

Winooski Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

Draft Meeting Minutes – 19 March 2026

Winooski Basin Water Quality Council Members: ✓

NRCDs		RPCs	
	Emily Porter-Goff, Lamoille NRCD	✓	Garret Mott, CCRPC (Chair)
✓	Sarah Skelding, Lamoille NRCD	✓	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	✓	Rachel Tobler, 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 1:03 PM.

Updates to agenda:

Public comment: None

Review & approve minutes from the 19 February 2026 meeting (action)

R. Turner made a motion to approve the minutes of the 19 February 2025 meeting. I. Shadis seconded, D. Koenemann abstained, all others were in favor, and the motion passed.

Final Proposal Review (action)

Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD): Basin 8 Riparian Planting O&M Adoptions – Project Development

B. Voigt introduced this project proposal request for funding to investigate riparian buffers planted by the WNRCD over the past decade. The sites will be reviewed for the phosphorus reduction potential and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) plans will be developed to extend the design life of each project. The project budget is \$10,150. There are five planting sites that cover 14.25 acres and would reduce ~24.6 kg/yr (if using the previous DEC phosphorus calculator). Subsequent guidance from DEC indicated that phosphorus crediting methodology for O&M adoption has yet to be released (but is coming soon). As a result, calculation of phosphorus credits for these projects is a deliverable of this proposal and will use an as-yet unpublished phosphorus calculation methodology to be provided by DEC. L. Goldfluss added that the five planting sites are within the towns of Huntington, Waterbury, Northfield (2), and Middlesex. L. Frasca mentioned the DEC O&M training at the Middlesex site where the landowner was interested in maintenance work if funding became available. K. Fritschie asked if all sites have Watershed Project Database numbers. L. Goldfluss confirmed that they do. B. Voigt asked if the sites are all beyond their design life. Due to the Northfield Stormwater adoption project, the CWSP is near their term limit of adoptable projects that are still within their design life. L. Goldfluss believes all plantings are beyond their design life.

S. Puddicombe motioned to approve funding for the WNRCD Basin 8 Riparian Planting O&M Adoptions – Project Development, A. Peal seconded, D. Koenemann abstained, all others were in favor with none opposed. The motion passed.

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. B. Voigt noted that currently the cost-effective score is currently zero due to the high estimate for implementation. CVRPC is requesting funds to see if they can bring the future anticipated costs down or if necessary, request matching funds from the town to ensure the project is cost-efficient through the implementation phase. A.

Peal asked if the BWQC is voting to approve the preliminary design cost or the full \$400,000? B. Voigt confirmed that the vote is just for the preliminary design budget of \$48,259.26. This money will be used to investigate all the upstream structures that are required by DEC to be replaced to achieve full phosphorus credit. The McCarty Road culvert is a town priority for replacement because of historic overtopping of water on the road. S. Puddicombe asked where the future cost estimate came from. B. Voigt responded that the estimate was developed during the project development effort led by Fitzgerald Environmental, LLC. CVRPC used the high estimate for replacing each structure to come up with \$400,000. G. Mott mentioned that the town maybe should provide matching funds since there is overtopping of water on the road. B. Voigt responded that matching funds will only be requested if the project cannot be implemented within our cost threshold, otherwise the project will be entirely with formula funds.

D. Koenemann motioned to approve funding for the CVRPC Berlin McCarty Road Culvert Replacement – Preliminary Design, R. Turner seconded. All were in favor, and none opposed. The motion passed.

Preliminary Proposal Review (discussion)

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission: Marshfield Road Stormwater Gully – Implementation

B. Voigt introduced the project proposal that involves the stabilization of a stormwater gully along Marshfield Road in Calais to prevent long-term erosion at the site. The site was initially assessed and a preliminary (30%) design completed as part of the 2019 Kingsbury Stormwater Master Plan. In spring 2024, the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC), in partnership with the Town of Calais and an adjacent landowner, conducted project scoping for gully stabilization and adjacent culvert along Marshfield Road. The culvert is still being investigated for eligibility. The Gully Final Design was completed with Formula Grant funding. The Town and adjacent landowners support project implementation. The project budget is \$56,226.15 with an estimated phosphorus reduction of 5.61 kg/yr. E. De Vries asked how this project differs from the Friends of the Winooski River gully project that was denied by the CWSP a couple years ago. B. Voigt responded the only project that was denied by the CWSP was the Nantanna Mills stormwater project which was around \$300,000 per kilogram and not feasible. K. Fritchie mentioned a head cut stabilization project that Friends of the Winooski River proposed on a perennial stream as part of the Wihakowi dam removal project that was not a cost efficient phosphorus project. I. Shadis asked whether the Marshfield Road perched culvert on Marshfield Road is being considered for replacement. B. Voigt responded that the culvert was recently replaced and not a priority for replacement at this time.

Announcements

- ◆ **[DEC Interim Phosphorus Reduction Calculator Tool - Updates \(version 1.2\)](#)**
 - ◆ updates to forest truck road and skid trail erosion control calculator to use location specific loading rates;
 - ◆ added a link to access the assessment tool for completing private road erosion inventories in Survey123;
 - ◆ revised a calculator error in the strategic wood addition storage credit calculation;
 - ◆ added and improved instruction text throughout to address some frequently asked questions.
- ◆ **[Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development Block Grant:](#)** Applications due April 10, 2026.
 - ◆ Lyn Munno, WUV Director: lyn@watershedsunitedvt.org
 - ◆ Christian Pelletier, WUV Grants Manager: christian@watershedsunitedvt.org
- ◆ **[Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District – 43rd Annual Tree Sale](#)**
 - ◆ Proceeds from the sale are used to support WNRCD's work developing and implementing on-the-ground projects that protect natural resources. Contact **info@winooskinrcd.org** with any questions.
 - ◆ **Order Deadline:** April 30th, 2026 at 11:59pm
 - ◆ **Pick-up Date:** May 9th, 2026 from 9am-noon
- ◆ **Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District: Act 59, "30x30" Listening Session: [Register](#)**
 - ◆ **Format:** Hybrid in-person at the Yestermorrow Design/Build School (7865 Main St, Waitsfield, VT 05673) and virtually
 - ◆ **Date & Time :** Monday, March 30, 9:30 - 11:00 AM
 - ◆ **Public Comments Due:** March 31, 2026, submit to the [Vermont Housing & Conservation Board](#)
- ◆ **CWSP Funding** - The deadline for consideration at the 16 April 2026 Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council meeting is 9 April 2026. [Schedule a meeting](#) with Brian & Lincoln for project reviews & proposal development assistance.
- ◆ **Friends of the Winooski Annual Dinner:** April 7, 2026 [Annual dinner link](#)

Adjourn

D. Koenemann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 PM. E. De Vries seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting scheduled for 16 April 2026.
Minutes submitted by CVRPC staff member Lincoln Frasca.