

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

**Thursday, March 26, 2026**

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

**Virtual Meeting**

Meeting video posted at <https://youtu.be/IZTn73REdjg>

**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), Mel Auffredou (Q), Fiona McMurtrie (Q), Brad Holden (Q), Erin De Vries (Q), Chris Steel (Q), Kristen Leahy (Town of Hardwick), Richard Goff (q), Dan Koenemann (q)

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

Staff: Dean Pierce, Nora Brown

Others present: Tom Joslin (Town of Jericho), Karen Bates (DEC), Chris Rottler (DEC)

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Meghan Rodier opened the meeting at 9:03am as Chair. A round of introductions was made.

**2. Meeting protocols**

Meghan Rodier reviewed norms for meeting on Zoom.

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

Meghan Rodier will recuse herself from review of her application.

Dean clarified that if Ken Minck were in attendance, he would need to recuse himself from review of the Town of Georgia's application.

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

No changes to the agenda were made. Brad Holden motioned to approve. Mel Auffredou seconded. Motion carried.

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

Erin De Vries motioned to approve the minutes. Brad Holden seconded. Mel Auffredou abstained. Motion carried.

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

No public comments were made.

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

New members: Kristen Leahy of Hardwick (as new municipal representative) and Fiona McMurtrie of the Greensboro Land Trust (as new land conservation organization representative). Erin De Vries of VT River Conservancy now represents the watershed organizations, having previously represented the land conservation sector.

Emily Lugthart of LCCD has been proposed as a new alternate for the NRCD seat previously held by Peter Danforth.

Dean Pierce reviewed the terms for representatives and alternates, which must be renewed every two years. Vacancies are filled for the remainder of a term. The CWSP is currently contacting representatives to determine interest in renewing membership, which will be shared with DEC in April, and if necessary, will recruit to fill any vacancies.

Dean clarified that each sector selects candidates to fill vacant positions within that sector.

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

Dean reviewed the procedure for budget adjustments, as adopted by the CWSP, which allows for adjustments under 10% of an original budget to be handled administratively by CWSP staff. 10-20% budget adjustments may be approved by the Chair and Vice Chair, and adjustments over 20% must be approved by the basin council.

Dean shared that Orleans County NRCD requested a budget adjustment under 10% (\$3,751), which was approved. The funding was for an alternative plant stock for the Cemetery Brook project (WPD ID 14066).

#### **9. Election of Vice Chair**

No interest was expressed in the Chair position in advance of the meeting.

Dean clarified that this term will run through the end of July, at which point membership renewals will take effect.

Brad Holden nominated Erin De Vries. Erin accepted the nomination.

Kristen Leahy motioned to approve Erin De Vries as Vice Chair. Brad Holden seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **10. Application Review**

Dean Pierce provided an overview of the two applications received in Application Round 10.

#### **11432 North Wolcott Floodplain Restoration (Preliminary Design)**

Meghan Rodier presented the application submitted by LCPC. The project was identified as a priority in the Town of Wolcott's hazard mitigation plan and the 2020 SLR Floodplain Mitigation Study. She shared that some parts of SLR's 10% designs have already been implemented, so the estimated implementation cost provided with this application is likely high. The FFI estimated 34.8kg/yr in P reduction, in addition to a number of co-benefits, including flood resilience and protecting local infrastructure (road along river).

Mel Auffredou asked for clarification of the road's location and whether relocation of both the road and buildings/homes has been considered. Meghan explained that this was considered, but none of the landowners plan to pursue a buyout.

Erin De Vries also explained that the steep valley walls make it impossible to move the road to a location outside of the river corridor.

Chris Steel asked about funding for subsequent phases of the project. Meghan explained that applications to federal funding sources weren't successful, but LCPC is experienced in combining multiple funding sources. She anticipates securing additional funding sources for subsequent phases.

Dean Pierce noted the project's good cost effectiveness and P reduction potential, so funding all or most of this project is not a concern for the CWSP.

Meghan also clarified that the project had a high benefit/cost analysis ration when being assessed for the hazard mitigation plan.

Erin De Vries noted that there are multiple restoration projects upstream and downstream of this project, each with significant P reduction.

Mel Auffredou motioned to approve the project. Chris Steel seconded. Kristen Leahy, Brad Holden, Mel Auffredou, Chris Steel, Erin De Vries, and Fiona McMurtrie voted in favor. Meghan Rodier abstained. Motion carried.

