

1 **CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
2 **CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
3 **JANUARY 10, 2019**
4 **Meeting Notes**

5
6 A meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission’s Clean Water Advisory Committee
7 was held on Thursday, January 10, 2019 in the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Office.
8

9 Committee Members Present:

- 10 Stewart Clark – Worcester Planning Commission
11 Gianna Petito - Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District
12 Michele Braun – Friends of Winooski River
13 Ron Krauth – Middlesex/Board of Commissioners
14 Dona Bate – Montpelier City Council
15 Joyce Manchester – Moretown TAC
16 Amy Hornblas – Cabot/Board of Commissioners
17 John Hoogenboom – Moretown Selectboard

18
19 Committee Members Absent:

- 20 Russ Barrett – Northfield Conservation Commission
21 Karen Bates – ANR
22 Larry Becker- Middlesex Conservation Commission
23 John Brabant – Calais/Board of Commissioners
24 Corrie Miller – Friends of the Mad River
25 Brian Shupe – Friends of the Mad River
26

27 Others Present:

- 28 Jonathan DeLaBruere – CVRPC staff
29 Patti Casey – Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFMM)
30

31 **CALL TO ORDER**

32 Pam DeAndrea called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.
33 Welcome and introductions
34

35 **CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

36 None.
37

38 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

39 None.
40

41 **GUEST PRESENTATION – PATTI CASEY - VAAFMM**

42 Patti Casey provided history to the groundwater monitoring program:

- 43 Goals: improve ag practices, protect gw, raise public awareness, and provide for clean drinking water
44 Original focus was corn herbicide, expanded to nitrates.
45 Considered public health management
46 Funded by pesticide/herbicide registration fees
47

48 Recommendations from VAAFMM can include: sending roof water to clean area, crop rotation, no till,
49 cover cropping, other BMPs. For the most part, farmers will be willing to implement practices.
50

51 Responsive sampling – will occur from a complaint or concern
52

1 Surface water studies are done as well

2 Current testing includes: organics – pesticides and degradates, neonics, glyphosate; nutrients, bacteria

3

4 Patti collaborates with other agencies to sample streams and groundwater and to analyze samples

5

6 Act 161 - July 1, 2019 – new water supplies will be required to be tested. New construction for single
7 family home, new well, updated well construction, e.g. new casing. Well drillers are aware of this
8 change as well.

9

10 Concern of private wells and manure spreading on field nearby. Patti will get a call from a concerned
11 landowner and she collects information: setbacks, soil type, distance to fields, well depth, well tag #, etc.
12 If it's determined that there may be some impact, then a sample can be taken. They look at possible
13 other contamination areas.

14

15 Results can guide actions from nothing to remediation. Everyone gets a results letter that includes
16 education on testing.

17

18 Drought conditions can lead to higher levels in the groundwater due to lack of dilution. Farmer
19 practices at certain times of year affect it more than the weather.

20

21 If a farm was in place before a well, they only have to be 50 feet from a well, but the agency can ask
22 them to move their buffer back.

23

24 Geology: Waits River Formation – bedrock layers are in one direction and the fractures are in another
25 direction. Difficult to determine the source due to this. Sandy, gravelly surficial material can be
26 vulnerable to sources from rather far away, like ½ mile.

27

28 Some gw moves very slowly – VGS has age dated water to 70 years.

29

30 Sampling – nitrate, corn herbicides, neonics, others: bacteria (e-coli – septic), chloride (failed septic or
31 road salt)

32 Phosphorus (by on-farm inspectors) – not a concern for gw, more for surface water.

33

34 Nitrate is water soluble and very mobile: EPA standard is 10 ppm, VAAFMM takes action at 5 ppm.

35 Sources: manure, inorganic fertilizers, silage leakage. Septics, compost piles, hydrofracking. Concern
36 for babies under 6 months and pregnant women. Unknown if in older kids and adults guts may lead to
37 cancer.

38

39 Agrichemicals sampled for: corn herbicides and breakdowns and neonics (insecticides)

40 Found: atrazine, metolachlor, acetochlor, alachlor

41 Have not found: glyphosate and degradates (300 samples since 2006). Very immobile, binds very
42 quickly.

43

44 Neonics – concern for pollinators. Used as an insecticidal seed treatment. 460 samples over 5 years, 15
45 positive results. Of those 15 positives have not approached the LD50.

46

47 Site is a well or spring, not a farm. A location is a farm or residence. Samples are waters from sites.

1 Total samples taken 386, 128 wells, 22 legacy sites (wells where they know there was a problem).
2 Out of the remaining 106 wells – 4 wells with a nitrate over the drinking water standard. Of the 4, 3
3 were on the farms and one was at a neighbors. <4% are over the drinking water standard and very few
4 are affecting neighboring areas.

5
6 Historic (since 1987) – 23 CVRPC towns – 123 wells sampled, 915 samples; 13 wells from 2 locations
7 had \geq 10 ppm nitrate.

8 11 wells had herbicide detections, 10 are associated with a farm in East Montpelier (farm and
9 neighbors), and 1 is in Moretown. Maximum detections are way below the standards.

10
11 CVRPC towns – 2018 – 14 wells sampled. 24 samples taken - 2 wells had high nitrates and two wells
12 high pesticides – East Montpelier.

13
14 CWAC towns – 7 towns – 10 sampled – no detections found.

15
16 Take home messages:

17 Nitrate contamination is concentrated around a few large farms.

18 Pesticide detections are well below standards

19 Attributable to better ag practices

20 Bedrock geology can make it difficult

21
22 Resources:

23 Private Well Class.org - online classes and webinars

24 VT Dept of Health, Environmental Health Division, Sille Larsen

25 Well Drillers Report

26
27 Fact sheets: Pam will scan and distribute fact sheets

28
29 Questions:

30 What percentage are drilled wells into bedrock?

31 Most are drilled wells, few are springs.

32 Have you found the groundwater contamination finding its way to the nearby streams in this area?

33 No not in this area. None have reached the LD50 for aquatic invertebrates.

34 No till farming, what does that mean? Does that mean no harrowing?

35 Do they cover crop for the winter and then they kill it. Harrowing is not considered no till.

36 Do you feel the coordination of all these other groups really occurring or is it really testing in a silo?

37 People really do coordinate well together.

38
39 **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11 MINUTES**

40
41 Dona makes a motion to move the edits made to the minutes at last meeting. Stew seconded. Minutes
42 approved.

43
44 **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 8 MINUTES**

45
46 Change the date on the top to read November 8 and not October 11. Dona made a motion to move the
47 edits. Stew seconded. Minutes approved as amended.

1

2 **WINOOSKI TACTICAL BASIN PLAN RESPONSIVENESS SUMMARY**

3

4 Wait until next time to discuss.

5

6 **SCHEDULE**

7

8 Next meeting: Thursday, February 21.