

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

DATE: **Tuesday, June 7, 2022**
 SCHEDULED TIME: 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
 PLACE: In-person at CCRPC office and ONLINE VIA ZOOM
 DOCUMENTS: Minutes, documents, and presentations discussed accessible at:
<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/meetings/clean-water-advisory-committee/>

Committee Members in Attendance (all online unless otherwise noted)		
Bolton:	Hinesburg:	St. George:
Buels Gore:	Huntington: Darlene Palola	Underhill:
Burlington:	Jericho: Tom Joslin	Westford:
Charlotte:	Milton: Dave Allerton, Kirsten Jensen	Williston: Christine Dougherty
Colchester:	Richmond: Ravi Venkataraman	Winooski: Ryan Lambert
Essex: Annie Costandi, co-chair	Shelburne: Chris Robinson	VAOT: Jennifer Callahan
Essex Junction: Chelsea Mandigo	South Burlington: Dave Wheeler, Christine Gingras	VANR:
Burlington Airport: Catie Calabrese (EIV)	University of VT: Lani Ravin	CCRPC Board:
Friends of the Winooski River: Michele Braun (arr. 11:17 p.m.)	Lewis Creek Assoc:	Winooski NRCD: Remy Crettol
Other Attendees: DEC: Karen Bates, Jim Pease Other: Dean Pierce (Northwest RPC)		
CCRPC Staff: Dan Albrecht, Sai Sarepalli, Charlie Baker		

1. **Call to Order.** Co-chair, Annie Costandi called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.
2. **Changes to the Agenda and public comments on items not on the agenda** None.
3. **Review and action on draft minutes of May 30, 2022** After a brief recap by Albrecht, *Palola made a motion, seconded by Wheeler to approve the minutes as drafted with a minor correction on line 21 to read “basin” instead of “basing.” MOTION PASSED.*
4. **Vermont Wetlands Program**
 - a. overview of DEC’s proposal to update the Vermont Significant Wetlands Inventory (VSWI), generally determine wetland types as Class II, and revise the Vermont Wetland Rules to clarify map update and determination
 - b. how DEC reviews municipal stormwater treatment & road runoff treatment projects when they intersect with wetlands
 - c. **Wetland Restoration Project online tool**

Laura Lapierre, DEC Wetlands Program Manager, presented on the topics noted above. [Note: See her presentation posted at Committee webpage]. Key points and points of discussion were as follows:

 - DEC is requesting comments on the proposal to update the Vermont Significant Wetlands Inventory (VSWI), generally determine wetland types as Class II, and revise the Vermont Wetland Rules to clarify map update and determination procedures. See webpage here:
<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/rulemaking>
 - Comments will be accepted until July 1st and are best transmitted to DEC via this form:
<https://forms.office.com/g/r36x9vAHv7>
 - Work is moving towards completion in Chittenden County. Some of the towns in the State with the most additions of wetland include Charlotte, Essex, Richmond, Shelburne and Williston.
 - You can view progress on these proposed updates to the inventory by visiting the project webpage here:
<https://vtanr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/inspect/nearby/index.html?appid=f862dbe013c54fc9be6fa7d26b8e1f2d>

- 1 • The formal rule will be filed in August and public meetings will take place during August-September
2 after which it will go to LCAR and then in February the Rule and the Map will be formally adopted.
- 3 • Regarding how DEC Wetlands address road runoff and municipal and development projects that
4 might impact wetlands she stressed the importance of contacting DEC early in the process both to get
5 an accurate field delineation and to brainstorm how best to assure project success by minimizing
6 impacts to wetlands.
- 7 • Wheeler raised concerns about situation where to stormwater treatment practice discharges into a
8 wetland but that wetland is not providing any of the defining wetland values such as retention but
9 DEC makes it a challenge to repair an outfall in that wetland where significant erosion is occurring.
10 He also noted that some stormwater ponds and gravel wetlands are providing wetland style benefits
11 such as habitat for ducks, muskrats, etc. Lapierre responded that with that type of situation they would
12 like to have the applicant construct a smaller stormwater pond but pair it with elements to restore some
13 of the abutting wetland.
- 14 • Pierce asked, in the case of a Clean Water Service Provider project that treats an existing, non-
15 permitted municipal runoff, what would be different for improving an outfall that impacts a wetland?
16 Lapierre indicated that the overarching question with any wetland review is “can the applicant avoid
17 or minimize impacts?” They would also ask the applicant to work within the existing footprint.
- 18 • Regarding the Wetlands Restoration Potential mapping tool, this is located within the ANR Atlas
19 mapping tool: First go to: <http://tiny.cc/wetlands> , this brings up the wetland theme (Wetland
20 Inventory Map), then scroll down to Watershed Protection and make sure the layer called “Wetland
21 Restoration Potential (Lake Champlain 2017) is selected. You can then click on each polygon to see
22 how it scores in terms of potential and value. Note that this 2007 layer (which was updated in 2017)
23 was given to NRCS & USFWS so be sure to check with them first that they don’t already have a
24 project underway there
- 25 • Wheeler noted that with regards to the 3-9026 permit (aka Wetlands General Permit) it would be better
26 if the triggering thresholds were higher and allowed some more impact. The City is looking at
27 locations where some sort of project needs to happen but some of the wetlands that are located near a
28 stormwater treatment practice are not really providing the values. Regarding Operations &
29 Maintenance, for operations like the City of South Burlington which do regularly maintain ponds, etc.
30 it would be great if DEC would acknowledge that. Lapierre noted it would be great for her to see
31 examples of projects for natural areas that need a better outfall. Wheeler indicated he would follow up
32 with her.
- 33 • Lapierre provided the following links in the chat:
34 Wetland Screening Tool: <https://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/wetlandScreening/>
35 Wetland Inventory Maps: <http://tiny.cc/wetlands>
36 Landowners Guide To Wetlands: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/what/guide>
37 Hire a Wetland Consultant: [https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/what/id/wetland-consultant-](https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/what/id/wetland-consultant-list)
38 [list](https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/what/id/wetland-consultant-list)
39 Program Inquiry Form: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/contact>
40 You Tube Channel:
41 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDzL6NRIGgs&list=PLLXVJCF6Lbmkg4ZPOiAg2Yybklskik>
42 [MQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDzL6NRIGgs&list=PLLXVJCF6Lbmkg4ZPOiAg2Yybklskik)
43

