

1 **CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
2 **CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
3 **May 14, 2020**

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5 A meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Clean Water Advisory
6 Committee was held remotely on May 14, 2020 via Zoom Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic
7 and adhering to social distancing guidelines by the State of Vermont.

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9 Committee Members Present:

10 Dona Bate – Montpelier City Council
11 Larry Becker- Middlesex Conservation Commission
12 John Hoogenboom – Moretown Selectboard (on phone)
13 Joyce Manchester – Moretown TAC (on phone)
14 Russ Barrett – Northfield Conservation Commission
15 Ron Krauth – Middlesex/Board of Commissioners
16 Karen Bates – ANR
17 John Brabant – Calais/Board of Commissioners

18
19 Committee Members Absent:

20 Amy Hornblas – CWAC Chair, Cabot/Board of Commissioners
21 Rich Turner – Williamstown Planning Commission/Board of Commissioners
22 Stewart Clark – Worcester Planning Commission
23 Michele Braun – Friends of Winooski River
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 CVRPC Staff: Pam DeAndrea
30 Vermont Geological Survey: Jon Kim

31
32 **CALL TO ORDER**

33 Pam DeAndrea called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

34
35 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

36 None.

37
38 **CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

39 Pam - Move Jon Kim's presentation first and approval of minutes afterwards. There were no
40 objections.

41 **VERMONT GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM PRESENTATION – Jon**
42 **Kim, Vermont Geological Survey**

43 Jon went over aquifer basics and interactions with stream and drawdown of wells.

1 Bennington PFOA issue: He went over what PFOA is. Nature of the problem is that the PFOA
2 was released into the atmosphere and then fell as rainfall into the surficial aquifer and into the
3 bedrock aquifer.

4 Jon went over sources of nitrates from agricultural use and from industry. Went over nitrogen
5 cycle and phosphorus cycle. Showed the data from Lake Carmi map and surface water data.

6 He went over the aquifer characterization process which includes field studies including soil
7 borings and investigation of well logs. Look at wells outside of the watershed area to determine
8 isopach thickness. Chemical monitoring on wells. Groundwater age dating, chlorofluorocarbons.
9 Surface water sample collection too. Jon shared concentrations over time in surface water and
10 groundwater as well as maps showing well concentrations.

11 In East Montpelier, they were able to determine a nitrate source through this method.

12 Did a study in Sutton with Nitrate monitoring. Something happened in 2010 to increase nitrate
13 concentrations. Then plotted herbicide levels by well and herbicide sites.

14 They did a study in Bristol also where they showed herbicide levels in relation to nitrate level to
15 indicate the travel of the groundwater and agricultural contaminants.

16 Ron asked whether they would be looking at drawdown. Jon said that pump tests would be too
17 expensive.

18 Joyce was curious about natural phosphorus in the soils vs. what's from ag use. Jon said that they
19 just sample total P in groundwater and surface water. Natural levels can vary from 5 – 15 ppb in
20 different rock types, and then compare that to what they are seeing. Lake samples are as high as
21 30 ppb. Studies in Europe have shown that groundwater inputs of P can increase P in surface
22 waters. We should perhaps consider that here in VT.

23 Larry asked about neonics in groundwater and if they can make it to surface water. Jon was not
24 sure about that but he has heard of travel of pharmaceuticals and coffee.

25 **APPROVAL OF APRIL 9 MINUTES**

26 No changes. Dona motioned to approve April 9th minutes as is, Larry seconded. Motioned
27 carried.

28

29 **CWAC LETTER STAFF REVISION –Pam DeAndrea**

30 Pam shared with the CWAC the Executive Committee's comment on the recommendation
31 regarding the Municipal Roads General Permit and asked them how they would like to revise
32 their recommendation to make it clearer for the Executive Committee.

33

34 Joyce – We could take away the second sentence since it is vague. Dona, the second sentence is
35 providing more detail.

36 Larry, maybe the easiest is to take it away.

37 Joyce – it seems that the recommendation is not in line with concern.

38 Larry – should we add cost-benefit to the first sentence?

39 Dona – It was about choice on which segments not just sectors.

- 1 Ron – Towns should be able to spend their money where they need to.
2 Pam – some road foreman may know which road segments are connected to streams, but some
3 may not.
4 Joyce – Rewrite the first sentence to say. *The DEC should allow municipalities more leeway with*
5 *as well as how funds are allocated among different sectors.*
6 Dona – it seems like we are getting into another issue.
7 Pam – could remove the “compared to other sectors” from the first sentence.
8 John – we have had this conversation at Ridge to River that we may be overdoing it in terms of
9 spending money on materials to fix roads. For instance, we may not need to stone-line ditches in
10 certain places that could be stabilized with vegetation.
11 Joyce – let’s go with dropping the “compared to other sectors”.
12 Pam – suggestion - add the word “may” before results in the first sentence and delete the second
13 sentence in the recommendation.
14 Dona- add the word “deciding” after “leeway with”.
15
16 Ron made a motion to accept the letter as amended, John Hooganboom seconded. Motion
17 carried.
18

CWAC RULES OF PROCEDURE REVISION

- 19
20 Pam mentioned that according to the open meeting law that all members contribute to the
21 quorum and that the quorum is not adjusted by having non-voting members.
22 Dona disagreed and mentioned that they have many city committees that have non-voting
23 members that are advisory or something of that nature and that you can have members that are
24 not part of the quorum – she motioned that we place the non-voting members under the heading
25 as advisory members. John Brabant – seconded. Motion carried.
26 Pam said she would bring this to the Executive Committee and asked if Dona could please
27 provide her with documentation within the Open Meeting Law that speaks to the ability to have
28 non-voting or advisory committee members that do not contribute to the quorum.
29

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 30
31 Basin 14 Tactical Basin Plan – June 2nd Skype Meeting; will send basin plan to CWAC as soon
32 as we get it and ask that they review to provide comments for the next meeting.
33

SCHEDULE

- 34
35 Next meeting: Devoted to Basin 14 Tactical Basin Plan comments.
36 Pam will check with Amy to see if she got in touch with Stew and then check in with Stew if she
37 hadn’t.
38
39 Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.