

**TRANSMITTAL MEMO**

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: MATERIALS FOR MEETING ON DECEMBER 3  
DA: NOVEMBER 26, 2025

=====

Greetings. The BWQC’s next meeting will be held on December 3rd. Materials for the meeting are attached. This will be a meeting of presentations touching on subjects ranging from the Cost Rate Methodology to the Tactical Basin Plan to reducing water pollution from forest roads and trails. Several speakers will attend.

**Introductions/Meeting protocols/Conflict of interest disclosures, if any**

This is a standing agenda item. It provides BWQC members and others opportunity to note possible conflicts of interest that could arise later in the meeting. As there are no applications up for review during this meeting, I am not anticipating any disclosures.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes are included in the meeting packet. If you can, please let us know before the meeting if any part of the minutes needs to be corrected.

**Budget Adjustments**

Staff will have budget adjustments (pending and/or completed) to report at the meeting.

**Seating of New BWQC Representative**

This is a standing agenda item.

**Brief Presentation on Revised Cost Rate Methodology**

As an extension of the material presented in the packet for the meeting in September, Chris Rottler of DEC will be attending the upcoming meeting to provide more details about the Cost Rate Methodology (CRM). The CRM is used to set phosphorus reduction targets and funding levels for Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs). DEC proposed a new version of the CRM in late summer. Public comments on the proposal were accepted through October 17 as part of a formal review period. As of this writing, the new methodology is either now in effect or that status is imminent. Adoption of the new CRPM means there will be a decrease in the size of the Missisquoi basin’s P annual reduction targets.

**Presentation/Discussion Regarding BWQC Role in Updating of Tactical Basin Plan**

Act 76 gave BWQCs an important role in Vermont’s “Tactical Basin Plan” (TBP) process. The law specifically mandates BWQC involvement in basin planning and asks them to consider the resulting plan when making water quality investment decisions. Act 76 positions the BWQC as one of the key local decision-making bodies when it comes to translating the strategic guidance provided by the Tactical Basin Plan into prioritized and funded non-regulatory clean water projects. TBPs are adopted roughly every five years, and the effort to update the Missisquoi Bay Basin TBP is currently underway. Basin Planner Karen Bates will brief the BWQC on this effort and use the opportunity to solicit input from BWQC members on various issues. To review the current TBP or related resources, visit <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/watershed-planning/basins-and-planners/basin6> .

**Introduction to Forest Roads Project Type and Inventories**

At the meeting on December 3rd, BWQC members will be introduced to the comprehensive framework developed by Vermont's forestry and environmental agencies to manage and fund projects aimed at **reducing water pollution from forest roads and trails**. The framework's core objective is to control nutrient and sediment pollution entering state waters by implementing Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs). Karen Bates and/or staff from Vermont’s Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation) will provide the presentation.

**Updates/Conclusion/Adjourn**

Please let us know if you have ideas for future meeting topics. Thanks to all who participate.

## AGENDA

**Missisquoi Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 2025**  
**11:00 AM -1:00 PM**

**Zoom meeting**  
(Zoom details below)

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Meeting protocols
3. Conflict of interest declarations (standing item)
4. Review/adjust and approve agenda
5. Approval of minutes
6. Public comment not related to items on agenda
7. Seating of new RPC Representative (standing item)
8. Report on budget adjustments (standing item)
9. **Revised Cost Rate Methodology (Chris Rottler)**
10. **Missisquoi Bay Tactical Basin Plan (Karen Bates)**
11. **Introduction to Forest Roads Project Type and Inventories and (FPR staff & KB)**
12. Updates/In brief
13. Future Meeting topics /Conclusion

Please Note: The schedule for the upcoming application round in MISSISQUOI Basin is as follows:

Round #	Open	Deadline
10	December 17, 2025	January 21, 2026
11	April 15, 2026	May 20, 2026

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81332571725?pwd=UktCekQ5R2ZSbVNtMXlUcUlpYnVl3UT09>

Meeting ID: 813 3257 1725

Passcode: 103651

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,81332571725# US

+13092053325,,81332571725# US

### Dial by your location

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Staffing provided by Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC), the Basin 6 Clean Water Service Provider. NRPC's physical / mailing address is 75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, Vermont 05478.

