



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Meeting Minutes – 14 September 2023

CWAC Members:

Commissioner Representatives	
	John Brabant
✓	Royal DeLegge
✓	Ron Krauth
✓	Rich Turner

Municipal Representatives	
✓	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

J. Schulz called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Approval of August minutes (action)

R. Krauth moved to approve the minutes of the 10 August 2023 meeting. J. Manchester seconded. No discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Updates to agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Presentation on Tactical Basin Plan (discussion)

Keith Fritschie offered a presentation on the 2023 Draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan. He discussed priority strategies for the agricultural, developed lands, wastewater and natural resources sectors. He also noted that wetlands in the Winooski Basin are currently being remapped to improve the accuracy of the dataset and that this information should be available later this fall. His presentation is available on the [CVRPC website](#).

The public comment period for the 2023 Draft Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan will begin in early October 2023 and extend through early November 2023. There will be four public meetings during the public comment period, one of which will be with the CVRPC Board of Commissioners on 10 October 2023.

Tactical Basin Plan (discussion)

J. Schulz commented that Northfield recently achieved the maximum Emergency Relief Assistance Fund (ERAF) score of 17.5%. Municipalities are encouraged to maximize their score to receive the greatest amount of post-disaster relief funding.

R. Krauth commented on the importance of showing evidence that the proposed strategies will work based on case studies within or outside of Vermont. He also noted the importance of giving rivers the room to move and reestablish their natural equilibrium. He referenced the 1995 Montpelier Rivers Report as an interesting historic document and source of valuable background of local rivers.

In response to a question regarding the efficacy of resource assessments, B. Voigt described the stormwater master planning process in Moretown and how a project identified in that effort progressed through implementation. Stormwater Master Planning was identified as a potential topic for a future CWAC meeting. The results of a stormwater master plan could help identify non-regulatory, phosphorous-reduction projects in the basin that could be supported with Formula Grant funding.

Clean Water Service Provider update (discussion)

B. Voigt noted that the Winooski Basin Water Quality Council recently voted to prioritize funding for the design of a berm-removal project along the Winooski River in Marshfield which has the potential to reduce phosphorous loading in the Winooski River Basin by almost 120 kg / year. The Vermont Land Trust is the Clean Water Partner for the project.

CVRPC Staff intend to apply for project scoping and development funding to identify priority projects in the Winooski River Basin and potential Clean Water Partners to lead the implementation efforts. B. Voigt requested input from CWAC members on project ideas and noted that staff are available to attend Selectboard, Planning Commission and Conservation Commission meetings to build awareness of funding opportunities for water quality restoration projects and the partners that may be engaged to implement them.

K. Fritschie asked which sectors CVRPC will be investigating to identify projects for scoping and development. B. Voigt responded that CVRPC Staff will consult existing Storm Water Master Plans, Stormwater Mapping and Watershed Projects Database

entries to identify potential projects. Potential projects will be evaluated using the scoring matrix adopted by the Winooski Basin Water Quality Council. River restoration projects (e.g. riparian buffer planting, berm removal) have proven to be the most cost-efficient project types. CVRPC Staff will meet with K. Fritschie to discuss the funding proposal and the approach for identify projects for scoping and development.

R. Krauth commented on the importance of funding river gauging stations or electric crest gauge flood markers for continued monitoring. B. Voigt agreed on the importance of long-term monitoring. He offered the example of a University of Vermont study using low-cost sensors to collect data during rain on snow events to better understand the impacts of climate change on water resources. K. Fritschie shared a link to the [USGS Flow Photo Explorer](#) that displays camera monitoring data during high rain events.

FEMA map updates (discussion)

B. Voigt reviewed the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map update process. Data collection, evaluation and modeling for the Winooski River Basin are ongoing. Draft data for the Winooski River Basin is expected in Fall 2023. The earliest effective date for these maps will be 2025. The new maps and data will influence both regulatory and nonregulatory planning efforts. CVRPC Staff have reviewed the zoning bylaws and flood hazard regulations of the municipalities in the region and identified deficiencies which need to be remedied to be compliant with the new maps. CVRPC Staff will be reaching out to municipal partners throughout FY24 to lay the groundwork for implementing updates that meet the FEMA-approved standard.

Upcoming meetings and partners (discussion)

L. Frasca provided an overview of upcoming CWAC meeting topics and the panelists that could be included in those conversations. He requested that CWAC members share topics of interest and partners to include to help plan for future meetings.

L. Frasca also summarized the Plainfield Community Conversation on Climate Resilience Forum hosted by the Vermont Natural Resources Council on 12 September 2023. Watershed Partners like Friends of the Winooski River and The Vermont River Conservancy participated in a panel discussion on their work related to increasing flood resilience.

The next CWAC meeting is scheduled for 9 November 2023 where the discussion will center on managing invasive species in riparian buffers.

Adjourn

J. Hoogenboom moved to adjourn the meeting at 6 PM. R. Krauth seconded.