



CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Meeting Minutes – 8 May 2025

CWAC Members: ✓

Commissioner Representatives	
	John Brabant
✓	Mitch Osieki
✓	Ron Krauth
✓	Rich Turner
✓	Alice Peal

Municipal Representatives	
✓	Clark Amadon
✓	Joyce Manchester
	Emily Ruff
	Jeff Schulz
	Joseph Whelan

CVRPC Staff: Brian Voigt, Lincoln Frasca

Other Attendees: Chris Owen (Worcester), Dave Wilcox & Silas Rainville (Department of Forest Parks and Recreation), Ben Copans (Department of Environmental Conservation), Josh Lincoln & Amy Marshall-Carney (Waterbury Conservation Commission), Dean Pierce (Northwest Regional Planning Commission)

Call to Order, Introductions

L. Frasca called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Updates to agenda: N/A

Public Comment: N/A

Approval of January & March minutes

R. Turner moved to approve the minutes of the 9 January and 13 March 2024 meetings. M. Osieki seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion passed.

Forest Road Projects & Town Forest Management (see slides)

Speakers:

Ben Copans: Department of Environmental Conservation, Watershed Coordinator

David Wilcox: Department of Forest Parks and Recreation, Watershed Forester

B. Copans discussed the phosphorus budget for Lake Champlain as part of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) which aims to reduce phosphorus levels in the lake to meet water quality standards. The forest land sector has a reduction target of 20%, and while significant reductions have been made based on updated acceptable management practices, more is needed to meet the target. D. Wilcox discussed the Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) for forest roads and trails, which are designed to protect water quality and prevent erosion during logging activities. The AMPs were revised in 2016 and 2018 to reflect modern forestry practices and have been implemented through an app and manual.

D. Wilcox discussed the importance of proper culvert sizing and installation for intermittent streams, emphasizing that they should be permanent and follow specific size guidelines. He highlighted the significance of forested buffers for sediment control and stream health, and the need for a 25-foot machine exclusion zone. The discussion touched on the importance of mitigating compaction, using the right equipment, and preventing soil loss due to erosion. D. Wilcox clarified that culverts are considered permanent if they are in place for more than 18 months, and that the AMPs apply to intermittent streams without fish.

D. Wilcox discussed the implementation of road erosion inventory to identify high-risk segments and the use of clean water funds to implement road practices. He highlighted the success of roads brought up to AMP standards, which have not failed during flooding. D. Wilcox also differentiated between truck roads and skid trails, explaining that truck roads are between the town road and the landing, while skid trails are between the landing and the tree stump. He emphasized the importance of following the AMPs and implementing closeout practices to avoid regulatory issues. Central also discussed the use of an app to help loggers follow the rules and estimate costs.

D. Wilcox discussed the challenges of managing skid trails, which are designed for logging equipment and are not intended for vehicular traffic. He explained that these trails are often temporary and can fail due to flooding, steep slopes, and maintenance issues. He mentioned the importance of properly sizing culverts to prevent clogging by tree roots. R. Krauth shared a personal experience where a culvert was clogged by a tree, causing erosion and damage to the road. B. Copans agreed that debris movement in streams is a significant challenge and suggested creating accessible floodplains upstream to prevent wood accumulation.

D. Wilcox and B. Copans discussed the implementation of the Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) in Vermont, particularly in relation to logging activities. They clarified that while the AMPs are not mandatory, they are recommended to protect water quality. They also explained that the AMPs are not applicable to Federal lands, as they have their own standards. The discussion also touched on the role of private property

owners in adhering to the AMPs and the importance of involving a forester in the process.

R. Turner highlighted the benefits of creating a forest management plan and the Use Value Appraisal program for his forestland in Williamstown. Historic logging on his property did not consider impacts to wetlands or erosion. R. Turner implemented several projects with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District to improve wildlife habitat and water quality on his property. The specific AMP practice of installing water bars on his forest roads has been instrumental in reducing runoff.

B. Copans presented a new tool, the Forest Road Erosion Inventory, which can be used to assess the condition of forest roads and trails and determine if they meet the AMPs. This tool is part of a new funding opportunity to address water quality issues in Vermont. Forest Road Erosion Inventories are an eligible project type fundable by the Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider. Work to assess critical source areas to focus forest project identification and prioritization is ongoing. Trainings and tools are expected to be available in a few months.

CVRPC FY26 Tactical Basin Workplan (see slides)

L. Frasca presented Draft FY26 Tactical Basin Workplan topics. Outreach and Technical Assistance activities include supporting the implementation of stormwater projects, hosting a Wastewater Workshop targeting Sabin and Nelson Ponds, piloting new forest road assessments, and prioritizing a state supported assessment for the Great Brook. Municipal Plan and Bylaw activities include outreach to municipalities that have not adopted River Corridor bylaws and supporting Planning and Zoning Administrators regarding FEMA map updates and preparing for the Flood Safety Act 121. CVRPC welcomed input on the scope of work prior to submitting the final workplan for approval to DEC on May 14, 2025. Changes to the workplan can also be made after final approval is given should the need for adaptation or reprioritization arise, such as the need to respond to a major flood event.

Upcoming Meetings (see slides)

FY26 tentative meeting topics and speakers were discussed as they relate to the Draft Tactical Basin Workplan. L. Frasca asked for input on topics and speakers and noted that no potential speakers have been contacted yet. The committee discussed different outreach strategies to improve attendance. L. Frasca mentioned the idea of creating a registration system for upcoming meetings to better track attendance and conduct targeted outreach. C. Amadon suggested tracking the number of views of recorded meetings. CVRPC will investigate the possibility of creating a YouTube account for sharing recording meetings.

Announcements (see slides)

The [DEC Wetlands Restoration Manual](#) is now available.

CVRPC will be attending the 21 May 2025 Forest Road & Trail Project In field training in Jay State Forest: [Registration Form](#)

C. Amadon announced an upcoming event, Dog River Day hosted by the MadDog Trout Unlimited on Saturday October 18th from 12:00 to 3:00 on the Village Common in Northfield, VT.

Dog River Day is intended to create connections, provide education, and promote project opportunities for riparian landowners along the Dog River. Dog River Day came into being through efforts by VT Fish and Wildlife, Friends of the Winooski, Vermont Natural Resources Council, VT DEC, Dog River watershed town conservation commissions, Norwich University, the Winooski Natural Resources District and MadDog Trout Unlimited chapter members.

R. Turner mentioned that Williamstown was awarded a municipal planning grant to update its bylaws. CVRPC offered to present to Williamstown staff regarding natural resources to help inform their planning process.

Adjourn: *R. Turner moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM. M. Osieki seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 July 2025.

Minutes submitted by CVRPC staff member Lincoln Frasca