Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2016

Internship Title: Source Water Protection Intern

Internship Site: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Montpelier, VT & Vermont Rural Water, Essex, VT Office work will be in Montpelier and Essex which are serviced by the CCTA Regional bus service. UVM students are able to use this service for free with a valid ID.

Description: Student intern needed to assist with research related to groundwater planning, source protection, and public drinking water systems. This student would be hosted by the Vermont Geological Survey and Vermont DEC Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division and would work in partnership with the Vermont Rural Water Association.

Project 1. Student will research documents from Vermont municipalities that are related to source water protection. For towns that have zoning, there may be a zoning district for drinking water protection, while towns without zoning may or may not have an ordinance. Part of the challenge is that these types of documents come in many different names: Source Protection Overlay District, Groundwater Protection Ordinance, Aquifer Protection Area, Wellhead District, Water Supply Protection Ordinance, etc.

The Regional Planning Commissions may be able to provide much of this information, but some work with the municipalities may be necessary. A review of the Municipal Planning Grant archives may also be helpful. The next step would be to examine these documents to find which should be used as examples for other communities to follow.

Project 2. Many public water systems in Vermont do not have control/ownership of their sanitary radius. The sanitary radius is the Source Protection Area Zone 1 which is generally a 200 foot radius around the wellhead or surface water intake. Using the ANR Natural Resources Atlas and Town Grand Lists, the student will develop a list of Vermont water systems that do not have ownership of the land immediately surrounding their public water source. Some travel to town offices may be involved to research easements, if time allows.

 Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: Interest and studies in groundwater movement, contamination, protection, municipal/state regulations, or related skills or coursework.

*Rubenstein students currently in their first, sophomore and junior year are eligible to apply.*

Supervision: Liz Royer, Source Protection Specialist, Vermont Rural Water Association (in conjunction with Rodney I. Pingree, Chief, Water Resources Section, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division)

Start and End Dates: Mid-May – Mid-August, 2016 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours: 20 hours/week, 12 weeks
Compensation: $12.50/hour. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein School Internship Program is required.

How to apply: Step by step application instructions are available on the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program website. Applications are due by 4pm, Friday, January 29th, 2016 through Blackboard.