

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
 CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE – **DRAFT** MINUTES

DATE: **Tuesday, March 8, 2016**
 TIME: 11:00 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.
 PLACE: CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202, Winooski, VT
 DOCUMENTS: Minutes, documents, and presentations discussed accessible at:
<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/meetings/clean-water-advisory-committee/>

Committee Members in Attendance		
Bolton: Deb Shelby	Hinesburg:	St. George:
Buels Gore	Huntington: Barbara Elliot (arr. 11:30)	Underhill: Brian Bigelow
Burlington: Megan Moir	Jericho: Katherine Sonnick	Westford:
Charlotte:	Milton:	Williston: James Sherrard
Colchester:	Richmond	Winooski: John Choate
Essex: Annie Costandi	Shelburne: Chris Robinson	VAOT: Jennifer Callahan
Essex Junction: Chelsea Mandigo	South Burlington: Tom DiPietro	VANR: Christy Witters
Burlington Airport: Amanda Hanaway-Corrente (arr. 11:20)	University of Vermont: Lani Ravin	CCRPC Board: Don Meals
Other Attendees: VT-DEC: Danielle Owczarski, Jim Pease, Emily Bird, Philip Jones, Ethan Swift; LC-SeaGrant: Kris Stepenuck, Rebecca Tharp; Northwest RPC: Amanda Holland		
CCRPC Staff: Dan Albrecht; Regina Mahony; Charlie Baker		

1. Welcome The meeting commenced at 11:00 a.m. No changes were made to the agenda.

2. Election of a chair or co-chairs

After a brief discussion, the Committee felt it best to have one co-chair from an MS-4 community and one from outside that sphere. Annie Costandi offered to be a co-chair as did Don Meals who serves on the RPC Board as the Conservation/Environmental representative. The Committee voted unanimously to elect the two of them as co-chairs.

3. Review and action on draft minutes of November 3, 2015; December 1, 2015 and February 2, 2016:

Albrecht provided a brief recap of the minutes. On a motion by DiPietro, seconded by Robinson, the minutes of these three meetings were approved unanimously.

4. Presentations by VT-DEC Staff (see copies at CCRPC weblink above for details)

a. Vermont Project Tracking Database

Emily Bird briefed the committee on this database which does not yet have a formal name. The focus will be to populate this database with VT-DEC funded projects first followed by those required in regulation, by agriculture partners and by VTRANS). The database will DEC produce a Clean Water Investment & Performance Report that will include the following Measures: Social (workshops, trainings, etc), Investment (by sector, county, watershed, etc) Performance (e.g. linear feet, acres, by sector, etc) and Environmental inputs (e.g. phosphorus removal). It remains to be determined how projects such as ones funded by municipalities would be inputted into the system although that is the long term goal. The database would then be used to provide “report cards” to EPA every five years.

Don Meals emphasized, 1) that voluntary measures need to be tracked as well; 2) that non-structural BMPs also need to be measured and 3) that within confidentiality constraints all projects need to be geo-referenced. Members also noted that database needs to be careful about double counting between projects funded by ERP and those reported in MS4 permits, etc. It will be hard to prevent this without tracking each BMP individually however some level of annual aggregation of data is going to be necessary because we aren’t going to track every single rain barrel or want to worry about having to file individual data entries for each building permit or zoning permit wherein SW concerns fall below the State SW permit requirement.

b. Lake Champlain Basin Accounting and Tracking Tool (LC-BATT)

Emily Bird briefed the committee on this tool which will be used for compliance with the TMDL. This tool will track and generate phosphorus removal efforts via Structural, Non-Structural, Agricultural and Land Use Conversion efforts. Megan Moir noted the need that the tool should also track other measures such as sediment

1 and flow and also documenting co-benefits such as habitat improvement, flood resiliency and “heat island”
2 mitigation.

3 **c. Scenario Tool (LC-BATT) and Stage Gate**

4 Phillip Jones briefed the committee on this EPCA tool which can be used to estimate the Phosphorus
5 removal effects of various types of BMPs depending upon such factors as land use, soil type, slope and BMP
6 efficiency. The tool uses the well-known Soil And Water Assessment Tool known as SWAT which includes
7 30 year time series of estimated P loading, calibrated/validated empirical P data, output at approximately HUC
8 12 scale (which is is not super useful) at HUC8 (e.g, entire Lamoille Basin), HUC 12 which is the next level
9 down, and then catchments are the smallest level. He stressed this is high-level screening tool to be used as a
10 starting point. Still under discussion is development of a Watershed Management Tool (WMT) that will
11 provide a map interface that will summarize loadings, potential reductions, and possible BMPs by township,
12 NHD+ catchment, etc. He indicated that it is hoped that the tool would be available to the public this spring.
13 Members noted the need to see an example at a future date of how the model works in the urban environment.

14 Ethan Swift gave a brief description of Stage Gate which is process that the State will be used to prioritize
15 prospective projects for implementation within tactical basin plans. Each project must go through several
16 phases or “Stages” (inception, scoping and feasibility, design, and finally construction) before it can move
17 forward. Tom DiPietro noted the need to hear more from DEC in the future as to how various stormwater
18 projects would be scored or ranked, for example, how a flow reduction project would be scored vs. a
19 phosphorus reduction project.

20 Megan Moir asked DEC, and other members agreed, that given the fact that all of these various tools are
21 still in development that DEC should consider push back the October deadline for finalizing the Flow
22 Restoration Plans.

23
24 **5. Updates**

25 Charlie Baker noted that FEMA is now encouraging applicants to incorporate Green Infrastructure practices
26 and Climate Resiliency strategies into their applications for Hazard Mitigation grants.
27

28 **6. Adjournment**

29 The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

30 *Respectfully submitted, Dan Albrecht*