*In accordance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and Vermont's Open Meeting Law, the NRPC will ensure public meeting sites are accessible to all people or provide an opportunity to request accommodations. Requests for free interpretive or translation services, assistive devices, designation of a physical meeting location, electronic access to a meeting, or other requested accommodations, should be made to Amy Adams, NRPC Title VI Coordinator, at 802- 524-5958 or [aadams@nrpcvt.com](mailto:aadams@nrpcvt.com), no later than 2 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.*

- Welcome and introductions
- Meeting protocols

## Zoom Norms and Inclusive Language

- Introductions of all participants at each meeting
- As possible, BWQC members should have in their Zoom Name/Title the following: Name, Organization, “Voting” or “Alternate”, and pronouns (if desired)
- BWQC members are expected to have cameras turned on during entirety of meeting, as technically possible.
- BWQC members are expected to stay focused / avoid multi-tasking and follow the guidance of: “if you wouldn’t do something in an in-person meeting don’t do it in a virtual meeting”
- BWQC members will use the “raise hand” function on Zoom to indicate a request to speak / come off mute – this is in an effort to make sure all are heard in turn.
- All members will stay muted until called upon; if needed, CWSP staff may mute participants to avoid background noise
- Any comments made in the chat will be read aloud at the appropriate time by the CWSP staff in full for the public record / record.

### **Inclusive Language**

<https://pronouns.org/what-and-why>

- Conflict of interest declarations (standing item)
- Review/adjust and approve agenda

## AGENDA

**Missisquoi Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 2025**  
**11:00 AM -1:00 PM**

**Zoom meeting**  
(Zoom details below)

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Meeting protocols
3. Conflict of interest declarations (standing item)
4. Review/adjust and approve agenda
5. Approval of minutes
6. Public comment not related to items on agenda
7. Seating of new RPC Representative (standing item)
8. Report on budget adjustments (standing item)
9. **Revised Cost Rate Methodology (Chris Rottler)**
10. **Missisquoi Bay Tactical Basin Plan (Karen Bates)**
11. **Introduction to Forest Roads Project Type and Inventories and (FPR staff & KB)**
12. Updates/In brief
13. Future Meeting topics /Conclusion

Please Note: The schedule for the upcoming application round in MISSISQUOI Basin is as follows:

Round #	Open	Deadline
10	December 17, 2025	January 21, 2026
11	April 15, 2026	May 20, 2026

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81332571725?pwd=UktCekQ5R2ZSbVNtMXlUcUlpYnVl3UT09>

Meeting ID: 813 3257 1725

Passcode: 103651

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,81332571725# US

+13092053325,,81332571725# US

### Dial by your location

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Staffing provided by Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC), the Basin 6 Clean Water Service Provider. NRPC's physical / mailing address is 75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, Vermont 05478.

*In accordance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and Vermont's Open Meeting Law, the NRPC will ensure public meeting sites are accessible to all people or provide an opportunity to request accommodations. Requests for free interpretive or translation services, assistive devices, designation of a physical meeting location, electronic access to a meeting, or other requested accommodations, should be made to Amy Adams, NRPC Title VI Coordinator, at 802- 524-5958 or [aadams@nrpcvt.com](mailto:aadams@nrpcvt.com), no later than 2 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.*

- Approval of minutes

**Missisquoi Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)**

**Wednesday, October 1, 2025**

**11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

Meeting video posted at <https://youtu.be/t2pdplsXUAo>

**A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NRPC  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL (Link above).**

**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), Ted Sedell (Q), Heidi Britch-Valenta (Q), Lindsey Wight (Q), Beth Torpey (Q), Dan Seeley (Q), Sarah Downes (Q), Bridget Butler (Q), Allaire Diamond (Q)

Q= towards quorum q= towards quorum when representative has recused

Staff: Dean Pierce, Cliff Jenkins, Lorna Peters, Nora Brown, Bethany Remmers

Others present: Mel Auffredou (FCNRCD), Dorothy Kinney-Landis (FCNRCD), Kerry Brosnan (FCNRCD), Orenna Brand (FCNRCD), Josh Serpe (FNLC), Karen Bates (DEC), Jim's AI Notetaker, Dan's AI Notetaker

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Lindsey Wight opened the meeting at 11:03 as Chair. A round of introductions was made.

