

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

DATE: **Tuesday, June 6, 2017**
 TIME: 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 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: Darlene Palola	Underhill: Brian Bigelow
Burlington: Jenna Calvi	Jericho:	Westford:
Charlotte:	Milton: Jeff Castle & Gina Clithero	Williston: James Sherrard
Colchester: Warner Rackley	Richmond:	Winooski: Tim Grover
Essex: Annie Costandi, Co-Chair	Shelburne: Chris Robinson	VAOT:
Essex Junction: Chelsea Mandigo	South Burlington: Tom DiPietro	VANR: Christy Witters
Burlington Airport: Polly Harris (Stantec)	University of VT: Lani Ravin	CCRPC Board: Don Meals
Other Attendees: VT-DEC: Kari Dolan; Rights & Democracy: Adrian Burnett		
CCRPC Staff: Dan Albrecht, Charles Baker, Eleni Churchill, Regina Mahony		

1. Welcome: Annie Costandi called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

2. Review and action on draft minutes of May 2, 2017 (Action):

After a brief recap by Dan Albrecht, James Sherrard made a motion, seconded by Brian Bigelow to approve the May 2, 2017 minutes. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED. *Jenna, Christy & Don*

3. Upcoming Funding Opportunities, DEC staff & CCRPC staff

Dan distributed handouts regarding various funding opportunities. Kari Dolan provided an overview of the State’s efforts to provide financial assistance for the municipalities for meeting Act 64. See presentation at:
<http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/erp/docs/2017-05-25%20Grant%20Webinar%20Presentation.pdf>

- a.** Ecosystem Restoration Program. These have been overhauled. There is useful information in the appendices. A standardized map is required so the DEC can see if there are any potential environmental constraints for the projects. These grant deadlines will be rolling, with four deadlines throughout the year. Substantial funds in excess of \$9.4 million are available:
- b.** Clean Water Block Grants. Up to \$1.5 million (or \$2 million) to target the Go List (construction ready/“Step 3 projects”) – a subset of the full projects database. The hope is to quicken the implementation of these. The deadline is now closed. The RPCs and Conservation Groups have applied for this as a state-wide. Jenna added that requests for projects to be included on the “go list” has been very frustrating process. I hope that there is going to be an opportunity to get additional projects on the go list. Kari Dolan – Act 64 and CSO policy adopted in 2016 are priorities. Using the Tactical Basin Plans as a formal structure to manage all of the projects that are needed to meet those two priorities. However the project database is a working database because the basin plans only get updated every five years. While the project database will be formally updated through the TBP process, DEC knows that projects that come out of planning and assessment studies should be added to the database as they are available. Charlie Baker added that the RPCs are offering assistance to get the projects in the database and categorized the right way; similar to what we do know with the transportation projects. James Sherrard asked if we contact the RPC to get the projects on the go list? Charlie added that the system is not yet finalized. The whole process is evolving. Jenna asked if an input form will be provided. Kari is working on a front end data portal in order for users to get projects into the database. However the projects will need to be vetted as DEC will be looking for projects that reduce phosphorus. The prioritization isn’t being done across sectors as they have responsibilities to meet under each

1 sector, even though agricultural fixes may have more bang for the buck. Tom DiPetro asked that
2 DEC circle back in the fall to ask how this process has worked so that we can improve the system
3 since we'll be working on this for a number of years. Kari described the reasoning of the timing,
4 and the predicament that they are in. Tom also added that pre-permitting screening by DEC Staff
5 is not necessary helpful right now on projects that aren't yet engineered. Projects that are just in
6 concept shouldn't be thrown out because they are near a wetland, because it hasn't been designed
7 yet. If it gets thrown out now we won't be able to construct it next year either. James Sherrard
8 asked about the 50% match – that makes it very challenging to use the money this year. If it were
9 80% we could use the money. Is there room to adjust this? Kari explained that the want to ensure
10 equitable use of the money throughout the state; and a comparison to other sectors. The developed
11 lands permit is likely to be a 50% match as well. If and when more funds become available they
12 will consider adjusting the match.

- 13 c. River Corridor Conservation Easement Grants. Applications are due by June 21, 2017.
- 14 d. Road Grants in Aid. Kari explained that we've heard from municipalities multiple times that they
15 would like to see direct aid support rather than relying on a grant program. We are piloting the
16 program and you received the information yesterday. We have a cooperative agreement with the
17 RPC's to pilot this project. It is voluntary. If you do wish to participate you need to commit to
18 using this money on sections of roads to meet draft MRGP standards. The RPCs will help
19 shepherd these projects all the way through. The reporting is a simple one page form. The match
20 is 20%, but can be in kind. They are highlighting five BMPs. They are hoping to gain experience
21 from this so they can explain to the Legislature how successful they've been. \$2.1 million for this
22 pilot. The formula is based on the amount of connected road miles. If you are using in-kind
23 match for another project you can't use it for this as well. Looking for projects that are low lying
24 and don't have a lot of potential issues. Kari added that signage will be required for all projects.
25 Christy added that the draft MRGP is up on the website. They anticipate public comment notice
26 for August and September. They hope to send it out to all stakeholders by the end of the month.
27 James asked if the draft standards are what is likely to be added to the MS4 standards? Christy
28 stated that is still in process.
- 29 e. VTRANS: Transportation Alternatives. Dan referred the CWAC to the memo included in the
30 packet regarding the VTrans funding.
- 31 f. CCRPC, FY18, UPWP: Conceptual Design Assistance. Eleni Churchill explained that CCRPC
32 does have about \$100,000 money in the UPWP to help support these efforts. We are meeting in
33 house today to discuss how those funds will be disbursed. Stay tuned for more information about
34 this.

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36 **Other Business**

- 37 a. Colchester will start a stormwater utility on July 1.

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39 **6. Items for July 5th meeting agenda**

- 40 a. Draft MRGP permit.
41 b. Keep in mind that ERP grants are also due on this day which is a Wednesday.

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43 **7. Adjournment**

44 The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

45 *Respectfully submitted, Regina Mahony*