

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

DATE: **Tuesday, January 3, 2017**
 TIME: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 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: Trevor Lashua	St. George:
Buels Gore:	Huntington: Darlene Palola	Underhill: Brian Bigelow
Burlington: Jenna Calvi	Jericho:	Westford:
Charlotte:	Milton: Jeff Castle	Williston: James Sherrard
Colchester: Warner Rackley	Richmond:	Winooski: John Choate (arr. 11:10)
Essex: Annie Costandi	Shelburne: Chris Robinson	VAOT:
Essex Junction: Chelsea Mandigo	South Burlington: Tom DiPietro	VANR:
Burlington Airport:	University of VT: Lani Ravin	CCRPC Board:
Other Attendees: VT-DEC: Jim Pease		
CCRPC Staff: Dan Albrecht; Charlie Baker		

1. Welcome: Annie Costandi called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. No changes were made to the agenda.

2. Review and action on draft minutes of December 6, 2016 (Action):

After a brief recap by Dan Albrecht, *Trevor Lashua made a motion, seconded by James Sherrard to approve the December 6, 2016 minutes. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED.*

3. Update on anticipated elements of Municipal Roads General Permit

As he has been participating in VT-DEC’s MRGP “Core Team” meetings, Charlie Baker briefed the Committee of the draft elements in the “framework” document loaded on the Committee’s webpage (see link above). An updated version of this document should be issued by VT-DEC soon. They will be seeking feedback on that rough draft by April before issuing the formal draft document and starting a formal public comment period in July. The final permit would then be issued in December 2017. By July 2018, each municipality will have to file a permit application which would likely consist of a simple Notice of Intent form along with basic information about the municipality. Authorizations would then be issued by October 2018 along with guidelines and a schedule for conducting Road Erosion Inventories (of “hydrologically-connected municipal road segments”) and developing a project implementation schedule for submission back to DEC no later than October 2020.

Concerns raised by the Committee included:

- Reporting should just be on an Annual basis with April being the preferred month as that matches the MS-4 permit report deadline and is just after Town budgets for the ensuing fiscal year are voted on in March.
- requirements with regards to fixing erosion issues on Class 4 roads will need careful monitoring as the permit is developed given the unique status of these roads and that in some cases, moving trucks and equipment on a Class 4 road to fix a problem at a specific location on that road may cause more erosion problems.
- fixing erosion problems such as rock-lining ditches or outfalls in, or adjacent to, wetlands or wetland buffers may trigger the need for a State wetland permit which impair efforts to improve municipal roads. There needs to be improved coordination between the MRGP program and the Wetlands Division to address this concern.
- the annual operating fee of \$2,000 is too heavy burden for the smaller towns and is not proportional to different situations. MS4 towns pay fees based upon the amount of impervious cover.

1 Discussion concluded with the Committee asking staff to see if Jim Ryan from DEC can present to the CWAC
2 at the February 7th meeting.
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4 **4. Update on Water Quality Funding Options**

5 Charlie Baker briefed the Committee on this issue as he participated in the summer information sessions
6 sponsored by the Vermont Treasurer's office and the Treasurer has also solicited feedback from CCRPC and
7 Chittenden County municipalities while her office works to finalize the pending report to the Legislature.
8 Additionally, the CCRPC Board created an ad hoc committee to work on this issue which met in early
9 December. Participants included Megan Moir, James Sherrard and Brian Bigelow.

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11 He recapped the elements of the December 21st email to the Treasurer which was posted on the Committee's
12 webpage (see link above). These were unofficial comments to the Treasurer however they do provide a sense
13 of what elements should or should not be included in any funding package related to a parcel fee. A key point
14 is that the package should have some sort of statewide fee collection and implementation mechanism rather
15 than putting the burden of fee collection on the State's 230+ municipalities. Committee members noted that it
16 may be several months before any kind of final action is known given the change in the Governor and the start
17 of a new legislative biennium. The item concluded with a recommendation that the Committee review the
18 latest information on this issue at their February 7th meeting.
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20 **5. Process for development of CWAC official comments**

21 Committee members noted the challenge to developing comments under short timelines. Ideally, given a 90
22 day comment timeframe, there is time for a first CWAC meeting to introduce the issue, a second CWAC
23 meeting to formalize comments and lastly, formal review and adoption of the comments by the full CCRPC
24 Board (or by the CCRPC Executive Committee) at a subsequent meeting. General consensus points were that
25 a) that Staff or the Committee should request extensions to comment periods from agencies where applicable,
26 b) that in between regular CWAC meetings, ad hoc meetings or conference calls should be scheduled and all
27 members be invited, but not required to participate so that work on developing formal comments can continue
28 and last, c) that the Committee should work towards providing its recommendations for comments/letters to
29 the CCRP Board or Executive Committee for formal action.
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31 **6. Items for February meeting agenda**

- 32 • Briefing on first draft of Municipal Roads General Permit
- 33 • Briefing on Treasurer's report on options for raising revenue for Clean Water Fund.
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35 **7. Adjournment**

36 The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.
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Respectfully submitted, Dan Albrecht