**2. Meeting protocols**

Lindsey Wight reviewed norms for meeting on Zoom.

**3. Conflict of interest declarations, if any**

Lauren Weston commented that no one from FCNRCD will be voting on their own projects today. She also asked if anyone from NRPC needed to be excused, specifically asking about Heidi considering she is representing NRPC. Dean Pierce clarified that Heidi Bridge-Valenta is allowed to vote because she is not employed by NRPC and is just representing the sector.

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

No changes to the agenda were made. Ted Sedell motioned to approve. Beth Torpey seconded. Agenda was approved.

#### **5. Approval of minutes**

Lauren Weston moved to approve. Ted Sedell seconded. Minutes were approved.

#### **6. Public comment not related to items on agenda**

Dean provided more clarification on why Heidi did not need to be recused from voting.

#### **7. Report on budget adjustments (if any)**

No adjustments were made.

#### **8. Seating of new RPC Representative (if any)**

Dean explained that Dave Allerton is still considered and alternate representative for the municipal sector even though he has retired as public works director for St. Albans Town. However, he might step away if the Town asks for a current staff member to fill the role.

#### **9. Review of Applications**

Dean set up the applications by saying the total funding request was \$445,532, there were two applicants and the total phosphorus reduction estimate is about 58kg. There was one project development application, two implementation applications, and four final design applications.

Cliff Jenkins started talking about his project proposal for the Sleeper Pond Dam Removal. There are several easements required for this project, and because the CWSP is required to set up the easements, NRPC has been reaching out to lawyers about the title work. Legal review fees were not included in the original applications, so the NRPC is reaching back out to the BWQC for more funding to account for increased legal fees. The initial request was for \$4800 but was increased to \$8000. Cliff showed a map of the project. Cliff explained that he applied as a project development application even though the funds will be used in the implementation phase because Karen Bates explained that these funds are requested to move between phases of the project. The original funding amount was estimated at \$800 per parcel easement, but recent invoicing has suggested that the NRPC will need more money.

Ted Sedell asked if this project was the dam in Newport Center. Cliff said yes. Ted also asked if this was for easements to access the six parcels around the dam, to which Cliff also agreed.

Dean interjected that this was an unconventional situation, in that the CWSP is playing catch up. He clarified that he believes some of the surrounding parcels do not require CWSP easements because they are only getting water line work, but according to the attorney they do need deed title work.

Allaire Diamond explained that she has previously understood that CWSP funds cannot be used for her conservation easement projects. So, she was asking for clarification on why this project is eligible for funding. Cliff said he could not speak for using CWSP funds for conservation easements in general. However, Basin Planner Karen Bates had said this request would qualify as project development. Dean elaborated that because the legal fees are directly related to a CWSP-funded project (in the same way that bonding fees are), they are CWSP eligible expenses. He does not believe that this will have an impact on conservation easements. Dean showed a chart for legal fees for Sleeper Pond Implementation. He ran through the numbers for the CWSP share of P reduction cost effectiveness, saying that the Sleeper Pond project cost effectiveness should not change much per kilogram with this increase in funding.

Lindsey shared that she is concerned about the precedent this sets for other projects, specifically smaller projects where this could effect the cost effectiveness much more. She explained that she thinks that this request should come out of a different pot of money. She explained that she thought that one of the six parcels did not need an easement. Dean agreed that one parcel Cliff had indicated as requiring an easement did not.

