



BWQC Interim Public Participation Policy

POLICY

It shall hereafter be the policy of the BWQC for the Winooski Basin to:

- 1) ensure public notice of BWQC meetings, decisions, and actions;
- 2) promote transparency and public participation when identifying and selecting projects for advancement;
- 3) give specific consideration to minority, limited English proficiency, and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities and stakeholders; and
- 4) comply with the Department of Environmental Conservation's nondiscrimination policy.

PRACTICES

The BWQC considers public participation to be of great importance. To promote public participation consistent with the above policy, the BWQC will:

- comply with Vermont's Open Meeting Law and all applicable public records laws;
- use plain language in their communications;
- document the method(s) used to rank and prioritize projects for advancement and make this documentation publicly accessible and available upon request;
- provide public access to the data used to rank and prioritize projects for advancement;
- include a public comment period on the agenda of every meeting; and
- allow members of the public to comment on specific project proposals prior to member deliberation, ranking and prioritization of potential projects.

The BWQC will also make use of current and emerging best practices for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, such as:

- identifying and compensating community connectors;
- publicizing meeting notices using diverse communication channels;
- scheduling meetings with due consideration given to accessibility;
- translating materials (upon request) free of charge; and
- engaging with and providing programmatic support targeted towards historically underrepresented communities (this includes giving consideration to the Agency of Natural Resource's Limited English Proficiency Accessibility Plan, Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act).

AMENDMENT & REFINEMENT

This policy was developed as part of the CWSP start-up phase. It may be amended as deemed appropriate by the BWQC. Within 6 months of adoption of this Policy, the BWQC shall solicit input on the policy from BWQC partners and the public. The CWSP and BWQC will also revisit the policy within 12 months of the adoption of a Public Participation Policy.

ADOPTION

Recommended by the Winooski Basin Water Quality Council on

Adopted by the CVRPC Executive Committee on

Steve Lotspeich, Chair
CVRPC Executive Committee