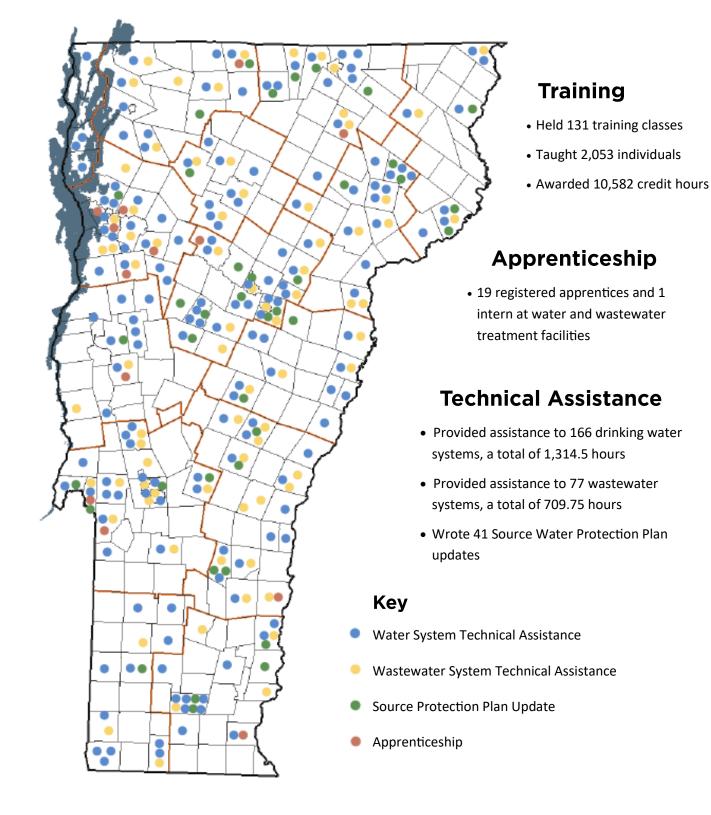
# Vermont Rural Water Association 2022 Annual Report



# Letter from the Board President

## Dear Members, (that means you!)

I believe 2022 deserves a thank you letter, so let's start by congratulating ourselves for a year well done. In my conversations with all of you, I have the sense that the pandemic's effects on our lives are diminishing. Life is returning to normal for the Vermont Rural Water Association. We have returned to onsite visits, some in-person trainings, a well-attended conference/trade show and a summer fun gathering. So I would like to thank all of the members for all that you do!



It seems that all of our programs are operating successfully and we are growing. There have been some changes this past year but all of them were good ones. First in my mind is the retirement of Elizabeth Walker. This wonderful person has been so instrumental in the environmental community. We will miss her knowledge, dedication, frankness, work ethic, and sense of humor; she has left us a better industry and rural water organization. Thank you so much Elizabeth!

We have welcomed some new staff members in 2022: Elijah Lemieux and Brad Roy. These are two very competent and resourceful individuals that I'm sure will be helping all of us in their new roles. I look forward to working with both of them.

Our Executive Director Liz Royer continues to move us in a positive direction. When you see her, please thank her!

I believe we are over the hurdles we faced in 2021 with changing our accounting strategies by outsourcing to an independent company. This has proved beneficial to our organization. We have had almost a complete shift and I understand that is going very well.

Now with regard to the rest of the staff—it would be too long a letter if I praised them individually but they are the best. So I send our appreciation and thanks to all of you: Katherine Boyk, Diana Butler, Paula Jackson, Aaron Perez, Matt Guerino, Wayne Graham, Tim Russo, and Paul Sestito. You are the backbone of this organization. Please just keep up the great work you're doing for us. Thank you.

We can also thank all of the board members for their commitment of time and energy to this organization. We will be losing Dick Desautels to retirement in 2023. His term ends in May and he indicates that he will not run again. Dick has been with the organization since we were part of Northeast Rural Water Association. He has been a trusted resource to me and Vermont Rural Water. He will be missed. So let's thank the board and especially Dick.

Okay, I said this year was a thank you letter and I would be remiss if I didn't mention all the folks who work with us from our State and Federal government. I know we don't always see eye-to-eye, but you have to admit many of these folks are trying hard to get it right. We need to thank them for their efforts.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for giving me and the rest of the board the opportunity to serve. Always feel welcome to talk to us about your concerns.

Sincerely, Rod Lamothe Board President

## **Financial Report**

The 2022 audit resulted in an unqualified opinion and a clean report for the association.

## **Balance Sheet**

Total Assets	\$774,864
Total Liabilities and net assets	\$888,243
Net assets, end of year	\$656,424

### **Annual Revenue and Expenses**

Total Revenue and support	\$1,244,651
Total Expenditures	\$1,172,690

# **Current Initiatives & Ongoing Efforts**



Participants at Water Professionals Appreciation Day at Smugglers Notch in July 2022.

## **Workforce Development**

In Vermont and across the nation, the water and wastewater workforce is in decline as more workers are retiring than joining the industry. Like many professions, this problem was exacerbated by the pandemic and the workforce shortage has not improved since.

To address this, Vermont Rural Water has started a number of projects:

- Created an Apprenticeship Program to train new hires at water and wastewater facilities
- Formed the Vermont Water Workforce Workgroup comprised of operators and regulators to brainstorm recruitment methods
- Outreach at K-12 schools, colleges, and job fairs

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Two trailers with emergency response equipment are now available to water and wastewater systems.

## **Emergency Response**

Vermont Rural Water is taking a proactive approach to help water and wastewater systems prepare for future emergencies. With funding from the CDC to VT WARN, we purchased two trailers and specialized equipment that are available to water or wastewater systems that have sustained damage from emergencies such as storms, flooding, and power outages. The new equipment includes ground penetrating radar units, portable correlators, a valve and hydrant exerciser, and a tilt-and-pan sewer line camera. This equipment can also be used to perform preventative maintenance that may reduce the impact of a future natural disaster.

We are also advocating for water/wastewater workers to be designated as first responders to receive priority access to services during emergencies.

## **PFAS**

Liz Royer was selected as a Small Entity Representative to advise the EPA on regulatory action for PFAS in drinking water. She provided input on the financial impacts of PFAS regulations to small water systems. Liz continues to work with the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy to provide further public comment.



Investigating PFAS contamination at Craftsbury Fire District #2.

# Water & Wastewater System Members

Addison County Community Trust Agri-Mark Inc. AHA Water Cooperative Albany Community School Albany Village Water Supply Co. Village of Alburgh Alburgh Fire District #1 Alburgh Fire District #2 **Apple Island Resort** Arlington Water Dept. Ascutney Fire District #2 Bakersfield Fire District #1 Barnet Fire District #2 **Barnet School** Barre City Barre Town Village of Barton **Basin Harbor Club Battleground Condos** Bears Crossing Water System Village of Bellows Falls Town of Bennington **Bennington College** Berkshire Elementary School Berlin & RMC MHPs Berlin Water System Town of Bethel **Bloomfield Water System** Bow and Arrow Park Village of Bradford Town of Brandon Brandon Fire District #1 Brattleboro Water Dept Brattleboro WWTP **Bridges HOA** Town of Brighton **Bromley Water Company** Bull Run Water System Burke Fire District #1 **Burke Mountain Burke Town School** City of Burlington **Butternut Hill Condominiums** Town of Cabot Cambridge Village Water Camping on the Battenkill Canaan FD1, FD2 & Town Carlos Otis Health Care Center Castleton Fire District #1 **Castleton Meadows Castleton University** Town of Cavendish **Champlain Housing Trust Champlain Water District** Town of Chelsea Town of Chester Chimney Hill Assoc. (Colchester) Chimney Hill Owners Assoc. (Wilmington)

