

Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

Thursday, January 22, 2026

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

Meeting video posted at <https://youtu.be/xSJetZ06aVY?si=eANzPVqMigWVpA8P>

**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: Meghan Rodier (Q), Lauren Weston (Q), Ken Minck (Q), Erin De Vries (Q), Brad Holden (Q), Chris Steel (Q), Peter Danforth (Q)- for portion of meeting.

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

Staff: Dean Pierce

Others present: Brent Raymond (Town of Morristown), Richard Goff (q), Dan Koenemanne (WNRCD), Kristen Leahy (Town of Hardwick), Peter Danforth's AI Notetaker, Jim's AI Notetaker, Karen Bates (DEC)

1. Welcome and introductions

Meghan Rodier opened the meeting at 9:09am as Chair. A round of introductions was made.

2. Meeting protocols

Meghan Rodier reviewed norms for meeting on Zoom. She noted a few typos in the presentation.

3. Conflict of interest declarations, if any

No conflict-of-interest declarations were made. Dean made clarifications that this is intended for situations in which a voting member is involved in a project seeking approval.

4. Review/adjust and approve agenda

No changes to the agenda were made. Erin motioned to approve. Lauren seconded. Motion carried.

5. Approval of minutes

It was noted that Mel Auffredou's name was misspelled in the previous minutes, as were the names of Chris Steel and JoAnn Hanowski.

Lauren motioned to approve the minutes with these changes. Chris seconded. Brad abstained. Motion carried.

6. Public comment not related to items on agenda

Lauren shared that Lamoille County NRCD was hosting a community dinner on 1/22/26.

7. Seating of members (if any)

Dean shared that there are some vacancies on the council. He shared who can hold these positions and stated that there are municipal representative positions open. The BWQC is looking for a land trust representative as well as a municipal representative. Dean is also looking for alternates.

Lauren asked if the council needed to discuss Peter's leaving, and Dean shared that the conservation districts will need to decide on who'd they like to propose as the representative.

8. Budget adjustment requests (if any)

No adjustments were made. Dean clarified why this is a standing agenda item.

9. Peter Danforth Recognition

Peter is retiring from his position at the Lamoille County Conservation District. Dean recommended that the BWQC offer appropriate recognition. He also mentioned Peter's willingness to help throughout the years and that he is grateful for Peter's work. Peter then shared his experience at the Conservation District and with the BWQC, and that he hopes the hard work will continue.

Brad motioned to approve the resolution of appreciation for the founding member of the Lamoille BWQC. Erin seconded. Motion passed.

10. Leadership Succession

Dean explained that the Vice Chair (Meghan) will take over because Peter (Chair) is leaving. There will be an election at the next general meeting for Vice Chair. This position will serve until

the next annual meeting, which will be in July. Come July, there will be an election for both the Chair and Vice Chair. Ken clarified the timeline.

11. Lamoille River Modeling

Dean shared that there are some meeting recordings on the Lamoille County Planning Commission website that do a good job at explaining this project. Meghan followed up with an explanation. She shared that the website also shares information on the community outreach efforts and final report. This model is an extended version of a previous model, with more towns and tributaries included. Dean shared a map of the model extent.

Erin asked where FEMA is at with the new flood maps and if the existing maps were compared with model maps. Meghan noted that the updated FEMA hydrology maps are being included in the model.

Ken said that there has not been a TMDL issued for Deer Creek and asked if it was included in the modeling effort (it was not). Dean showed an image of the model's flood outputs and gave an overview of the slides shared in model presentation meetings.

Brad explained that the FEMA maps are county-based. He shared an event on February 4th at CCRPC that will showcase the preliminary maps.

Erin asked if the Lamoille RPC and other planning commissions involved will use the report and recommended projects to prioritize projects in their region and will these projects be coming to the BWQC. Meghan shared that these projects have been important in choosing projects at the Lamoille RPC, as well as focusing on doing multiple projects in one area. Dean asked if it would be better to prioritize projects by county or watershed. Erin explained that some prioritization should be placed on the co-benefits of projects.

Dean asked if Karen had any thoughts on the questions/concerns Erin was proposing on cost-effectiveness versus other benefits. Karen explained that some projects might have lower cost effectiveness but are generally important to the BWQC, in which case the P-reduction could be made up in other projects to meet DEC goals.

Dean asked where the model data will be published and if others could use this data. Meghan said yes and to contact Seth at LCPC for the data.

12. Project Adoption

Dean explained the process for adopting former clean water projects and claiming P-reduction credits. These projects have to be non-regulatory, have existing database records and prior funding sources. Those seeking project adoption could go through the BWQC or CWSP to see if these projects qualify. Then, either the group seeking approval or the CWSP would come to the

BWQC with a formal approval request. The process goes through evaluation, council approval, site access agreements, and verification. There is a cap on credits from adopted projects but currently none have happened in the Lamoille BWQC. Dean shared that the next steps could be a standalone adoption application form and opened the group to discussion.

Dan shared his experience in Basin 5 for considering a project adoption. They are currently “trial running” this process. Meghan asked how far back the clean water funds can be in the projects history, and Dean said that he was unsure. Meghan shared an example where the preliminary work was done with clean water money but later stages were not, and Dean said that this should be put on paper and taken to DEC for approval for adoption.

Dan explained complicating factors in the Basin 5 adoption project regarding design life.

13. Updates

Dean shared a few updates. There was a former project doing a series of buyouts of four properties that had been tabled because background work was moving slowly, but they might not need CWSP funds anymore. Dean brought up that if there was some CWSP funding, maybe it could be adoptable in the future, so they might come forward with a small funding request. Additionally, the Town of Georgia has become a Project Partner. Dean brought up that Chris Rottler was bringing data from the CWSPs to legislators and could not attend this meeting. The next application round opens February 5th and the deadline is March 12th. Therefore, the next meeting could include Vice Chair election, application review, and presentations on Forest Road Erosion Inventories and Tactical Basin Plan Updates.

14. Conclusion

Quorum was lost at 10:32 and there was no formal motion to adjourn. Before leaving, Erin asked about the schedule of the meetings and Dean clarified that the next meeting will be March 26th.