CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE – FINAL MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, March 6, 2019
SCHEDULED TIME: 11 a.m. to Noon
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: Hinesburg: St. George:
Buellsgore: Huntington: Darlene Palola (arr. 11:05 a.m.) Underhill: Brian Bigelow
Burlington: Jenna Olson Jericho: Westford:
Charlotte: Milton: Dave Allerton Williston: James Sherrard
Colchester: Karen Adams, Andrew Douglas Richmond: Josh Arneson, Jessica Draper Winooski: Jon Rauscher, Tim Grover, Ryan Lambert
Essex: Annie Costandi Shelburne: Chris Robinson (arr. 11:10 a.m.) VAOT: Tyler Hanson
Essex Junction: South Burlington: Tom DiPietro VANC: Chrissy Witters
Burlington Airport: Larry Lackey, Doug Campbell (Stantec) University of VT: Claire Forbes CCRPC Board: Don Meals
Friends of the Winooski River: Lewis Creek Assoc: Winooski NRCD:

Other Attendees: None

CCRPC Staff: Dan Albrecht, Eleni Churchill, Charlie Baker

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Annie Costandi at 11:00 a.m.

2. Changes to the Agenda No changes were made. Dan distributed a “get well soon” card for signature to be delivered to Jim Pease.

3. Review and action on draft minutes of February 5, 2019

After a brief recap by Dan Albrecht, James Sherrard made a motion, seconded by Jenna Olson to approve the minutes as drafted. MOTION PASSED with abstention by Jessica Draper.

4. Water Quality Legislative Update: S.96

Charlie Baker briefed the committee. S.96 seeks to set up a mechanism for regional decision-making on selection, funding and implementation of projects to address phosphorus-reduction efforts outside of that required by permits/regulations. Estimates are that this represents 10-20 percent of overall needed reduction to meet the Lake Champlain TMDL that would come from voluntary, non-regulatory efforts. This bill does not address how to raise the needed funds which would be managed/distributed on a watershed basis with RPCs acting as administrators in consultation with a watershed council. Both he and James Sherrard testified to Senate Natural Resources Committee on the bill.

Concerns include: the lack of funds for Operation & Maintenance; no reference to existing stormwater utilities, the implied legal penalties on RPCs should pollution reduction goals fail to be met, doesn’t address funding for almost all projects within an MS-4 community as they fall under a regulatory requirement (MS4, FRP, PCP, MRGP, 3-acre, etc.), doesn’t address most agricultural projects either, how would RPCs make sure work is getting done and being operated and maintained properly if they don’t have regulatory authority.

On the positive side, there is recognition that funding needs to get on the ground and that the role of partners such as RPCs can be enhanced. Dan noted that the bill recognizes the role of RPCs as facilitators, administrators and grant managers.

James Sherrard noted that legislators want to hear from people with “on-the-ground” knowledge. If you call up the staff of the various committees and ask to testify there’s a good chance you can. Charlie indicated that the House Natural Resources Committee will be starting from scratch. Cross-over is March
22nd and more information will be known by then on how this bill will fare as well as separate efforts to
raise funds for water quality projects.

5. **Updates.**
   a. MRGP Planning Report and Grants-in-Aid
      Dan and Eleni noted that all municipalities can report that their Road Erosion Inventory as
      completed. Check in with Chris Dubin at CCRPC if you need to know the year of completion. No
      word yet on new grants in aid funds for next fiscal year.
   b. Jim Pease, medical update
      Dan reported that he spoke with Jim Pease yesterday and he sounded good. Jim called because he
      saw his name on the agenda! Jim said he is recovering well but he is at least a month away from
      returning to work. Dan plans to visit Jim this afternoon at Fanny Allen and deliver the card to him.

6. **Items for April 2nd meeting agenda.**
   • Jim Ryan will present on how MRGP standards may be addressed within the planned update to
     VTRAN’s “Town Road and Bridge Standards.”
   • Legislative update

7. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

    Respectfully submitted, Dan Albrecht