Cobb Hill Co-Housing, Inc. Colchester Fire District #2 Cold Brook Fire District #1 **Common Pastures HOA** Concord Estates MHP Coventry Fire District #1 Craftsbury Fire District #2 **Crystal Springs Water System Dairy Center** Danby Mount Tabor Fire District 1 **Daniels Construction** Town of Danville Danville Fire District #1 **Deerfield Valley Health Center Derby Center** Derby Line **Dorset Elementary School** Dorset Fire District #1 East Berkshire Fire District #1 East Calais Fire District #1 East Dorset Fire District #1 East Fairfield Fire District #1 East Hardwick Fire District #1 East Middlebury Fire District #1 East Montpelier Elementary East Thetford Water Co. East Wind MHP Eastridge Acres HOA **Edgemont Condos Edlund Company** Edward Farrar Utility District Village of Enosburg Falls Town of Essex **City of Essex Junction** Town of Fair Haven Town of Fairfax Fairfax Fire District #1 Fairfax Heights Water Cooperative Fairfield Fire District #2 Town of Fairlee Farm & Wilderness Fayston Elementary School Fiddlehead Condo Association Fletcher Elementary School Flood Brook School Fort Warren MHP Franklin Foods, Inc. Georgia Elementary School Georgia Industrial Development Corp. GlobalFoundries Glover **Grafton Elementary School** Grand Isle Consolidated Water District Grand Isle Fire District #4 Grandview Acres Water System Graniteville Fire District #4 Green Mountain Valley School

Greensboro Fire District #1 Greenwood School Town of Hardwick Town of Hartford Hartland Elementary School Hartland Town Activity Center Harwood Union High School Hideaway Campground Assoc. Hiland Hall School Hilltop Montessori School Town of Hinesburg Holbrook Bay HOA Village of Hyde Park Hyde Park Fire District #1 Inn at Mountain View Farm Intervale at Stratton Irasburg Fire District #1 Jay Peak Water System Jay/Westfield Elementary Village of Jeffersonville Jericho Underhill Water Village of Johnson **Killington Resort** Lakehurst Campground Lamoille Union USD 18 Ledges #1 Little School Long Trail Brewing Co. Village of Ludlow Lunenburg Fire District #1 Lunenburg Fire District #2 Lyn Haven Fire District #1 Town of Lyndon Lyndonville Water System Town of Manchester Village of Marshfield McIndoe Falls Fire District 3 Town of Middlebury Middletown Springs School Mill River High School Town of Milton Montgomery Water System City of Montpelier Town of Morgan Morristown Corners Water Corp. Village of Morrisville Mount Snow Resort Mountain Green Condominium Mountain View MHP Mountain View Water Assoc. Mountain Water Company Newbury Village Newmont Slate Company Newport Center Newport City Water System Newport City WWTF North Bennington Water Dept North Branch Fire District #1 North Country Career Center

North Country Engineering North Harbor Residents Assoc. North Hartland Water Co-op North Hero Water System Village of North Troy Village of Northfield Norwich Fire District #1 Notchbrook Condominium **Okemo Mountain Resort** Orleans Water System **Orleans Wastewater** Peacham Fire District #1 Pine Ridge Water Corp Piper Ridge Homeowners Assoc. Town of Pittsford Town of Plainfield Point Bay Marina Poker Hill School Village of Poultney Town of Pownal **Pownal Estates MHP** Town of Proctor Town of Putney Randolph Village Town of Readsboro **Red Cedar School** Town of Richford Town of Richmond Richmond Fire District #1 **Riverside MHP Rochester Water System** Route 4 Makers Mill **Roxbury Fish Culture Station** Town of Royalton Royalton Fire District #1 Rutland City Water Dept. Rutland Town Fire District #1 Rutland Town Fire District #5 Rutland Town Fire District #6 Ryegate Fire District #2 Village of Saxtons River Schlotterbeck & Foss Seasons on Mount Snow Town of Shelburne Shelburne House Town of Sheldon Sherburne Fire District #1 Snow Mountain Village Sonnenberg Water System City of South Burlington South Burlington Fire District # 1 South Georgia Fire District South Hero Fire District # 4 South Wallingford Water Co. Southface Owner's Association Town of Springfield City of St. Albans St. Johnsbury Water System St. Johnsbury Wastewater

