



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Dan Albrecht, Senior Planner
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org Office: (802) 846-4490 x29

**CHITTENDEN COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE
NEW ENGLAND AWARD FOR REGIONAL COLLABORATION
FOR ENHANCED STORMWATER PROGRAM EFFICIENCY**

Winooski, VT – On behalf of nine municipalities and three organizations, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) recently accepted a *2014 Best Stormwater Idea in New England “Stormy Award”* from the New England Stormwater Collaborative. The Collaborative, consisting of the New England Water Works Association, the New England Water Environment Association and the New England chapter of the American Waterworks Association, presented the award at the 2015 Spring Joint Regional Conference of the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) in Worcester, Massachusetts held on April 1-2, 2015.

The award for *“Regional Collaboration for Enhanced Stormwater Program Efficiency”* recognizes the combined and coordinated efforts of the municipalities of Milton, Colchester, Winooski, Essex, Essex Junction, Williston, Burlington, South Burlington and Shelburne plus Burlington International Airport, the University of Vermont and the Vermont Agency of Transportation in creating and operating regional public awareness programs that aim at reducing the impacts of stormwater runoff.

For several years, these municipalities and organizations have worked to pool resources to professionally engage the public in a one message, one outreach effort to

fulfill Public Education & Outreach and Public Involvement & Participation requirements of their stormwater permits. With technical assistance provided by the CCRPC, these efforts, known as the Chittenden County Regional Stormwater Education Program (RSEP), www.smartwaterways.org and the Chittenden County Stream Team (CCST) www.ccstreamteam.org fulfill the permit requirements in an affordable and efficient manner but more importantly have built a regional awareness among the public of the need for individual action to assist in fighting stormwater problems. The RSEP program conducts spring and late summer advertising campaigns to encourage residents to adopt practices such as not over-fertilizing their lawns and using a rain barrel to “slow the flow” of stormwater while the Stream Team involves citizens in hands-on activities such as stream cleanups and constructing rain gardens.

“On behalf of the nine municipalities and three organizations participating in these regional stormwater programs, I was honored to accept this award in person while attending the NEWWA conference,” said Dan Albrecht, a Senior Planner with the CCRPC. “It is a reflection of how innovative and effective their collaborative effort has been over the past several years and we look forward to continuing to partner with them and others involved in addressing stormwater issues in the state.”

The CCRPC provides planning and technical assistance in the areas of Community Development, Transportation, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Housing, Economic Development, Telecommunications and Emergency Management to the 19 municipalities of Chittenden County and to the public, while remaining consistent with federal and state requirements. The collaboration between the CCRPC, Chittenden County municipalities and other related resources agencies results in the development and implementation of plans that support sustainable development and improve the region’s environment and quality of life. For more information about the CCRPC, please visit www.ccrpcvt.org. For more information, please contact Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org or (802) 846-4490 x29.

Photo caption: Chris Robinson of the Town of Shelburne and Dan Albrecht of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission holding the *2014 Best Stormwater Idea in New England “Stormy Award”* presented by the New England Stormwater Collaborative on April 1, 2015 in Worcester, MA.