

STORMWATER AGRICULTURAL GRANT POLICY

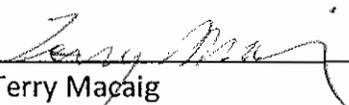
Town of Williston

Williston Selectboard

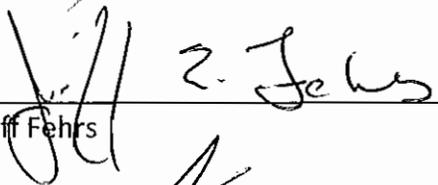
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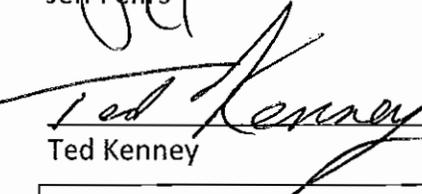
The foregoing Policy is hereby adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Williston of Williston, Vermont, this 19th day of July, 2016 and is effective as of this date until amended or repealed.


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Abstract: This policy is intended to provide a grant to agricultural properties that undertake specific, approved actions that reduce stormwater runoff. This grant is in addition to the credits offered through the Stormwater User Fee Credit Manual.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a grant, funded through the Towns General Fund, to recognize farms for their compliance with State Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs)

2. POLICY STATEMENT

In the past, the Town has supported programs intended to protect and preserve open space within the community. Local farms are important to this goal and provide working landscapes. In addition, it is important to provide multiple incentives to farms in order to encourage a reduction in the amount of runoff discharging from agricultural operations and to enhance the overall quality of receiving waters. This grant program is intended as a supplement to, and not replacement for, the incentives provided through the Stormwater User Fee Credit Manual.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to qualify for a town Agricultural Grant a farm must be;

- Recognized on the Town of Williston Grand List as a Farm parcel (Category F); and
- The recipient of stormwater agricultural credit as provided for in the Stormwater User Fee Credit Manual.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

- Submit a complete Stormwater Agricultural Credit form. Included with the application form must be an inspection report from the Agency of Natural Resources stating compliance with the recommended agricultural practices.
- Form and related application documents will be reviewed for completeness by Town staff.
- Once an application has been deemed complete by staff, a recommendation of grant award will be forwarded to the Manager's Office.
- If all requirements have been met, the Manager will approve the grant and arrange for the grant to be applied to future stormwater fee payments.
- An updated inspection report will be required every five years in order for the grant to continue.
- An application for the grant can be submitted at any time during the year.

5. GRANT AMOUNT

- The grant for each property owner will be equal to forty percent (40%) of their annual stormwater bill prior to the application of any stormwater credit applied as part of the Stormwater User Fee Credit Manual.
- The grant will be applied directly to their bill through a transfer from the Town's General Fund to the Stormwater fund.
- The grant will only be applied to future bills and will not be applied retroactively.

6. FUNDING

Funding for the grant program will be provided through the Town's General Fund and funded out of the Open Space Preservation section of the budget.