CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)
Meeting Minutes – 12 November 2026

CWAC Members: ☑ 9 total

	Commissioner Representatives
☑	John Brabant, Calais
☑	Ron Krauth, Middlesex
☑	Amy Monahan, Marshfield
☑	Mitch Osiecki, Middlesex (Alternate)

	Municipal Representatives
☑	Clark Amadon, Moretown
	Vacant
	Emily Ruff, Orange
	Vacant
☑	Chris Owen, Worcester
☑	Warren Coleman, Calais (Vice Chair & interested stakeholder)

CVRPC Staff: Lincoln Frasca

Other Attendees: Keith Fritschie & Karren Bates (Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Basin Planners),

Call to Order & Confirmation of Recording:
L. Frasca called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

Updates to agenda: L. Frasca added the Approval of **8 January, 12 March** meeting minutes. M. Osiecki added the election of Vice Chair.

Public Comment: N/A

Approval of 8 January, 12 March, and 9 July 2026 minutes:
M. Osiecki made a motion to approve the 8 January, 12 March, and 9 July 2026 minutes. C. Amandon seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion passed.

Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan Update (see slides)
K. Bates presented the draft tactical basin plan for the Lamoille River Basin, explaining the watershed management approach focused on protecting pristine waters and restoring impaired ones to meet Vermont water quality standards. She detailed the

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assessment findings, including impaired lakes like Lake of the Clouds and Arrowhead Mountain Lake, and discussed the Lake Champlain phosphorus reduction Total Maximum Dailey Load (TMDL) requirements that affect the basin. K. Bates reported that the Lamoille Basin has achieved approximately 35% of its phosphorus reduction target, with agriculture being the primary contributor at 32%, while stormwater and road sectors have achieved less progress. K. Bates explained the phosphorus reduction strategies implemented through the Clean Water Initiative program, which tracks calculated reductions across various sectors including agriculture, developed land, roads, wastewater, forestry, and rivers. She detailed specific approaches including best management practices for farmers, stormwater management plans, municipal road general permits, septic system improvements through the Village Wastewater Solutions program, and forest restoration projects. The discussion also covered assessment processes for lakes and wetlands, including reclassification candidates for waters with excellent conditions, and the implementation of lake-wise assessment programs to encourage landowner participation in reducing pollutant loading. K. Bates discussed biological assessments and stream reclassification processes, explaining that B1 designations focus on aquatic biota and brook trout habitat, particularly in higher watershed areas.

J. Brabant asked if TMDL results are measured or calculated based on project implementation. K. Bates responded that progress towards the TMDL are calculated using the DEC methodology. For more information see the Annual Clean Water Initiative Performance Report: Reports | Department of Environmental Conservation.

C. Owen asked about removal of the Peterson Dam. K. Bates responded that there has been no discussion about removal of the Peterson Dam. However, the Jackson Dam is being scoped for removal by the Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District. R. Krauth asked about how housing and town centers intersect with Tactical Basin Planning? K. Bates stated these are voluntary actions only with a focus on education and outreach to communities. Village wastewater solutions can help towns find land that is adequate for onsite wastewater facility for new and existing properties. W. Coleman asked about B1 designations for Brook Trout and described his work on the legislative study group investigating lake reclassification. He asked if there is any outreach happening about the B1 designations and what it means for people living in those watersheds? K. Bates responded that outreach and education is now channeled through Regional Planning Commissions. W. Coleman mentioned the barrier for reclassifying waters to A1 due to the the prohibition of septic systems over 1,000 gallons. That restriction does not exist for B1 reclassifications which are more easily approved than A1. W. Coleman stated that it is possible that the 1,000-gallon limit is removed due to data showing that inground systems are protective of groundwater. His committee is going to provide a report to the legislation to help move forward with backlogged reclassifications. See Protecting Water Quality | Department of Environmental Conservation for more information on the Act 175 Antidegradation study group.

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C. Owen asked about the status of the Wild Branch in North Wolcott. K. Bates mentioned work by Regional Planning Commission and Orleans County NRCD. She shared the StoryMap, "Keeping the Wild Branch Wild Wolcott, VT.

Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan Regional Conformance (action possible)
L. Frasca presented the findings from the CVRPC conformance review of the Draft Lamoille River Tactical Basin Plan with the 2026 Central Vermont Regional Plan.

J. Brabant expressed concerns about land application of wastewater treatment plant sludges containing PFOS levels in the Winooski Basin Plan. K. Bates clarified that Woodbury is the only Central Vermont Town in the Lamoille Basin and since the public comment period had ended, no changes could be made to the current plan.
K. Fritschie mentioned that while the Winooski Tactical Basin Plan describes what biosolid regulations are, it cannot propose new regulations.