# System Members (continued)

St. Johnsbury Center Fire District 1 Starksboro Village Water Co-Op Starlake Village Leaseholders Assoc. Stip Investments Town of Stowe Stowe Fire District #4 Sugar Lodge at Sugarbush Sunny Acres Water Association Sunrise HOA Sutton Water System Swanton Village Tall Timbers Mobile Home Park Thetford Water Coop Timber Creek Condominium Trail Creek Condominium Tri-Town Water District #1 **Troy Water System Twin Farms** Valley Center Vergennes-Panton Water District Vermont Academy

Vermont Buildings and General Services Vermont State Housing Authority Vermont State Parks Vernon Elementary School Vernon Green Nursing Home Village At Sawmill Farms Waitsfield & Champlain Valley Telecom Waitsfield Water Supply Wallingford Fire District #1 Washington Fire District #1 Waterford Elementary School Waterville Fire District #1 Wells River Water System West Burke Housing Town of West Rutland West Wind Water System West Windsor Water System Westford Fire District #1 Westminster Aqueduct Society Westminster Center School WestRock

Wheelock Fire District #1 White Birches MHP Town of Whitingham Wildwood West HOA Williamstown Water Dept Williston Fire District #1 Town of Williston Wilmington Wastewater Wilmington Water District Windsor Water Dept Winhall-Stratton Fire District #1 City of Winooski Wintergreen at Killington Winterplace at Okemo Woodbury Elementary School Woodland Apartments Woodstock Wastewater Woodstock Aqueduct Co. Woodstock Hospitality Woodstock Inn Worcester Fire District #1

# **Associate Members**

ABTEC, Inc. Aldrich + Elliott Allen Engineering & Chemical Corp Atlas Technical Consultants **CAI Technologies Champlin Associates** Chevalier Drilling Co., Inc. Clean Waters, Inc. **Clear Water Filtration** Clow Valve Company Coyne Chemical Environmental Services **Culligan Water DN** Tanks **DuBois & King Dufresne Group** EJP Eastern Analytical, Inc. Endyne, Inc. EOS Research, Ltd. F.R. Mahony & Associates Ferguson Waterworks

**Forcier Consulting Engineers** Ford Meter Box Company, Inc. FW Webb Co. Jim Jolly Sales Inc **Kennedy Valve** Laramie Water Resources LLC Mass Tank Inspection & Services **MSK Engineers** N.A. Manosh Corp. New England Backflow, Inc. **Otter Creek Engineering** P2 Environmental **Perrigo Nutritionals** Pittsburg Tank & Tower Co., Inc. PurposeEnergy, Inc. **Ruggles Engineering Services** Sherwin-Williams Slack Chemical Co. **Statewide Aquastore** Stone Environmental Sullivan Associates

Ti-SALES Inc. Underwater Solutions, Inc. USA BlueBook VTM Engineering, PLC Vermont Utility Management Services (VTUMS) Water Industries, LLC Watershed Consulting Associates Weidmann Electrical Technology **Weston & Sampson Engineers** 

**Bold** = Sustaining Associate Member



## Staff

**Executive Director** Liz Royer Iroyer@vtruralwater.org

**Deputy Executive Director** Tim Russo trusso@vtruralwater.org

Water Systems Specialists Aaron Perez aperez@vtruralwater.org

Paul Sestito psestito@vtruralwater.org

Source Water Specialist Brad Roy broy@vtruralwater.org Wastewater Systems Specialists Wayne Graham wgraham@vtruralwater.org

Elijah Lemieux elemieux@vtruralwater.org

Training Coordinator Matt Guerino mguerino@vturalwater.org

Apprenticeship Program Coordinator Paula Jackson pjackson@vtruralwater.org

**Program Assistant** Katherine Boyk kboyk@vtruralwater.org

## **Board of Directors**

**President** Rod Lamothe *Castleton Meadows* 

Vice President Richard Desautels Colchester Fire District #2

Secretary/Treasurer, National Representative Jon Thornton Bradford Water & Sewer **Board Members** Margaret Dwyer *Winhall-Stratton Fire District* 

John Lazelle Town of Wilmington

Board Liaison Eric Blatt VT DEC Water Investment Division