Ted Sedell asked if the attorney fees were included in the initial project application. Cliff said his impression is they were not. Lindsey chimed in that they had gotten landowner agreements from the parcels around the dam but not the ones farther away.

Lauren Weston asked if there were standards set by other CWSPs for legal fees, and Dean said that he believed they had not encountered this yet. Ted shared that there might be another project in Morgan that encountered a similar situation with legal fees, but he was unsure.

Heidi Bridge-Valenta asked if these would be temporary or permanent easements. Dean explained that these easements are for the design life of the practice and could be extended. The easement is written so it is renewable, but a party could choose not to renew. She thought this cost seemed low considering the number of easements involved.

Mel Auffredou asked for clarification because Chris Rottler had explained in the Lamoille BWQC meeting that fees prior to an executed agreement could not be covered by CWSP funds. Dean distinguished between the two situations. He clarified that because the CWSP does not have an agreement with itself, unlike regular agreements between the CWSP and subgrantees, there is no task award date that comes in to play for when expenses can be billed.

Lindsey shared that she was simply concerned about the path that this request is setting. Dean suggested that this application could be tabled to wait for the BWQC to discuss the later agenda item on legal fees in applications.

Heidi asked if these landowners have agreed to signing an easement or if there is potential for the landowners to request financial compensation for the loss of land. Lindsey explained that

MRBA has a great relationship with 5 of the 6 parcel owners and the numbers are not likely to be inflated. Heidi said that she was confused by why the legal fees could not be included in the budget of the project because they were a part of bringing the project to fruition. Lindsey remarked that DEC's guidelines are making it difficult to get projects implemented due to added costs like this.

Ted Sedell motioned to table. Lauren Weston seconded. Dean suggested that this topic be "continuing" until the next meeting given the time left in the meeting, and Ted asked if this needed to be approved for the project to continue. Dean said no. Heidi asked if the proposal could be approved under the condition that the CWSP promptly set a new precedent, and Allaire expressed concern with that. Ted asked if this could be approved as a "one and done" situation for this kind of request, and withdrew his motion. Allaire motioned to vote later in the meeting at 12:50, Ted seconded. Motion passed.

Mel Auffredou started presenting on the Black Falls Brook Floodplain Restoration Final Design application. This is a project in Montgomery aimed at increasing flood resilience in the town, as well as increasing floodplain access and flood storage on the town's public, conserved parcel. This project will reduce phosphorus heading downstream via floodplain lowering, road embankment stabilizations, and plantings. The budget for the final design of this project is \$213,131 and the total budget is about 1.7 million. This is a multi-acre project with the added benefits of community engagement, public education, recreation, and knotweed removal. Mel showed a map of the project.

Lindsey asked for explanation on what work would be done on the portion of the project along the road. Lauren and Mel responded that they would be doing additional stabilization.

Allaire explained that she was struck by the high cost of final design, and requested clarification on the phosphorus numbers and the infrastructure-related amounts requested versus floodplain-related spending. She also asked about additional funding sources like FEMA. Mel shared she checked the cost is still significant with the road embankment money removed, and Lauren shared that applying for FEMA would require more money. Lauren shared that much of the money requested is for a cultural resources assessment. She shared that site-specific data has not been gathered yet.

Ted asked if SLR did a hydraulic model for this area, and Lauren shared that they had done a hydraulic model for the whole Trout River but additional work is needed for a smaller scale model. This is one of 10 high priority projects recommended for the river, and this one was chosen by the town.

Ted also asked what the quote was for a cultural resources assessment. Lauren estimated \$40,000. Mel went back to Allaire's question about the P-reduction and this project will reduce 16kg/year. Dean added that the cost effectiveness of this project is looking like about \$100,000 per kilogram. Mel shared that the SLR phosphorus numbers seemed low, and that the complete accuracy of that number is questionable and depended on floodplain access. Mel clarified that the cultural resources assessment was estimated at \$20,000.

Lindsey motioned to approve. Ted seconded. Lauren recused. Motion passed.

