

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

Friday, July 21, 2023, 9:00-11:30 AM

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UYZD2_5PotU

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

Attendance:

Lauren Weston (Q), Dick Goff (Q), Sarah Hadd (Q), Brad Holden (Q), Peter Danforth (left at 10am) (Q), Erin De Vries (Q), Bruce Wheeler (Q), Katherine Sonnicks, Ken Minck (depart at 11:20am), Meghan Rodier, Casey Spencer, Jedd Feffer (Q at 9:09am), Emily Finnegan (entered at 9:10am and became Q at 10am) (Q=toward quorum).

Staff: Dean Pierce, Dea Devlin, Maddie Yandow.

Guests: Karen Bates, Paul McGrath, Tori Helwig, Ron Rodjenski.

Not Present: None.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Peter Danforth opened the meeting at 9:02 AM and asked the Vice Chair to run the meeting due to technical limitations at his remote location.

2. Review meeting protocol

Sarah Hadd briefly reviewed the meeting protocol on a slide.

3. Review/adjust and approve agenda

Erin De Vries moved to approve the agenda. Dick Goff seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

4. Approval of Minutes

Brad Holden moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Erin De Vries seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

5. Public comment not related to items on agenda

No public comment was offered.

6. Seating of any new reps or alternates(s) (if required)

Dean Pierce shared that Casey Spencer is intended to be seated as an alternate. Erin De Vries moved to seat Casey Spencer as alternate, Lauren Weston seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

7. Election of Officers

Brad Holden moved to nominate Peter Danforth as Chair of the Basin 7 BWQC for the following year. Jed Feffer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Erin De Vries nominated Sarah Hadd as Vice Chair for Basin 7 BWQC the following year. Brad Holden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. Project Prioritization

Dean Pierce shared slides which shared an update on the second round of applications for CWSP funding in the Lamoille Basin. Dean Pierce shared that four applications were received, and that approval is recommended by the CWSP with some tweaks. Dean Pierce shared information about the range in costs and phosphorus reduction. Dean Pierce made a recommendation about how to evaluate the projects.

Peter Danforth shared information about the two projects submitted by the Lamoille County Conservation District. Karen Bates asked Peter Danforth how much of the project cost is being requested by the BWQC. Dean Pierce shared information about how the CWSP is approaching this project as a portion of the project may fall under the Municipal Roads General Permit.

Dick Goff moved to approve the preliminary design project by Lamoille County Conservation District. Erin De Vries seconded the motion. Peter Danforth abstained. Motion adopted.

Peter Danforth shared information about a final design engineering project application that he submitted to the Basin 7 BWQC on behalf of the Lamoille County Conservation District. Karen Bates clarified how to specify and differentiate aspects of this project that fall under the MRGP.

Dick Goff moved to recommend approval of the funding with the expectation of procurement happening after eligibility of the project was confirmed. Jed Feffer seconded the motion. Peter Danforth abstained.

Meghan Rodier shared slides and a video recording about the project application submitted for funding by the Lamoille County Planning Commission located at Gulf Rd Bridge. Paul McGrath shared some history about the road, the traffic and the flooding that has occurred there. Meghan Rodier shared how much estimated phosphorus reduction is expected from this project. Karen Bates shared further investigation into reducing floodplain could be useful in this project.

Jed Feffer moved to accept the proposal and approve funding for the project proposed by the Lamoille County Planning Commission. Erin De Vries seconded the proposal. Dick Goff abstained. Motion adopted.

Ron Rodjenski shared information about a potential dam removal project and scoping study application submitted by the Town of Hyde Park. Karen Bates recommended identifying different potential phosphorus reduction spots during the scoping study to maximize its score when it arrives at the implementation phase. Dean Pierce shared the phosphorus reduction submitted in the project application is favorable.

Jed Feffer moved to fund the project. Erin De Vries seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

9. Future Solicitation Schedule and Process

Dean Pierce shared that the application schedule is currently running on a 3-month schedule and recommended switching this to a 4-month schedule. Dean Pierce also shared that there is a potential to add on a preapplication process, but that the Missisquoi BWQC declined to adopt one. Dean Pierce shared what the calendar schedule might look like.

Lauren Weston indicated a potential need for understanding of eligible projects for participants for the Lamoille BQWC.

Sarah Hadd identified that the group seemed in agreement to change the meeting schedule to every four months.

10. Conflict of Interest Guidance

Dean Pierce shared the updated language in the guidance as distributed by the DEC. Dean Pierce shared this new guidance is broader and encompasses more. Dean Pierce went through the bullet points of what is new in this guidance.

Dean Pierce shared an update in the guidance about disclosures and conflict of interest.

Dean Pierce shared a new portion of the guidance, which encompasses confidentiality in the materials involved in project solicitations before and through the voting process. Dean Pierce highlighted that this may conflict with other laws and policies in place.

Dean Pierce shared the updated guidance on how CWSP staff may be involved in the project application process.

Dean Pierce shared a final notable update about conflicts with prior employers and the ‘statute of limitations.’

11. Updates, and Conclusion

Lauren Weston shared a podcast in the chat: <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/485249475/brave-little-state>.

Dean shared master agreements will be sent out more quickly.

Sarah Hadd moved to adjourn. Jed Feffer seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.