



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2022

CWAC Members:

✓	Russ Barrett
✓	Karen Bates, DEC
	Larry Becker
✓	John Brabant
	Amy Hornblas, Chair
✓	John Hoogenboom
✓	Ron Krauth
✓	Joyce Manchester
	Emily Ruff
✓	Rich Turner
✓	Joseph Whelan

CVRPC Staff: Brian Voigt

Call to Order & Roll Call

B. Voigt opened the meeting at 4:15 pm. A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting.

Updates to agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Introductions

Participants introduced themselves and provided context for their participation.

Approve minutes

Postponed until next meeting due to lack of quorum.

Updates from Basin 8 Tactical Basin Plan

Karen Bates (DEC's Basin Planner for the Winooski River Basin) presented an overview of the Winooski River Tactical Basin Planning Process. The Basin Planning Process is how we develop strategies for watershed management. The strategies reflect the policies already developed (from legislation, the EPA).

The TBP planning process began last fall and will extend for approximately two years. K. Bates wants the CWAC to help her connect with communities so they understand the TBP planning process and are able to provide the information that makes this a useful plan for communities, the DEC and other partners.

K. Bates described the geography of the Winooski River Basin and highlighted existing resources for developing a better understanding of the basin and the strategies that will be applied to achieve pollution reduction goals. See:

- <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/watershed-planning/tactical-basin-planning/basin8>
- <https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/documents/2018%20Winooski%20River%20TBP.pdf>
- https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/mapp/docs/mp_WinooskiBasin_WaterQualityAssessmentMaps_2018-03.pdf

DEC is currently in the information gathering stage (through January 2023). Most of next year will be spent conducting outreach to communities, watershed groups and others. She would like the CWAC to help her with a communication plan. Involving the community will increase their knowledge of and interest in the TBP Planning Process. The draft plan will be prepared between January 2023 and June 2023 at which point it will be released for public comment. The plan will be finalized in December 2023.

K. Bates would like to collect information on the rivers, ponds and wetlands we would like to restore; specific pollutant sources that we would like to address; and locations where the strategies are likely to work best. Additionally, what tools and forums work best for soliciting this information and are there specific groups that want to work with us (e.g. Conservation Commissions).

K. Bates noted that ANR has identified waters which require restoration and protection. In addition, project partners have identified specific projects through stormwater master planning.

The TBP addresses strategies across multiple sectors, including agriculture, roads, stormwater, forest, natural resources, wastewater and municipal zoning. An example matrix of municipal actions to protect or improve surface waters was presented. The Planning Process includes Winooski & Lamoille Natural Resources Conservation Districts, CCRPC, CVPRC Friends of the Mad River and Friends of the Winooski River.

K. Bates described the ways that DEC communicates with stakeholders and solicits input, including: surveys, story maps, presentations, facilitated group conversation, fact sheets and demonstrations (among others).

K. Bates would like to reconvene in the Fall (2022) to provide an overview of the assessment of community concerns, draft strategies and groups that are available to assist.

J. Brabant asked about the role of downstream communities making recommendations about what other (upstream) towns should be doing. K. Bates responded that the strategies are intended to be basin-wide. Communities can / should work together under this scenario. J. Brabant also asked about additional funds that might be accessed to facilitate this coordination and encourage communities to go beyond minimum requirements. K. Bates suggested these types of activities could be identified as strategies in the TBP and that means they could be funded through basin planning and implementation activities. The TBP can prioritize projects by including them in the plan.

Winooski CWSP and BWQC Update

B. Voigt provided a brief update on the Clean Water Service Provider and Basin Water Quality Council. He noted that the CVRPC is the CWSP for Basin 8. The BWQC is working to develop administrative guidelines so that they are ready for project evaluation and prioritization once the guidance is complete. The CWAC can help identify projects that could be fed to the BWQC funding pipeline.

J. Brabant asks whether the money allocated to BWQCs is available to support / restore ecological integrity. J. Brabant asked about co-benefits. B. Voigt explained the intent of the money was to support non-regulatory, phosphorous reduction projects. Co-benefits will be considered, but not as the priority for project scoring.

J. Manchester asked about funding a community information project about lawns. B. Voigt indicated the CWSP money would not be able to fund this type of work, but that there are other sources, like TBP funds. The focus of the CWSP program is identifying and installing projects to reduce phosphorous loading in our waterways. He stressed

that there are other pots of money that could fund this. The CWAC will revisit this topic in future meetings as additional guidance is developed.

Member Roundtable

J. Whelan asked if we could meet with operators of the Montpelier sewage treatment plant to understand why it's performance is sub-optimal. B. Voigt will look into opportunities to engage sewage treatment staff.

R. Turner noted that Williamstown is working on their Stormwater Master Plan and updating their Town Plan. B. Voigt indicated there is money in the TBP budget to support stormwater master planning work and encourage R. Turner to communicate with him as necessary.

J. Hoogenboom noted that Moretown is working on a Forest Management Plan for the parcel behind the elementary school. Expressed concern over spraying of pesticides (GMP) and noted the potential reduction of timber harvest under the Forest Management Plan.

Adjourn

J. Hoogenboom moved to adjourn at 5:38 pm; R. Barrett seconded. Motion carried.