44 **5. Update on Clean Water Service Providers for Northern Lake Champlain, Lamoille & Winooski**
45 **Basin and Act 76 Implementation** Dan Albrecht and Dean Pierce provided brief updates on the start-up
46 operations for the CWSPs they administer, Basin 5 and Basin 7, respectively. Pierce noted that the Basin 7
47 Council at its most recent meeting in late May had approved an Interim Public Participation Policy,
48 discussed guidance for subgrants from the Basin 7 CWSP to project manager organizations and began to
49 discussion of how to weigh the co-benefits of projects and project prioritization processes.
50 Pierce provided the following link in the chat: Tentative date of next Lamoille BWQC meeting is June 23 at
51 11 am. The Lamoille BWQC web page is <https://www.nrpcvt.com/cwsp-water-quality-councils> Agendas
52 and minutes at <https://www.nrpcvt.com/cwsp-agendas-minutes>
53 Albrecht noted the Basin 5 Council discussed operating policies, conflict of interest policy and a public
54 participation policy. As Basin 5 CWSP, the CCRPC also issued an RFQ for Subcontractor Services to

1 identify water quality project engineering firms for either the CCRPC or its subgrantees to use. He hopes to
2 issue an RFQ soon as well for Subgrantee Project Manager/Implementor to identify NRCDS, watershed
3 groups, land trusts, municipalities and other organizations that the CCRPC could then provide grants to for
4 non-regulatory phosphorus reduction projects. He provided the following in the chat:

5 <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/northern-lake-champlain-cwsp/>

6 He noted that the Basin 8 Council has been meeting as well and having exploratory discussions similar to
7 those of Basins 7 and 5. He provided the following in the chat: [https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-
9 agendas-staff-reports/winooski-basin-water-quality-council/](https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-
8 agendas-staff-reports/winooski-basin-water-quality-council/)

- 10 **6. Updates by Staff** Albrecht noted that CCRPC recently updated its procurement policies to meet
11 requirements for CWSP work. He also noted to the members that their town clerk or town manager may be
12 in touch with them regarding reappointment to this Committee. He welcomed the new member from
13 Jericho, Tom Joslin. Costandi noted that VAOT had sent out an email to towns noting that applications for
14 Grants-in-Aid are due back to them on June 24th. Albrecht noted that if any towns needed help completing
15 the application, they can contact Chris Dubin at the CCRPC.

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17 **7. Updates by Members and Guests** Michele Braun, Executive Director of Friends of the Winooski River
18 gave a brief but comprehensive overview of WNCRD's mission and recent operations. [Note: See her
19 presentation posted at the Committee webpage]. She noted the following projects that include a specific
20 Chittenden County element were: StormSmart home stormwater assessments, an artist in residence in
21 program that worked in schools in Burlington, South Burlington, and Richmond, working with Stone
22 Environmental to complete a design at the Richmond School to meet their 3-acre permit and the River of
23 Light paddle will happen on August 12th and goes from Heineberg bridge in Colchester to the mouth of the
24 Winooski River. She also noted several projects that have a regional focus that will also benefit
25 Chittenden County.

26 Karen Bates noted as part of the Winooski TBP process and that she would be happy to facilitate a
27 conversation to improve collaboration between the MS4 Rethink Runoff program and FWR's efforts
28 (using its LCBP grant) to develop shared messaging and assessment protocols among groups who do
29 residential stormwater outreach and assessment. Albrecht suggested having this an agenda at an MS4
30 Subcommittee meeting.

31 Tom Joslin introduced himself as new Jericho member. He used to work at Vermont DEC Water
32 Infrastructure Division but is now retired and running his own water and climate research lab. He is
33 currently doing research on Bio-char for wastewater treatment and stormwater treatment. Early results are
34 promising especially for nitrogen reduction.

35 Albrecht noted that MARC has published an RFP for Design Implementation Block Grants which are due
36 on July 7th. [Note: See link at]. Feel free to reach out to him if you would like the CCRPC to administer
37 a grant on your behalf and manage the consultant we can do that. RFPs issued by the CWSPs for non-
38 regulatory water quality projects will likely be issued later this summer.

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40 **8. Items for July 5th Agenda** More on CWSP operations for Basins 5, 7 and 8; potential presentation by
41 WNRCD on their operations.

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43 **9. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

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45 *Respectfully submitted, Dan Albrecht*