

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

Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023, 11:30-1:30 PM

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17u2PCpZXZE>

**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 (Q and left 12:59pm), Kent Henderson [departed at 12:41] (Q), Lindsey Wight (Q), Lauren Weston (Q), Tom Briseldon (Q at 12:41pm), Allaire Diamond (Q), Ellen Fox, (Q=toward quorum).

Staff: Dean Pierce, Dea Devlin

Guests: Chris Rottler, Staci Pomeroy, Patrick Ross, Karen Bates

Voting Members not present: Barry Lampke.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Lauren Weston opened the meeting as BWQC Chair at 11:03am. 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, which was accepted without vote.

4. Approval of Minutes

Lindsey Wight moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Allaire Diamond seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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. Culvert issues

Dean Pierce explained the relevance of the documents included in the meeting packet and introduced the speakers. Dean Pierce also refreshed the council on some of the questions that came up regarding culverts in a previous meeting.

Chris Rottler addressed the difference and role for regulatory and non-regulatory projects in CWSP funding schema. Staci Pomeroy added that part of evaluating a culvert replacement for water quality benefit depends on how the culvert changes the geomorphic structure of the water body.

Patrick Ross clarified that municipalities are responsible for culverts on town roads. Culverts on state roads are responsible by the state. Some town roads have federal aid, so they get funding through VTrans for some culverts, but most town highway structures are municipal, and state are state or federally funded. Patrick Ross addressed the list of questions that Dean Pierce had accumulated from previous BWQC discussion regarding culverts.

Patrick Ross, Staci Pomeroy and Chris Rottler fielded questions from the BWQC regarding culvert projects, their appropriate funding sources.

8. Project prioritization

Dean Pierce shared information about two project applications that were delayed at the decision of the BWQC. He explained that one of these applications was withdrawn. He also noted that the CWSP staff recommend that consideration be paused, or that no further action be taken on the remaining application as there is not enough clarity regarding the technical and p reduction information for culvert projects. Dean Pierce then shared information about considering the annual phosphorus target moving forward. The BWQC engaged in discussion about projects from the past application round and funding. Lauren Weston expressed interest in having a checklist or flowchart to help assess appropriate funding sources.

Dan Seeley moved to reject the remaining project submitted by Montgomery for funding. Sarah Downes seconded the motion. Allaire Diamond expressed preference in allowing Montgomery to reapply at a future point. Dean Pierce explained what denial without prejudice is. Dan Seeley amended his motion to denial of the project without prejudice and with proper follow up provided to the town of Montgomery. Sarah Downes seconded the amended motion. Motion carried.

9. Public participation policy

This agenda item was skipped for time.

10. Annual meeting

Dean Pierce shared that the BWQC must decide at this meeting if there will be a nominating committee for the election. Dan Seeley moved to have a nominating committee. Sarah Downes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sarah Downes, Lindsey Wight, and Kent Henderson volunteered to sit on the nominating committee.

Sarah Downes agreed to chair the nominating committee.

Dean Pierce shared that there is a tentative date and location for the annual meeting.

11. Updates

This agenda item was skipped for time.

12. Conclusion

Sarah Downes moved to adjourn the meeting. Allaire Diamond seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:01pm.

Zoom Chat Text:

00:53:05 Staci Pomeroy: Better Roads Grant link - <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads>

00:54:14 Staci Pomeroy: VTrans Grant and Aid Program funding link: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Grant-in-aid-Program>

00:55:31 Staci Pomeroy: Document to VTrans grant funding to Municipalities "Show me the money" link:

<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/highway/documents/ltf/Show%20Me%20the%20Money%20Guide%20-%20Jan%202023.pdf>

01:00:35 Chris Rottler: I have an update from Gianna. If the culvert repair is required road maintenance, then it would be a regulatory repair and not formula grant eligible.

01:01:45 Chris Rottler: But, if the project is stream crossing improvement unrelated to road drainage infrastructure then it would be a voluntary project, and eligible for formula grant funds.

01:02:17 Chris Rottler: Another question here is what is the P reduction associated with such a project, and that would be an FFI question.

01:05:00 Staci Pomeroy: VT Department of Emergency link:

https://floodready.vermont.gov/find_funding/emergency_relief_assistance

01:11:41 Chris Rottler: Reminder for Dean and the BWQC - if you are looking for projects, a good place to look is with block grant holders who have been working on developing projects.

01:12:58 Dean Pierce, CWSP staff: Hi Chris. We have obtained the lists from the block grant holders, i.e., MARC, VACD, and WUV.

01:13:50 Chris Rottler: Reacted to "Hi Chris. We have ob..." with 👍

01:30:23 Karen Bates: The TBP doesn't have a list of culverts

01:30:32 Chris Rottler: I am also going to jump as I've been on meetings all morning since 8am. It was great to connect with all of you today! Thanks again, and please reach out again as appropriate. My door is open!

01:31:57 Dean Pierce, CWSP staff: Thanks, Chris

01:32:02 Chris Rottler: Reacted to "Thanks, Chris" with 👍

01:36:45 Staci Pomeroy: I'm going to jump off. Thank you. Let me know if any follow up questions, etc. that I can assist with.

01:36:52 Allaire Diamond, she/her, Vermont Land Trust, voting: Thanks Staci!

01:37:58 Allaire Diamond, she/her, Vermont Land Trust, voting: Thanks!

01:46:21 Dean Pierce, CWSP staff: Next FFI Training scheduled on May 24th at VTrans Dill Building at 2178 Airport Rd, Berlin, Vermont

01:46:41 Karen Bates: Ted, have you put any of your calculations on paper? Might become a good resource for others.

01:46:47 Lindsey Wight, MRBA, she/her - voting: The training is also offered virtually.

01:52:08 Kent Henderson, FNLC Voting: Sorry have to run. Unexpected interruption

01:58:13 Ted Sedell, OCNRCD, voting: Well said Allaire

02:00:02 Karen Bates: I love the idea of a decision tree for each project type to help review and find those projects with high p reduction for dollar spent.

02:00:28 Lindsey Wight, MRBA, she/her - voting: WUV just got word that there is going to be additional woody buffer funding next year.

02:00:59 Karen Bates: To fund these check list/decision tree, should bring up at an Act 76 meeting to request this resource

02:00:59 Lindsey Wight, MRBA, she/her - voting: lots of funds for trees - similar to culverts (if smaller): thanks for bringing that up, Lauren!

02:04:04 Karen Bates: have to leave

02:10:44 David Allerton: i gotta go. Thank you.