

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

DATE: **Tuesday, August 1, 2023** **REGULAR MEETING**
 SCHEDULED TIME: 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 PLACE: 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 (EIV),	Williston: Christine Dougherty
Colchester: Brett McCreary	Milton: Mariaa Hatseliuk	Winooski: Ryan Lambert
Essex: Annie Costandi, co-chair	Shelburne: Chris Robinson	VAOT: Jennifer Callahan, Tyler Hanson
Essex Jct.: Chelsea Mandigo, co-chair	South Burlington: Marisa Rorabaugh	Univ. of VT: Lani Ravin
DEC:		
Guests: Dave Barron, Pluck; Jill Sarazen, LCSG/DEC; Casey Spencer, WNRCD		
CCRPC Staff: Dan Albrecht, Sai Sarepalli		

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:16 p.m. by Mandigo. The agenda as drafted was agreed to unanimously. No public comments were made.

2. Review and approval of minutes (June 6, 2023 & July 25, 2023)

After a brief recap by Albrecht, Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes of June 6th as drafted with a minor correction to fix MCM#12 to read MCM#2, with a second by Sherrard. The motion was approved unanimously.

After a brief recap by Albrecht, Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes of July 25th as drafted, with a second by Sherrard. The motion was approved with Lambert abstaining.

3. Research on regionalization of stormwater services: Anne Jefferson, LC Sea Grant

Anne Jefferson introduced herself. She is the (new) LCSG Director. Most of her research has been in the field of stormwater management and green infrastructure in northeast Ohio, Denver, CO and Charlotte, NC. She wants everyone to be aware of LCSG’s new call for partnered research fellowship project applications on adaptation & resilience in the LC Basin. [The RFP is here: <https://www.uvm.edu/seagrants/request-proposals-partnered-fellowship-research-projects-coastal-adaptation-and-resilience-lake>] The project would need to be at a 1-to-1 non-Federal match of \$30k to match \$30k being provided by LCSG. The fellow can be hired by either the partner or LCSG whatever works best. The partnership would need to “generate knowledge.” She noted that there are a lot of small communities and it is a challenge for them to each stand up their own stormwater programs so perhaps regionalization could be explored. Her thoughts resonated with Dave Wheeler who has also been thinking about these issues. New knowledge could be a needs assessment, what barriers might there be, what examples might there be from around the country to look at. The proposal would need to be up to 5 pages and submitted by September 30th and the proposal could be for up to 2 years.

Feedback and discussion were as follows:

- In response to Albrecht, a fellow (person) has not been identified yet and would need to be recruited.
- Albrecht felt there was enough issues in Chittenden County for someone to write a white paper but not to justify a full fellowship of work. Anderson noted that a fellow often takes on additional capacity building work with their partner organizations to fill things out.
- Wheeler noted he had many conversations with committee members. South Burlington is already being paid by Shelburne to help with development plan review, catch basin cleaning and street sweeping. Our city has had trouble hiring people due to the cost of housing. If we were able to collaborate, one of the first things he

1 would think of would be to hire one person to do nothing but Construction Site Inspection for the county. This
2 would ensure consistency across towns. Is there value to having just a few people doing plan review and also
3 trying to make sure our stormwater specs are consistent across the land use development regulations (zoning
4 bylaws) of each town. But we don't want to go it alone. Speaking of NE Ohio Regional Sewer District, they do
5 some really good stuff because they have such a large area that they cover and we could do some of that as
6 well if we collaborated. He asked how others felt.

7 -Mandigo said she would be interested as she does not have enough hours in the day for stormwater. We
8 regionalized MCM#1 and MCM#2 for that reason so as the state pushes more and more on towns to do we
9 should keep an eye out on working together. She'd be interested in site inspection as well as development
10 review.

11 -Sherrard: interested in EPSC site review, plan review, plus IDDE and outfall surveys. Another big challenge
12 is enforcement however as that can often languish. My single biggest challenge is getting stormwater
13 maintenance done. Regionalization would be a challenge just due to union issues.

14 -Wheeler noted ultimately it could be like Champlain Water District. They have their own employees and
15 trucks, etc. Would take a while.

16 -Albrecht noted that as in interim step, CCRPC has multiple engineering firms on retainer, they could do plan
17 review and inspections and then we bill each town as appropriate. If there was enough work, it could be a full
18 time staff person here at CCRPC. It is a service we could provide, we are essentially administrators.

