

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
August 8, 2019  
Meeting Notes**

A meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Clean Water Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, August 8, 2019 in the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Office.

**Committee Members Present:**

Amy Hornblas – CWAC Chair, Cabot/Board of Commissioners  
John Hoogenboom – Moretown Selectboard  
Russ Barrett – Northfield Conservation Commission  
Gianna Petito - Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District  
Ron Krauth – Middlesex/Board of Commissioners  
Stewart Clark – Worcester Planning Commission  
Joyce Manchester – Moretown TAC  
John Brabant – Calais/Board of Commissioners

**Committee Members Absent:**

Larry Becker- Middlesex Conservation Commission  
Michele Braun – Friends of Winooski River  
Karen Bates – ANR  
Corrie Miller – Friends of the Mad River  
Brian Shupe – Friends of the Mad River  
Dona Bate – Montpelier City Council

**Others Present:**

None.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Amy Hornblas called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Welcome. Rich Turner, new member introduced, alternate member for commission from Williamstown; appointed last month by CVRPC Board. Rest of CWAC present introduced themselves to Rich.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Gianna would like to share Required Agricultural Practice (RAP) information after approval of minutes.  
Stewart – discuss draft prioritization of projects after approval of first set of minutes 5/9/19.

**APPROVAL OF MAY 9 MINUTES**

Page 2 of 3 Line 31 #1 under criteria. Does not make sense. Please reword to “with established science”.

John H. moved to approve as amended; Ron seconded. Minutes approved as amended.

Stew had question about prioritization in the minutes. Have these been shared with the DEC? Pam – not yet, we need this to be on another agenda. Act 76 may change how we prioritize projects and what projects we do, so not sure if we want to go through this whole exercise of coming up with a

prioritization method. Let's table this until we talk about Act 76, which will need to be on a future agenda as well.

#### **APPROVAL OF JUNE 13 MINUTES**

John B. – need to include his email in the minutes that was referenced within the minutes.

Gianna made a motion to approve minutes as amended. John H. seconded. Minutes approved as amended.

#### **REQUIRED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (RAP) – GIANNA PETITO, WINOOSKI NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT (WNRCD)**

Gianna shared RAPs summary that she shares with farmers and presented the binder that she uses with her outreach to farmers. WNRCD helps farmers go through the process of helping them with their nutrient management plans.

Stew – are you limited to cow manure concerns or can you include chemical fertilizers?

Gianna – we share with them the RAPs, which are specific about cow manure, but they do talk to them about other natural resources concerns.

Stew – has concern of hemp farm in their town and what chemical fertilizers they may be adding to the soil.

Gianna - Heavy ag conservation districts have been reaching out to Hemp farmers, WNRCD has not done much with Hemp farmers.

John B. - are animals prohibited from wading in streams? Gianna - Not unless a complaint has been filed and there is a water quality concern. Smaller farms that do not meet the small farm cutoff, no not have any requirements around animals in the streams unless there has been a complaint and a water quality concern.

Gianna went over each farm classification and what is required by them under the RAPs.

Stew mentioned an article in VT Digger on pesticide recording.

RAPs - nutrient management planning, discharges, soil health/eroded soil, manure storage, manure spreading, buffers, mortalities, livestock exclusion.

Joyce had a question if the tax department can share information on where farms are. Gianna said no since that is not public information. VAAFM is working on a map of where all farms are located in VT. Gianna is hoping to get some grant funding to map farms that are near wetlands and surface waters.

Gianna – would love it to have folks to farm visits.

Stew – thought that RAPs applied to all types of farms. But it seems like it is slanted to dairy.

John B. – can put in Town Plans to direct farmers to NRCS for grants and assistance.

#### **RESULTS OF COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS FOR CWAC**

Pam explained the results of the CWAC 2 year term appointments by the CVRPC Board. These appointments were made at their June meeting.

Amy Hornblas (Commissioner)  
Rich Turner (Commissioner alternate seat)  
Larry Becker (municipal representative)  
Stewart Clark (municipal representative)  
Joyce Manchester (interested stakeholder)

John H. - Discussed to possibly remove Friends of Mad River be removed from the CWAC since they never come to the meetings and they sway their quorum to need too many people.

Pam – since the board just appointed committee members, we would have to wait until next year to do so, but it would make sense since it does affect our quorum. John B. – they could be members at large and that way they would not affect our quorum.

#### **LAKE CHAMPLAIN CLEAN UP FUNDS DISCUSSION – STEWART CLARK**

Stew – based on this article that it seems we are spending more on stormwater than ag.

Joyce – she listened to the Secretary of ANR on the radio and she explained that it was more about the time of when the money was available did not line up with specific sectors.

Stew - Does the political component direct funds more at towns than at farms?

Ron – you never hear on news about farm fields washing away during a large storm, you hear about the treatment plant over flows.

Amy is worried that money will be spent and then not available in the future for other projects.

Ron – point sources are easier to measure so that's why it is focused on more.

Gianna – budget; capital money – can only be used on infrastructure type projects, e.g., stormwater and wastewater.

#### **CWAC RESOLUTION LETTER TO BOARD (DRAFT NUMBER 2)**

Pam drafted a second resolution letter which is included in the packet.

Concern #2 – needs revision.

Stew – suggested that we reword the sentence that starts with “Water quality improvement...” to remove the text “such as developed lands” and “not only” so the sentence would read: “Water quality improvement policies and strategies are focused on some sectors that make the smallest contributions to the phosphorus problem.”

Joyce – the first sentence that identifies the sectors should line up with the sentence that describes the phosphorus loading from each sector. Pam will revise this to be clearer.

Concern #3 – John B. and others suggesting rewording the second sentence to read “The CWAC is concerned with excluding the interaction of groundwater and surface water in the planning and strategies for surface water quality improvement.”

Concern #4 – Needs revision:

Russ – The first sentence is not valid. Commercial operations do have to meet AMPs. They would be subject to fines if they were found to be declining water quality in surface waters.

Gianna – there is some non-regulatory dialogue happening to plant meadowland vegetation under power lines.

Joyce - we should revise to “The CWAC is concerned that commercial or infrastructure operations, such as power companies, may not always follow Accepted Management Practices when cutting trees. Additional outreach and if necessary enforcement may be needed.”

Stew – would want to add in other concerns: PFOAs and Radioactivity.

Pam – you really need to finish this letter up for presentation to the Board, so if you are adding concerns please finalize them at the next meeting.

#### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pam – Act 76 – Pam went over that the legislature passed a new act for the provision of water quality services. This law will affect how water quality funding is delivered to organizations like WNRCD, CVRPC, and watershed groups and how projects will be prioritized for funding. It will also change the makeup of our CWAC. We do not yet know the specifics as it has not gone through rulemaking yet.

Pam – It would be good to put this on our next agenda to discuss the rule and whether or not it would even make sense to finalize a prioritization process for projects in the region.

#### **SCHEDULE**

Next meeting: September 12, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.