

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

***Thursday, December 4, 2025***

**9:00 to 11:00 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

Meeting video posted at [https://youtu.be/wHQI\\_6MFksk](https://youtu.be/wHQI_6MFksk)

**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: Chair Peter Danforth (Q), Vice Chair Meghan Rodier (Q), Ken Minck (Q), Erin De Vries (Q), Mel Alfredou (Alt for Lauren Weston) (Q), JoAnn Hanowski (Alt for Chris Steele) (Q)

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

Staff: Dean Pierce,

Others present: Alt Richard Goff (LCPC Board), Alt Dan Koenemann (WNRCD), Karen Bates (DEC), Chris Rottler (DEC), Seth Jensen, Chris Dubin, Will Marlier, Karina Morales, Trevor Corp, Peter Danforth's AI Notetaker

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Peter Danforth opened the meeting at 9:02am as Chair. A round of introductions was made. Dean Pierce noted that staff who regularly assist with minutes were not present.

**2. Meeting protocols**

Peter Danforth reviewed norms for meeting on Zoom.

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

Meghan Rodier stated that she would be abstaining from voting on two of the applications because they have been submitted by her organization, LCPC. Richard Goff, Meghan's alternate,

also stated he would not be able to vote in her place because he is a member of the LCPC board of directors.

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

No changes to the agenda were made. Erin DeVries moved to approve the agenda. Ken Minck seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

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

Peter Danforth asked if all members had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting (September 2025). Erin DeVries moved to approve the agenda, with Ken Minck seconding. The motion was approved.

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

Erin De Vries announced that the DEC Rivers program is seeking applications for two river scientist positions. Ken Minck requested time to discuss a mass failure on the Mill River in Georgia, noting he had recently emailed Dean Pierce about the issue. Dean suggested discussing this after the application review.

#### **7. Seating of members (if any)**

Dean Pierce announced that Brent Sheets, a municipal representative first from the Town of Hyde Park and later from the Town of Fairfax, is understood to have resigned his position with the Town of Fairfax. This will if confirmed create a vacancy on one of the two municipal seats. Dean also noted that Erin De Vries changed her affiliation from a land conservation organization representative to a watershed organization representative. Staff is currently searching for a Land Trust representative to fill the vacancy.

#### **8. Budget adjustment requests (if any)**

Dean Pierce reported there are no budget adjustments to report.

#### **9. Application review**

Dean Pierce provided a brief introduction, noting there were five applications for review, spanning preliminary design, final design, implementation, and buffer planting.

**South Hill Infiltration Preliminary Design (Underhill)** - Chris Dubin presented the preliminary design application to stabilize a gully on private property by addressing stormwater runoff from a town road (Range Road). The plan includes gully stabilization and installing an infiltration chamber/basin. Karen Bates (DEC) confirmed that treating stormwater from the developed lands/town road is sufficient for eligibility. The project cost-effectiveness was estimated at about \$47,000 per kilogram of phosphorus reduction.

A motion to approve the South Hill Infiltration Preliminary Design project for CWSP funding was made by Erin DeVries and seconded by Ken Minck. Motion Carried.

**Vermont Studio Center Floodplain Restoration Project (Final Design)** - Meghan Rodier presented the request for final design funding (\$35,237.76) for a 0.4-acre floodplain restoration along the Gihon River in Johnson Village. The project aims to reduce flooding impacts, especially ice jams, by lowering the floodplain to access the river at the 2-year flood level, down from the current 50-year level. The LCPC is coordinating the effort with remediation of contaminated soils from a former town garage site.

Dean Pierce provided staff assessment, noting that if the project proceeds to implementation using Clean Water Funds, its cost-effectiveness would exceed \$200,000 per kilogram (P reduction estimated at 1.1 kg/year after Year 1). Chris Rottler noted that policy changes regarding co-funding (CWSP/enhancement grants) may offer a path forward for expensive projects soon.

