

David Mears, ANR
S. 49
3-12-15



Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Agency of Natural Resources

Commissioner's Office

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To: Senator Chris Bray, Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Energy
From: David Mears, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Date: March 11, 2015
Re: Results Based Accountability Proposed statewide water quality indicators for S.49

Department of Environmental Conservation staff convened a meeting last week with representatives from the Department's Watershed Management Division, Forest Parks and Recreation, Agency of Agriculture, Vtrans, and Sue Zeller from the Agency of Administration to brainstorm a proposal for population based indicators that can be included in S.49. The purpose of the meeting was to help inform the question of whether our water quality restoration efforts are working and determine "is anyone better off?"

The four draft indicators are listed below. The following should also be noted:

- DEC currently collects data on some of the proposed indicators. Targets may be established for the next 4 years. However, as we are still collecting baseline information on these indicators, the Department is not yet ready to propose hard values.
- Due to the established Department processes involved with collecting and analyzing data related to these indicators, we propose reporting on these indicators every other year.
- Performance measures are a key part of successfully meeting our population based indicator targets. We will continue to convene this inter-agency group to more fully develop a comprehensive tracking and reporting structure. We will need to know the final requirements, milestones and funding sources before we can finalize a well thought out Results Based Accountability matrix.

Outcome/Result: *Water is safe and available in sufficient quantities for its intended purpose*

Indicator 1: % of river miles with water quality that meet designated uses

Indicator 2: % of watersheds in Vermont where pollutant loads are declining

Indicator 3: % of previously impaired waters meeting standards based on corrective actions

Indicator 4: # of partners engaged in the state's Clean Water Initiative

cc:

Sue Zeller, Chief Performance Office, Agency of Administration
Sue Minter, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Transportation
Chuck Ross, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
Mike Snyder, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation