



AGENDA

Clean Water Advisory Committee

Thursday January 9th 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission,
29 Main St., Suite 4, Montpelier, VT

- 4:00 PM: Welcome and Introductions
Public Comments
- 4:05 PM: Changes to agenda
- 4:10 PM: Approval 12/12/19 minutes (enclosed)
- 4:15 PM: Update on Executive Committee Meeting – Amy Hornblas, Chair
- 4:30 PM: Review CWAC Rules of Procedure – Pam DeAndrea
- 5:00 PM: CVRPC grant applications to DEC and LCBP – Pam DeAndrea & Grace Vinson
- 5:30 PM: Other Announcements?
- 5:45 PM: Wrap-up. Next Meeting Date 2/13/20?

1 **CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
2 **CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
3 **December 12, 2019**
4 **Meeting Notes**

5
6 A meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Clean Water Advisory Committee
7 was held on December 12, 2019 in the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Office.
8

9 Committee Members Present:

10 Amy Hornblas – CWAC Chair, Cabot/Board of Commissioners
11 John Hoogenboom – Moretown Selectboard
12 Stewart Clark – Worcester Planning Commission
13 Larry Becker- Middlesex Conservation Commission
14 Dona Bate – Montpelier City Council
15 Ron Krauth – Middlesex/Board of Commissioners
16 Rich Turner – Williamstown Planning Commission/Board of Commissioners
17 Joyce Manchester – Moretown TAC
18 John Brabant – Calais/Board of Commissioners
19 Russ Barrett – Northfield Conservation Commission (on phone)
20

21 Committee Members Absent:

22 Michele Braun – Friends of Winooski River
23 Karen Bates – ANR
24 Corrie Miller – Friends of the Mad River
25 Brian Shupe – Friends of the Mad River
26 Gianna Petito - Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
27

28 Others Present:

29 None.
30

31 **CALL TO ORDER**

32 Amy Hornblas called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM.
33

34 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

35 None.
36

37 **CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

38 Add time at end for Amy to update on emails sent to folks not coming to the CWAC meetings.
39

40 **APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 12 MINUTES**

41 Larry, page 3 of packet, third point, what do we mean by high levels due to chemical fertilizers? Change
42 it to “chemical fertilizers contribute to the high levels of phosphorus”.
43

44 Joyce – Did research on what is in the RAPs and saw reference to fertilizers. Remove reference to
45 Required Agricultural Practices.
46

47 John Brabant moved to approve minutes as amended, Amy seconded. Minutes approved as amended.
48

49 **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 10 MINUTES**

50 Stewart moved to approve minutes as changed in earlier meeting. John H. seconded.

1 Ron abstained because he was not here. Rest in favor. Minutes approved.

2
3

4 **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 14 MINUTES**

5 Page 2 of minutes, line 20 more what? Add forceful to the end of that. Amy made motion to approve,
6 John B. seconded.

7

8 **CWAC RESOLUTION LETTER TO BOARD (DRAFT NUMBER 5)**

9 Joyce voiced a couple of comments on letter. Don't capitalize CWAC. Extra comma.

10 Joyce - Questioning why we would want to say that funding should be allocated proportionally by
11 sector. We should allocate funds where they will get the most reductions most efficiently - biggest bang
12 for buck.

13 John H. – go back to page 8 in packet from minutes as to why we put this in.

14 Joyce does not agree with this statement.

15 John B. – could add to #7 some clarification, bullet #1, first sentence, “given the cost for remediation is
16 equal across sectors. Consideration should also be given to allocating funding to sectors where
17 phosphorus reduction per dollar would be greater.”

18 Ron-this is directed at Lake Champlain. There are other smaller areas that are affected to phosphorus
19 loadings. Can we sneak that in?

20 Stew – you are right Ron, but don't think we can go there.

21 John H. – if we change #7, should we change #1.

22 Dona and Larry – it is fine the way it is.

23 Joyce - #4, first bullet, strike “address only manure” and revise to say “do not focus sufficient attention
24 on chemical fertilizers.”

25 Russ – should be #6, not #7.

26 John H. made a motion to approve the letter as amended.

27 Stewart seconded. Motion passed.

28 Larry, does the CWAC send the letter directly or does the letter come from the Board?

29

30 **ACT 76 & CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS**

31 Pam went over the summary document on Act 76.

32 Stew had some comments on the responsibilities of the clean water service providers that will be
33 difficult.

34 John B. read the conservation and land development section.

35 The group would like someone from DEC to come present to the CWAC, maybe late spring early
36 summer.

37 Ron – we need to mention groundwater. Still not mentioned.

38

39 **UPDATE ON DESIGN IMPLEMENTATION BLOCK GRANT APPLICATIONS AND OTHER** 40 **UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

41 Pam mentioned the block grants submitted to the SWCRPC: Woodbury and Calais.

42 She also mentioned that she will write an ERP application for a SWMP for Williamstown when they are
43 available.

44

45 **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1 Amy – talked about how she reached out to the folks who were not coming. She thanked John for
2 attending tonight and mentioned that Corrie is waiting for funding to be able to attend. Michele from
3 FWR did not get back to her and Gianna mentioned it is not in her work plan under the Basin Planning
4 funding to attend. Pam mentioned that we need to work to get the watershed groups back at the table
5 since they are important. The group discussed the rules of procedure and that we should discuss at the
6 next meeting.

7

8 **SCHEDULE**

9 Next meeting January 9, 2020.

10

11 Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm. Next meeting review rules of procedure.

DRAFT

December, 2019

RE: Concerns from CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee

In 2018/2019, the clean water advisory committee (CWAC) reviewed the Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan and found significant gaps in water quality policies and practices. As the scope of water quality considerations is wide, at present the CWAC is concerned with the following:

1. The Winooski Basin Plan is incomplete and thus contributes to ill-informed allocation of funds to improve water quality.
 - Phosphorus load allocations and reduction targets do not include the role of chemical fertilizers.
 - Funding allocated among land use sectors for phosphorus mitigation is not proportional to phosphorus loading contributions.
 - Many municipalities are required to spend more on technological infrastructure to create small changes in loading.
2. Practices to reduce sediment or phosphorus may exacerbate other water quality problems.
 - No-till methods to decrease sediment runoff may increase the use of Glyphosate (aka Roundup) and other pesticides that reduce water quality and may lead to ecosystem damage.
3. Other Pesticide / Herbicide Concerns are not included in the plan:
 - Pesticides, including neonicotinoids, remain and are re-cycled in surface water and groundwater, and are potential threats to beneficial insects.
 - The Statewide PFAS (including PFOA) contamination problem needs to be identified and described.
4. Phosphorus reduction programs will not go far in reducing the problem:
 - Efforts to address phosphorus, such as the *Required Agricultural Practices*, do not focus sufficient attention on chemical fertilizers.
 - Reducing phosphorous input to Lake Champlain, while important, will not by itself solve the Lake's phosphorous problem. Residual, legacy phosphorous incorporated in lake sediment must be identified as a factor limiting phosphorous reduction in lake waters.

5. Groundwater:

- Groundwater quality and the interaction between groundwater and surface water is not factored into surface water management strategies. The CWAC recommends including the interaction of groundwater and surface water in the planning and strategies for surface water quality improvement.

6. Solutions:

- Expenditures should be roughly proportional to a sector's phosphorus loading contributions and the potential benefits of the remediation given the cost of remediation is equal across sectors. Consideration should also be given to allocating funding to sectors where phosphorus reduction per dollar would be greater. However, the modeling used to assess those contributions should include all sources, especially chemical phosphorus application.
- A shift to local small-farm agriculture will provide better control of phosphorous release to surface waters, and programs/policies should support this shift.
- Greater funding needed where phosphorus loading is greatest.
- Strengthen heavy forest cutting regulations to reduce storm water runoff.

Thank you for assisting our efforts to address water quality concerns we feel are lacking in the river basin plans. The CWAC would like to forward this letter to others. The Chair and members of the CWAC are available to meet to explain these concerns. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
The CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Council

Dona Bate - Montpelier
Russ Barrett – Northfield
Larry Becker – Middlesex
John Brabant – Calais
Stewart Clark – Worcester
John Hoogenboom – Moretown
Amy Hornblas – Chair
Ron Krauth – Middlesex
Joyce Manchester – Moretown



CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC)

RULES OF PROCEDURE

PURPOSE: To oversee the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's (CVRPC) water quality planning program in accordance with CVRPC plans, policies, and procedures, to act as a liaison between local communities and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), and to provide local and regional input regarding water quality issues important to the region.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES:

1. Oversee programming related to the CVRPC's assistance to ANR with basin planning and surface water management, including but not limited to:
 - a. Development of tactical basin plans.
 - b. Technical assistance and data collection activities, including information from watershed organizations, to inform municipal officials and the State in making water quality investment decisions.
 - c. Coordinating municipal planning and adoption or implementation of municipal development regulations to meet State water quality policies and investment priorities.
 - d. Implementing a project evaluation process to prioritize water quality improvement projects within the region to assure cost effective use of State and federal funds.
 - e. Guidance for project prioritization for submittal of grant applications for water quality improvement or planning projects.
2. Undertake water quality related technical assistance and policy activities and coordinate activities with the Transportation Advisory Committee including but not limited to activities related to implementation of Municipal Roads Stormwater General Permits.
3. Participate in special studies conducted by the CVRPC.
4. Provide input and policy recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding pertinent water quality issues, including review of State plans, policies, and legislation.