Dorothy Kinney-Landis presented on the Marsh Brook Town Highway 33 Floodplain Restoration Final Design application. Floodplain lowering, berm removal, and restoration planting are included in this final design, and preliminary design was completed earlier this year. Additional restoration projects were looked at but these were the three agreed on by the landowner. Total project area is just under an acre. The final design phase budget is \$57,476.20. The total estimated P-reduction is 4.6kg/year. The total estimated project cost is \$150,000-200,000. This project is in the Lake Carmi watershed.

Ted asked where this was in relation with the Marsh Brook State Park, and Dorothy shared that this project is adjacent to the state park. Mel shared that this project is right next to the upcoming Marsh Brook State Park Floodplain Restoration project.

Allaire shared that this project cost seemed very reasonable and the funds were directly related to the water quality impacts.

Allaire moved to approve. Ted seconded. Lauren abstained. Motion passed.

Mel presented on the Marsh Brook State Park Floodplain Restoration Final Design application. This project is in Lake Carmi State Park. This project is aimed at reducing channel incision along 550 ft of Marsh Brook in the Lake Carmi watershed. The 30% design includes floodplain lowering via bench cuts, strategic wood additions, and plantings and the benefits are flood resilience, decreased flow velocity and reduced phosphorus inputs. This project includes a number of beaver dam analogs along the brook. The final design budget is \$53,224 and total budget is \$150,000-200,000. P reduction is 12.7 kg/year so the cost effectiveness is \$11,800-15,800 kg/year.

Ted asked if FCNRCD was given estimates for all of these projects combined or individually. Mel said that the project design budgets and cost effectiveness were given site by site but were all completed under the same CWSP project ID.

Allaire asked how the bench cuts would be done and Mel shared that she was unsure but there would likely have to be machinery in the area because these are larger beaver dam analogs.

Ted moved to approve. Allaire seconded. Lauren abstained. Motion passed.

Mel presented on The Branch Floodplain Restoration Final Design application. This project is in Enosburg and focuses on erosion of the streambank along these two properties. This project would increase floodplain access along 18000ft of The Branch. This will reduce flow velocity and includes taking a hayfield out of production, driveway/floodplain lowering, and planting of woody species. She presented a map. The budget is about \$58,000 with a P credit of 11.3 kg and a \$21,200-26,600 per kilogram cost effectiveness.

Lindsey asked how they plan to accomplish plantings along the eroding bank. Mel said that FCNRCD plans to plant trees along this portion at the top of the bank even though it is thin.

Ted asked about VTrans' input on the vulnerability of the road (Rte 108). Mel shared that erosion is happening outside of VTrans right of way.

Ted motioned to approve. Sarah Downs seconded. Lauren abstained. Motion carried.

Orenna Brand presented on the Black Creek Riparian Buffer Planting application. This is an implementation project in Fairfield. The project is along 2.5 acres of Black Creek which connects to the Missisquoi. The current conditions along this project are a fallow cornfield with reed canary grass and boxelders. The phosphorus credit is 5.89 kg/year. The planting design will follow previous projects is 400 live stakes per acre, bare root, 2-4 ft stems. The project benefits are cleaner water, ecosystem services, and climate resiliency. The implementation budget is \$25,869.

Ted asked who will do the planting. Orenna shared that the NRCD will be doing the planting. Ted also asked if O&M is included in the budget, and Lauren and Orenna said no.

Ted motioned to approve. Sarah seconded. Lauren abstained. Motion passed.

Dorothy presented on the Rock River Tributary Riparian Planting application. The area of this project is 3.4 acres along a tributary of the Rock River. This project is along an early succession meadow with some alders. This project will result in a P-reduction of 7.33 kg/year. Planting design will follow the previous application. The budget is \$33,004.50. FCNRCD will be doing the planting. Benefits of the project include clean water, wildlife habitat, and education. Missisquoi

Valley Union eighth graders will take field trips to the property to learn about the benefits of riparian plantings.

