

CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MS4 SUBCOMMITTEE
 OF CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE – APPROVED MINUTES

DATE: **Tuesday, April 4, 2023**
 SCHEDULED TIME: 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 PLACE: In-person @ CCRPC office and online via Zoom
 DOCUMENTS: Minutes, documents discussed, and presentations accessible at:
<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/meetings/clean-water-advisory-committee/>

Committee Members in Attendance (all attending online unless otherwise noted)		
Burlington: James Sherrard	Burlington Airport: Catie Calabrese	Williston:
Colchester: Karen Adams	Milton: Lisa Schaeffler, Mariia Hatseliuk	Winooski: Ryan Lambert
Essex: Annie Costandi, co-chair	Shelburne: Chris Robinson,	VAOT: Jennifer Callahan
Essex Jct.: Chelsea Mandigo, co-chair	South Burlington: Dave Wheeler, Marisa Rorabaugh	Univ. of VT: Lani Ravin
DEC: Sam Hughes		
Other Attendees: Winooski NRC: Adelaide Dumm; Dave Barron, Pluck; Amy Macrellis, Stone Environmental; Brett McCreary, Colchester		
CCRPC Staff: Dan Albrecht, Darren Schibler		

1. Changes to the Agenda and Public Comments on Items not on agenda:

The meeting was called to order at 12:18 p.m. by Mandigo. No changes to the agenda were made. No public comments were made.

2. Review and approval of minutes (February 7, 2023)

Albrecht recapped the draft minutes. Barron noted that he was present but not noted as in attendance.

Costandi made a motion, seconded by Adams, to approve the minutes of February 7, 2023, with minor corrections to be made by Albrecht. Robinson, Rorabaugh, and Ravin abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 2023 Stormwater Awareness Resident Survey

Albrecht reviewed the survey results with the committee, which included 500 responses in a short amount of time. Key findings were reviewed regarding perceptions about pollution and how to reduce impacts.

Albrecht noted that in terms of outreach about the survey results, in the past CCRPC has done a press release and an interview at WVMT. He asked the committee to consider how much of his time should be dedicated to this rather than to committee members. Albrecht also suggested that Dumm could publicize the results through WNRCD’s e-mail list or newsletter. Barron asked whether all the information can be shared publicly or needs to be modified. He and Albrecht will try to pull out a “top five” bullet points into a separate one-pager. Barron sked how we can pull meaningful conclusions from the results; for example, people think the lake is more polluted, but can we actually say whether it is? Ravin suggested sharing the perception results with “answers” to the questions. In response to Dumm’s question, Albrecht said that this information could be pulled from the Lake Champlain Basin Program’s *State of the Lake* report. Robinson noted that the results will tell how informed the participants of the survey were. Albrecht will work with CCRPC’s communications manager to distribute this to our outlets as well.

Sherrard noted that it would be important to include information about volunteering with this effort. David noted that he will be working with Dumm on that sort of outreach earlier than the press release. Dumm noted that WNRCD is already in good shape when it comes to water quality volunteers. Schibler suggested sharing the information with other municipal bodies (conservation commissions, selectboards, planning commissions).

1 Albrecht reviewed a suggestion from Dougherty to create a short quiz or interactive tools to improve
2 perceptions and understandings about stormwater. David thought this could be a follow-up to the press
3 release, potentially as a contest.
4

5 In response to Costandi's question, Barron indicated he will be using the survey results to inform the
6 preparation of New Creative for the summer ads. He noted that the survey committee discussed the
7 importance of tying perceptions about the state of the lake to individual actions that can improve
8 stormwater runoff. Dumm also noted that they hope to discern where people are getting their news /
9 information about stormwater, which may include more traditional broadcast TV, radio, newspapers, etc.
10 and could be good avenues for the MS4 Committee's outreach.
11

12 4. **FY23 Expenses to Date and Proposed Amendment to CCRPC Amount**

13 Albrecht reviewed the proposal to increase CCRPC's amount in the Rethink Runoff budget due to the fact
14 that additional time was needed to manage the survey research form than was originally projected. Dumm
15 shared that WNRCD is fairly on track in terms of budget and timeline and should be able to spend down
16 their allocation. She noted that their new District Manager (Casey) will be starting soon and getting settled
17 so there shouldn't be too many changes.
18

19 Albrecht noted he will need about 25 hours (or about \$2500 at a rate of \$100.67 per hour) to cover April,
20 May and June for his services. Coupling that with being \$762 over budget through March, he suggested a
21 budget increase of \$3,300 for CCRPC.
22

23 Dumm asked for clarification on charging admission to the rain barrel workshops to cover the cost of
24 materials. However, some of these costs are reduced since they get some for free. She noted that it's still a
25 modest cost for the rain barrels (which can be bought at hardware stores for about \$100). Albrecht noted
26 that part of the reason to retain a fee is to ensure people are committed to attending; if it were free there
27 might be a lot of signups, but people might not show up. Dumm noted that each workshop breaks roughly
28 even at that cost.
29

30 *Costandi made a motion, seconded by Robinson, to increase the allocation to CCRPC by \$3,500 to*
31 *cover current and projected staff costs. The motion passed unanimously (no abstentions).*
32

