

**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation**

Watershed Management Division  
1 National Life Drive, Main 2  
Montpelier VT 05620-3522  
www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov

*Agency of Natural Resources*

[phone] 802-828-1535

[fax] 802-828-1544

**For Immediate Release:****May 14, 2013**

Contact: Jim Ryan, Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Watershed Management Division  
5 Perry St., Suite 80, Barre, VT 05641-4268. Phone: (802) 476-0132. Email: [jim.ryan@state.vt.us](mailto:jim.ryan@state.vt.us)

**Public Meeting Notice****Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation Schedules Public Comment Meetings for the Draft White River Basin Tactical Water Quality Management Plan**

**MONTPELIER** - A series of public comment meetings will be held in May to gather feedback on the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' Draft White River Basin Tactical Water Quality Management Plan. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings, hear a presentation and offer their comments and suggestions. Meetings will take place from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in the following locations:

<b><u>May 30th</u></b> <b>Location</b> US Forest Service Conference Room 99 Ranger Road Rochester (north of the Village)	<b><u>June 5<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>Location</b> Sharon Town Offices 69 Route 132 Sharon	<b><u>June 6<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b>Location</b> Bethel Town Offices 134 South Main Street
--	---	---

The White River is significant for being one of the last free-flowing rivers in Vermont. The White River Tactical Basin Plan was developed with the purpose of improving both water quality and aquatic habitats, and presents the recommendations of State and Federal resource agencies, watershed partner organizations, planning commissions, municipalities, and individual citizens.

The Plan, which was prepared in accordance with the Vermont Surface Water Management Strategy, provides an overview of the health of the White River Basin and a description of the priority future and ongoing steps recommended to restore and protect its surface waters. The central component of this Tactical Basin Plan is an implementation table, which breaks actions intended to protect, maintain, enhance, and restore surface waters in the basin into geographical segments.

Some of the highest priority stressors in the White River Basin include encroachments, channel erosion, invasive species, land erosion, pathogens, thermal stress, acidity, and flow alteration.

According to the Agency's tactical basin planning approach, sub-basins and specific waters that feed into the White River are prioritized and targeted based upon potential to achieve the greatest benefit to water quality. In this case, The Upper White, Mid-White, Tweed River and portions of the Third Branch sub-basins will be targeted for restoration and protection actions, while the First and Second Branches, and remaining portions of the Third Branch will be targeted for additional water quality and aquatic habitat monitoring and assessment work.

Copies of the plan and this release may be obtained on-line at <http://www.vtwaterquality.org> or by requesting a copy from the number below. The public comment period runs until June 14, 2013. Comments received by this date will be addressed in a responsiveness summary.

###