

Winooski Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

Meeting Minutes – 17 July 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
✓	Lucas Goldfluss, 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	✓	David Stapleton, Moretown, Alternate
✓	Taylor Litwin, Alternate		
	Sam Puddicombe, Alternate		
✓	Ira Shadis, Friends of the Mad River		
✓	Julie Frost, Alternate		
	B. Shupe, Alternate		
	Kinny Perot, Alternate		

CVRPC Staff: Brian Voigt & Lincoln Frasca

Guests: Chris Rotler (Department of Environmental Conservation)

Call to order & Roll call: G. Mott called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Updates to agenda: Member introductions was added to the agenda for the benefit of new members and guests.

Public comment: None

Bylaws & Policies review (see slides)

B. Voigt introduced the BWQC bylaws and policies. The bylaws were created for and by the council. Membership on this council involves oversight of the Formula Grant funding received from the Department of Environmental Conservation to fund CVRPC as the Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider. Funding decisions are based on project proposals that are submitted by project implementors.

D. Stapleton asked how the BWQC fits into the larger network of organizations and agencies working on water quality efforts in the Winooski Basin?

B. Voigt explained the network of Clean Water Service Providers throughout the Lake Champlain Basin. Additional groups like the Lake Champlain Basin Program and state agencies such as the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) play a large role in moving clean water initiatives forward.

D. Stapleton asked what guides the decision-making process when the council reviews projects?

B. Voigt stated that the cost-efficiency of phosphorus reduction is the primary driver for how the BWQC makes project funding decisions.

C. Rotler mentioned Act 76 passed in 2019 that established clean water funding resources. Phosphorus targets are established for each Basin and funding is allocated accordingly to help meet the overall Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). This money is specifically targeting non-regulatory projects. These are necessary and challenging projects because they involve working with willing landowners. See the DEC websites on [The Clean Water Service Delivery Act](#) and [Background on the Law, Rule and Guidance](#) for more information. The DEC has identified the need for training for new BWQC members.

C. Rotler offered to meet with any members interested in discussing program details and history (chris.rottler@vermont.gov).

Conflict of interest Policy: B. Voigt noted that members will recuse themselves from voting on proposals submitted by their organizations to maintain transparency and fairness in funding decisions.

Outreach & Public Participation Policies: The council reviewed their outreach and public participation policies, noting a decline in project proposals over the past six months. L. Frasca mentioned past outreach efforts that have led to successful project development opportunities. He discussed plans to revamp outreach materials and broaden their appeal to new communities, particularly in the Lower Winooski. They encouraged committee members to assist in getting the word out and partnering on presentations, with a focus on making the program more accessible to those unfamiliar with it. The creation of a Basin Water Quality Council Subcommittee on Public Participation was mentioned as a potential future option.

Election of Officers (action)

B. Voigt explained the process for electing Chair and Vice Chair as well as their duties and responsibilities.

D. Stapleton nominated G. Mott as Chair, R. Turner seconded. All in favor, G. Mott was elected Chair.

D. Koenemann nominated A. Peal as Vice Chair, D. Stapleton seconded. All in favor, A. Peal was elected Vice Chair.

A. Peal was not present, and B. Voigt will notify her of her reelection and confirm her acceptance.

Review & approve minutes from 20 March 2025 meeting (action)

R. Turner moved to approve the minutes of the 20 March 2025 meeting.

D. Koenemann seconded. D. Stapleton abstained, All in favor, the motion passed.

Project Proposal Initial Review (see slides)

Project Development on Vermont Land Trust - conserved Land in the Winooski Basin:

The Vermont Land Trust has proposed to develop projects on lands they own outright or that are under conservation easements in the Winooski Basin. CVRPC will act as a partner to scope at least ten strategic wood addition, forest road & skid trail improvements, gully stabilization and riparian buffer plantings and develop 3 – 5 projects with cost-efficient phosphorus reduction potential over a two-year timeframe. The proposed budget for this project development effort is \$25,000. Alaire Diamond will be the Vermont Land Trust project manager. She also managed the recently completed John Fowler Berm Removal project in Marshfield.