Allaire shared that she hopes the NRCD will do some wood additions in the planting. Dorothy shared that this could be done. Karen Bates shared additional clarifications on planting projects applications.

Mel asked if Dean could give some clarification on what kind of project application is necessary for strategic wood additions. Ted added that these projects generally do not require the same design stage as other projects. Lindsey suggested that we postpone this discussion to next meeting.

Allaire motioned to approve. Ted seconded. Lauren abstained. Motion carried.

At 12:54, the BWQC again took up the matter of Sleeper Pond-related legal expenses. Allaire motioned to approve. As an aside, she noted that there should be more information provided at a future meeting regarding the eligibility of legal expenses for CWSP funding. Ted seconded. Motion passed.

## **10. BWQC Approval of Project Legal Expenses**

Dean went on to present on changes to BWQC applications with regard to legal expenses. Since site access agreements required by DEC result in sometimes costly legal fees, application forms will include a note that the BWQC will be considering additional funds for legal review in sites requiring access agreements. This would prevent another situation like Cliff's application.

### **11. Updates**

#### **a. Cost Rate Methodology**

This formula is changing. There is a Teams presentation on this change on October 8<sup>th</sup> and public comments can be made until the 14<sup>th</sup>. Dean shared that the proposed P-reduction goal will decrease by 48%.

#### **b. Expedited project development funding policy**

No comments were made.

### **12. Future Meeting topics/Conclusion**

Dean shared that the next meeting is December 3<sup>rd</sup> and the next funding round opens December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Bridget Butler thanked everyone for their questions and clarifications.

Meeting ended at 1:06.

- Public comment not related to items on agenda
- Seating of new RPC Representative (standing item)
- Report on budget adjustments (standing item)

**MEMO**

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS  
DA: November 26, 2025

=====

Staff will have budget adjustments (pending and/or completed by December 3rd) to report at the meeting.

This report is provided in accordance with the Basin Council’s adopted policy regarding administrative approval of modest changes in project budgets.

- **Revised Cost Rate Methodology (Chris Rottler)**

# MEMO

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: DEC COST RATE METHODOLOGY PRESENTATION  
DA: November 26, 2025

=====

Vermont DEC's Cost Rate Methodology (CRM) is used to set phosphorus reduction targets and funding levels for Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs). As previously announced, DEC proposed a new version of the CRM in late summer. Public comments on the proposal were accepted through October 17 as part of a formal review period.

With the recent posting of a 'response document,' the new methodology is now in effect. Adoption of the new CRPM means there will be a decrease in the size of the Missisquoi Bay basin's P reduction targets.

Chris Rottler of DEC will be attending the December 4 meeting to provide more details. As a preview, please see the following:

**2025 Sector rates, in dollars per kilogram:**

- **Developed sector:** \$49,422 (was \$15,822)
- **Streams sector:** \$21,459 (was \$10,601)
- **Forest sector:** \$18,897 (was \$9,565)
- **Agriculture sector (buffers):** \$4,072 (was \$6,725)

The overall impact of the change is that the targets in the Missisquoi Basin will drop by over 50 percent.

Link to the proposed Cost Rate Methodology below:

[https://anrweb.vt.gov/Pubdocs/DEC/ENB/ENB\\_V2/28413-DRAFT%20Cost%20Rate%20and%20Fund%20Allocation%20Methodology%2009.17.25.pdf](https://anrweb.vt.gov/Pubdocs/DEC/ENB/ENB_V2/28413-DRAFT%20Cost%20Rate%20and%20Fund%20Allocation%20Methodology%2009.17.25.pdf)

## CWSP SFY26 Awards and Targets Summary

The CWSP SFY26 Awards and Targets Summary outlines the phosphorus reduction targets and associated costs for various basins in the region.

