

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

DATE: **Tuesday, May 5, 2020**
 SCHEDULED TIME: 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
 PLACE: ONLINE
 DOCUMENTS: Minutes, documents, and presentations discussed accessible at:
<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/meetings/clean-water-advisory-committee/>

Committee Members in Attendance		
Bolton: Joss Besse	Hinesburg:	St. George:
Buels Gore:	Huntington: Darlene Palola	Underhill:
Burlington: James Sherrard	Jericho:	Westford:
Charlotte:	Milton: Dave Allerton	Williston: Christine Dougherty
Colchester:	Richmond: Ravi Venkataraman	Winooski: Ryan Lambert
Essex: Annie Costandi	Shelburne:	VAOT: Jennifer Callahan
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
Friends of the Winooski River:	Lewis Creek Assoc: Andrea Morgante	Winooski NRCD:
Other Attendees: BLUE®: Andrew Bissell; DEC: Karen Bates		
CCRPC Staff: Dan Albrecht, Chris Dubin, Charlie Baker, Eleni Churchill, Sai Sarapelli		

1. **Call to Order.** With the consent of the co-chairs, it was agreed to have Dan Albrecht run the meeting since it was all online. The meeting was called to order by Dan Albrecht at 11:02 a.m. Introductions were made.
2. **Changes to the Agenda and public comments on items not on the agenda** No changes.
3. **Review and action on draft minutes of April 7, 2020** After a brief recap by Dan Albrecht, *Chris Robinson made a motion, seconded by Annie Costandi to approve the minutes as drafted. MOTION PASSED with abstention by Polly Harris.*
4. **Clean Water Service Providers: Potential applications for designation**
 - a. **Review final Draft CCRPC application for CWSP for Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages Tactical Basin Planning Area.**
 Dan Albrecht summarized each section of the ten-page proposed Scope of Work that forms the major part of the CWSP proposal. This version incorporates comments from the CWAC, from the April Board meeting and from potential Basin 5 partners at an April 23rd work session and received via email. Key changes made to the previous draft were as follows:
 - The proposed role for Northwest RPC has been streamlined to focus on CWSP startup activities such as development of the project database, formation of the Basin Water Quality Council and helping CCRPC develop relationships with organizations and municipalities in Franklin and Grand Isle counties. The CCRPC would manage/oversee all projects throughout the Basin and only bring in NRPC to help with project management if needed.
 - Strengthening language regarding interoperability between proposed CWSP project database and DEC Watershed Projects Database
 - Adding detail regarding development and use of a project co-benefit scoring mechanism
 - Strengthening language that CCRPC will meet any DEC-required standards in terms of how projects are completed.

In response to a question from James Sherrard regarding liability protections as well as potential impacts to municipalities not being able to access grant funds should a CWSP not meet targets, Charlie Baker indicated additional language regarding liability will be added to page 10. Charlie noted that the CWAC will play a role in recommending the municipal representative to sit on the Basin Water Quality Council and the CCRPC will

1 keep the CWAC up to date on CWSP operations. It is still many months before CWSP process gets started
2 however so there may be other roles for the CWAC as well.

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4 **b. Update on Central VT RPC application for CWSP for Winooski Basin and NRPC application for**
5 **CWSP for Lamoille Basin**

6 Dan Albrecht first noted that both CVRPC and NRPC applications use much of the same language and
7 approach. Charlie participated in the partner discussion meeting for the Winooski Basin while Dan participated
8 in the meeting for the Lamoille Basin.

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10 **5. Draft 2020 Basin 5 Tactical Basin Plan**

11 **a. Review second version of “working draft” of CCRPC “conformance letter”**

12 Dan Albrecht walked through the letter. The formal letter will be submitted in July once the formal
13 “public review draft” of the TBP is released. This draft is essentially identical to the first version
14 reviewed by the CWAC with the exception of a few paragraphs added regarding the issue of the poor
15 benefit/ratio for P-reduction efforts through wastewater upgrades. This additional text emphasizes
16 that increasing the cost of municipal wastewater treatment can push development to “greenfields”
17 which makes it a challenge to meet two key County’s 2018 ECOS Plan strategies, namely:
18 *Strategy 2 [Strive for 80% of new development in areas planned for growth]*
19 *Strategy 7 [Develop financing and governance systems to make the most efficient use of taxpayer dollars and*
20 *reduce costs]*

21
22 Jim Pease noted that the 50% match requirements for MS4s for Clean Water Initiative funded projects also
23 raises municipal costs. Dan agreed noting that MS4 municipalities have often raised this point and consider it
24 to be unfair and unproductive as much of the P-load-reduction project are located in MS4s. Conversely, he
25 added, to play devil’s advocate, MS4 municipalities have a permit requirement. On the other hand, most all
26 munis have to abide by the Municipal Roads General Permit but they only pay 20% match for some grant
27 funds and zero % match for other grant funds. Dan asked if the committee members had any objections to him
28 adding a few sentences to add a point about the inequity of the MS4 50% match requirement to the letter. No
29 objections were raised.

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31 **b. Review comments on current “partner draft TBP”**

32 Dan Albrecht noted that he had submitted some staff comments on the partner draft TBP circulated by DEC in
33 late February to RPCs. He encouraged members to review the draft posted to the RPC website and send
34 comments directly to Karen Bates of DEC.

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36 **5. Updates**

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38 Chris Dubin briefed the Committee regarding the current round of Grants-in-Aid projects. The State is
39 indicating it will extend the completion deadline past June 30th.

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41 As a follow up to the CWSP item, Dan indicated that the Executive Committee is looking at the draft
42 proposal tomorrow night. Dan will then contact organizations and municipalities to solicit Letters of
43 Support. These can be of various types such as “yes, we support and are interested in serving on Basin
44 Water Quality Council or “yes, we support and are interested in being a partner to help bring projects to
45 completion, etc.” The proposal will then be submitted by May 29th to DEC.

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47 **6. Items for Tuesday, June 2nd meeting agenda.**

48 a) To be determined

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1 7. **Adjournment**. The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted, Dan Albrecht