



Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-in-Aid Grants Application Guide For the Project Year 2012

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

The Grant-in-Aid Program provides financial assistance to municipalities and agencies of the state for aquatic nuisance species management programs. The Grant-in-Aid Program, established under 10 V.S.A. § 1458, is administered by the Vermont Aquatic Invasive Species Program within the Agency of Natural Resources' Department of Environmental Conservation. Funding for Grant-in-Aid Program grants comes from a portion of annual revenues from motorboat registration fees. Federal funds may also be available. In addition, proceeds from the voluntary *Aquatic Invasive Species Sticker Program* directly support the Grant-in-Aid Program.

This Guide provides general information about the Grant-in-Aid Program, applying for funding, and how to receive an application form. If you would like to talk to Program staff about your project and the Grant-in-Aid Program application requirements, refer to the contact information on the last page of this Guide.

Who May Apply?

Municipalities are eligible to receive grants through the Grant-in-Aid Program for aquatic nuisance control projects. Local interest groups such as lake associations must apply through the municipality in which the water body is located. If the water body is located in more than one municipality, affected municipalities may apply jointly.

What constitutes an aquatic nuisance? An “aquatic nuisance” is an undesirable or excessive substance or population that interferes with the recreational potential or aquatic habitat of a water body, and includes plants, animals and algal populations.

The Agency of Natural Resources may also use funds provided under the Grant-in-Aid Program for restoration, management or protection projects, or for studies in the best interests of the state, when the appropriate municipal applicant is not available or not eligible to receive a grant.

For a project to be considered for Grant-in-Aid funds, an application form must be completed. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is complete and clear. Application forms and detailed instructions on how to complete the forms are available



White River Partnership sponsored crayfish workshop.
(M. Russ, 2011)

annually from the Grant-in-Aid Program. Program contact information is provided on the last page of this Guide.

Purchases or expenditures made prior to 2012 are not eligible for Grant-in-Aid funds unless the municipality has contacted Program staff and received approval **before** making the purchase or expenditure.

Project Selection

The Grant-in-Aid Program may award a grant for 75 percent or less of the total estimated project cost. The recipient must contribute at least 25 percent of the final eligible project cost through in-kind labor (unpaid personnel), in-kind services and/or actual cash expenditures (all from non-state sources).

Applications are reviewed to determine whether the proposed project is suitable to control or to minimize the effect an aquatic nuisance has on water quality and water use. If a project is found to be suitable, the following criteria are considered in approving requests and determining the amount of any grant:

- ✓ The use of the waters by persons outside the municipality in which the waters are located;
- ✓ The long-range effect of the control project;
- ✓ The recreational use of the waters; and
- ✓ The effectiveness of municipal shoreland zoning and other controls in minimizing or preventing existing or new development from having any adverse effects on the waters subject to the control program.

The amount of the approved award will be based on available funds, the total requests received and the following priorities:

- ✓ First priority is to projects designed to manage new infestations of aquatic nuisances;
- ✓ Second priority is to projects to prevent or control the further spread of aquatic nuisances; and
- ✓ Third priority is to recurring maintenance projects.

In establishing priorities for individual projects, the following criteria are considered:

- ✓ Public accessibility and recreational uses;
- ✓ Importance to commercial, agricultural or other interests;
- ✓ The degree of local interest, as shown by municipal and other contributions to the project;

- ✓ Local efforts to control aquatic nuisances;
- ✓ Other considerations affecting feasibility, probability of achieving long-term control, necessity or advantage of the proposed work; and
- ✓ The extent to which the control project is a developmental rather than a maintenance program.

Grant Approval and Payment Process

Once projects are approved and available funds allocated among eligible projects, award documents are developed and forwarded to the applicant for acceptance and signature. An initial payment for up to half of the total grant award will be issued after the Department of Environmental Conservation's acceptance of the signed award papers, the submittal of an invoice by the recipient, and after July 1, 2012.

Final Report and Audit Requirements

All Grant-in-Aid funded projects must submit a final report on the project undertaken. All projects are subject to an audit by a Department of Environmental Conservation auditor. Project managers must maintain a complete and accurate record of all expenditures incurred throughout the project year and maintain these records for at least three years.

Final payment will only be authorized once all deliverables have been submitted by the municipality and approved. The amount of the final grant award will not exceed 75 percent of the final eligible project cost, or 100 percent of the final eligible project costs excluding in-kind costs, whichever is less.



Signage at the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife public boat access at Seymour Lake in Morgan (J. Selby, 2011)

Grant-in-Aid Timetable for 2012

Monday, December 5, 2011 - Project year 2012 applications available

Monday, March 12, 2012 – Applications should be submitted **in electronic format (Portable Document Format preferred), clearly marked, and emailed to Ann Bove (ann.bove@state.vt.us) by 4 p.m. Monday, March 12, 2012.**

April 30, 2012 (approximate) - Eligible projects notified of expected grant awards

Monday, July 2, 2012 - Initial payments made **after** this date

Wednesday, November 7, 2012 - Submission deadline for grant deliverables

Application Submission

Applications should be submitted **in electronic format (Portable Document Format preferred), clearly marked, and emailed to Ann Bove (ann.bove@state.vt.us) by 4 p.m. Monday, March 12, 2012.**

Contact Information

For additional information or questions regarding the application process, please contact Ann Bove at telephone: 802.388.4822 or e-mail: ann.bove@state.vt.us



For general information on the Grant-in-Aid Program or Vermont's Aquatic Invasive Species Program, visit the Water Quality Division website: <http://www.vtwaterquality.org>

To obtain a copy of the Grant-in-Aid grant application on-line go to: http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/htm/lp_grantinaid.htm



Water Quality Division
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The VT Department of Environmental Conservation is an equal opportunity agency and offers all persons the benefits of participating in each of its programs and competing in all areas of employment regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual preference, or other non-merit factors. This document is available upon request in large print, braille or audiocassette.

VT Relay Service for the Hearing Impaired 1-800-253-0191 TDD>Voice - 1-800-253-0195 Voice>TDD