CVRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)
Meeting Minutes – 9 July 2026

CWAC Members: ☑ 10 total

	Commissioner Representatives
	John Brabant
	Ron Krauth
☑	Amy Monahan
☑	Mitch Osiecki (Alternate)

	Municipal Representatives
☑	Clark Amadon
	Joyce Manchester
	Emily Ruff
	Alice Peal (Chair)
☑	Chris Owen
☑	Warren Coleman (Vice Chair & interested stakeholder)

CVRPC Staff: Brian Voigt, Lincoln Frasca

Other Attendees: Michael Miller (CVRPC Commissioner - Montpelier), Keith Fritschie (Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Basin Planner)

Call to Order & Confirmation of Recording:
L. Frasca called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Updates to agenda: N/A

Public Comment: N/A

Approval of 8 January & 12 March 2026 minutes:
A quorum was not achieved, no motion could be made to approve past meeting minutes.

Member Roundtable & Introductions:
Committee members answered the following questions:

- What is your primary area of expertise or focus related to water quality?
- Can you briefly share a water quality project or initiative you've worked on?
- What do you hope to contribute to or gain from participating in this committee?

C. Amadon of Moretown discussed his experience as Chair of a wastewater committee considering inground wastewater systems. He also serves on the Trout Unlimited Mad Dog Chapter. C. Owen of Worcester described his work for the energy department and experience with Act 250 review. He is a long-term water quality advocate. W. Coleman of East Calais, spoke to his background as an environmental attorney with the Agency of Natural Resources for 10 years. He is now involved in government relations and lobbying work related to clean water. A. Monahan of Marshfield spoke to her employment as Treasurer for Town of Cabot. She joined the CVRPC Board of Commissioners last year and is involved in coordinating several repair projects related to flood damage. She is also working with CVRPC on culvert replacement project development for the town of Cabot. M. Osiecki, Alternate Middlesex Member, is on the Planning Commissioner for Middlesex and serves as the Northfield Zoning Administrator. He has been working with Trout Unlimited to secure funding for a river access project at Walter Kelley Park in Middlesex.

Rules of Procedures (see slides):
L. Frasca discussed the rules of procedure for the committee, outlining its purpose, activities, and expectations for members. The committee serves as an advisory body for water quality, flood hazard, and stormwater issues, providing input to the Board of Commissioners and representing municipal perspectives.

Election of Officers:
A quorum was not achieved, no motion could be made to elect officers.

Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan (see slides):
K. Fritschie presented on the Tactical Basin Planning process in Vermont, explaining that the state's 15 major watersheds undergo 5-year planning cycles with monitoring, strategy development, and reporting requirements. The 2023 Winooski Tactical Basin Plan was published in 2024. K. Fritschie highlighted the need for an interim report card in January 2027 for the Winooski watershed and offered to present at a future CWAC meeting on progress towards the plan's implementation strategies. He invited members to share information about projects that might not be captured in current data. He offered ways committee members can contribute to Tactical Basin Planning and strategy implementation, including providing local knowledge of surface water management efforts, serving as a steering committee for trainings and outreach, offering local perspectives on strategies, and connecting DEC and regional partners to town staff. He shared a strategy table with approximately 50 strategies and requested feedback on how CWAC members can help advance these initiatives. See the Google document to report strategy outcomes by town or contact keith.fritschie@vermont.gov.

The 2018 – 2023 Winooski Tactical Basin Plan Final Report card (pg. 98 – 127) can be found at: https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/reports.

K. Fritschie also introduced the Clean Water Project Explorer tool for towns to review potential water quality project opportunities by town. Additionally, he shared the Vermont Flood Resilience listserv for those who would like periodic updates on a wide variety of flood topics --> LISTSERV - Subscribe (FLOODRESILIENCE) - LIST.UVM.EDU

