

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 13, 2021**

A meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Clean Water Advisory Committee was held remotely on March 11, 2021 via GoToMeeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic and adhering to social distancing guidelines by the State of Vermont.

Committee Members Present:

John Brabant – Calais/Board of Commissioners
Larry Becker, CWAC Vice Chair - Middlesex Conservation Commission
Joyce Manchester – Moretown TAC
Rich Turner – Williamstown Planning Commission/Board of Commissioners
Russ Barrett – Northfield Conservation Commission
Ron Krauth – Middlesex/Board of Commissioners
John Hoogenboom – Moretown Selectboard

Committee Members Absent:

Karen Bates – ANR
Amy Hornblas – CWAC Chair, Cabot/Board of Commissioners
Dona Bate – Montpelier City Council

Others Present:

CVRPC Staff: Pam DeAndrea

CALL TO ORDER

Amy Hornblas called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Ron would like to talk about WDEV program.

Pam – Would like to share Lamoille Basin Plan Survey.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 11 MINUTES

Rich motioned to accept March minutes as amended. Joyce seconded. Motion carried.

NEONICS ARTICLE DISCUSSION

Larry Becker shared the following article

<https://civileats.com/2021/02/02/beyond-bees-neonics-damage-ecosystems-and-a-push-for-policy-change-is-coming/> for discussion.

1 Larry shared basically how neonics worked and a bit of the history of wondering about neonics
2 in the environment. Neonics can enter soil and groundwater. It is a coating on the seed that is
3 uptake on the plants. Impacts a bee's nervous system.

4
5 In dog flea treatment. Friends of the Earth reference in the article says that Vermont has banned
6 for restricts the use of neonic and does not make them widely available.

7
8 We discussed how we get this information to the State to request more research? What is our
9 action item? Bill passed in 2019. Should we still be concerned?

10
11 Ask DEC or AAFM if its still used at all in Vermont. We should also find out if it ubiquitous and
12 still around?

13 14 **H.439 FY22 APPROPRIATIONS ACT AND ARPA CLEAN WATER FUNDS**

15 Pam shared the most recent discussion of the Clean Water Board (CWB) regarding Clean Water
16 Funding and H.439 and ARPA. 6% Meals and Rooms Tax (MRT) will be removed temporarily
17 from CW funding and ARPA will add funds. The CWB may have to come up with other ways
18 to fund some projects since the ARPA funds will be more infrastructure based and that there may
19 be a gap in funding due to the ARPA funds needing to be spent by 2024. They will wait until the
20 US Treasury guidance before redoing any budgets.

21
22 Joyce mentioned that they bill is not final yet as it needs to go to the Senate and then the
23 Governor so things could change a lot. The legislature does not want any gaps to occur for
24 funds. She also mentioned that the property transfer tax will replace MRT and that due to
25 increased home ownership in Vermont from the COVID fall out, this may be higher than
26 previous years.

27 28 **CVRPC CLEAN WATER PROJECTS UPDATE**

29 Pam shared project updates for the Central Vermont Region that are in the pipeline in Barre City,
30 Berlin, Plainfield, Calais, East Montpelier, Woodbury, and Moretown. She shared her web map
31 of stormwater projects from stormwater master plans and the stage they are at 30%, final design,
32 or construction. By the end of this calendar year, many projects will be ready for funding for
33 construction.

34 35 **WDEV STATION PROGRAM**

36 Ron shared that he heard a program on WDEV about watershed research and he heard them
37 mention that people are not doing any research or planning. Ron wanted to have someone
38 contact the radio station and let them know that watershed groups, RPCs, and the state are doing
39 a lot of work. Pam said she would listen to the broadcast and share with Danielle what she hears.
40 Perhaps the station would be interested in talking to a Basin Planner.

41 42 **LAMOILLE BASIN PLAN SURVEY**

43 Pam shared the results of the Lamoille Basin Plan Survey. One interesting find is that many
44 people did not know about Basin Planning and that about half have property adjacent to surface
45 waters. Pam will email the survey to the CWAC.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

SCHEDULE

Next meeting: August 12, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

DRAFT