



Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District
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Department of Environmental Conservation
Agency of Natural Resources
100 Mineral Street
Suite 303
Springfield, Vermont 05156-3168

November 29, 2006

Attention: Marie Levesque Carduto

Dear Ms Carduto

Final Report: Dummerston Covered Bridge Erosion Control Rain Garden Project.

Enclosed is the final report covering the Covered Bridge Erosion Control Rain Garden Project. The project has been a great success and the Dummerston Conservation Commission appreciates your initiative and support.

This project adds an important barrier to West River pollution and ensures continued use of the Dummerston Covered bridge area for recreational access to the West River. Dummerston and the Conservation Commission in particular are grateful for your participation and funding of this effort and we wish to express our thanks. This project is a demonstration of innovative environmental solutions and pooled resources. We look forward to the continuing benefits to West River water quality and the value of the project as an educational resource to the public.

Best Regards,

Jack Lilly
Project Coordinator and Conservation Commission Member

CC: Jolene Hamilton, Windham NRCD Manager
Mary Ellen Copeland, Dummerston Conservation Commission
Bill Jewell; Landscape Architect

Grant Final Report
Dummerston Covered Bridge Erosion Control Rain Garden Project
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Final Report: Dummerston Covered Bridge Erosion Control Rain Garden Project.

The Dummerston Covered Bridge Erosion Control Rain Garden Project has been a great success and it has been finished within time and budget limits. The garden has proven to have ample capacity for all the runoff from storms we have seen so far assuring us that the design is appropriate for site conditions. No storm runoff has entered the West River since the project was completed. The garden fills with water. During a storm the garden fills with water which is taken up by the plants, percolates, and/or evaporates, and is gone within a day or two. The plants used are almost entirely native species that have been chosen for their effectiveness in this application. The plants seem to like their new environment and grass has taken root over the finished contours of the area surrounding the garden. The final proof of the project is expected in the spring. The impact of spring runoff should be greatly or entirely diminished and the spring buds and blossoms should be an added reward.

Completing this project, which was finished within time limits and within the budget, adds an important barrier to West River pollution and ensures continued use of the Dummerston Covered bridge area for recreational access to the West River. It has also demonstrated the strength of a collaborative effort of committed participants. The Vermont Agency of Transportation had faith in our concept and allowed us to redesign the drainage of Route 30 and to remove their culvert. The landscape architect was willing to proceed with the design without assurance there would be sufficient funds to pay him in full. Major excavation and grading was negotiated by offering the excavation materials in exchange for the cost of the work. The existing culvert was removed by the Dummerston Highway department at no cost and the culvert was reused at another location in town to resolve a road erosion problem that was impacting Crosby Brook. The silt fence, grading, placement of soils and compost, placement of the erosion control blanket and final seeding were done by the Windham Regional Career Center (Forestry Program) at the cost of their materials and expenses. . Many of the plants were donated by interested parties. Ruth Marks and Jolene Hamilton deserve mention. The planting was done by another group of volunteers. In the end, we were able to complete the project without having to request additional funding and we were able to make donations to the causes of some of the volunteer groups in appreciation for their efforts.

The result is a project that people are proud of and feel ownership in. It has demonstrated the power of a collection of people stirred by a common concern for our natural water resources and our larger environment. The vision, the process, and the results are a tribute to all involved. Your contribution was crucial to the project's formation and success and we are extremely grateful for it.