19 -Dougherty was familiar with the regionalization model from here prior work. She agreed that there a mosaic
20 of zoning laws but first we need to all send comments into DEC on the draft MS4 general permit. A lot of
21 obligations are being loaded onto MS4s with this new permit and we need to push back on some of this. For
22 example, Order of Operations of site plan/permit review, do we review before the State does, what if the local
23 and State reviews are different, etc.

24 -Lambert said he does not have the bandwidth or funds to invest in this concept right now. He is interested and
25 could consider it in a year. Inspections will be a challenge. They plan to kick it over to the developer and
26 require them to hire a 3rd party to conduct bi-weekly inspections and forward them to Winooski DPW. Right
27 now we don't have enough staff to conduct the inspections. NYS-DEC has a similar program.

28 -Jefferson said that we are here to serve you and it is okay if this is not the right fit and we can find other ways
29 to increase what we do around the issues of stormwater management in the future. She would like to continue
30 to observe the meeting as her research field is stormwater management.

31 -Sherrard asked everyone if they feel they are meeting acceptable levels of services.

32 -Dougherty said yes we in Williston are and others should be careful if they want to state that they are not
33 given that this is a public meeting.

34 -Sherrard said we are resource limited and we are doing our best but he thinks Burlington is not meeting the
35 minimum service requirements and that is why he is interested in regionalization efforts. If he had to be doing
36 MCM-1&2 work now he does not even know what he would be doing in that regard.

37 -Dougherty said we all are limited by money and finding good people. As a group we should work with more
38 the state to say, yes there are these goals you are asking us to meet but they are not reasonable and we need the
39 State to meet their requirements instead of passing them (inspection and plan review) over to us. Instead they
40 should hire more staff. We should not be put into the position are proposing to put us in as currently stated in
41 the draft MS4 permit. If it results as is, then they need to give us more resources to do so. I hear you on
42 regionalization but local control is important to many.

43 -Albrecht noted to Jefferson that this current MCM#1 and #2 efforts has been going on since 2003. This is a
44 regional services agreement. We have reams of minutes and other info on this effort and happy to share with
45 you and/or grad students and I am happy to offer to be interviewed.

46 -Mandigo concluded saying there is obviously some interest. Communities that are interested should discuss it
47 offline.

48 -Dougherty shared in the chat an example from Colorado: www.semswa.org/

49 -Jefferson share the northeast Ohio example: [www.neorsd.org/stormwater-2/stormwater-management-](http://www.neorsd.org/stormwater-2/stormwater-management-program/)
50 [program/](http://www.neorsd.org/stormwater-2/stormwater-management-program/)

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4. Brief update by Pluck on MCM#1 compliance activities

Barron reported that January – July website visits were up significantly when compared to previous years even with spending less money. We pulled back on ads a bit during the summer because of the floods. We may do more in August-September. For the next year, the new creative will rollout in Winter 2023/Spring 2024. For 2024 and beyond there is the potential for additional spots to increase awareness of Stream Team for example. We will do more voice overs which can then be used later. We will have a late fall planning meeting.

5. Brief update by WNRCD on MCM#2 compliance activities

Spencer reported that she and Kat Lewis have been working with the volunteers collecting stream samples. It is going well; Event #8 has been collected so far. She reported that Adelaide plans to come back from maternity leave in late August and will resume work with an initial focus on outreach and social media.

6. Staff, member and guest updates as needed.

-Albrecht asked members how their traditional stormwater infrastructure held up during the July flooding event and heavy rain. Mandigo reported no problems at all and no others chimed in when asked if they had experienced issues/problems.

-Bates noted that a Cornell University expert on turf/lawn management will speak to the CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee at its September 5th meeting at 11. She asked how the MS4s could potentially support the messaging of the Raise the Blade campaign after the LCBP funding for that runs out.. Albrecht noted that yes, we could help but we have to be certain not to confusing branding between the two campaigns however we could also begin to develop ads about raising the blade. Barron noted that it would be easy to add the basics of that lawn care messaging soon and as we work on new creative in the future we could have that be one of the 8-10 messages. Bates also noted to double-check the Rethink Runoff website as she remembers seeing some info on it saying to cut lawn short during fall to reduce fungal growth.

-Dougherty noted that the Green Mountain Water Environment Federation will hold its meeting on November 2nd. If persons have presentation ideas, please reach out to her.

7. Consider whether to meet in September.

Albrecht noted that there were no action items on the horizon and members can attend the CWAC meeting if they want to learn about turf/lawn management. Mandigo noted that members can contact her if they feel

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mandigo at approximately 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Albrecht