

Northern Lake Champlain Basin Water Quality Council Inaugural Meeting, March 17, 2022 12 Noon (Online) Minutes

See meeting recording & meeting materials at:

<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/northern-lake-champlain-basin-water-quality-council/>

1) **Introductions, Changes to the Agenda and Public comment on items not on the agenda**

The meeting commenced at 12:08 p.m. Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner, introduced himself as the Manager for the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for the Northern Lake Champlain Basin, aka Basin 5. CCRPC was assigned as the CWSP for this Basin by DEC. Dan will handle day-to-day affairs while Charlie Baker, CCRPC Executive Director, will have overall responsibility as the CWSP Director. Attendees introduced themselves and were as follows:

Clean Water Service Provider	Charlie Baker, Dan Albrecht, Regina Mahony
Watershed Protection Organizations	Kent Henderson & Don McFeeters, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain; Kate Kelly & Andrea Morgante, Lewis Creek Association; Roger Crouse, Lake Iroquois Association; Jared Carpenter, Lake Champlain Committee
Municipalities	Dave Wheeler, City of South Burlington; Ken Mirvis, Town of Grand Isle; Thomas Briselden, Town of North Hero; Emmalee Cherington, Town of St. Albans; Christine Dougherty, Town of Williston
Natural Resource Conservation Districts	Molly Varner, Grand Isle County NRCD; Remy Crettol, Winooski River NRCD; Lauren Weston, Franklin County, NRCD; Jill Arace, Vermont Association of Conservation Districts
Regional Planning Commission	Dean Pierce, Catherine Dimitruk & Dea Devlin, Northwest RPC; Karen Adams & Miles Waite, Chittenden County RPC
Land Conservation Organizations	Emily Alger, South Hero Land Trust
VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation	Karen Bates, Northern Lake Champlain Basin (Basin 5) Planner

2) **Overview: Act 76, Clean Water Service Provider model and Basin Water Quality Councils**

Albrecht provided an overview (see PowerPoint presentation) of the regulatory history that led to the creation of CWSPs, the roles of the CWSP and the role of the BWQCs. Key points were as follows:

- Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs) must convene a BWQC in each basin.
- The Basin 5 BWQC will establish policy and guide decisions on project prioritization and selection of clean water projects for funding.
- The CWSP will oversee identification, implementation, and operation of those projects to achieve pollution reduction targets for non-regulatory projects for the Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainage Basin.
- Act 76, aka the Clean Water Service Delivery Act of 2019 (S.96) established: Long term clean water funding source and updated priorities; four new grant programs; clean water service providers, assurances to meet non-regulatory water quality targets; assurances of project operation and maintenance, and interim targets and enhance accounting
- The focus of the CWSP and the BWQC will be on projects to meet non-regulatory, phosphorus (P) load reduction targets
- Typical projects will be floodplain reconnection, wetlands restoration, forestland best management practices and forested riparian buffer restoration
- The ballpark target in terms of year 1 phosphorus reduction target for Basin 5 is 41 kilograms per year
- The rough amount of funds available for CWSP and BWQC to administer/fund for projects is \$500k

- P-reduction projects in stream sector, farm fields and forest are typically much more efficient in terms of dollars-per-kilo of P removed than typical stormwater best management practices for developed land.
- The CWSP will facilitate and staff BWQC and then based upon BWQC recommendations, provide subgrants and subcontracts to develop, design and implement projects. CWSP will also provide subgrants and subcontracts to operate and maintain projects.
- CWSP will be working in coming months to further develop website, contract tracking, project tracking and issuing an RFQ to pre-qualify engineers, watershed orgs, NRCDs, municipalities and any others for CWSP funded work so as to ease administrative processes.

3) Discussion of required Basin Water Quality Council policies: open meetings law, public participation policies, Robert’s Rules, conflict of interest, etc.

Albrecht continued. Key points were as follows:

- After formation of the BWQC members and alternates today, the next steps for the BWQC will be to adopt meeting policies; affirm compliance with VT Open Meetings Law, public participation policies, conflict-of-interest rules, etc.
- Later this spring the BWQC will solicit project proposals and make recommendations to the CWSP on which projects should be funded.
- The BWQC will conduct themselves in a professional manner, be willing to comprise, etc.
- Failure to attend at least half of scheduled meetings per year are grounds for removal
- In response to a question from Karen Adams about what types of non-regulatory projects are anticipated for this summer Henderson, Kelly, Varner, Crettol, Weston & Crouse indicated they have some projects ready to implement this summer, but they anticipate that a lot of project need further outreach with landowners and/or engineering design work.

4) Formation of Council

Albrecht reported that the following persons have been nominated/appointed to be empaneled as the nine members of the Northern Lake Champlain Basin Water Quality Council. *The nine members were then formally recognized/seated as follows:*

	Watershed Organizations, Two (2) seats	Affiliation
MEMBER	Kent Henderson	Friends of Northern Lake Champlain
MEMBER	Andrea Morgante	Lewis Creek Association
	Municipalities, Two (2) seats	
MEMBER	Dave Wheeler	South Burlington
MEMBER	Ken Mirvis	Grand Isle
	NRCDs, Two (2) seats	
MEMBER	Molly Varner	Grand Isle County NRCD
MEMBER	Remy Crettol	Winooski NRCD
	RPCs, Two (2) seats	
MEMBER	Dean Pierce	Northwest RPC
MEMBER	Karen Adams	Chittenden County RPC
	Land Conservation Orgs., One (1) seat	
MEMBER	Emily Alger	South Hero Land Trust

On a motion by Dean Pierce, with a second by Dave Wheeler, the Council voted unanimously to approve the Alternates as follows:

	Watershed Organizations	
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Don McFeeters (for Henderson)</i>	<i>Friends of Northern Lake Champlain</i>
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Roger Crouse (for Morgante)</i>	<i>Lake Iroquois Association</i>
	Municipalities	
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Thomas Briselden</i>	<i>North Hero</i>
	NRCDS	
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Lauren Weston</i>	<i>Franklin County NRCD</i>
	RPCs	
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Catherine Dimitruk</i>	<i>Northwest RPC</i>
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>Miles Waite</i>	<i>Chittenden County RPC</i>
	Land Conservation Organizations	
<i>Alternate</i>	<i>t.b.d.</i>	

5) Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair to one-year terms

After a brief discussion, on a motion by Dave Wheeler seconded by Dean Pierce Ken Mirvis was voted in unanimously as Chair for a one-year term and on a motion by Dave Wheeler seconded by Dean Pierce Molly Varner was voted in unanimously as Vice-Chair.

6) Establish regular meeting schedule

Mirvis chaired the remainder of the meeting. Albrecht reported that on the basis of the electronic survey responses all members and alternates should be able to attend meeting held on the 1st, 3rd or 4th Mondays of the month from 10 a.m. – 11:30 am. He recommended the 3rd Wednesday so he would not have as much of a crunch on his time as he also needs to staff CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee and MS4 Subcommittee which are held on the first Tuesdays of the month.

The Chair asked for and received unanimous consent for the regularly scheduled meeting of the Council to be the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

7) Updates as needed from CWSP staff, DEC, BWQC Members and Guests

Karen Bates noted that she will be presenting on March 31st as part of the Vermont DEC Clean Water Lecture Series describing the components of a successful state funded clean water project from start to finish.

8) Items for Next meeting agenda

Albrecht reported agenda items will likely include consideration of the proposed RFQ and needed BWQC meeting policies

9) Adjournment

On a motion by Emily Alger seconded by Dave Wheeler a motion was passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:04 pm.