

Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday September 28, 2023 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

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

<https://youtu.be/3EhvAdZHohs?si=Suwb0v671HOfj7k->

Attendance: Peter Danforth (Q), JoAnn Hanowski (Q), Richard Goff (Q), Bruce Wheeler (Q), Brad Holden (Q), Lauren Weston (Q), Katherine Sonnick (Q), Erin De Vries (Q), Meghan Rodier (Q). (Q=toward quorum)

Staff: Dean Pierce, Maddie Yandow, Sara Gratz

Guests: Karen Bates, Ron Rodjenski, Sai Sarepalli

1. Welcome and Introductions

Peter Danforth opened the meeting at 9:02 and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Meeting protocols

Peter Danforth briefly reviewed meeting protocols.

3. Conflict of interest declarations, if any

Dean Pierce explained the addition of conflicts of interest to the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Review/adjust and approve agenda

Lauren Weston moved to approve the agenda. Katherine Sonnick seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

5. Approval of Minutes

Richard Goff moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Lauren Weston seconded the motion. Motion adopted.

6.Public comment not related to items on agenda

No public comment was offered.

7.Seating of any new reps or alternate(s)

Dean Pierce shared that no new reps or alternates were needed.

8.Hyde Park Project sponsorship

Dean Pierce discussed the process for project approval and shared that because the town of Hyde Park had not been pre-qualified, either the Northwest Regional Planning Commission could manage the project, or a transfer of sponsorship could be made. Ron Rodjenski shared that they would like to transfer sponsorship to the Lamoille County Planning Commission.

9.Solicitation Schedule /November Meeting date

Dean Pierce provided a slide with suggested dates for the next meeting. Richard Goff moved to approve November 17, 2023 as the next meeting date. Brad Holden seconded that motion. Motion adopted.

10.Overview of contracting requirements

Dean Pierce shared a slide presentation discussing contract requirements for projects, including performance reporting, procurement procedures, cost agreements, payments, publications, insurance, and certifications.

11.Karen Bates Presentation on Clean Water Project Identification

Karen Bates presented a slideshow explaining how the Department of Environmental Conservation supports the identification of projects. She shared the criteria for assessing priority projects, along with a list of various types of plans and assessments, including the Stormwater Master Plan, Stream Geomorphic Assessments, Lake Watershed Action Plan, Lake Wise, Private Road assessments, Wetland Restoration, and Agricultural Non-RAP Farms.

A discussion followed concerning funding for specific projects.

Erin De Vries asked if similar presentations were being given to other Basin Water Quality Councils, stating that it would be helpful to other project implementors. Karen Bates asked for a show of hands indicating who found the presentation to be useful. At least 5 raised their hand.

Erin De Vries expressed a desire for there to be more technical experts working with the state to help develop river corridor easements for reducing phosphorous loads.

Maddie Yandow asked about a potential part 2 presentation regarding project development to get projects developed quicker.

Meghan Rodier asked about a future presentation regarding a tool for calculating phosphorous in forests.

Peter Danforth referred to Dean Pierce to ask about updates to the P-efficiency table that appeared in Karen's presentation. Dean confirmed that there is a need for the figures to be updated periodically to account for inflation.

Lauren Weston shared that the Watershed Project Database is difficult to navigate for finding and advancing projects. Maddie Yandow agreed.

12. Updates and Conclusion

Dean Pierce asked that anyone who would like more information about the Year 1 annual report, DEC Guidance Chapters, or Project Status Grid, to contact him. He also proposed three topics for future meetings: Project Status Reports, Use of CWSP Maintenance Funds to Adopt Existing Projects, and Procedures for Budget Adjustments.

Lauren Weston moved to adjourn at 10:58 a.m. Erin De Vries seconded that motion. Motion adopted.