

**Missisquoi Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) Meeting  
DRAFT MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 4, 2022, 11:00-1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting/Held Via Zoom\* (computer/smartphone/tablet etc.)

<https://youtu.be/CsOzogDG114>

**A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NRPC  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL.**

**THE WRITTEN MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE  
MEETING. MOTIONS ARE AS STATED. MINUTES WILL BE SUBJECT TO  
CORRECTION BY THE COUNCIL. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE RECORDED IN  
THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Council Members: Lauren Weston (Q), Abraham Ames (Q), Dan Seeley (Q), Lindsey Wight (Q), Kent Henderson (Q), Barry Lampke (Q), Beth Torpey (Q), Sarah Downes (Q), Tom Briseldon, Ellen Fox, Jacques Couture (Q=toward quorum).

Staff: Dean Pierce, Dea Devlin

Guests: Karen Bates, Catie Calabrese, Jim Pease

Voting Members not present: Allaire Diamond

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Lauren Weston opened the meeting as BWQC Chair at 11:05. Everyone on the call introduced themselves and when appropriate, identified themselves as voting members.

**2. Review Zoom meeting protocol**

Lauren Weston reviewed the Zoom norms.

**3. Review/adjust and approve agenda**

No adjustments offered to the agenda. Lindsey Wight moved to approve the agenda as presented, Beth Torpey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

No changes were offered to the draft minutes. Lindsey Wight moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting as written. Kent Henderson seconded the motion. Abraham Ames abstained due to absence at last meeting. Motion carried with one abstention.

**5. Public comment not related to items on agenda**

No public comment was offered.

## **6. Seating of any new reps or alternates if required**

Dean Pierce shared that David Allerton (new Director of Public works for St. Albans Town) has indicated interest in filling Alternate seat previously held by Emmalee Cherington (former Stormwater Coordinator for St. Albans Town). Kent Henderson moved to approve the seating of David Allerton as a Municipal alternate, and Sarah Downes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **7. Update on DEC documents affecting work of CWSP and BWQC**

Dean Pierce shared slides which provided an overview of DEC's FY23 CWIP policy. He review the contents of the policy and explained how they are relevant to the work undertaken by the CWSP and the BWQC. He also reviewed the CWIP funding eligibility criteria. Kent Henderson asked if the permitting process (mentioned in the CWIP eligibility criteria) needs to happen before submitting an application for a project.

Dean Pierce highlighted a couple of potential problem areas for rolling out the system as established by CWIP policy, including project ID numbers, and screening forms. Kent Henderson and Lauren Weston identified the availability of ANR resource staff as a potential issue.

Dean Pierce shared information about a screening form that DEC has created and described its function. Jim Pease identified that the permitting process has been created to prevent impacts /conflict with resources. Sarah Downes expressed that such extensive hoops will make it impossible for water quality projects to get off the ground. Karen Bates responded to Sarah Downes by sharing that there is an expectation that these projects will be completed by groups that have experience in water quality projects or training to grant groups the ability to conduct such projects will be provided to interested parties.

## **8. Presentation of draft prioritization system**

Dean Pierce presented sample data and scores that have been put into the NRPC generated prioritization system that the CWSP proposes using. He also contrasted the prioritization system that NRPC has generated with a DEC generated system.

Jim Pease expressed discomfort with the lesser value given to costs of operation and maintenance scoring as proposed by the NRPC. Dean Pierce clarified that costs of operations are expected to be completed through the NRPC model. Lauren Weston expressed hesitancy with cost effectiveness being included in prioritization because of changing costs over the life of a project.

Kent Henderson asked Dean Pierce about costs changing within different stages of a project. Dean Pierce shared that there is understanding by the CWSP that costs can change due to inflation or other events, and that the price of a project changing over its lifetime will not stop a project in its tracks, up to a certain number, of which he is not sure yet.

## **9. Presentation of draft solicitation**

Dean Pierce presented slides about the process for the project solicitation and required information that project applicants will need to submit. He responded to questions and comments.

**10. Update on Policy Work by Public Participation Committee**

This agenda item was postponed until the march meeting.

**11. Conclusion**

Sarah Downes moved to adjourn the meeting. Kent Henderson seconded the motion.