

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
June 13, 2019
Meeting Notes**

A meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Clean Water Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 13, 2019 in the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Office.

Committee Members Present:

Amy Hornblas – CWAC Chair, Cabot/Board of Commissioners
Larry Becker- Middlesex Conservation Commission
Dona Bate – Montpelier City Council
John Hoogenboom – Moretown Selectboard
Russ Barrett – Northfield Conservation Commission
Gianna Petito - Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

Committee Members Absent:

Stewart Clark – Worcester Planning Commission
Joyce Manchester – Moretown TAC
Michele Braun – Friends of Winooski River
Karen Bates – ANR
Corrie Miller – Friends of the Mad River
Brian Shupe – Friends of the Mad River
John Brabant – Calais/Board of Commissioners
Ron Krauth – Middlesex/Board of Commissioners

Others Present:

None.

CALL TO ORDER

Amy Hornblas called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM.
Welcome.

CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MAY 9 MINUTES

Did not have a quorum so could not approve minutes.

CWAC RESOLUTION LETTER TO BOARD

Pam provided a DRAFT of the resolution letter to the Board in the packet which incorporated written text from Amy H., as well as comments from Stew and Larry. John Brabant emailed comments to Pam today to be incorporated into the letter. Pam provided a copy of that email to the group and will include in these minutes.

Pam – want to be clear what policies and programs you are referring to in the letter before it goes to the board.

Larry - need some clarification following the highlighted section.

1
2 Dona- could bring in examples.

3
4 John – combine #1 and #2 in letter.

5
6 Gianna – Does it make sense to be more specific for each concern? Could bullet them following a
7 general comment about historic practices and what has resulted.

8
9 Larry – Define what sectors are. Which ones are the largest contributors and which ones are being
10 forced to reduce a small contribution compared to the larger contributors. State that reduction allocations
11 are not proportional to their contribution. Make it easier to read given the audience. Change the
12 “exclusion” of groundwater....to “regarding the exclusion of the interaction of groundwater and surface
13 water”.

14
15 Could try for October to complete the letter.

16
17 Dona –Surface drinking water sources are not included in the Basin Plan. Dona will find source of that
18 to include in the letter.

19
20 John B’s email discussion: Pam read the email to the group and asked what they thought.

21
22 Re: emergency manure spreading exemptions granted by AAFM

23 Larry – would more manure storage solve the problem?

24 Gianna – there is a connection to storage and what is allowed to be spread. There is not really a rule for
25 storage but any rules moving forward would be for new ones, not for farms that already have their
26 storage systems set up already. They probably would not ask farmers to size those that are older.

27
28 Pam – maybe include a general statement to have alternatives to emergency exemptions as opposed to
29 try and define what those alternatives should be.

30
31 Dona - and add in recommendations for plans for what to do in the emergency spreading situations.

32
33 Gianna – bring in incentives like buffers, cows out streams to allow exemptions.

34
35 John H. – regarding handling increasing streamflow volumes – add something regarding the forest
36 management – 40 acres limitation; that limitation should be reduced. Heavy Cutting Law. C Line? What
37 is that? Minimal stocking in the forest. We need to focus on increased water flow.

38
39 Dona – put something in there for encouraging agencies to continue to work together.

40
41 Gianna – one of the barriers for agencies working together has been sharing of information. There are
42 ongoing conversations of how to address these barriers but some of them are at a federal level, which
43 makes it difficult.

44
45 Pam will revise draft letter for next meeting.

46
47

COMPLETED STORMWATER MASTER PLANS

Pam – presented the final stormwater master plans and story maps for the eight towns in the Mad River and Kingsbury Branch watersheds (Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren, Calais, East Montpelier, and Woodbury).

CVRPC BOARD COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Pam explained that even though the CWAC voted to not allow more board members on the CWAC, it is the Board that has the authority to appoint committee members and not the CWAC.

Gianna – if they want to encourage membership on the WNRCD board, please tell them to.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gianna – Ethan Tapper is a forester hosting a training on EQUIP. Funding for landowner to have foresters for forest management plans. Training for landowners – there will be folks there that may answer questions. June 22nd 9am-3pm – 11 West Street, Essex Junction.

SCHEDULE

Next meeting: August 8, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

EMAIL FROM JOHN BRABANT ON CWAC RESOLUTION LETTER

Hi Pam:

since I will not be able to attend tomorrow's meeting, I would like to respond to the draft CWAC resolution:

1. I like it and support it

2. There was a discussion with Julie Moore at last night's meeting monthly CVRPC meeting which included my discussion with Secretary Moore the issue of the AAFM granting dozens and I believe over a hundred "emergency exemptions" to allow the application of manure on snow this past fall and winter. There are documented photos and videos of manure runoff from these approvals directly into local streams. The impacts of such practices and discharges are so much greater in magnitude than the impacts from sediment runoff from municipal roads and it begs the question, 'What the heck are we doing??!!'. I asked Secretary Moore to work toward changing existing state policy to require greater surplus storage for manure on our dairy farms as with increases in precipitation and increasingly unpredictable weather, we need to require the augmentation of our existing farm pollution prevention infrastructure. We are requiring larger culvert and road infrastructure construction in general to address climate change and to handle the increasing stream flow volumes, but we are not to my knowledge require farm manure storage infrastructure sizing and capacity to be increased due to the same weather shifts. This makes NO SENSE whatsoever. I would request that the committee add language to the resolution to address this issue with farms and to request that the ANR and AAFM work with Sens. Leahy, Sanders and Rep. Welch and our federal partners to provide funding to implement these improvements.

- 1 Many thanks.
- 2
- 3 -John
- 4