



## State of Vermont

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June 11, 2004

Greetings Friends of Vermont's Waters,

I am pleased to announce the completion of the Draft Poultney Mettowee Basin Plan for your review. This is the second plan to be drafted under the Vermont Watershed Planning Initiative. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation worked with residents of the Poultney and Mettowee River watersheds. Local resource managers, town officials, farmers, educators, and organizations collaborated to develop strategies for water quality improvement and enhancement. Watershed citizens have monitored and assessed water quality and developed plans to implement specific restoration and conservation projects throughout the Poultney and Mettowee River watersheds.

In addition to containing strategies for restoring and protecting existing uses of surface waters in the Poultney Mettowee Basin, this Basin Plan describes past and current water quality conditions. This Basin Plan is intended to be an active document that will set forth specific projects to implement over the course of the next five years. This Plan will serve as a guide for the Agency of Natural Resources and the many stakeholders in the Basin can reference the document for ongoing water quality management objectives and related benchmarks to be achieved by 2010. The Watershed Coordinator will continue to work with the citizens of the watershed to bring the strategies into reality.

As a reference document, the Plan:

- Provides a description of this unique watershed and its many resources, current water quality conditions, and the documented threats and impairments to water quality in the basin (Chapter 2, background information and physical description; as well as Chapters 3 and 5);
- Describes projects to improve water quality and conserve water resources (strategies);
- Identifies technical or financial resources available to address problem areas as well as opportunities for conservation projects (strategies);
- Provides support for grant proposals and additional leveraging for cost-share assistance where there is a documented need (strategies);
- Provides guidance to regional and local planning and zoning processes. (strategies and Appendix J).

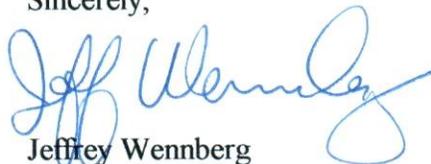
The Basin Plan also includes water management typing and classification proposals for each surface water in the basin. Following adoption of the Basin Plan, the Vermont Water Resources Board or its successor will review a petition based on the typing and classification contained in this plan. The board will do this through another public rule making process.

We appreciate all the time that interested parties have contributed to this effort both in the field and in strategy sessions to carry out remedial projects and plan ones that are about to be underway. The Plan will help us better combine our volunteer and staff efforts in a sustained and focused way to conserve, restore, and protect waters and water uses throughout the Poultney and Mettowee River watersheds.

Thanks should be given to the Poultney Mettowee Watershed Partnership, the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, the Rutland Office of the USDA-NRCS, The Nature Conservancy, Green Mountain College, and other state and federal partners as well as many volunteers, municipal officials and staff for the 18 communities in the Basin for their assistance with this plan and their commitment to the preservation of water resources throughout the Poultney Mettowee Basin.

Additional copies of this Plan may be obtained from Ethan Swift at the Department of Environmental Conservation, P.O. Box 965, Rutland, Vermont, 05702, or by phone (802) 747-5070, or email ([Ethan.Swift@anr.state.vt.us](mailto:Ethan.Swift@anr.state.vt.us)). The Plan is also available for viewing or printing on the web at: [http://www.vtwaterquality.org/planning/htm/pl\\_poultney.htm](http://www.vtwaterquality.org/planning/htm/pl_poultney.htm).

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Wennberg  
Commissioner