



CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Meeting Minutes – 11 September 2025

CWAC Members: ✓

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

Municipal Representatives	
✓	Clark Amadon
✓	Joyce Manchester
	Emily Ruff
	Jeff Schulz
	Chris Owen
✓	Warren Coleman (Vice Chair & interested stakeholder)

CVRPC Staff: Brian Voigt, Lincoln Frasca

Other Attendees: Dan Koenemann (Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District)

Call to Order, Introductions

B. Voigt called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Updates to agenda: N/A

Public Comment: N/A

Approval of May & July minutes: R. Krauth made a motion to approve both the 8 May and 10 July 2025 minutes, R. Turner seconded, all in were favor, the motion passed.

Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider & Project Funding Opportunities (see slides)

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission - Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP)

B. Voigt gave an overview of CVRPC's role as the Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider. In 2019 Act 76, The Clean Water Service Delivery Act, provided funding from the state to develop, design, and implement non-regulatory clean water projects to achieve Lake Champlain's phosphorus reduction target. The focus of the CWSP is on soliciting project proposals, making funding recommendations to the Basin Water Quality Council, and managing subgrants and subcontracts. The Winooski Basin is responsible for reducing approximately 70 kilograms of phosphorus annually over a seven-year term. Phosphorus reduction targets are split amongst different sectors including farm fields, developed lands, forest, and streams. The annual budget is a little over a million dollars.

B. Voigt summarized the CWSP funded projects over the last three years. Project implementors with funded projects include Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, Friends of the Winooski, Lamoille County Conservation District, and the Vermont Land Trust. In total 20 projects have been funded at a total of \$436,524. The current projected phosphorus reduction estimate for all projects is approximately 45.8 kilograms of phosphorus once implemented. The cost per kilogram of phosphorus varies depending on the project type and has historically decreased from the development phase through final design due to a variety of factors. There is approximately \$435,000 remaining to achieve the remaining 23 kilograms of phosphorus as part of the CWSP's year-one reduction target. Unused money is allowed to carry over to future fiscal years, allowing more budgetary flexibility for projects.

J. Brabant asked what the impact of reducing a pound of phosphorus has on water quality?

B. Voigt explained that the phosphorus target for the Winooski basin is a fraction of the overall [Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) target. The overall TMDL consists of both regulatory and nonregulatory phosphorus reduction goals. The majority of Lake Champlain's phosphorus reduction target will come from regulatory projects and 20 -30% of the overall TMDL will be achieved via non-regulatory projects. Once the entire TMDL is met that will have a significant positive impact on overall water quality health.

See Chapter 3 of the [Winooski River Watershed 2023 Tactical Basin Plan](#) for more information on regulatory and nonregulatory phosphorus targets by sector.

R. Krauth commented that it seems like bank stabilization would keep phosphorus from entering the waterways and should be an eligible CWSP project type.

B. Voigt noted that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) sets the rules for the phosphorus crediting methodology.

L. Frasca added that DEC is also considering overall stream health and bank armoring, or stabilization can inhibit the ability of streams to move naturally.

M. Osieki asked how culvert replacement projects reduce phosphorus?

B. Voigt explained we are looking to replace undersized culverts. When these culverts overflow or washout, they increase erosion and therefore sediment flowing into the waterways. Culvert replacements also require the upsizing of adjacent culverts to repair the entire stream segment's lateral connectivity.

B. Voigt presented the following four CVRPC managed CWSP projects currently underway:

1. Berlin Riparian Buffer and Culvert Project Development,

This project involved scoping 20 projects and prioritizing 3-5 projects to develop. The buffer plantings scoped were either too small or were located on Agricultural lands where other funding through the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets was ultimately a better fit. A priority culvert replacement project along McCarty Road that involves replacing 4 structures is currently under development as a result of this effort. This project could result in around 20 kilograms of phosphorus but may require multiple funding sources in order to be cost efficient.

W. Coleman asked when a project is funded by multiple sources is it necessary to split the phosphorus credits between funders?

B. Voigt explained that if the co-funding partner is also a State of Vermont reporting partner, then yes the credits are split. In this case the CWSP could contribute funds up to the amount that still meets the cost efficiency threshold of approximately \$15,000 per kilogram.

According to the [Clean Water Guidance Document Chapter 6 – Clean Water Projects](#) the current State of Vermont clean water reporting partners include: Agency of Administration, Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Agency of Natural Resources, Agency of Transportation, Lake Champlain Basin Program, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

J. Brabant asked why the East Calais Mill Dam removal project is so expensive?

B. Voigt suggested reaching out to Friends of the Winooski but imagines it has to do with the adjacent structures that would need to be removed.

2. Marshfield Road Gully Stabilization & Culvert Replacement – Calais,

This stormwater project is in the final design phase. It will address significant downstream erosion through stone stabilization, check dam structures, or a terrace or two of gabions and layering small stone below with larger stone down the gully. If both the gully stabilization and culvert replacement are implemented a total of about 8 kilograms of phosphorus will be reduced.

3. Floodplain Project Development – Waitsfield,

This project involves scoping and developing floodplain restoration projects along the Upper Mad River. The four projects included in the initial proposal are located on town land managed by the Waitsfield Conservation Commission. Since the proposal was submitted, two adjacent landowners have expressed interest in developing similar types of projects on their properties.

