

# Winooski Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) Draft Meeting Minutes – 19 February 2026

**Winooski Basin Water Quality Council Members: ✓**

<b>NRCDS</b>		<b>RPCs</b>	
✓	Emily Porter-Goff, Lamoille NRC	✓	Garret Mott, CCRPC (Chair)
	Vacant, Alternate	✓	Lisa Cicchetti, CCRPC alternate
	Daniel Koenemann, Winooski NRC	✓	Royal DeLegge, CVRPC
✓	Lucas Goldfluss, Alternate		Rich Turner, CVRPC alternate
<b>Land Conservation Organizations</b>		<b>Municipalities</b>	
✓	Erin De Vries, VT River Conservancy	✓	Annie Costandi, Essex
	Remy Crettol, Alternate		Vacant, Alternate
<b>Watershed Protection Organizations</b>		✓	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:** Perter Danforth has moved on from the Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District. E. Porter-Goff is temporarily filling the LCCD member seat. Next meeting there will be an alternate member nominee from LCCD for the BWQC to vote on appointing.

**Public comment:** None

**Review & approve minutes from 15 January 2026 meeting (action)**

*D. Stapleton made a motion to approve the minutes of the 18 December 2025 meeting. A. Peal seconded, E. De Vries, E. Porter-Goff, and M. Braun abstained, all others were in favor and the motion passed.*

## **Final Proposal Review (action)**

### *Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission: Waitsfield Lower Fairgrounds Floodplain Reconnection – Preliminary Design*

B. Voigt discussed the Lower Fairgrounds project proposal to complete a preliminary design for a floodplain restoration and riparian buffer planting project on a 9.5-acre site along the Mad River. This site was prioritized during a previous project development effort completed with CWSP funding. The project proposes to restore 9.5 acres of floodplain and reduce an estimated 50.7 kg/yr of phosphorus. The preliminary design project budget being requested is \$18,499.20. Future funding requests are anticipated to be around \$1.25 million dollars. The preliminary design will help determine whether further design work and implementation of this project is fundable through the CWSP program. The staff recommendation is to prioritize this funding request.

A. Peal asked where the buffer planting would be located. B. Voigt responded that the exact planting location is yet to be determined. A. Peal mentioned the conversation about a wastewater site in the Mad River Valley. She noted that engineers have determined this site is not a viable wastewater site. She mentioned this project is a priority in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. B. Voigt responded that this would not be an appropriate site for wastewater. However, if the town prioritized this site for that purpose CVRPC would cease working on this project. The Conservation Commission is working on a Master Plan for this site and will benefit from the completion of this preliminary design work. Both the Conservation Commission and Selectboard have expressed their support for advancing with the preliminary design. If awarded, and once completed with preliminary design, CVRPC will seek additional commitment from the town before advancing to final design.

E. Porter-Goff asked what future funds means? B. Voigt explained that future funds are what is estimated to be needed to pay for final design and implementation phases. E. De Vries asked about funding future phases through the CWSP. B. Voigt clarified that if this project becomes significantly less cost-efficient or if the town is not ready to commit the site to the project, then CVRPC would not advance this project further with CWSP funding. E. De Vries emphasized the long-term benefits of this project and expressed the desire to balance cost-efficiency with the need to fund river restoration projects like this with a wide array of co-benefits. B. Voigt noted the 10-year design life of this project type and the overall expense as the main challenges to cost-efficiency. He explained that as long as the phosphorus credits hold in the range of 50 kilograms then this will continue to be a priority for funding through the CWSP program. The CWSP needs to make sure that any money allocated doesn't jeopardize our ability to meet our phosphorus targets. D. Stapleton asked if the design work will address the design life of this project. B. Voigt explained the design life for specific project types are fixed by DEC and will not change during the design phase.