33 5. **Implications of Delay in Feedback on PCPs and Pending 8/23 Renewal of MS4 Permit**

34 Albrecht explained that Hughes had received feedback from Christy Witters about the fact that permit
35 renewals are coming up, but the state has not yet reviewed phosphorus control plans submitted almost two
36 years ago. Hughes noted that some plans are in review and DEC is prioritizing this issue.
37

38 At Albrecht's question, Hughes said that he does keep a list of plans which are approved but will need to
39 review them with Emily before providing them at the next meeting.
40

41 Robinson commented that they have some grant money dedicated to consolidating their FRP, PCP, and
42 three-acre permit work, but the delay in review and approval of their PCP (and in particular the running of
43 the decision support model by DEC) he is affecting the grant timeline. This is requiring Shelburne to
44 extend their grant agreements, which adds a lot of unnecessary staff and consultant time.
45

46 Regarding the PCPs, Robinson said they are waiting to hear back before moving forward with some
47 projects that are otherwise ready to start.
48

49 Hughes noted that the MS4 permit is fully drafted but is caught up in legal review. Once it's ready it will
50 be shared with MS4 communities to provide a little extra time ahead of the public comment period starting
51 on May 1st. DEC is receptive to "unofficial" comments from MS4s.
52

1 The current MS4 is expiring in July, so the only thing required to maintain compliance will be a notice of
2 intent from MS4 communities. This will allow for a 6-month period to submit SWPs, FRPs, and PCPs that
3 are updated to include new information which will be detailed by DEC. The new MS4 permit will be
4 circulated in track-changes, but major changes include:

- 5 • Construction section updated per EPA permit quality review which found it to be insufficient. Most
6 municipalities are already doing this.
- 7 • Conditions will be changed to allow for phosphorus credits for un-incorporated projects.

8
9 The Committee provided the following feedback:

- 10
11 • Sherrard asked if the construction monitoring requirement applies to projects that only fall under
12 municipal permits, or if it apply to state permitted projects as well.
- 13 • Sherrard also asked if DEC could share any “unofficial” information to give extra time for municipal
14 staff to prepare. Adams echoed this since ordinance changes to comply can take months or years.
- 15 • Adams noted that they are extending offers of permit incorporation to certain projects and would like
16 to know whether that is expected and encouraged or if they should wait until they have submitted their
17 revised PCPs.
- 18 • Mandigo also wanted to know if the state ever accepted the street sweeping study as part of their
19 reports. Albrecht noted that at Jim Pease’s retirement party, he asked whether we will ever receive the
20 final USGS report on this but he did not have a date certain.
- 21 • Rorabaugh commented that South Burlington is having trouble updating their FRPs without inputs
22 from the decision support model to know if they are still on track, which has resulted in some projects
23 being dropped.
- 24 • Robinson suggested to Hughes that it might be worth updating the original model to run on newer
25 systems rather than Windows XP. The model could then be shared with MS4s and their consultants,
26 which would take a huge burden of the state. Hughes noted that this has been discussed by the state.

27
28 Mandigo suggested that DEC could resume discussions with the MS4 committee at their meetings to work
29 through some of these issues. Hughes said he will take the MS4 Committee’s feedback to the rest of his
30 program. Mandigo thanked Hughes for his time.

31
32 Albrecht noted that the MOU will need to be updated since it only goes through July.

33 34 **6. Brief MCM#1 (Pluck) and MCM#2 (WNRCD) updates**

35 Barron provided an update noting that traffic has increased post-COVID and reviewed the web traffic for
36 various pages, which has increased significantly, particularly for the dog poop page. He believed this may
37 have been due to targeted Google Ads in the off-peak. He also noted that interest in algae blooms has
38 increased even though no ads were run, which may be due to the perceived connection between this and
39 the overall health of the lake. He previewed the Spring Push efforts for Stream Team, specifically signage.
40 He and Dumm are also working on refreshing and updating the stream monitoring efforts, providing more
41 information for lay people. May and June will be focused on creative concepting for fall production – not
42 rebranding but evolving the content and design.

43
44 Dumm reviewed WNRCD’s work partnering with David, crunching numbers from volunteer recruitment
45 and coordination for Stream Team and adopt-a-rain-garden. She also noted that there was a small hurdle
46 obtaining barrels for the Williston rain barrel workshop, which means the workshop will be delayed into
47 May. Dumm noted that Cierra Ford from VHB has requested to coordinate an Earth Day event to host a
48 stream cleanup, likely in South Burlington. UVM Master Gardeners asked if WNRCD is interested in
49 tabling at an upcoming event at UVM. Finally, Dumm reviewed the budget for March and the fiscal year-
50 to-date.

51

1 Robinson commented that the rain barrel workshop in Shelburne went very well and thanked WNRCD for
2 running it.
3

4 **7. Staff, member, and guest updates**

5 There were no updates.
6

7 **8. Items for Tuesday, May 2nd meeting**

8 May will likely be dedicated to discussing the MS4 permit with DEC. Albrecht noted that the FY24
9 budget was already adopted but may need to be reviewed again at the June meeting.
10

11 **9. Adjournment**

12 The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:29 p.m.
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15 *Respectfully submitted, Darren Schibler and Dan Albrecht*