- Basin 6 has the highest target of 77.8 kg/yr with a total cost of \$1,779,866.09.
- Basin 7 targets a reduction of 15.2 kg/yr at a cost of \$523,375.52.
- The total phosphorus reduction target across all basins is 216.3 kg/yr with a total project cost of \$5,355,000.00. For comparison, Basin 5 (Northern Lake Champlain) has a target of 17.0 kg/yr with a total cost of \$523,375.52.

## Revision of CWSP Targets for SFY 2023-2025

The revision of CWSP targets for SFY 2023-2025 reflects adjustments based on updated cost rates and project funding methodologies.

- The revisions resulted in a reduction of original targets by 45% to 59%.
- Basin 6's target is now 264.3 kg/yr, down from 509.0 kg/yr, a reduction of 244.7 kg/yr (48%).
- Basin 7's target is revised to 48.1 kg/yr from 115.8 kg/yr, a reduction of 67.7 kg/yr (58%).
- The total revised target for SFY 2023-2025 is 766.3 kg/yr, down from 1,516.4 kg/yr, a reduction of 750.1 kg/yr (49%). For comparison, the Basin 5 (Northern Lake Champlain) target is revised to 54.2 kg/yr from 121.8 kg/yr, a reduction of 67.6 kg/yr (56%).

- **Missisquoi Bay Tactical Basin Plan (Karen Bates)**

**MEMO**

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: Tactical Basin Plan PRESENTATION  
DA: November 26, 2025

=====

Act 76 gave BWQCs an important role in Vermont’s “Tactical Basin Plan” (TBP) process. The law specifically mandates their involvement in basin planning and asks them to consider the resulting plan when making water quality investment decisions. Act 76 positions the BWQC as the key local decision-making body responsible for translating the strategic guidance provided by the Tactical Basin Plan into actionable, prioritized, and funded non-regulatory clean water projects.

TBPs are adopted roughly every five years, and the effort to update the Missisquoi Bay Basin TBP is currently underway. On December 3, Basin Planner Karen Bates will brief the BWQC on this effort and use the opportunity to solicit input from BWQC members on various issues. To review the current TBP or related resources, visit <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/watershed-planning/basins-and-planners/basin6> .

- **Introduction to Forest Roads Project Type and Inventories and (Karen Bates)**

**MEMO**

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: FOREST ROADS PRESENTATION  
DA: November 26, 2025

=====

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, BWQC members will be introduced to the comprehensive framework developed by Vermont's forestry and environmental agencies to manage and fund projects aimed at reducing water pollution from forest roads and trails. The framework's core objective is to control nutrient and sediment pollution entering state waters by implementing Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs). Karen Bates and/or staff from Vermont's Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation) will provide the presentation.

As they will explain, a revised, highly specific "Forestry Project Type" definition is central to the effort. This definition (still in draft?) targets funding eligibility towards projects that address legacy erosion (persisting three or more years after logging) on "hydrologically connected" forest truck roads and skid trails. According to the draft guidance issued over the summer, eligibility is restricted to private and municipal lands, with projects on state lands funded separately.

Implementation and compliance are managed through the Forest Road and Trail Erosion Inventory (RTEI), a standardized assessment methodology. This field-based process uses a dedicated app created to help users evaluate road and trail segments against AMP standards. The RTEI establishes baseline conditions, guides practice implementation, and confirms improvements post-construction. In the process, it creates a robust database for project tracking and phosphorus accounting.

Vermont's Department of Forests, Parks, & Recreation's Watershed Forestry Program provides support through detailed user manuals and hands-on field training, ensuring practitioners can accurately identify eligible sites and properly utilize the RTEI assessment tools. Vermont DEC's role is primarily connected to the identification and inventory of potential forestry projects aimed at controlling nutrient and sediment pollution. Specifically, the DEC's role includes: Managing the Project Identification Tool; Providing System Access; and Data warehousing (completed inventory surveys are DEC for reporting).

- Updates/In brief
- Future Meeting topics /Conclusion

**MEMO**

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: UPDATE ITEMS  
DA: NOVEMBER 26, 2025

=====

Updates on various topics will be provided at the end of the meeting on December 3 as time and staffing allow.