ADVISORY ROLE: The CWAC shall be advisory to the Board of Commissioners. The advice of this committee should, where possible, be science-based, not opinion, whim, or personal attitude. At the very minimum the advice shall not be contrary to research-based water quality and water process facts. The CWAC will offer advice and input to ANR and other organizations and individuals as appropriate,

provided it is compatible with plans, policies, positions or resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners. CWAC advice and input may be reviewed, confirmed or reversed by the CVRPC Board of Commissioners at the Board's discretion. New or amended plans, policies, positions or resolutions shall be ratified/approved by the Board of Commissioners.

MEMBERSHIP: The Chair of the CWAC shall be a CWAC member elected by the CWAC or appointed by the Chair of the CVRPC. There shall be up to 13 members with representation as follows:

- 3 CVRPC Commissioners and 1 Alternate
- 5 Representatives of the region's municipalities
- 1 Representative of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ex-officio, non-voting)
- 1 Representative of the Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District
- 1 Representative of the Friends of the Winooski River
- 1 Representative of the Friends of the Mad River
- 1 Interested stakeholder

For organizations, the organization may appoint its representative and may send an alternate as needed by the organization. Alternates may vote when an appointed representative is unable to make the meeting.

The CVRPC Board of Commissioners will make initial appointments to one and two year terms to create staggered terms. Membership term shall be two years thereafter. Appointments not associated with a named group above will be appointed by the CVRPC Board of Commissioners.

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUMS: A quorum shall consist of a majority of members (51%). Members are encouraged to attend all regular meetings and special meetings as they arise. Members with three consecutive unexplained absences will be contacted by the Chair to determine if they still wish to serve on the CWAC. The CWAC shall meet at least eight (8) times per year, or as determined by the Chair to be necessary to carry out the stated purpose.

COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION, AND EXPECTATIONS:

- Meetings shall be noticed and held in accordance with Vermont Open Meeting Law.
- Draft policies and resolutions shall be forwarded to CWAC members and interested/affected parties for comment before action by the CWAC, or final action/approval by the Board of Commissioners.
- Committee membership brings the expectation of active involvement outside of meeting time. CWAC members are expected to review shared materials in advance of meetings and to become knowledgeable concerning background facts and information regarding issues to be discussed.
- Minutes of all regular and special meetings will be prepared by staff, distributed to CWAC members and interested parties, and made available to the public in accordance with open meeting and public records laws described in 1 V.S.A.
- CWAC members are encouraged to serve as liaisons to their local legislative boards by facilitating communication and coordination on a regular basis.

- CWAC members are encouraged to offer input on all matters before the CWAC, and are encouraged to bring up items of local or regional concern for CWAC consideration.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: In the event any CWAC member has a personal or financial interest with any individual, partnership, firm or corporation seeking to contract with the CVRPC, or to provide materials or labor thereto, or has a personal or financial interest in any project being considered by the CWAC, the member shall state on the record the nature of his or her interest. If the member feels this conflict interferes with his/her ability to be objective, the member shall not participate in any vote on any related motion. If the member is uncertain whether he/she should participate in the decision, the CWAC shall determine by vote whether the member should participate.

The Committee may also make a determination of conflict of interest and disallow voting by a member if the majority of voting Committee members in attendance at the meeting determine a conflict of interest exists.

ADOPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES: The CWAC may, at any time, vote to amend these procedures, upon 51% vote of the CWAC membership. Proposed amendments will be forwarded to CWAC members, chairs of local legislative boards, and interested parties before consideration at a regular CWAC meeting. Amendments will then be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for ratification.

The CWAC is a special committee of the Regional Planning Commission, and is therefore subject to the Commission's bylaws. These Rules of Procedure, combined with Robert's Rules of Order, provide procedural and administrative guidance for the CWAC.

Recommended by the Clean Water Advisory Committee: 06/08/18

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners: 07/10/18

Julie Potter, Chair
CVRPC Board of Commissioners