A motion to approve final design funding for the Vermont Studio Center Floodplain Restoration Project was made by Erin DeVries. The motion was seconded by Peter Danforth to allow further discussion. After considerable discussion a vote was taken, and the motion failed. (4 votes were cast in favor, and 5 votes were required to advance the motion.) Dean Pierce noted that a denial would be without prejudice, meaning that the application could be revised and resubmitted.

**Holmes Meadow Floodplain Restoration Project (Implementation)** - Seth Jensen presented the request for implementation funding (\$137,000) for the revegetation and post-construction monitoring phase of the Holmes Meadow Floodplain Restoration Project in Johnson. The project is largely funded through a Flood Resilient Communities grant, meaning the CWSP is due to receive the phosphorus reduction credits. Dean Pierce noted that approximately \$20,000 to \$24,000 of the requested funds related to operation and maintenance (O&M) may be covered under a subsequent O&M agreement rather than implementation funds. The Vermont River Conservancy is working to place a river corridor conservation easement on the property. The construction bid for the project had already been awarded via a competitive bid process.

Erin DeVries moved to approve the Holmes Meadow implementation project for CWSP funds. Dorothy Kinney-Landis seconded, and the motion was voted on and approved.

**Barr Project (Cemetery Brook) Riparian Buffer and Stream Restoration (Implementation)** - Will Marlier presented the implementation request for the project, which involves a significant tributary to Caspian Lake in Greensboro known as Cemetery Brook. The project phase requested funding for implementation, totaling \$37,000. The project objectives include planting

about 11 acres of buffer to restore wetland ecology and installing 50-plus in-stream structures (post-assisted log structures, or PALS). The goal of the structures is to help the channelized stream jump its banks and start to meander naturally, reconnecting wetland hydrology and putting the stream back onto its floodplains.

The project completed 100% designs two months prior to the meeting. It was previously identified as a highly prioritized project through the Caspian watershed LWAP. The applicant noted that the plan was slightly adjusted, changing from sentinel trees to using cedar posts as sentinels, to avoid triggering a full archaeological review by the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation (DHP). The applicant corrected an error in the application during the meeting, stating that the phosphorus reduction figures were 1.1 kilograms higher than initially reported (11.6 kg), bringing the total estimated phosphorus reduction to about 12.7 kilograms per year. [Note: the applicant later advised that the numbers presented initially had been correct.] The updated numbers affirmed the project's strong efficiency numbers.

JoAnn Hanowski moved to approve the Barr family project implementation for CWSP funding. The motion was seconded by Megan Rodier. Motion Carried.

**Haynesville Brook Riparian Buffer Planting (Implementation)** - Karina Morales presented the implementation request (\$7,000) for a riparian buffer planting project (1.24 acres, 498 stems) on a private property (pasture) in Hardwick, along Haynesville Brook. The project is highly cost-effective (under \$4,000 per kg/year). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partner's program is providing a stem match of about \$1,500. Landowners are currently in discussions regarding a conservation easement. The planting is planned for Spring 2026.

A motion to approve the Haynesville Brook implementation project for CWSP funding was made by JoAnn Hanowski. It was seconded by Dorothy Kinney-Landis. Motion Carried.

## **10. Updating of Cost Rate methodology**

Dean Pierce noted that discussion of this agenda item had effectively been integrated into the discussion during review of applications, as part of the comments by Chris Rottler.

## **11. Updates**

Dean Pierce provided an update regarding the eligibility of legal expenses associated with site access easements for CWSP funding. In an email from Chris Rottler, DEC has confirmed such expenses are eligible based.

In the saddest news of the meeting, Peter Danforth announced his resignation from his position as District Manager for the Lamoille County Conservation District. It will become effective February 12, 2026, and will impact his BWQC position.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22nd.

## **12. Conclusion**

Erin DeVries moved to adjourn, with Ken Minck seconding. The meeting adjourned at 11:05.