C. Owen made a motion to recommend the Board authorize the CVRPC Executive Director to sign the letter of conformance for the Draft 2026 Lamoille River Tactical Basin Plan with the 2026 Central Vermont Regional Plan. C. Amandon seconded. All were in favor, non-opposed and the motion passed.

Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan Progress Report (see slides):
K. Fritschie presented an update on the 2023 plan, highlighting 55 protection priorities and 28 lake and stream restoration priorities identified in the basin. The plan includes 50 water quality strategies implemented by various partners across the watershed. An interim progress report was prepared to inform EPA on progress towards Lake Champlain TMDL goals, with the report currently under review by partners and state staff. K. Fritschie reported that 47 out of 50 water quality strategies have been started with qualitative progress made on about 50 of them. In the agricultural sector, technical assistance visits to farms have doubled or tripled, resulting in increased implementation of field practices like cover cropping that have nearly met TMDL targets for agricultural phosphorus reduction. For stormwater management, residential programs and MS4 implementation projects are showing good progress, though the basin is not yet meeting stormwater targets for the Lake Champlain phosphorus TMDL, with funding challenges being a key area needing further discussion. Keith clarified that while DEC has specific funding for some MS4 communities, non-regulatory stormwater projects face competition from other environmental initiatives like aquatic habitat projects. He also covered wastewater issues, with nine facilities in Winooski seeking funding for upgrade projects and recent wastewater workshops held in the Mad River Valley and Calais-Woodbury areas. K. Fritschie included updates on natural resource sectors in the Winooski Basin, highlighting progress in river restoration, lake watershed action plans, wetlands strategies, and forestry initiatives. Key developments included multiple dam removals

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and culvert upgrades, buffer plantings, and the publication of a wetland restoration manual.
W. Coleman asked about non-MS4 communities that need to meet the 3-acre regulations where funding is limited. There is no incentive for municipalities to help private landowners in non-MS4 communities to help meet the 3-acre regulatory requirements. K. Fritschie responded that outside of MS4 communities the state offers Enhancement Grants and CWSP funding to address non-regulatory projects only. However, stormwater practices bring high costs and are not always cost-efficient as a CWSP project. C. Amadon brought up the need for alternative wastewater systems, particularly in-ground systems not currently permitted in Vermont, and expressed interest in exploring more options with the agency to address both water quality and affordable housing needs. C. Amadon suggested organizing a workshop for Moretown Village regarding residential wastewater system options.
C. Amadon mentioned the river access project in Middlesex at Walter Kelley Park. There is community support for this project and it is moving forward. M. Osiecki mentioned removal of Cross Brother's Dam. Part of that project included river access. M. Osiecki spoke about "Let's Build Homes" initiative to build housing in smaller towns where septic systems are challenging.

Tactical Basin Planning
L. Frasca presented on the FY27 CVRPC Tactical Basin Plan Workplan. He outlined municipal technical assistance work including stormwater support for towns without master plans, Sabin Pond/Woodbury Lake Watershed Action Plan support, and outreach regarding Act 37 permit compliance for sites with over 3 acres of impervious surfaces. The workplan includes supporting wetland map updates and flood resilience projects that provide water quality co-benefits. CVRPC also assists with municipal plan and bylaw updates, including FEMA mapping and river corridor planning. In response to preliminary outreach regarding Act 121 The Flood Safety Act, several towns have already expressed interest in compliance and flood resilience opportunities.

Election of Chair & Vice Chair
The Committee agreed to table the election of Chair and Vice Chair until the January 2027 meeting.

Announcements:
The group discussed potential upcoming meeting topics, including the Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program, low-tech & process-based restoration, 3-acre stormwater regulations, wetland mapping, and more. Committee members should contact L. Frasca at frasca@cvregion.com if they have ideas for future meetings.

- Franklin County NRCD Webinar Series (Past Recordings): Permitting for Clean Water Projects (Rivers, Wetlands, Stormwater, and more).
- Dartmouth 2026 Flood Experience Survey: Survey studying the social, ecological, and technological challenges around, and responses to, catastrophic

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flooding in Vermont. For more information visit the Rural Rivers Project website. Survey open through December 1, 2026.

- Vermont's Clean Water Board is seeking public input on the State Fiscal Year 2028 Draft Clean Water Budget by **November 12, 2026**. Vermonters can weigh in on how they would like to prioritize approximately $43 million to fund projects to protect and improve the quality of water in our rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.
- CWSP Funding - The deadline for consideration at the 19 November 2026 Winooski River Basin Water Quality Council meeting is 12 November 2026. Schedule a meeting with Brian & Lincoln for project reviews & proposal development assistance.
- FEMA Flood Bylaw CVRPC Assistance - Book a meeting or email Lincoln (frasca@cvregion.com) or Brian (voigt@cvregion.com)
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Adjourn: *M. Osiecki moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM. C. Owen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

The next meeting is scheduled for 14 January 2027.

Minutes submitted by CVRPC staff member Lincoln Frasca

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