A meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission’s Clean Water Advisory Committee was held on February 13, 2020 in the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Office.

Committee Members Present:
Amy Hornblas – CWAC Chair, Cabot/Board of Commissioners
Stewart Clark – Worcester Planning Commission
Larry Becker – Middlesex Conservation Commission
Dona Bate – Montpelier City Council
Karen Bates – ANR
Rich Turner – Williamstown/Board of Commissioners
John Brabant – Calais/Board of Commissioners
Joyce Manchester – Moretown TAC
John Hoogenboom – Moretown Selectboard

Committee Members Absent:
Russ Barrett – Northfield Conservation Commission
Ron Krauth – Middlesex/Board of Commissioners
Michele Braun – Friends of Winooski River
Corrie Miller – Friends of the Mad River
Brian Shupe – Friends of the Mad River
Gianna Petito – Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District

Others Present:
CVRPC staff present: Bonnie Waninger, Pam DeAndrea, & Grace Vinson

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None.

CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA
None.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9 MINUTES
Remove John Brabant from attending list.
Edit line 19 to say- “Staff memo to the Board”.
Dona- motion to approve as amended. Stewart- seconded. Motion carried.

BASIN PLANNING DISCUSSION – Karen Bates, ANR
Karen Bates gave an overview of the Basin Plan process: to meet legislative requirements to protect and remediate waters in the state to levels in state water quality standards. Basin Plans talk about what ANR does, how ANR works with partners, and facilitating regulation through education and outreach. The plans focus on nonpoint source pollution because that’s what a lot of partners are working on. Plans are completed every 5 years; the first step in the process is monitoring and assessment which is going on now for the Winooski Basin Plan. The second step is writing the plan; the planning process for the Winooski Basin Plan starts in 2 years.

Karen explained the difference between Basin Plans and the Surface Water Management Strategy, which looks at water resource protection through the lens of stressors (things on the landscape that cause pollution).

Larry asked if the Basin Plans can be used to lead to a regulatory framework and if the plan includes action items. Karen explained that regulations are done at a higher level, and the plan includes strategies that ANR uses with partners.

Karen posed a question to the group on whether there are specific locations where ANR should do monitoring and assessment for glyphosate. She said the discussion of glyphosate should be within the context of the state’s goal of wanting to increase healthy soils.

Amy asked whether ANR was moving into the enforcement stage for Act 64 (Clean Water Act). Karen said yes, and the Agency of Agriculture has done a lot of work helping farms with nutrient management plans.

Larry asked whether the Basin Plan can expand on things like ground water/surface water interaction, and healthy soils, or whether ANR was constrained in what the plan covers. Karen answered that Act 64 has healthy soils as a goal so it will be discussed in the plan. Also, Vermont Geologic Survey is conducting studies on groundwater/surface water interaction and information can be fed into the next plan.

There was a discussion about emergency spreading of manure and wastewater treatment facility technology and discharge. Karen said winter pasturing practices is a strategy incorporated into the Basin 5 plan.

**UPDATE ON BOARD MEETING AND CWAC LETTER**

Pam asked the group if they wanted to revise the letter to present to the Board. The group discussed revising the content of the letter to be clearer about the problem and solutions/recommendations and connect the recommendations directly to the Basin Plan.

The Committee discussed moving away from specific solutions in the letter, and thinking about who concerns should be targeted in the ANR structure of water quality. Pam will use a recommendation letter and blank letterhead as a template, edit the introductory paragraph to add sentence showing thanks and appreciation, and address the letter to the Commissioner of ANR. Karen and Pam will work together on identifying who the letter recommendations should be targeted to (what agencies/entities (Clean Water Board for example) each concerns could be addressed to in the ANR structure.
**CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER DRAFT RFP**

Pam provided an overview of the Clean Water Service Providers (CSWP) RFP. Act 76 establishes Clean Water Service Providers. The Executive Committee has approved CVRPC to draft a proposal for the Winooski Basin CWSP; the proposal will need to be approved by the Executive Committee before submitting to ANR. Pam is convening a meeting with watershed partners to see what role they would play in the Basin Water Quality Council established by Act 76. Pam will send out information to town managers and town administrators. She explained that the purpose and charge of the Basin Water Quality Council is to identify and prioritize projects that would get funded through the CWSP; the idea for CSWPs is a program delivery system which is different from CWAC. She asked the Committee to read the RFP and be aware CVRPC is considering submitting a proposal for approval.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**SCHEDULE**


Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Stewart- item for the next agenda: points in the meeting minutes about CWAC Rules of Procedure. I think we need to wrap up what we’re going to say.