

Winooski Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) Meeting Minutes – 17 October 2024

Winooski Basin Water Quality Council Members: ✓

NRCDS		RPCs	
✓	Peter Danforth, Lamoille NRCD		Garret Mott, CCRPC
	Emily Porter-Goff, Alternate	✓	Lisa Cicchetti, CCRPC alternate
	Daniel Koenemann, Winooski NRCD	✓	Royal DeLegge, CVRPC
✓	Macie Broussard, Alternate		Rich Turner, CVRPC alternate
Land Conservation Organizations		Municipalities	
✓	Erin De Vries, VT River Conservancy	✓	Annie Costandi, Essex
	Remy Crettol, Alternate		Sarah McShane, Stowe, Alternate
Watershed Protection Organizations		✓	Alice Peal, Waitsfield
	Michele Braun, Friends of the Winooski River		Vacant, Alternate
	Taylor Litwin, Alternate		
	Sam Puddicombe, Alternate		
	Ira Shadis, Friends of the Mad River		
	B. Shupe, Alternate		
✓	Kinny Perot, Alternate		

CVRPC Staff: Brian Voigt & Lincoln Frasca

Guests: none

Call to order & Roll call: B. Voigt called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Updates to agenda:

Recognize Macie Broussard as the alternate for Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District.

P. Danforth made a motion to approve Macie Broussard as the alternate BWQC member for Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District. K. Perot seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Public comment: none

Review & Approve minutes from 19 September 2024 meeting

A. Peel moved to approve the minutes of the 19 September 2024 meeting. R. DeLegge seconded. M. Broussard and E. De Vries abstained, all others were in favor, and the motion passed.

Project Proposal Initial Review – See slides

Vermont Land Trust: Roland Stream Crossing – Richmond

A. Diamond from Vermont Land Trust was not able to attend.

B. Voigt gave a brief description of the implementation project which includes two culvert replacements and partial stone wall removal. However, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) staff have advised that this project is unlikely to be eligible for the 5.72 kg Phosphorus credit due to other upstream and downstream barriers to longitudinal connectivity. The eligibility of this project for clean water funding is pending further explanation of the recently approved DEC Phosphorus crediting method for unmapped culverts on perennial streams. DEC River Program staff are meeting tomorrow to discuss next steps for crediting culvert projects. This proposal will likely change between now and the November BWQC meeting and may need to be postponed until a final eligibility determination has been made.

E. De Vries asked if the Vermont Land Trust already applied for funding for design phases?

B. Voigt responded that the design was completed with other funding.

Further questions can be sent to B. Voigt or A. Diamond directly.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC): Project Development in Waitsfield

B. Voigt gave an overview of the project which originally began with floodplain restoration projects identified in the Waitsfield Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Since then, two private landowners with adjacent land have expressed interest in evaluating their property for restoration work. The budget may need to be adjusted between now and next month's meeting to include the development of these two additional private sites.

K. Perot is one of the landowners interested in restoration work and her land is under a conservation easement with Vermont River Conservancy. She explained their permission would be needed before any work is done on her property.

E. De Vries with the Vermont River Conservancy stated that restoration work can be done on sites with easements, Vermont River Conservancy just needs to review the project prior to implementation. She asked if this project development work would be like the previous project development effort CVRPC completed with Watershed Consulting Associates?

B. Voigt responded this would be a similar effort. The original projects were identified in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan with input from Friends of the Mad River. The Waitsfield Conservation Commission manage four of the sites and have contacted adjacent landowners interested in restoration work. A consultant would be hired to

conduct project scoping and development. With the approval of Vermont River Conservancy this phase would just be an engineer visiting the site to assess eligibility. If developed CVRPC could hand this project off to Vermont River Conservancy or another project implementor. Vermont River Conservancy would be involved every step of the way.

E. De Vries asked if the proposed budget would be used to pay the consultant?

B. Voigt responded yes, and a portion of the \$8,461.15 would go to CVRPC to cover administrative expenses such as issuing the Request for Proposals for Engineering Services.

A. Peal notes this is all started with three sites, owned by the town and managed by the Conservation Commission, identified in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. She went to the Waitsfield Selectboard and received their approval to scope the town owned sites. There is an additional site identified in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan that is south of Tremblay Road on private property but landowner interest for this site is unknown at this time. Watershed Consulting did a prior assessment at Lareau Swimming hole, but the work was interrupted by flooding.

K. Perot mentioned her property and her neighbor George Schenk's property are on the west side of the river and the other sites are on east side. This project development would give a good assessment of what the river needs along this reach.

Project Proposal Final Review (discussion) – See slides

Lamoille Natural Resources Conservation District: Upper Little River Project Development

P. Danforth noted he met with Friends of the Winooski and SLR Consulting who completed the River Corridor Plan on the Upper Little River. They were supportive of this project development effort and would be partners on overlapping projects to prevent duplicating efforts. P. Danforth would be soliciting a quote from SLR as well as another firm to compare with the quote he received from Fitzgerald Environmental.

E. De Vries made a motion to prioritize funding for Upper Little River Project Development, K. Perot seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed and the project was funded.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission: Project Development in Berlin

B. Voigt gave an overview of the project.

E. De Vries asked for clarification on the project deliverables.

B. Voigt explained the collaborative work with the Conservation Commission and town officials to identify buffer planting sites and culvert replacements.

E. De Vries with Vermont River Conservancy has a few easements with landowners interested in plantings along the Dog River.

B. Voigt added that CVRPC has worked with the Conservation Commission to develop outreach materials such as a flyer and Front Porch Forum post to promote the opportunity town wide.

L. Frasca noted that if awarded, the next step would be to collaborate with local watershed organizations and state agencies to cross reference potential project sites before conducting direct landowner outreach via the Conservation Commission.

P. Danforth made a motion to prioritize funding for Project Development in Berlin. R. DeLegge seconded, all were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed and the project was funded.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission: Final Design in Calais

B. Voigt gave an overview of the project. Due to the simplicity of the project DEC staff determined that a preliminary design was not necessary, and this project has advanced to final design. This led to a substantial decrease in the budget request. This proposal is only for the gully stabilization portion of this project. The eligibility of the culvert replacement is pending and will be discussed with the DEC Rivers Program staff at an upcoming meeting. If eligible, the culvert could add 3.2 kg of Phosphorus reduction. In this case the final design may increase by a few thousand and the implementation would increase as well. If DEC approves the culvert replacement the proposal would be brought back before the BWQC requesting an amendment.

R. DeLegge made a motion to prioritize funding for Final Design of the Marshfield Road Stormwater Gully project in Calais. E. De Vries seconded, all were in favor, and none opposed. The motion passed and the project was funded.

Announcements (see slides)

CVRPC is waiting on a letter of support from the Plainfield Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee to advance the buffer planting at the Recreation Fields. They hope to have this project proposal ready in time for the November BWQC meeting.

E. De Vries noted the Vermont River Conservancy is working with the State and Plainfield landowners to identify potential easements, flood mitigation, and restoration projects across town. There is an upcoming site visit next week to scope potential sites.

P. Danforth just hired two new full-time staff at Lamoille County Conservation District.

K. Perot is about to plant 400 trees along the Mill Brook with funding from the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative.

P. Danforth is planting at Oxbow Park.

B. Voigt we will keep everyone posted on further DEC guidance for culvert projects as it becomes available.

Adjourn

P. Danforth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:49 PM. K. Perot seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled 21 November 2024.