C. Amadon asked whether road projects are reflected in Tactical Basin Plan?
K. Fritschie responded that in perennial stream culvert projects that improve water quality and fish passage should be included in the Tactical Basin Plan report card. Flood resilience is another co-benefit that is being prioritized by watershed partners when considering water quality and habitat protection projects. W. Coleman commented on Act 121 The Flood Safety Act and the major regulatory shift that statewide river corridor regulations will bring. He emphasized the need for outreach so towns understand the science behind this new law. K. Fritschie mentioned initial outreach by the Lake Champlain Sea Grant & The Nature Conservancy. The DEC Rivers Program will be taking the lead on future outreach work. B. Voigt mentioned that CVRPC hosted two presentations by the Sea Grant and The Nature Conservancy, one to the CVRPC Board of Commissioners and a second for the CWAC. See the 13 November Act 121 CWAC presentation at Clean Water Advisory Committee - Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission agenda and minutes webpage.
C. Owen discussed the importance of training municipal road crews to improve their water quality best practices. The Agency of Transportation Better Roads Programs plays a key role in this training. K. Fritschie mentioned outreach strategies in the Tactical Basin Plan and how the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) coordinator is working with road foreman on road segments that are not up to standards. A new culvert replacement prioritization tool has been created by the MRGP coordinator called the Drainage infrastructure Resource Tool.

CVRPC Water Resources Program Areas (see slides):

Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP)
B. Voigt gave an overview of CVRPC's role as the Winooski River Basin Clean Water Service Provider. In 2019 Act 76, The Clean Water Service Delivery Act, provided funding from the state to develop, design, and implement non-regulatory clean water projects to achieve Lake Champlain's phosphorus reduction target. The Winooski Basin is responsible for reducing approximately 30 kilograms of phosphorus annually for a seven-year term. The focus of the CWSP is on soliciting project proposals, making funding recommendations to the Basin Water Quality Council, and managing subgrants and subcontracts. Current projects include a gully stabilization in Calais, culvert replacements in Berlin, floodplain reconnection efforts in Waitsfield, and riparian buffer projects across the Basin. To date the Winooski Basin CWSP has

completed $342,661 in projects achieving 23.47 kilograms of phosphorus reduction. There is an additional $242,534 in currently funded projects expected to deliver 38 more kilograms, while larger pipeline projects could provide up to 177 kilograms of reduction with $3.9 million in potential funding.

C. Owen asked what a floodplain restoration project implementation typically entails. B. Voigt described the Waitsfield Lower Fairgrounds Project where the land profile would be lowered based on engineering designs. This is achieved through redistribution of sediment both within the site and trucking what is necessary off the site. Sediment removal is where the bulk of the costs occur.

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.

W. Coleman discussed the challenges of implementing 3-acre site requirements, particularly for private landowners who may struggle with high construction costs despite available funding and engineering support. L. Frasca outlined plans to assist municipally owned sites through outreach and education, with potential for collaborative solutions involving adjacent private properties where feasible.

The group discussed potential upcoming meeting topics, including stormwater management, low-tech & process-based restoration, road erosion inventories, wastewater treatment facilities, wetland mapping, and more. Committee members should contact L. Frasca at frasca@cvregion.com if they have ideas for future meetings.

604b

L. Frasca introduced CVRPC's 604b Water Quality funding and discussed the methodology used for updating the watershed project database. CVRPC is coordinating with the DEC Municipal Roads General Permit Program Coordinator and Basin Planner to identify nonregulatory culvert projects for inclusion in the watershed project database. Other resources under review include Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, River Corridor Plans, and lists of Buyout locations. This work helps to bring priority projects into the pipeline for future clean water project development efforts.

Flood Bylaw Update
L. Frasca discussed CVRPC's work to address municipal flood bylaw updates, emphasizing the importance of compliance with National Flood Insurance Program standards and preparing for FEMA flood insurance rate map updates. Support and training for community boards is available to adopt state model bylaws in alignment with Act 121 the Flood Safety Act. Recent municipal support for bylaw updates has included the towns of Middlesex, Washington, and Worcester. See the video recording and presentation slides from the 7 May 2025 CVRPC Municipal Training: Maximizing Flood Relief Money & Protecting Community Investments

Emergency Watershed Protection Program
L. Frasca discussed the Emergency Watershed Protection Program and its benefits for smaller municipalities. CVRPC has acted as the liaison between towns and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide administrative & contracting support including project oversight. Fayston, Middlesex, Plainfield, and Woodbury are all currently enrolled in the program for damages sustained in the 2024 flood.

Announcements:

- DEC Wastewater Workshop – Residential Septic Systems & Innovative Alternatives: 6 June 2026 Video Recording
- Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load educational video and Q&A by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission**:** available on YouTube.
- **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.
- **FEMA Flood Bylaw CVRPC Assistance** - Book a meeting here or email frasca@cvregion.com and voigt@cvregion.com

Adjourn: *M. Osiecki moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM. C. Owen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 September 2026.

Minutes submitted by CVRPC staff member Lincoln Frasca