



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

**CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)
Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2022**

CWAC Members:

Commissioner Representatives	
✓	Amy Hornblas
✓	Ron Krauth
	Alexis Leacock
	Rich Turner

Municipal Representatives	
	Larry Becker
✓	John Brabant
✓	John Hoogenboom
✓	Joyce Manchester
	Emily Ruff

CVRPC Staff: Brian Voigt

Other Attendees: Karen Bates, DEC

Call to Order & Roll Call

B. Voigt opened the meeting at 4:06 PM and noted that unless another member joins the meeting that the quorum will be lost at 5:30 when J. Hogenboom leaves the meeting.

Updates to agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Approve minutes from May 12, 2022 (action)

J. Hoogenboom moved to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting. J. Brabant seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Voigt: Winooski Basin Clean Water Service Provider Updates (information)

B. Voigt noted that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) is the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for Basin 8 (the Winooski River Basin). He staffs the Winooski Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC). The BWQC has adopted their

Bylaws and recommended a Public Participation Policy to the CVRPC Board. He is currently reading the remaining policies of CVRPC to ensure compliance with [Act 76: The Clean Water Service Delivery Act](#) and the [Clean Water Service Provider Rule](#). This also presents a minor logistical challenge for distinguishing policy language that governs CVRPC behavior versus when CVRPC is acting as the CWSP. The CWSP will issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in the next six weeks to identify a roster of firms who are pre-qualified for three years to operate under this program. The RFQ will be issued at least once per year. The CWSP will also be soliciting project ideas for the BWQC to consider. B. Voigt explained that the funding to the CWSP is tied to the Phosphorous reduction target established by the State. The BWQC and the CWSP rank and prioritize the proposed projects to determine which will be funded.

J. Manchester requested clarification on the RFQ process. B. Voigt explained that the CWSP evaluates the submissions and pre-qualifies firms that meet a minimum scoring threshold. The preferred outcome is to have a large number of pre-qualified firms that the CWSP can contract with to assist with project design and implementation. Many of the firms that operate in this space are small, so the greater the number of pre-qualified firms, the more likely the CWSP will be able to contract for the projects that were selected for funding under the program.

J. Manchester asked what the source of funding for the CWSP was. B. Voigt responded that it comes from the State Clean Water Fund and that the Winooski CWSP will receive approximately \$7 million in funding over the next five years.

CVRPC COVID Protocol Reminder

B. Waninger (Executive Director) joined the meeting to remind in-person participants of the masking requirement. B. Voigt briefly left the CVRPC Conference before rejoining the meeting shortly thereafter.

Updates from Basin 8 Tactical Basin Plan

K. Bates stated that her goal for this meeting was to identify how best to gather information from the public to afford them the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the tactical basin planning process. This will ultimately benefit the CWSP as it seeks projects to implement to meet their Phosphorous reduction goal. To that end, she presented a draft of the survey she intends to use to gather information from the public, a distribution plan to broaden the base of survey respondents and updates on the Winooski Tactical Basin Plan.

K. Bates noted that the tactical basin planning process steering committee includes the following partners: regional planning commissions, Winooski and Lamoille Natural Resources Conservation Districts, the Friends of the Winooski River and the Friends of

the Mad River. The partners have helped identify the topics of interest to consider in the planning process. She mentioned an article in the [Winooski Bridge](#) (J. Brabant provided a link in the chat and I include that here) which should help advertise the opportunity to contribute. There will be a draft of the revised tactical basin plan available for the partners in the spring or early summer and a public document for distribution in the early fall. There will be a series of public meetings in the fall. The document will be finalized and signed in 2023. DEC is hiring a new basin planner who will take over the responsibilities of the Winooski Basin. K. Bates will assist with the completion of the new basin plan.

Next, K. Bates shared the survey and outreach distribution plan with the CWAC. The distribution plan describes various approaches to reach the target audience. The survey is still a draft and K. Bates is interested in receiving feedback and suggestions about what is being asked (and what should be asked). She hopes to elicit responses on individual preferences regarding favorite water bodies, what concerns / perceived threats they have about water quality and what the preferred solutions are. K. Bates noted the low expectations for this last question, and thought it might present a better educational opportunity rather than serving to collect information. There is also a question about types of actions the respondent is interested in to improve water quality. Lastly, there are questions to identify landowners that may be interested in hosting a project on their property.

J. Brabant suggested that the news article K. Bates referenced earlier include a link to the survey. K. Bates will add that to the distribution plan.

J. Manchester wondered if the desire was for responses to focus on the water bodies in the watershed and if so, that the survey should state that explicitly. She also asked whether respondents willing to host a project need to be close to water. K. Bates replied no, to which J. Manchester suggested that should be clarified in the survey question. J. Brabant supported that suggestion.

R. Krauth noted the difficulty with answering survey questions like “what is the most significant problem”, and suggested K. Bates consider options to group similar threats to make it easier to distinguish among them. The hope in doing so is that respondents would be less likely to select every option in the list of responses.

J. Brabant noted his concern about stormwater overflows and suggested that be included in the list separate from “increased flows from stormwater.”

A. Hornblas also recommended including industrial pollution in the list of current threats and offering separate responses for fertilizer and manure. She also asked

what the point of requesting feedback was. K. Bates reiterated that this is an opportunity to solicit feedback from the public. She also distinguished between rule making and the tactical basin planning process.

J. Hoogenboom suggested broadening the response from “lack of trees adjacent to waterbody” to looking at trees across the entire landscape and that forestry best management practices need to be revisited.

In terms of distribution, K. Bates noted that Front Porch Forum, Facebook, local papers, municipal web pages, mailings, newsletters, QR codes and utility bills are all options. B. Voigt noted that the CVRPC includes board members from every municipality. We could request that they advertise the survey on Front Porch Forum. B. Voigt also noted CVRPC has media contacts we reach out to when warning meetings and that a link to the survey could be included on the CVRPC website.

Elect Chair / Vice-Chair (action)

A. Hornblas noted that she is no longer able to serve as the Committee Chair.

J. Hoogenboom nominated J. Manchester for chair. A. Hornblas concurred. J. Manchester indicated she is not able to serve in that capacity due to potential conflicts with her job.

J. Hoogenboom nominated J. Brabant. A. Hornblas concurred. J. Brabant declined due to his existing workload.

J. Hoogenboom nominated L. Becker. R. Krauth seconded. No other nominations were put forward. The motion carried unanimously.

There were no nominations for Vice Chair.

Other Business

A. Hornblas commented about the masking requirement for in-person meetings. B. Waninger reminded A. Hornblas that policy concerns should be brought to the CVRPC Board. J. Brabant noted that the staff make recommendations and the Board makes decisions and that if A. Hornblas wants to effect a policy change, she should bring that to the Board. J. Manchester spoke in support of the CVRPC policy and suggested that the hybrid-meeting format offers individual choice.

R. Krauth noted the interrelated nature of many of the aspects of basin planning and suggested we need to look beyond the basin planning process to identify other relationships that are important to consider when planning for the future.

Adjourn

J. Brabant moved to adjourn at 5:25 pm; R. Krauth seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT