

Winooski Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

Meeting Minutes – 16 October 2025

Winooski Basin Water Quality Council Members: ✓

NRCDs		RPCs	
	Peter Danforth, Lamoille NRCD	✓	Garret Mott, CCRPC (Chair)
	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 (Vice Chair)
✓	Sam Puddicombe, Friends of the Winooski River		David Stapleton, Moretown, Alternate
	Michele Braun, Alternate		
	Taylor Litwin, Alternate		
	Ira Shadis, Friends of the Mad River		
	Julie Frost, Alternate		
	Kinny Perot, Alternate		

CVRPC Staff: Brian Voigt & Lincoln Frasca

Guests: Keith Fritschie (Department of Environmental Conservation)

Call to order & Roll call: G. Mott called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

Updates to agenda: None

Public comment: None

Review & approve minutes from 18 September 2025 meeting (action)

R. Turner made a motion to approve the minutes of the 18 September 2025 meeting.

A. Peal seconded all others were in favor and the motion passed.

Project Proposal Final Review (see slides & staff evaluation memo)

Riparian Buffer Planting - GMC & VTACT (Waterbury)

This proposal seeks funds to plant a 50' – 100' wide riparian buffer at a density of 400 stems / acre on 2-acres in the Lower Little River watershed. The estimated phosphorus reduction is 1.5 kilograms per year. The formula grant request is for

\$15,548. The CWSP has reviewed and scored this project proposal and recommends the BWQC prioritize this funding request.

S. Puddicombe noted the project is in Waterbury Center and will be a publicly visible behind the Green Mountain Coffee and Artisan Coffee and Tea Company.

A. Peal asked what kind of trees will be planted? S. Puddicombe responded it will be mostly shrubs such as Willow and Alder by the river and a variety of tree species will be used in the upland areas.

D. Koenemann made a motion to prioritize funding for The Friends of the Winooski River GMC & VTACT Riparian Buffer Planting Project in Waterbury. E. De Vries seconded. S. Puddicombe abstained, all others were in favor, with none opposed. The motion passed.

Riparian Buffer Planting - Graber (Cabot)

This proposal seeks funds to plant a 35' – 50' wide riparian buffer at a density of 400 stems / acre on 0.85-acres in the Winooski River Headwaters watershed. A letter of support from the landowner is pending. The estimated phosphorus reduction is 1.7 kilograms per year. The formula grant request is for \$11,155. The CWSP has reviewed and scored this project proposal and recommends the BWQC prioritize this funding request. S. Puddicombe hopes this project leads to more plantings along the mainstem of the Winooski beneath the lower Cabot Village where there is a lack of vegetation.

E. De Vries asked what plant species will be used? S. Puddicombe responded they have not decided what species will be used but the site is frequently inundated so they will be looking for flood resilient trees.

K. Fritschie noted that downstream outside of the planting area there may be a berm. This could be an opportunity for a floodplain restoration project if the landowner is interested. S. Puddicombe responded that the land is currently up for sale but Friends of the Winooski will be in touch with the new owners.

E. De Vries made a motion to prioritize funding for The Friends of the Winooski River Graber Riparian Buffer Planting Project in Cabot. D. Koenemann seconded. S. Puddicombe abstained, all others were in favor, and none opposed. The motion passed.

Riparian Buffer Planting – SHO (Huntington)

This proposal seeks funds to plant a 100' wide riparian buffer at a density of 300 stems / acre on 1.75-acres in the Huntington River watershed. The landowner supports the project. The estimated phosphorus reduction is 1.1 kilograms per year. The formula grant request is for \$13,940. The CWSP has reviewed and scored this project proposal and recommends the BWQC prioritize this funding request.

E. De Vries asked what the linear foot measurement for planting will be? S. Puddicombe said they will extend the exiting buffer out to 100 feet from top of bank. This area is not going to be flooded so planting Red Oaks, Service Berry, and Choke Cherries are all possibilities. The landowner has expressed interest in harvesting acorns and berries from the plantings and in response the DEC is coming out with guidance for what level of harvesting is acceptable. Harvesting of the wood will be prohibited as part of the Friends of the Winooski planting agreement.

E. De Vries asked what the land use is outside of the buffer area? S. Puddicombe responded that he thinks it is brush hogged.

K. Fritschie mentioned DEC is coming out with a second round of updated guidance to be released in the coming months. This project seems to fit within the scope of what is allowable for harvesting under the draft update guidance. E. De Vries asked if the guidance is based on pounds of acorns or berries harvested? K. Fritschie said the draft guidance doesn't restrict amount of harvestable material but rather focuses on mowing restrictions around the trees.

A. Peal made a motion to prioritize funding for The Friends of the Winooski River SHO Riparian Buffer Planting Project in Huntington. R. Turner seconded. S. Puddicombe abstained, all others were in favor, and none opposed. The motion passed.

