

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

Wednesday, March 23, 2023, 11:30-1:30 PM

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmdVFj0A6gc>

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: Dan Seeley (Q), Sarah Downes (Q), Ted Sedell (Q), Beth Torpey (Q), David Allerton, Lauren Weston (Q), Lindsey Wight (Q), Allaire Diamond (Q), Barry Lampke (Q), Tucker Malone, Kent Henderson (Q) Tom Briseldon, (Q=toward quorum).

Staff: Dean Pierce, Dea Devlin

Guests: Jim Pease, Parker Eversoll, Alison Spasyk, Karen Bates

Voting Members not present: None

1. Welcome and Introduction

Lauren Weston opened the meeting as BWQC Chair at 11:32. Everyone on the call introduced themselves.

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, Sarah Downes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Lindsey Wight moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Sarah Downes seconded the motion. Motion adopted with two abstentions due to absence by Allaire Diamond and Ted Sedell.

5. Public comment not related to items on agenda

No public comment was offered.

6. Seating of any new reps or alternate(s) (f required)

Dean Pierce shared there was no seating to be present to the BWQC.

7. Voting Process

Dean Pierce shared slides that explain the role of prioritization as established by the rule. Dean Pierce explained the rule surrounding proper practices for the BWQC to vote upon. Dean Pierce explained that there are some options for organizing the order and process when voting to approve projects.

8. Cost effectiveness “threshold”

Dean Pierce shared slides to provide further information and context for the BWQC to consider when evaluating cost effectiveness in project applications.

9. Prioritized project list

Dean Pierce provided a glimpse at a dashboard tool he is preparing via Smartsheet that will be useful for future project application rounds. Beth Torpey asked about the ability for alternates to vote in the case of recusal. Dean Pierce offered some clarification on recusal and when it's suggested by the rule.

Dean Pierce shared the three ID and Assessment Project applicants that submitted projects during this funding round. Allaire Diamond asked for details on the projects that the Missisquoi River Basin Association submitted. Lindsey Weight provided clarification on the project.

Sarah Downes moved to approve project 1924 for funding. Kent Henderson seconded the motion. Motion adopted with one abstention by Lindsey Wight, as so noted by the Chair.

Allaire Diamond moved to approve project 11350. Kent Henderson seconded the motion. Motion adopted with one recusal by Lauren Weston.

Sarah Downes moved to approve project 1657, Allaire Diamond seconded the motion. Motion adopted with one abstention by Lindsey Wight, as so noted by the Chair.

Dean Pierce shared the four design and implementation projects that were submitted during this funding round.

Alison Spasyk provided some explanation for the project submitted by Friends of Northern Lake Champlain.

Ted Sedell provided some explanation for the project submitted by the Orleans County Conservation District, sharing that the total project cost is incorrect. Dean Pierce adjusted the numbers showing the correction.

Tom Briseldon asked about multiple sources of funding and how that relates to phosphorus. Jim Pease followed with a question on how that would be reflected when submitting a total project cost in an application. Dean Pierce shared that for now, projects are being assessed on the total project costs to phosphorus ratio, but this could be changed in the future if funding sources can be attributed to specific portions of a project not pertaining to the phosphorus reduction.

Allaire Diamond requested training for BWQCs on better understanding of culverts. Sarah Downes indicated preference for holding off on voting about projects until there is a better understanding of culverts.

Kent Henderson moved to approve project 11352 for funding. Allaire Diamond seconded the motion. Motion carries with one recusal by Lindsey Wight.

Lauren Weston entertained and a motion to approve project 11054 for funding. Kent Henderson raised his hand to indicate his plans to recuse himself from such a vote. A vote was taken upon call of the chair and the project approved. Kent Henderson formally recused himself from the vote.

Allaire Diamond moves to postpone voting on project 11323 and project 11360. Lindsey Wight seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention by Ted Sedell.

10. Schedule for next Call for Application(s)

Dean Pierce highlighted several different ways that project applications can be rolled out, explaining the pros and cons of rolling applications versus quarterly.

Dan Seeley moved to make the May 3rd meeting have a focus on reviewing the two culvert projects that were presented but not voted upon in this meeting. Lindsey Wight seconded the motion. Motion carried with one abstention by Ted Sedell, as so noted by the Chair.

Lauren Weston indicated a preference for having the application form stay open for convenience, with the deadline remaining firm. Dean Pierce shared a tentative plan for announcing the next application round in mid-April, with a deadline in end of May and early June.

The BWQC agreed to change the July meeting date from July 5th to July 12th at 11am.

11. Updates

There were no updates offered.

12. Conclusion

Lindsey Wight moved to adjourn the meeting. Allaire Diamond seconded the motion. Motion carried.