#### **14605 Silver Lake Road Floodplain Restoration (Preliminary Design)**

Nora Brown presented the Silver Lake Road Preliminary Design application on behalf of the Georgia Conservation Commission.

Nora Brown presented the Town of Georgia Conservation Commission's application for preliminary design funding for the Silver Lake Road Floodplain Restoration Project. She summarized prior project development work and described key issues, including an undersized perched culvert limiting aquatic organism passage, downstream scour, partially collapsing upstream header stones, and limited floodplain connectivity. Proposed project elements include culvert replacement, floodplain and wetland restoration, and installation of beaver dam analogs along approximately 600 feet of stream, with an estimated phosphorus reduction of 4.9 kg/year. Nora Brown noted that landowner support is mixed and that preliminary design would include additional outreach led by the RPC and the Town. She also indicated that additional funding sources, such as transportation funding, may be pursued, particularly for culvert replacement.

Erin De Vries asked about responsibility for landowner engagement, and Nora Brown clarified that this would be led by the RPC and Town rather than the consultant. Erin De Vries also asked clarifying questions about the phosphorus reduction estimate and budget. Mel Auffredou asked about cost-effectiveness, and Dean Pierce explained that the project exceeds typical cost-effectiveness thresholds and would require outside funding, noting that CWSP would not fully fund implementation. Chris Steel asked about potential funding sources to fill gaps, and Nora Brown responded that no specific sources are currently secured, though VTrans funding is a possibility. Erin De Vries suggested exploring additional funding opportunities such as WUV.

Nora Brown also highlighted co-benefits of the project, including public access, recreation, and alignment with upstream restoration work.

Dean Pierce and Chris Rottler provided additional context on cost-effectiveness and project prioritization. Dean Pierce explained that while this request is for a relatively small preliminary design phase, long-term implementation costs and cost-effectiveness remain important considerations, and projects that do not meet thresholds may not advance. Chris Rottler noted that the Council has discretion to approve projects that are less cost-effective but emphasized the need to balance decisions across the broader project pipeline and funding constraints. Meghan added that funding preliminary design can help projects become more competitive for larger funding sources in the future.

Mel Auffredou raised broader concerns about the difficulty of funding culvert replacements, and Meghan acknowledged that this is a common challenge across projects.

Mel Auffredou made a motion to approve full funding for the preliminary design phase, and Erin De Vries seconded the motion. After brief discussion, a roll call vote was conducted:

- Yes: Fiona McMurtrie, Meghan Rodier, Erin De Vries, Kristen Leahy, Mel Auffredou (5)

- No: Chris Steel (1)
- Recusal: Brad Holden (1)

The motion passed with five votes in favor, one opposed, and one recusal. Chris Rottler offered continued support to the Council and encouraged ongoing discussion around cost-effectiveness and project prioritization.

### **11. Tactical Basin Planning and Relation to Lamoille BWQC**

Karen Bates provided an overview of the Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan planning process, which is updated every 5 years. The outreach process for this update is currently in progress. She reviewed the impaired lakes and streams within the Lamoille Basin. She also reviewed the basis for the TBP, including the TMDL, Act 121, and Act 59.

She reviewed the progress to date in meeting TMDL requirements, noting that progress in the river and stormwater sectors is lagging behind progress in the agriculture sector. She encouraged council members to participate in the outreach process.

Mel Auffredou asked whether the CWSP pays attention to phosphorus goals per sector.

Karen answered that CWSPs have an overall P target and are given an estimate of in which sectors they might expect to pursue those reductions. But the overall target is what matters to the CWSP.

Erin De Vries asked about who the Native Fish Coalition is and whether they might have funding. Dean clarified that they likely weren't a funding source but could be contacted for support.

### **12. Updates**

Dean updated the council that the CWSP has created an online system for invoices and deliverables, which is currently being refined.

Dean also noted that task awards being issued are required to competitively procure contracts over \$10,000, but that organizations can procure once for multiple phases. He also noted some changes to the P calculation system, particularly for riparian buffer plantings.

Next meeting: new application review, presentation on Forest Road projects from Silas Rainville, clarify if Chair should name a nominating committee for new Chair/Vice Chair.

### **13. Conclusion**

Brad Holden motioned to adjourn. Chris Steel seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:02am.