C. Amadon asked if a private property owner was interested in a floodplain project could the land still be cropped or hayed?

B. Voigt recommended meeting with the CWSP and Basin Planner to determine eligibility of a specific project. He encouraged C. Amadon to reach out and connect the landowner with the CWSP if they are interested in learning more.

4. Stormwater Project Adoption – Northfield,

This project adoption is for stormwater treatment in the Town of Northfield to support Operations & Maintenance activities. This project would be extremely cost efficient at 22.3 kilograms of phosphorus for \$13,100 and would involve the operations and maintenance of the stormwater project over a five-year period. CVRPC would verify the project and hire out the operations and maintenance.

M. Osieki asked if the CWSP is involved in the removal of the Cross Brothers Dam in Northfield?

B. Voigt answered no and explained that dam projects have not been found to be cost efficient. This is partly because the impounded sediment behind the dam is not accounted for in the DEC phosphorus calculation methodology.

W. Coleman commented that stormwater maintenance in the town of Northfield seems like something that would be covered in a municipal budget. He asked why would this be a project that the CWSP would fund?

B. Voigt agreed that ideally this work would be included in a municipal budget. However, if the CWSP funds it, we can guarantee that the maintenance is done regularly and correctly.

W. Coleman commented that towns should be obligated to do this work, and this may not be the best use of Clean Water Funds.

B. Voigt mentioned another stormwater project just completed in Calais that was co-funded with state clean water funds. The DEC adoption criteria is currently very restrictive, and most project opportunities will not be eligible for adoption.

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD)

D. Koenemann, District Manager, presented an overview of the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, explaining its origins in response to the Dust Bowl and its current role in promoting sustainable natural resource management. He described the district's jurisdiction covering Chittenden and Washington Counties, as well as parts of Orange County, and highlighted its non-regulatory nature, focusing on voluntary conservation efforts.

WNRCD's ongoing initiatives include riparian buffer plantings, dam removals, culvert replacements, and strategic wood addition projects. D. Koenemann outlined agricultural programs supporting nutrient management, cover cropping, and flood resiliency efforts for farmers. He also mentioned the district's skidder bridge rental program to protect stream crossings during logging operations.

The District's Conservation Specialist, Lucas Goldfluss, manages their Green Stormwater Infrastructure initiatives including *Rethink Runoff and Stream Team*, targeting MS4 communities within Chittenden County, and *Storm Smart*, offering free property assessments for private landowners to address runoff. The *Trees for Streams* program is run through the Natural Resources Conservation Council to help stabilize river banks and improve water quality.

WNRCD also focuses on flood resilience and has led the removal of the Hands Mill Dam in Washington. Culvert replacements are supported by WNRCD to restore Aquatic Organism Passage particularly for Brook Trout. WNRCD works with lake communities to develop Watershed Action Plans. These planning efforts identify priority projects across the entire watershed including road projects. Lakes are typically first identified by the state wherever water quality is impaired. The Lake Iroquois Watershed Action Plan is complete, and Sabin Pond / Woodbury Lake Watershed Action Plan is currently in progress.

Recent flooding has impacted agricultural lands especially in the Richmond area. The District promotes mitigation including bank armoring to protect agriculture as well as upstream floodplain restoration projects.

C. Amadon asked if tree buffer plantings are used in conjunction with bank armoring projects?

D. Koenemann replied yes, plantings will follow armoring projects, and this gives the trees time to mature so they can naturally stabilize the bank with their roots.

C. Amadon asked if buffer plantings are required?

D. Koenemann said the Required Agricultural Practices are changing and may or may not require a 35-foot minimum buffer depending on the project. He also mentioned that there is limited funding for Invasive Species Management and that WNRCD is working with other Conservation Districts to create more invasive removal resources and opportunities.

Upcoming Meetings

L. Frasca described the topic for the 13 November 2025 meeting on *River Corridor Planning & The Flood Safety Act*. This meeting is intended to be a discussion and work session for municipal staff. The **14 October 2025 CVRPC Board Meeting at 6:30PM** will include a similar presentation on River Corridor Planning & The Flood Safety Act geared towards Selectboard members. All are welcome at both events.

Announcements

- Friends of the Mad River has issued a [Request for Proposals](#) for a consultant to lead the design and build of a geospatial database for their Clean Water Database Planning Project in the Mad River Watershed, a project funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program.
 - Deadline for proposals is 24 October 2025. Please direct any questions to julie@friendsofthemadriverriver.org.
- Friends of the Winooski River
 - Cleanup Date: September 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - Meeting Location: parking lot on Boynton St. across from Spaulding High School in Barre, VT
 - Website: <https://winooskiriver.org/river-clean-up>
- Winooski & South Lake Clean Water Service Providers partnering with UVM Environmental Problem-Solving Lab to develop a Forestry Outreach Plan
- CVRPC preparing for municipal outreach regarding [Act 37 - An Act Relating to Stormwater Management](#)

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

The next meeting is scheduled for 13 November 2025.

Minutes submitted by CVRPC staff member Lincoln Frasca