*J. Frost made a motion to approve funding for the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Waitsfield Lower Fairgrounds Floodplain Reconnection Preliminary Design project, D. Stapleton seconded, all were in favor, and none opposed. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Preliminary Proposal Review (see slides)**

*Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission: Berlin McCarty Road Culvert Replacement – Preliminary Design*

B. Voigt introduced the project proposal that involves the replacement and removal of multiple stream-crossing structures along West Hill and McCarty Road in Berlin on a headwater reach of the Dog River. The preliminary design phase includes six structures: two municipal culverts (one of which is no longer in use) and four privately owned upstream structures, consisting of a small breached dam and three culverts. The project was identified as a priority through a town-wide Project Development effort led by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and funded by the CWSP in 2024. The estimated phosphorus reduction is 16 kg/yr. The project budget is \$48,259.26 with an anticipated \$400,000 needed in future funding to complete implementation. When implemented, the project will help reduce ongoing erosion, mitigate local flooding risks, and restore reach-scale connectivity. The Berlin Selectboard and landowner support advancing the project to the preliminary design phase. If necessary, the town may be asked to provide some level of match to ensure the project maintains cost-efficiency through the implementation phase.

J. Frost asked how many landowners are involved. B. Voigt clarified there is only one private parcel involved where four of the six structures are located. E. De Vries asked what the current land use is and whether that will change after the culvert removals. B. Voigt responded that some of the land is in agricultural use, the Vermont Land Trust holds a partial easement, and the land is also enrolled in the Current Use Program. Future development is possible in the field adjacent to the uppermost culvert removal. However, the overall land use is not expected to change based on this project. G. Mott noted the BWQC will vote on this project at the March 19 BWQC meeting.

### **Projects Updates (see slides)**

M. Braun explained that the Friends of the Winooski River Graber Riparian Buffer Planting Project has been terminated due to pending sale of property. The current landowner has agreed to pass the project information onto the new landowner to hopefully move the project forward.

The SHO Riparian Buffer Planting Project buffer width has been reduced from 100' to 50'. Due to this change the Phosphorous-reduction estimate has also been reduced from the original 1.1 kg/yr to the revised 0.51 kg/yr. The project budget also decreased from the original \$13,940 to the revised \$6,423.

## Announcements

- ◆ **DEC Watershed Planning Program Brown Bag Webinar: Choose Your Own Adventure - Clean Water Project Edition:** Learn about moving projects forward from a CWSP perspective. Topics will include decision points and obstacles, risks, challenges, and observations on how the system could be further optimized and improved.  
**Speaker:** Mike Winslow, Assistant Director, Addison County RPC/Otter Creek CWSP  
Wednesday 11 March 2026, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, [Join the meeting here](#).
- ◆ **The Flood Safety Act and Beyond Webinar: Statewide and Local Efforts to Address Flooding in the Winooski Watershed:** Hear about actions the state and local organizations are taking to reduce flood risk and protect our communities.  
Speakers: Friends of the Winooski River, Friends of the Mad River, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, North Branch Nature Center, The Nature Conservancy, and Lake Champlain Sea Grant  
Wednesday 11 March 2026, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, [Register here](#).
- ◆ **DEC Seeking Comment on Clean Water Initiative Policy Draft Updates:**  
**Topics:** [Co-Funding](#), [What is Regulatory](#), [Operation & Maintenance Updates Part 1](#), [Updates to Project Development Findings Report Form](#), [Project Development for River Corridor Easements](#), [Project Development Workflow Diagram](#), [Natural Resources Screening Tool](#), [Vermont Division of Historic Preservation Review Form](#), and [Updates to State Historic Preservation Review Requirements](#)  
Submit comments to the Clean Water Initiative Program at [ANR.CleanWaterVT@vermont.gov](mailto:ANR.CleanWaterVT@vermont.gov) with subject line, "Funding Policy Comments: Batch 2" comments due Friday 20 February 2026
- ◆ **CWSP Funding** - The deadline for consideration at the March 2026 Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council meeting is 12 March 2026. [Schedule a meeting](#) with Brian & Lincoln for project reviews & proposal development assistance.

## Adjourn

*D. Stapleton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 PM. R. DeLegge seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Next meeting scheduled for 19 March 2026.  
*Minutes submitted by CVRPC staff member Lincoln Frasca.*