

Northern Lake Champlain Basin Water Quality Council Regular Meeting, October 19, 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 10:02 a.m. by Vice-Chair Molly Varner. A quorum of 9 seats out of 9 were represented as noted in Bold.

(# seats)	Members Present	Alternates Present
Watershed Protection Organizations (2)	Kent Henderson, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain	<i>Don McFeeters, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain</i>
		<<Roger Crouse, Lake Iroquois Association
NRCDs (2)	Remy Crettol, Winooski NRCD	
	Molly Varner, Grand Isle NRCD, VICE-CHAIR	<i>Lauren Weston, Franklin County NRCD</i>
Municipalities (2)		<<Tom Briselden, Town of North Hero
	Dave Wheeler, South Burlington	
RPCs (2)	Dean Pierce, Northwest RPC	
	Karen Adams, Chittenden County RPC	
Land Conservation Organizations (1)	Emily Alger, South Hero Land Trust	
Primary Clean Water Service Provider Staff		Secondary CWSP Staff
	<i>Dan Albrecht, Manager</i>	<i>Chris Dubin</i>
Guests		
	<i>Karen Bates, DEC, Basin 5 Watershed Planner</i>	<i>Kate Kelly, Lewis Creek Association</i>
	<i>Erin De Vries, Vermont River Conservancy</i>	

On a motion by Henderson, with a second by Wheeler, the draft agenda was approved unanimously. No public comments were made on items not on the agenda.

2) Review and approval of Minutes for Meeting of September 21, 2022

On a motion by Varner, with a second by Henderson, the draft minutes of September 21, 2022, were approved unanimously.

3) Discussion with Karen Bates, DEC, Basin 5 Watershed Planner

Albrecht noted that Act 76 states “the purpose of a BWQC is to establish policy and make decisions for the CWSP regarding the most significant water quality impairments that exist in the basin and prioritizing the clean water projects that will address those impairments based on the basin plan.” He introduced Bates noting that she has an excellent overall knowledge of the issues/concerns in the Basin.

Bates then discussed each of the various sub-regions in the Basin and led a discussion with members and guest focused on the following questions:

- a) What areas are suffering the most significant water quality impairments within the basin?
- b) What are some clean water projects that have highly efficient phosphorus removal rates and/or have high overall total phosphorus removal potential.

The results of that discussion are as follows (see attached “Working Document”).

4) Adoption of Council Policies

- a) Conflict of Interest Policy: After a brief recap of changes since the previous draft was discussed, *a motion was made by Wheeler to adopt the policy as proposed, seconded by Varner and the motion was approved unanimously.*
- b) Public Participation Policy: After a brief recap of changes since the previous draft was discussed, *a motion was made by Crettol to adopt the policy as proposed, seconded by Varner and the motion was approved unanimously.*
- c) Operating Policies & Procedures: After a brief recap of changes since the previous draft was discussed, *a motion was made by Alger to adopt the policies and procedures as proposed, seconded by Henderson and the motion was approved unanimously.*

5) Additional updates as needed from CWSP staff, DEC, BWQC Members and Guests

Albrecht noted that we are still reviewing Chapter 6 Guidance. He is still in communication with the DEC about some sort of interim DEC review process so he can get some grants out the door for design. He also reached out to River Management staff at DEC regarding how they plan to allocate the \$100k they have for performance of “Stream Geomorphic Assessment – Lite” by their two retained contractors. In response to a query from Henderson, he is planning to adapt a DI Block Grant application process into a CWSP Formula Grant application and then have applicants complete them so he can push the envelope and get DEC to say yes or no.

Henderson noted that the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Northern Lake Champlain will be held at the Village of Swanton complex on November 17th from 6-8 p.m.

Albrecht noted he has received one additional response from a Grand Isle County entity to be prequalified as a Subgrantee and he asked Roger Crouse to reach out to organizations in Lake Iroquois and encourage them to submit a response to the RFQ.

6) Items for draft agenda for meeting of November 16th

- a) Pre-Proposal process to be assure a project is viable and to facilitate proper procurement process prior to development of formal proposal
- b) Co-benefits

7) Adjournment

On a motion by Wheeler, seconded by Crettol, a motion to adjourn at 11:29 a.m. was passed unanimously.

Note: These minutes included the attachment entitled “WORKING DOCUMENT TO HIGHLIGHT ON-GOING PROJECTS AND IDENTIFY NEEDED NEW PROJECT FOR BASIN 5”