



## Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

### **CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2023**

#### **CWAC Members:**

<b>Commissioner Representatives</b>	
	John Brabant
✓	Royal DeLegge
✓	Ron Krauth
	Rich Turner

<b>Municipal Representatives</b>	
✓	John Hoogenboom
✓	Joyce Manchester
✓	Emily Ruff
✓	Jeff Schulz
✓	Joseph Whelan

**CVRPC Staff:** Brian Voigt, Lincoln Frasca

**Other Attendees:** Keith Fritschie, Department of Environmental Conservation

#### **Call to Order & Roll Call**

B. Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

#### **Updates to agenda**

Noting that J. Manchester needed to leave the meeting early, B. Voigt moved the Elections of Officers agenda item up in the agenda so all members would be able to vote.

#### **Public Comment**

None.

#### **Introductions (discussion)**

CVRPC staff and CWAC members introduced themselves and their interests in serving on the CWAC.

#### **Clean Water Advisory Committee Administration and Election of Officers**

B. Voigt explained the role of the Clean Water Advisory Committee in overseeing CVRPC's water resources program areas. He explained the roles of the Chair and Vice Chair and then opened the floor to nominations.

J. Schulz indicated a willingness to take on the role of Chair.

*J. Manchester nominated J. Schulz as Chair, and J. Hoogenboom seconded the nomination. J. Schulz was elected Chair by unanimous vote.*

*J. Hoogenboom nominated R. Krauth as Vice Chair. E. Ruff seconded the nomination. R. Krauth was elected Vice Chair by unanimous vote.*

### **CVRPC Water Resources Program Areas (discussion)**

L. Frasca detailed the 2023 Tactical Basin Planning process and noted that K. Fritschie will present the draft Tactical Basin Plan at the September CWAC meeting and the October CVRPC Board meeting. The CVRPC Board will then vote to approve a Letter of Conformance (with the Regional Plan) at their November meeting. The 2023 Tactical Basin Plan will be adopted by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation in December. Lincoln described the content of the Tactical Basin Plan, including the various implementation strategies and FY24 workplan priorities. He asked CWAC members to identify potential partners to be included in future CWAC meetings.

B. Voigt presented on the CVRPC's role as the Clean Water Service Provider for the Winooski River Basin. He provided background on Act 76 the Clean Water Service Delivery Act, the process for prioritizing and funding eligible projects, and the Phosphorus-reduction target for the Winooski Basin. He provided details for four stormwater management projects that CVRPC is currently overseeing. Lastly, he described CVRPC's work under the 604b Program to review and update records in the [Watershed Projects Database](#).

K. Fritschie will share a draft of the 2023 Tactical Basin Plan for the CWAC to review in advance of the September meeting.

### **Member Roundtable (discussion)**

B. Voigt asked members to share their vision for the Clean Water Advisory Committee. Specifically, their own clean water priorities and ways in which CVRPC can support these goals.

J. Schulz spoke to Northfield's clean water projects on Main Street to help remove their last Combined Sewer Overflow. This will reduce the amount of stormwater going into their wastewater treatment facility. Phosphorus and Copper are both pollutant concerns in Northfield's wastewater facility. They have five onsite clean water facilities and received an ARPA grant to implement stormwater controls. Projects include working with Michele Braun, Executive Director of Friends of the Winooski River, and the Darn Tough business. Stormwater treatment along the backroads in town have

also been successful and received around \$200,000 to meet state requirements. He is very grateful for the Department of Environmental Conservation's help. He is working with Karina Dailey, from Vermont Natural Resources Council, to secure funds to remove the Cross Brothers Dam on the Dog River.

E. Ruff from Orange described her town's petition for non-lethal beaver management in relation to wetland protection. The night of the July flood a wetland along Route 302 near their town hall had the least amount of water in the area due to the presence of a beaver dam. This is an example of how habitat conservation plays into flood resiliency for rural communities. Orange does not have community sewer and she sees the value in educating landowners about septic care.

R. Krauth mentioned the importance of including groundwater when planning to protect and restore surface water. You can't separate ground from surface waters. Gathering groundwater data takes time. We should be working with state geologists to study groundwater over time. Also, when we are considering dam removals we need to consider the wetlands upstream of the dam. Removing a dam is similar to draining a swamp and needs to be considered carefully. He read an article that said inland waters contribute 20% of methane into the environment. He mentioned partnering with UVM's recent efforts to monitor the contribution of methane from our lakes. B. Voigt said he participates in the Vermont Natural Resources Council Dam Taskforce with Karina Dailey, and he would like to bring her into the conversation about habitat changes associated with dam removal.

J. Hoogenboom said his main interest is tree and forest management. He serves on the Stormwater management committee in Moretown. He is also collaborating on a Forest Management Plan update for the 173-acre Town Forest with the Planning Commission, Selectboard, school district, and more. Michael Brown is the forester in Moretown. A preliminary plan will be shared with the Agency of Natural Resources and Land Trusts. They are contacting adjacent landowners and preparing a public forum. Moretown does not have a conservation commission but they have an active recreation committee. The recreation committee is in charge of managing the town forest. The use of herbicides along powerline right-of-way's through the town forest is a concern. This can't be good for our waters.

J. Whelan is interested in conservation and wetland protection in Central Vermont. After the July flood he is now interested in flood resilience. He wonders what the balance is between wetland maintenance and flood resilience. He referenced the levee system along the Mississippi River that was meant to protect the community but ultimately inhibited connections to adjacent floodplains and reduced the amount of wetlands. He thinks this committee should put time into considering the balance of

wetlands and flood resilience. Climate change isn't going away and there will be more flooding. Maybe there is a way we can lessen the amount of destruction to the ecosystem in the next flood event.

B. Voigt encouraged CWAC members to communicate ideas and concerns regarding CVRPC's water resources program areas.

### **Other Business (discussion)**

B. Voigt provided an update of CVRPC's role in flood response as local liaisons to Central Vermont towns. He provided a [link to register for volunteer opportunities](#). He also included a link to the [Department of Environmental Conservation's Clean Water Conversation series](#).

The next Clean Water Advisory Committee meeting will be held 14 September 2023. Keith Fritschie will present the draft 2023 Winooski Tactical Basin Plan.

### **Adjourn**

*J. Schulz moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 PM. J. Hoogenboom seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*