

# Winooski Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

## Meeting Minutes – 20 March 2025

### 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                      |                | Vacant, 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:** N/A

**Call to order & Roll call:** B. Voigt called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM.

**Updates to agenda:** None

**Public comment:** None

### Review & Approve minutes from 19 December 2024 meeting:

*R. Turner moved to approve the minutes of the 19 December 2024 meeting.*

*D. Koenemann seconded. R. Crettol Abstained. All others were in favor, the motion passed.*

### Budget Adjustment Request (action item - see slides)

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Marshfield Road Gully Stabilization  
Final Design – Calais

B. Voigt provided an overview of the project's development and budget adjustments. The original budget was for \$38,453. That moved down to \$5,979 when it was thought that that culvert structure may not be eligible for replacement. The Department of Environmental Conservation has since determined the culvert is eligible for replacement. The remaining question requiring further design work is whether the replacement structure should be a larger culvert or a bridge. The current Phosphorus cost effectiveness value for this project is just under \$10,000 a kilogram per year. The Winooski Basin's target value is \$15,000 a kilogram. Even with the increase in price and the expansion of the project it is still cost effective. The staff recommendation is to approve the funding for final design.

S. Puddicombe asked what exists so far in terms of design?

B. Voigt responded the design we have is the concept drawing that was created as part of the project development effort and included in the original project application. The gully stabilization was approved for final design by the basin planner due to its simplicity. The engineer will produce intermediate designs for installing a larger culvert and for installing a bridge, and then interface with the Department of Environmental Conservation before moving to final design for that part of the project.

S. Puddicombe would like to see the current designs for the gully stabilization and culvert replacement designs along with the how the phosphorus scores were calculated.

B. Voigt responded that the [project application packet](#) contains that information and was part of the meeting materials from the September 2024 meeting minutes.

A. Peel asked if there would be a difference between effectiveness of a bridge vs. culvert?

B. Voigt responded that both would be effective, but the bridge would cost more.

G. Mott asked about the size of culvert.

B. Voigt responded that he believes it is four feet wide, but he is unsure of driveway length.

G. Mott referenced a project in Buel's Gore where a concrete bridge was required to replace a culvert due to the negative impacts that a galvanized culvert can have on trout populations.

B. Voigt noted the Department of Environmental Conservation is concerned mainly about the slope of the culvert given the steepness of the gully. They have asked us to look at both another culvert and a bridge as potential options. If a bridge proves to be cost ineffective the project could continue with only the gully stabilization.

G. Mott asked who will make the final call about cost efficiency?

B. Voigt responded the decision would come back to the BWQC.

R. Crettol asked about design life for gully stabilization and the crossing structure. Would a bridge increase the design life?

B. Voigt believes the design life accounts for both stabilization and the replacement structure. In terms of cost efficiency, it doesn't matter since the design life is already 15 years.

*S. Puddicombe motioned to approve the budget adjustment for the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Marshfield Road Gully Stabilization Final Design – Calais project, D. Koenemann seconded, all were in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.*

### **Review of CWSP Outreach Materials (see slides)**

L. Frasca presented outreach materials for the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) program, including a generic flyer, a Berlin-specific flyer, talking points for the Plainfield Conservation Commission, and a landowner letter. He asked the council for feedback on the materials' applicability, potential gaps, and distribution.

P. Danforth suggested involving conservation districts in outreach efforts.

A. Peal stated that public schools may be receptive, and this work could align with climate change curriculum.

B. Voigt described the project development work the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is engaged in with Berlin to identify buffer plantings and municipal culvert replacements projects. The CWSP will present at the next Central VT Road Foreman meeting to promote the use of Formula funding for culvert replacements region wide.

G. Mott mentioned the utility of having CWSP info posted on town websites.

I. Shadis stated that Friends of the Mad River has hired a new project coordinator starting on 15 June 2025. He proposed a collaboration with the CWSP on a road show to present resources to select boards and conservation commissions in the Mad River Valley. He also mentioned improving their organization's mapping capacity and the integration of geospatial data for project tracking and storytelling efforts.

S. Puddicombe asked who is the target audience for these materials? He expressed that having everyone using the same information and outreach materials is beneficial, especially the talking points. Friends of the Winooski River suggests starting with simpler information for initial landowner contact and gradually increasing complexity based on interest.

K. Perot proposed reaching out to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to expand outreach reach to municipalities.

R. Crettol noted that Vermont River Conservancy is moving towards a strategic work plan approach, identifying high-priority parcels and conducting outreach. He inquired about the importance of personalizing outreach materials.

L. Frasca explained how the Berlin Conservation Commission began outreach using Front Porch Forum weeks or months before the direct letters to landowners went out.

A. Peal asked if it is helpful to start with a project type when conducting outreach?

L. Frasca responded that was the approach CVRPC used for Berlin and for Waitsfield project development efforts.

B. Voigt added it is up to project implementor on how they do outreach. The CWSP is available to help adapt these materials or create new ones.

R. Crettol asked about the factors considered in prioritizing parcels for buffer plantings in Berlin.

L. Frasca discussed the collaborative effort with the basin planner and Agency of Agriculture to consider acreage, land use, and location for potential planting via a desktop analysis. The Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Project Database was also inventoried for projects uploaded from the Dog River Corridor Plan.

B. Voigt added that for the Waitsfield project development project the focus was on municipal sites. An interested landowners on an adjacent parcel then volunteered to have their land accessed for floodplain restoration.

A. Peal has a template landowner letter from a past outreach to landowners regarding wetlands that she will share.

### **Announcements (see slides):**

- Wastewater Workshop: Residential Septic Systems & Innovative Alternatives
  - Speaker: Cristin Ashmankas, Department of Environmental Conservation
  - Thursday, 27 March 2025, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
  - In person: Yestermorrow Design / Build School 7865 Main St. Waitsfield
  - Online: [Register on Zoom](#)
- Vermont's Climate Action Plan 2025 Update
  - Public input session, 28 April 2025, 5:30-7:30
  - In person: Barre, City
  - Online: <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/climate-action-plan-2025-update>
  - CVRPC Contact: Sam Lash ([lash@cvregion.com](mailto:lash@cvregion.com))

A. Peal can field questions on the Climate Action Plan which she worked on in her role as chair of the Public Health Task Group.

The Department of Environmental Conservation just released their Operation & Maintenance Manual. The manual is available on the [DEC Verification and O&M webpage](#). The DEC welcomes feedback and suggestions for improvements using this form on the [DEC Website](#).

**Adjourn**

*I. Shadis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:03 PM. A. Peal seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

Next meeting scheduled 17 April 2025.

*Minutes submitted by CVRPC staff member Lincoln Frasca*