Low Impact Development:
Increasing the awareness of Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater practices in Lamoille County, Vermont

Completed by the Lamoille County Planning Commission
For the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Water Quality Division
06/30/11

This report was made possible by a grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

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Final Report for 604(b) ARRA FY10 Agreement

In fulfillment of the requirements for
DEC Grant Award #: LCPC Supplemental ARRA_FFA_Agreement
CFDA Title: Water Quality Management & Planning
CFDA Number: 66.454
Award Name: Water Quality Management
Award Number: 2P-96101601
Award Year: 2010
Federal Granting Agency: EPA

Introduction
The Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) has utilized 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act 604(b) funds to educate municipalities and other stakeholders about the principles of Low Impact Development (LID) and assist the Towns of Johnson, Hyde Park, Morristown, and Stowe with identifying regulatory and other barriers to LID implementation. LCPC completed the first part of the work plan from September 2009 through September 2010. This effort began by reviewing LID outreach and education materials currently available on the Internet and through in-state sources to avoid duplication of effort. Using this information, we reviewed municipal plans and, as applicable, zoning regulations in the four municipalities mentioned above to identify potential municipal barriers to implementation of LID practices. Using this information we met with the appropriate local officials (Development Review Board, Town Administrator/Planner, and Planning Commission) to raise awareness about stormwater runoff, discuss LID principles and strategies, identify barriers to implementation in the community, and identify potential locations for demonstration projects. LCPC also interviewed local, regional, and statewide stakeholders and private businesses to identify barriers to implementation of LID practices and identify extent of local implementation. Since stormwater awareness and LID practices are limited in the region, these meetings and interviews served as education and outreach opportunities. To further educational outreach to the region, LCPC included introductory LID information in our quarterly newsletter that was distributed to all communities in the region. Based on the research, meetings, and interviews, LCPC identified specific tools and recommendations to surmount the identified barriers. LCPC also developed a strategy for the Commission’s continued participation in promoting LID practices in Lamoille County that is summarized in the final report prepared for VT DEC dated October 30, 2010.

During the 604(b) ARRA FY10 grant performance period, LCPC provided a technical workshop for Morristown to aid in the successful implementation of the municipal stormwater bylaws regulating <1 acre development and developed a set of project informational sheets for the existing LID projects in Lamoille County or the surrounding region to create a resource of case studies.

Activities and Accomplishments

Coordinated and facilitated a workshop for the Morristown Development Review Board
LCPC coordinated a workshop with State Water Quality staff to provide a technical session to Morristown’s Development Review Board on how LID is utilized under the current State Stormwater Manual and how the credits are implemented. This workshop was held on May 12th and five municipal officials attended. This workshop provided examples of the types of projects allowed under current stormwater guidelines. Morristown’s Zoning and Subdivision Bylaws are the only bylaws in the region that directly address stormwater concerns related to projects that are below the state stormwater...
permit threshold (<1 acre of development) and have a separate stormwater regulation section. Adhering to these bylaws falls to the DRB when reviewing new and retrofitting developments. Since they were adopted in 2009 the Town has not reviewed a project that fell under this category so these new standards have not been tested. Other municipal commissions and officials were invited to the workshop and the meeting was open to the public.

**Develop Regional Resource Sheets on Low Impact Development practices in Lamoille County.**
To complete this task LCPC reviewed existing low impact development projects in Lamoille County and created informational sheets that provide a project description, problems addressed, benefits and project value. These sheets will serve several functions including: a starting point for building a network of regional case studies of LID projects and provide tangible examples of design solutions for sites in the region. LCPC developed a project sheet for each of the following LID categories: rooftop disconnection, rain barrels, cisterns, rain gardens, vegetative swales, infiltration trenches or galleries, infiltration basins, and pervious pavement. This task was conducted in partnership with DEC Stormwater, NEMO, and Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District. These resources will be shared with project partners and distributed to municipalities. This information will also be made available for inclusion in the VT LID Atlas database that currently only contains 5 Lamoille County records and lacks additional project information. LCPC will be posting these resource sheets on our webpage later this fall.

**Conclusion**
Thanks to this funding, LCPC was able develop an educational tool to improve the awareness of low impact development stormwater practices that have been implemented in the region. LCPC appreciates the aid the VT DEC provided with staff support and services and looks forward to collaborating with VT DEC staff on these future endeavors.

Sincerely,

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