Riparian Buffer Planting - Tyler Place Trib (Jericho)

This proposal seeks funds to plant a 50' wide riparian buffer at a density of 400 stems / acre on 3.25-acres in the Tributaries to the Lower Mid-Winooski watershed. The landowner supports the project. The estimated phosphorus reduction is 3.75 kilograms per year. The formula grant request is for \$25,572. The CWSP has reviewed and scored this project proposal and recommends the BWQC prioritize this funding request. S. Puddicombe mentioned that the DEC River Scientist proposed looking into wetland restoration at this site to be explored further this winter.

B. Voigt asked where the wetland restoration would take place? S. Puddicombe responded that is yet to be determined.

R. DeLegge made a motion to prioritize funding for The Friends of the Winooski River Tyler Place Trib Planting Project in Jericho. E. De. Vries seconded. S. Puddicombe abstained, all others were in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

B. Voigt explained that staff will prepare four sub-award agreements for the approved planting projects and submit them for review at the November CVRPC Executive Committee meeting. Friends of the Winooski should be able to proceed with work as soon as early November.

Announcements

- **River Corridor Planning & The Flood Safety Act 121 – Municipal Session**
 - Facilitators: Lake Champlain Sea Grant & The Nature Conservancy
 - 13 November 2025 at 4:00PM - CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee Meeting (workshop)
 - [Register here](#) and see the CVRPC website for [meeting agendas and zoom links](#)
- **Vermont’s Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** has released a draft [Cost Rate Methodology \(CRM\)](#) on the State’s Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) website for a 30-day public comment period
 - Closing date for public comment ends at 4pm on 17 October 2025.
- **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.
- **CWSP Funding** - The deadline for consideration at the October Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council meeting is 9 October 2025. [Schedule a meeting](#) with Brian & Lincoln for proposal development assistance.

E. De Vries asked if there is a recording of the 14 October 2025 CVRPC Board Meeting with the Lake Champlain Sea Grant and The Nature Conservancy presentation on Act 121. B. Voigt responded that the presentation recording is available on CVRPC’s website at: <https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-agendas-staff-reports/board-of-commissioners/> (see meeting packet for the presentation slides). CVRPC is available to meet with municipalities for a consultation on how to prepare for the implementation of Act 121.

A. Peal advertised that CVRPC is still looking for a fifth member to join the Regional Plan Committee. If you are interested in serving, please notify CVRPC Office Manager

Nancy Chartrand via email at chartrand@cvregion.com. For more information on the Regional Plan see the CVRPC website:

<https://centralvtplanning.org/programs/regional-planning/regional-plan/>

B. Voigt mentioned that the updated cost rate methodology will impact next year's funding as well as the Basin 8 phosphorus-reduction target. The Basin 8 phosphorus-reduction target will likely go down which will increase the amount of money the CWSP can spend per kilogram of phosphorous reduction. More information should be available by the November meeting.

L. Frasca announced that students from the UVM Environmental Problem-Solving Lab will be invited to join the November meeting. Students will discuss their work on a Forestry Projects Outreach Plan as part of a partnership with the DEC, Winooski CWSP, and Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District. This work includes creating a directory of organizations and landowners interested in clean water projects. This project parallels the state's efforts to create a prioritization mapping tool for forest road and trail projects.

A. Peal mentioned the Waitsfield Floodplain Restoration Project Development work that is being finalized by Watershed Consulting and originated from the Waitsfield Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. E. De Vries asked if that report could be shared out before the November meeting. B. Voigt will share the report out as soon as it has been reviewed and approved by CVRPC.

R. Turner mentioned the Clean Water Board approved the FY27 budget for forty-five million dollars. The public comment period is open until 16 November 2025. (see links below)

The public is encouraged to visit the [Clean Water Board webpage](#) to:

- *Learn more about Vermont's clean water funding and the Draft Budget*
 - *Explore an interactive online [StoryMap](#)*
 - *Read the [SFY 2027 At a Glance Two-Pager/SFY 2027 Plain Language Clean Water Budget Table](#)*
- *Share your feedback on the Draft Budget with the Clean Water Board:*
 - *Email your feedback to ANR.CleanWaterVT@vermont.gov by November 16, 2025 at 11:59 pm with the subject line "SFY 2027 Clean Water Budget Public Comment", and/or*
 - *Voice your comments online or in-person at the Clean Water Budget Public Hearing in Montpelier on November 7, 2025 at 10:00 am.*
 - *Complete a short [online questionnaire](#) by November 16, 2025 at 11:59 pm,*

E. De Vries asked if this money would go to the CWSP networks and other block grants? B. Voigt confirmed that yes, all the state's clean water funding comes from this budget.

Adjourn

R. Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 PM. A. Peal seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled 20 November 2025.

Minutes submitted by CVRPC staff member Lincoln Frasca.