

Winooski Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

Draft Meeting Minutes – 20 November 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: Rachel Tobler (Shelburne Stormwater Supervisor), Shayne Geiger (Shelburne Stormwater Program Director)

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 16 October 2025 meeting (action)

D. Koenemann made a motion to approve the minutes of the 16 October 2025 meeting. R. Turner seconded, R. Crettol abstained, all others were in favor and the motion passed.

Project Proposal Preliminary Review (see slides)

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District Cheesefactory Road Riparian Buffer Planting

B. Voigt gave an overview of this the project proposal which seeks funds to plant a 100' wide riparian buffer at a density of 400 stems per acre on approximately 4-acres across two parcels in the Muddy Brook watershed (Shelburne & South Burlington). The estimated Phosphorus reduction is 3.9 kg / yr. The total project budget being requested is \$30,056.

L. Goldfluss added that the project was first brought forward by S. Geiger, Shelburne's Stormwater Program Director. Given the prevalence of beaver activity in the area, they will cluster plantings within the first 50 feet from the top of the bank and protect these clusters with chicken wire fencing. In the 50–100-foot section of the buffer, trees will be planted in a grid pattern without fencing. Latex paint and mason sand will also be used on certain plantings to deter beaver activity. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and Intervale Conservation Nursery have been consulted regarding the beaver prevention and tips for monitoring activity. The required CWSP verification process will help to better understand what methods of planting are successful in an area with high beaver activity. Audubon is another partner on this project that helped with selecting plant and tree species to promote bird habitat. Selective fall brush hogging around existing native shrubs will improve nesting and foraging conditions for birds.

The invasive Reed Canary Grass is a concern throughout this site. Spring site prep and maintenance for the first three years will require herbicide use. B. Voigt mentioned that the use of herbicides with Formula funds has been discussed further with DEC. Although it is still should not be prioritized as a management strategy, herbicide use is an eligible practice for funding to contain invasives and increase survivorship of plantings. S. Puddicombe asked if funding will be coming entirely from the CWSP for herbicide treatment. L. Goldfluss confirmed that the herbicide treatments for site prep and operation and maintenance will be entirely funded by the CWSP. B. Voigt mentioned the possibility of Strategic Wood Addition projects in the northern section of the project area. Any additional phosphorus credits from this project type would help improve the overall cost efficiency of this project. The application includes letters of support from both landowners. A vote on the prioritization of funding for this project will occur at the 18 December 2025 meeting.

Cost-rate methodology updates & FY26 Formula Grant Award (see slides)

B. Voigt gave an update on significant changes to the Formula Grant Program. DEC uses a cost-rate methodology to determine how much money is needed to meet the phosphorus targets in each basin. Recent changes include updated cost rate calculations, updated project types, and an updated approach to estimating sector cost rates. Funding updates also include a 2% increase in project development funding. The Operation Maintenance budget will now be \$10,000 + 2.8% of the value of implemented projects. Before finalizing these updates, DEC is currently addressing the comments that were received during the public comment period.

B. Voigt discussed changes in how each sector (streams, agriculture, forest, and developed) were assigned average cost efficiency from 2023 to 2025. These changes in sector allocations ultimately change the phosphorus target for each basin to better reflect the reality of the cost per kilogram that we are paying in each sectors.

D. Koenemann asked if we know of any dam removals that have been funded with CWSP money? B. Voigt responded no dam removals have been funding in Basin 8. Addison County RPC may have funded one. With the updates to the cost rate methodology funding or co-funding smaller dams will become more feasible in the Winooski Basin.

B. Voigt displayed current phosphorus targets by sector for the next 12 years. The 12-year target equals 870.7 kilograms which would require \$32,638.403 to accomplish this phosphorus reduction. This represents about 13.5% of the total Lake Champlain Basin overall phosphorus reduction target. However, there is not enough money available to us in this program to achieve this goal. B. Voigt shared a summary of phosphorus progress made to date. The total funds allocated equals \$432,790 and achieved a 45.77 kilogram reduction. The most cost-efficient project has been a stormwater project adoption in Northfield for 22.3 kilograms. There are four pending buffer projects that would add another 8.05 kilograms to our total. Other projects in the pipeline include larger phosphorus reduction amounts in the towns of Berlin, Waitsfield, and Waterbury. Of these projects the most likely to move forward in the near term is the Berlin McCarty Road Culvert Replacement. With the changes in our cost rate methodology higher cost project should be fundable. In Waitsfield, the Lower Fairgrounds Floodplain Restoration has the potential to reduce 50.7 kilograms for \$1,175,000. A second floodplain restoration project on private property could reduce another 5.6 kilograms for \$155,000. A barrier for these floodplain projects moving forward may be the archeological review process that is predicted to be more complex than usual because of the large amount of sediment that is being removed. The CWSP will meet with the Waitsfield Conservation Commission and Friends of the Mad River to plan next steps. In Waterbury, the Randall Meadows project has the potential to reduce 100+ kilograms for over \$2,500,000 for design and implementation. Ideally, the town will find a way to fund the design and implementation and get a more finalized phosphorus reduction estimate. D. Stapleton asked about the Waterbury project and the main goal of reducing the flood levels. B. Voigt agreed that flood resilience is the primary objective of the project and due to its large area, it will reconnect a large amount of floodplain yielding a high phosphorus credit.

R. Crettol advised looping Vermont River Conservancy in on the private Floodplain project in Waitsfield floodplain where they are an easement holder. B. Voigt responded that Watershed Consulting noted that in the final deliverables. I. Shadis asked when the report was completed by Watershed Consulting. B. Voigt responded that it was completed a few weeks back and has been shared with the Conservation

Commission. He will reach out to Friends of the Mad River to set up a follow up meeting.

The changes to the cost rate methodology include a reduction in the Winooski basin Phosphorus target. The total four-year (2023 - 2026) phosphorus reduction target is now 114.9 kilograms with a budget of \$4,222,880. This puts us in a good place to be able to contribute to the higher dollar projects in our pipeline to reach and or exceed our targets. The CWSP will bring a proposal to the next meeting for updating our scoring methodology. Reach out if you have any questions. G. Mott asked for a bimonthly progress report to keep everyone informed about progress made towards our target.

Announcements

- ◆ [Edits to the Vermont Wetland Rules](#) are now posted for public comment through January 14th.
 - ◆ The edits allow for the implementation of the wetland modification portion of the [Executive Order 06-25](#) and would allow certain residential housing projects in designated areas to proceed without a wetlands permit. The following meeting is open to anyone who wants to learn more or to provide a comment:
 - ◆ Tuesday, December 16 at 1pm, Dewey 1st Floor Conference Room, 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT or Virtual. [Register Here](#)
 - ◆ Send comments to WetlandsRulemakingComment@vermont.gov before January 15, 2026
- ◆ [Forest road and trail Stakeholder Directory](#) - fill out this short form to share your contact info for the purposes of building a stakeholder directory to connect funding program administrators with project implementors and interested landowners.
- ◆ **CWSP Funding** - The deadline for consideration at the November Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council meeting is 11 December 2025. [Schedule a meeting](#) with Brian & Lincoln for proposal development assistance.

Adjourn

D. Koenemann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 PM. D. Stapleton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled 18 December 2025.

Minutes submitted by CVRPC staff member Lincoln Frasca.