home/>

Contact: Vicky Drew, State Conservationist

Release No.: 14011

## **Agriculture Secretary Announces Funding for Over 100 Conservation Projects in 50 States; Gov. Shumlin & USDA Announce \$16 Million for Lake Champlain**

### ***Partners More than Double Financial Impact, New Era for Conservation efforts through Farm Bill Program***

**MONTPELIER, Vt., Jan. 14, 2015** – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Jason Weller and Gov. Peter Shumlin today announced \$16 million in federal funds to improve Lake Champlain's water quality. The news comes a week after Gov. Peter Shumlin made cleaning up Lake Champlain a priority in his Inaugural Address.

The funding to Vermont is part of more than \$370 million in federal funding going to over 100 high-impact projects across all 50 states as part of the new USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), announced today by USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. In turn, these projects will leverage an estimated \$400 million in partner contributions to improve the nation's water quality, support wildlife habitat and enhance the environment.

The \$16 million in additional funds to Vermont and New York will be used to improve water quality, promote land sustainability and bring together partners to work towards these goals in a new way.

"This is an entirely new approach to conservation efforts," said Weller. "These partnerships give communities more ownership in efforts to conserve their local natural resources. They also encourage private sector investment so we can have an impact that's well beyond what the Federal government could accomplish on its own. We're giving private companies, local communities, and other non-government partners a way to invest in a new era in conservation that ultimately benefits us all. These efforts keep our land resilient and water clean, and promote tremendous economic growth in agriculture, construction, tourism, outdoor recreation, and other industries."



United States Department of Agriculture

# News Release

Senator Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who helped shape and support the new program in last year's Farm Bill, said: "We made this a Farm Bill priority as a way to sharpen our focus and proactively address the factors that we already know are affecting the Lake's water quality. This will help undergird a widening partnership, recognizing that all Vermonters are in this together. I am proud that USDA financial assistance for conservation work by our farmers will be stronger under this 5-year Farm Bill than at any time in history, and I congratulate the State of Vermont for putting together such a strong project." Leahy is the most senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

"This is great news for Vermont and our efforts to save Lake Champlain," said Gov. Shumlin. "I want to thank Secretary Vilsack and his team at USDA, Vermont's congressional delegation and all the partners who made this possible. Clearing up Lake Champlain is imperative. It drives hundreds of millions in economic activity every year and it is a big reason why people put down roots in Vermont. Protection of our Lake is critical to protecting our economy."

RCPP competitively awards funds to conservation projects designed by local partners specifically for their region. Eligible partners include private companies, universities, non-profit organizations, local and tribal governments and others joining with agricultural and conservation organizations and producers to invest money, manpower and materials to their proposed initiatives. With participating partners investing along with the Department, USDA's \$1.2 billion in national funding over the life of the five-year program can leverage an additional \$1.2 billion from partners for a total of \$2.4 billion for conservation.

Through RCPP, partners propose conservation projects to improve soil health, water quality and water use efficiency, wildlife habitat, and other related natural resources on private lands.

The national RCPP project that Chief Weller announced in Vermont is a renewed effort among long-standing partnerships to accelerate the impact of private lands conservation on water quality concerns in Lake Champlain. This project uses several innovative tools, including the use of modeling to target conservation practices for optimal environmental benefits, an extensive monitoring network to assess conservation effectiveness, sliding scale cost-share to gain the support of producers, and an incentive-based Environmental Stewardship Program to provide some certainty to producers that they will get credit for the conservation practices they apply.

"RCPP puts our partners in the driver's seat," said, Vermont State Conservationist Vicky Drew. "Projects are led locally, and demonstrate the value of strong public-private partnerships that deliver solutions to natural resource challenges."

More than 600 pre-proposals were submitted for RCPP in 2014. "With so many strong project proposals, the selection process was extremely competitive. RCPP is a 5-year, \$1.2 billion USDA opportunity. Projects not selected in this first year may be eligible in subsequent years," Chief Weller said.

The next announcement of program funding for fiscal year 2016 will be made later in the year.



United States Department of Agriculture

# News Release

For more information on the Vermont RCPP projects visit [NRCS Vermont's webpage](#), or view the full list of projects on the [national NRCS webpage](#).

To learn about technical and financial assistance available through conservation programs, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted) or local USDA service center.

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