D. Stapleton asked what Strategic Wood Addition means?

B. Voigt explained that it is an eligible project type that involves cutting down or using already downed wood adjacent to streams and anchoring it into the streambed and stream banks. This wood then slows down the water and builds reconnection to the adjacent floodplain.

I. Shadis asked if this project development effort is basin wide?

B. Voigt responded yes, this proposal is for any of Vermont Land Trust conserved properties in the Winooski Basin. Project development activities will include reengaging landowners with easements to gauge their interest in clean water projects. Another proposal for 4 - 5 of Vermont Land Trust properties with specific project opportunities is also in development and should come before the BWQC at an upcoming meeting.

I. Shadis asked about the budget and if a consultant would be hired to help with phosphorus crediting.

B. Voigt answered that they will be hiring out for a consultant to take on the more complex project types. For strategic wood or buffer plantings Vermont Land Trust can do that work in house. CVRPC will also be assisting with phosphorus reduction calculations in combination with the engineer and DEC. The BWQC will vote on this proposal at next month's meeting and should reach out to CVRPC in the meantime with any questions.

Northfield Stormwater Project Adoption:

B. Voigt introduced CVRPC's Northfield Stormwater Project Adoption proposal. This proposal requests funding to adopt the stormwater treatment in the Town of Northfield to support Operations & Maintenance activities for a completed stormwater project from 2019. The Operations & Maintenance Plan calls for the inspection of the inlet catch basin, splitter structure, manifold, isolator row and pipes and the removal of sediment from the pipes / structures on an as-needed basis. The budget for this project is \$13,100 with potential for a 22.3 kilogram reduction of phosphorus. The budget includes funds to pay for CVRPC staff time, verification of the project, and interaction with the sub-contractor.

D. Stapleton asked about the scope of funding and whether funds could be used to offset runoff during construction?

B. Voigt responded no because that work would be considered regulatory and require a permit.

C. Rotler asked if this Northfield neighborhood is subject to a stormwater permit?

B. Voigt will verify this before the BWQC votes on the project proposal at their August meeting.

Budget Amendments (see slides)

B. Voigt described the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission management of the Huntington Project Development and request for a budget increase of \$3,000. This money will be used for the further investigation of 3 projects that have been identified as priorities for further development. This increase fell below the agreed upon budget amendment threshold that would require BWQC approval under the agreed upon Budget Amendment Request Policy. The CWSP has approved this budget increase request.

Announcements

- Lake Champlain Sea Grant: Shelburne Green Stormwater Infrastructure Site Visit
 - 23 July 2025- Event is currently full. Email jillian.Sarazen@uvm.edu to be added to the waitlist.
- DEC & Lake Champlain Sea Grant: Clean Water Project Verification Field Training
 - Moretown / Middlesex area - 7 August 2025 [online RSVP form](#)
- Winooski River Basin Forest Roads and Trails Inventory Workshop: 22 August 2025 (details to follow)

- DEC is soliciting ideas for future trainings and co-learning opportunities for clean water funding program administrators & partners - send comments to frasca@cvregion.com
- Next round of proposals due 14 August 2025 – [schedule a meeting](#) with Brian & Lincoln for proposal development assistance

B. Voigt announced that the berm removal and buffer planting at John Fowler Road in Marshfield has been completed. Friends of the Winooski also recently completed three other buffer plantings. CVRPC is managing two project development efforts that will be finishing up by the end of this summer. Project development work in the Town of Berlin had identified a cost-efficient culvert replacement project. Floodplain Restoration project development in the Town of Waitsfield has identified 2-3 feasible project locations with willing landowners.

R. Turner announced a recent site visit for a culvert replacement in Williamstown that is a priority for Aquatic Organism Passage. Friends of the Winooski is involved with this project and working with SLR consultants. Preliminary engineering work is underway. Field work will commence in the fall to avoid disturbing sensitive bat habitat.

D. Stapleton commended the recently completed Moretown Elementary and Town Hall stormwater project managed by CVRPC.

Adjourn

R. Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:56 PM. R. DeLegge seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled 21 August 2025.

Minutes submitted by CVRPC staff member Lincoln Frasca