



Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Species Grant-in-Aid Grants Application Guide For the Project Year 2010

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. § 922, is administered by the Vermont Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Program within the Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Division. 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.



Volunteers unload harvested Eurasian watermilfoil spoils collected from Pelots Bay, Lake Champlain (J. Brabham, 2009)

This Application Guide provides general information about financial assistance through the Grant-in-Aid Program and how to receive an application form. If you have additional questions or 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 waterbody is located. If the waterbody is located in more than one municipality, affected municipalities may apply jointly.

The Department of Environmental Conservation 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 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 2010 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.

Help Stick-It to Aquatic Invasive Species!



Revenues generated from aquatic invasive species sticker sales directly support the Grant-in-Aid Program

www.vtwaterquality.org

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, 2010.

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 a final report package has been submitted by the municipality and approved, and a project's costs audited. The audit will determine the final eligible project cost. 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.



VTDEC 2009 Boat Access Greeter Program Training boat inspection demonstration and role playing. (VTDEC, 2009)

Grant-in-Aid Timetable

December 9, 2009 - Project year 2010 applications available

March 3, 2010 – Applications, postmarked by this date, due to the Water Quality Division. **Electronic submittals will not be accepted.**

April 26, 2010 (approximate) - Eligible projects notified of expected grant awards

July 1, 2010 - Initial payments made **after** this date

November 3, 2010 - Submission deadline for final report package

Contact Information

To receive a Grant-in-Aid grant application or general information, contact:

Application materials postmarked by **March 3, 2010** should be mailed to:

Danielle Dukette
Phone: (802) 241-3790
E-mail: danielle.dukette@state.vt.us

or

Ann Bove
Phone: (802) 241-3782
E-mail: ann.bove@state.vt.us

Attn: Grant-in-Aid Program
VTDEC, Water Quality Division
103 South Main Street, Bldg. 10 N
Waterbury, VT 05671-0408



For general information on the Grant-in-Aid Program or Vermont's Aquatic Nuisance Control 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
103 South Main Street, Building 10 North
Waterbury, VT 05671-0408
Telephone (802) 241-3777
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VT Relay Service for the Hearing Impaired 1-800-253-0191 TDD>Voice - 1-800-253-0195 Voice>TDD
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