

Northern Lake Champlain Basin Water Quality Council Regular Meeting, April 20, 2022 10 a.m. (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 was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Vice-Chair Molly Varner. A quorum of 8 seats were present.

(# seats)	Members Present	Alternates Present
Watershed Protection Organizations (2)	<i>Kent Henderson, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain</i>	<i>Don McFeeters, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain</i>
	<i>Andrea Morgante, Lewis Creek Association</i>	<i>Roger Crouse, Lake Iroquois Association</i>
NRCDs (2)	<i>Molly Varner, Grand Isle County NRCD</i>	<i>Lauren Weston, Franklin County NRCD</i>
	<i>Remy Crettol, Winooski NRCD</i>	
Municipalities (2)		<i>Tom Briselden, North Hero</i>
RPCs (2)	<i>Dean Pierce, Northwest RPC</i>	
	<i>Karen Adams, Chittenden County RPC</i>	
Land Conservation Organizations (1)	<i>Emily Alger, South Hero Land Trust</i>	
Clean Water Service Provider Staff		Secondary CWSP Staff
<i>Charlie Baker, Director</i>		<i>Chris Dubin</i>
<i>Dan Albrecht, Manager</i>		<i>Sai Sarepalli</i>
Guests		
	<i>Staci Pomeroy, DEC Rivers Program</i>	<i>Kate Kelly, Lewis Creek Association</i>
	<i>Dea Devlin, Northwest RPC</i>	

No changes to the agenda were made and nor was public comment provided.

2) Review and approval of Minutes for Meeting of March 17, 2022

After a brief recap by Albrecht, a motion was made by Pierce with a second by Morgante to approve the minutes. Minor correction made on item 6), line 3 to read "...recommended the 3rd Wednesday..." The motion to approve the minutes as corrected was approved unanimously.

3) First review of Draft Council Policies and Procedures

Albrecht walked the Council through this first draft. As the DEC is still finalizing the Act 76 Guidance, some parts may still need further edits and the Council will note vote on these until that Guidance is complete. Comments made by Council members were as follows: the member terms may need to be staggered as this is an option under discussion during Guidance development and the references to discretion sections of the Act 76 rule should be put in a footnote or in weblinks for the convenience of members. Additional edits were suggested in the Chat by members.

Members inquired how the process for obtaining funds for projects would work. Albrecht indicated that as CWSP they will likely issue a call for proposals in the next few months. However, before any projects could be vetted by the Council and authorized for a subgrant, DEC guidance on DEC review (phosphorus scoring) needs to be finalized and the Council needs to adopt a co-benefit scoring process/matrix. Pierce indicated that he and two other RPCs acting as CWSPs would be developing a project flowchart for confirmation by DEC.

4) Brief updates and presentations by NRCs, watershed groups and land conservation organizations on past projects and potential projects for summer/fall 2022

Presentations by members and alternates were as follows:

- Crouse (LIA): See PDF on Committee webpage. Regarding the Beebe Lane drainage improvement project, he indicated that they are seeking a Congressional earmark through Senator Sanders.
- Morgante (LCA): See story map at <https://arcg.is/0b8KuH>. She added that they really try to focus on projects that treat runoff from larger catchment areas. i.e. the practice is located on one lot/parcel but treats runoff from several lots.
- Henderson (FNLC): see youtube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sEMX4vH12Q>. Regarding 2022, they hope to finalize 100% Designs for several projects in Georgia, Swanton & Highgate Springs.
- Crettol (WNRCD): See PDF on Committee webpage.
- Weston (FCNRCD): See PDF on Committee webpage. They have worked mostly with the Agricultural sector but plan to do more water quality project management across the Basin.
- Alger (SHLT): see their webpage at <https://www.shlt.org/conserved-land> They do not do a lot of on-the-ground water quality projects but they will be doing a tree planting thanks to their Americorps member and they will be partnering with Grand Isle NRC on an watershed action plan.
- Varner (GINRCD): They will be working with the SHLT and DEC on a lake action and watershed plan focused on Keeler Bay to identify 20-30 projects to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading. It is an important body of water and phosphorus levels have been increasing. They plan to advance several of the identified projects to 30% design by early summer of 2023 when the project concludes.

5) CWSP projects database: council member access, what attributes, use of sharepoint/teams , etc.

Albrecht introduced Chris Dubin, Senior Transportation Planner at CCRPC. He will be building a project dashboard so that the public can know the status of projects and the BWQC members have a means to update the information on projects. Dubin walked through a rough draft of what the potential projects for Basin 5 look like based upon a download from a query of the State Watershed Projects Database prepared by DEC.

(Note: The query is located here, look in upper left corner and select Basin 5:

<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/cleanWaterDashboard/ReportViewer.aspx?Report=CWSPProjects&ViewParms=True>

The sample proof-of-concept dashboard described by Dubin is located here:

<https://ccrpc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/8d2efecc8251406da4a648ab43a9e823>)

Dubin noted that this concept does not include all 367 locations as not all sites had Lat/Long data. He brought it into ArcGIS online. The intent of this simple ArcGIS dashboard program is to show current status (snapshot) of spatial data. He created dummy data for status (all of these are just proposed project sites) to show what it might look like. He did add a new data field called URL which can be populated with any URL if people wanted easy access to a webpage with project files. Data on each site gets updated on-the-fly once you change a data entry in a data field. We could provide easy access to a handful of persons for editing of data. Adding new points and new fields is really easy as is extracting data from the site and sending Excel files for a single site or all sites.

Members suggested adding fields such as project sponsor, cost, cost per lb. of P removed, Type/Sector of Project (Ag, Forest, etc.). Albrecht concluded the main goal is compatibility with State's Watershed Projects Database so that information on projects can be readily updated. In addition to having BWQC members update info in the data fields he hopes also to establish a Sharepoint / Teams folder so that project sponsors and BWQC members can easily upload photos, reports, plans, etc. The URL field could point straight to the Sharepoint/Teams folder

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

Albrecht noted that he will be working on the RFQ for Subcontractors (e.g. Engineers) and the RFQ for Subgrantees (project implementors/managers), more work on the BWQC policies and more work on tweaks to CCRPC's procurement policy to capture needed CWSP/Act 76 requirements.

7) Items for Next meeting agenda

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The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 18th at 10 a.m. Agenda items will be: BWQC policies and procedures, initial discussion of co-benefits scoring system, process for bringing a project for review by the BWQC. Albrecht noted that if you cannot attend a meeting, please let him as well as the Chair and Vice-Chair know. In response to a query, Albrecht indicated he has been keeping BWQC members aware of the phosphorous loading calculations for the Basin. Meetings will be monthly thru June and then meeting monthly or bi-monthly into the summer and fall.

8) Adjournment

On a motion by Varner seconded by Adams a motion was passed unanimously to adjourn at 11:38 a.m.