

# TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: MATERIALS FOR MEETING ON APRIL 1  
DA: MARCH 24, 2026

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Greetings, all. The BWQC's next meeting will be held in one week on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Materials for the meeting are attached.

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

As reminder, this is a standing agenda item that provides BWQC members and others opportunity to note possible conflicts of interest that could arise later in the meeting.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes are included in the meeting packet. Please let us know if you spot any parts of the minutes that need to be corrected.

## **Budget Adjustments**

At this time it doesn't appear 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.

## **Presentation on Lake Carmi Alum treatment**

In December, member Heidi Britch-Valenta asked if the Council could receive more information on the Lake Carmi alum treatment project. Pete Benevento of the Franklin Watershed Committee (FWC) was present when the request was made and offered to oblige. One or more representatives of the FWC will attend on April 1 to provide a project update.

## **Project Sharing**

Due to the numerous applications up for review at the last meeting and the time needed to review them, we did not manage to reach this topic at our last gathering. This month, we are trying again. 😊 Representatives of FCNRCD, FNLC, and MRBA have been asked to deliver brief presentations intended to share insights and highlight their navigation of unique project challenges.

## **Updates**

A couple of noteworthy update items are addressed later in this meeting packet. They concern DEC policy proposals and the CWSP's new online system for uploading invoices and deliverables. The DEC policy changes would affect co-funding, operations and maintenance, project eligibility, and project screening tools (including cultural resource screening). The online system for uploading invoices and deliverables is what it sounds like and consists of two primary forms.

## **Conclusion/Adjourn**

The next funding round will open on April 15, with a deadline of May 20, and consideration by the BWQC on June 3. 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, April 1, 2026

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 members/alternates - Biennial renewal
- 8. Report on budget adjustments**
- 9. Presentation on Lake Carmi Alum Treatment**
- 10. Problem-solving focused updates for selected projects**
11. Updates/In brief
  - DEC policy update overview/ Funding outlook
  - Introduction of online invoicing and reporting and deliverables
12. Future Meeting topics /Conclusion

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

Round #	Open	Deadline
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

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**11:00 AM -1:00 PM**

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(Zoom details below)

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- Approval of minutes

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

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

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

**Regular Meeting**

Meeting video posted at <https://youtu.be/Jwre3STI3oo>

**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), Kent Henderson (Q), Sarah Downes (Q), Allaire Diamond (Q). Tucker Malone (Q) during portion of meeting before Allaire joined.

Q= towards quorum [q= towards quorum when representative has recused, when applicable]

Staff: Dean Pierce

Others present: Bridget Butler (FNLC), Ellen Fox (MRBA), Mel Auffredou (FCNRCD), Dorothy Kinney-Landis (FCNRCD), Kerry Brosnan (FCNRCD), Josh Serpe (FNLC), Karen Bates (DEC)

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Lindsey opened the meeting at 11:00 as Chair. A round of introductions was made.

**2. Meeting protocols**

Lindsey reviewed norms for meeting on Zoom.

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

Lauren, Lindsey, Kent, and Tucker declared conflicts of interest and intent not to vote on proposed projects from their respective organizations heard later in the meeting.

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

No changes to the agenda were made. Sarah motioned to approve. Lauren seconded. Agenda was approved.

## **5. Approval of minutes**

No changes were made. Sarah motioned to approve. Heidi seconded. Minutes were approved.

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

No public comments were made.

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

No new representatives were seated.

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

No adjustments were made.

## **9. Review of Applications**

Dean showed a map of locations of all the proposed projects and provided an overview table of all the applications.

Josh presented on the **Swanton Hill Road Floodplain Reconnection** project. This project is on Fairfield Pond and the application. The project received some expedited project development funding. The goal is to connect the stream back to the floodplain and lower an existing berm, as well as doing some plantings. The request was for \$22,000 for final design with a P-reduction of 6.18 kg/year. The landowner is very supportive of the project. Lauren asked clarifying about the requested cost and doing alternate analysis, and Josh said that the alternate options included talking to the town of Swanton about digging up the road. **Lauren motioned to approve. Ted seconded. Kent abstained. Motion passed.**

Lindsey presented on the **Trout River Project**. The project is in the final design stage and MRBA requested about \$21,500 with a P-reduction of 49 kg/yr. The project would involve expansion of a tributary and plantings. Lauren clarified that final design projects should include funds for the contractors to do bid phase service work instead of the implementation phase. **Sarah motioned to approve. Ted seconded. Lindsey abstained. Motion passed.**

Dorothy presented on the **Cooks Brook Planting Project**. The property is conserved with VLT and is part of a wetland protection zone. The project cost was about \$17,000 with a P-reduction of 3.72 kg/yr. This project will increase riparian buffer width with planting of 400 stakes/acre, and the landowner is very supportive of the project. Ted asked about the cost of the stakes, and Dorothy said that FCNRCD is working through different options. Kent asked about the species to be used. Dorothy and Mel shared that they would use Balsam Firs, Red Maples, Yellow Birch, Silky Dogwood, Red Osier Dogwood, Tamarack, Speckled Alder, etc. **Sarah motioned to approve. Ted seconded. Lauren abstained. Motion passed.**

Dorothy also presented on the **Rock River Tributary project**. This project builds upon another project in the final design phase. This project will hopefully increase flood storage capacity. The project will follow a two-stage channel design. P-reduction of 31.3 kg/yr with an implementation cost of \$456,348. The implementation phase will start in April and mobilization will start later in the summer/early fall. Heidi asked what work had happened previously in the area. Kent asked how sediment build up will be taken into account. The planting will happen along the length of the project in the “shoulder” of the stream. Dean asked for clarification on the width of the bench in the area indicated on plans as manure pit leak detection lines. Dorothy and Lauren said that the floodplain might be tapered to the culvert depending on what they find during excavation. Kent asked if plantings would succeed if inundated. Lauren explained that the downstream culvert has been widened and will hopefully alleviate some inundation, and CREP has survival requirements for plantings. Heidi asked about the amount of funding that has been given toward this one landowner’s property and what safeguards there are. Tucker provided some clarification on the conservation easement allowances. Dean said that given all of the involved parties there will be a lot of discussion around management plans between the CWSP and VLT. **Sarah motioned to approve. Ted seconded. Lauren abstained. Motion passed.**

Allaire presented on the **Raboin Stream & Floodplain Project** from VLT. This project is on a farm and the goals are to improve the floodplain in this area while continuing its agricultural use. The primary concerns are a farm bridge on the property that is interfering with river movement. The request was for about \$43,000 for preliminary design and modeling with a 9kg/yr P-reduction if the bridge is removed. Ted asked for clarification on what would be included in the funding request. Kent asked about what agricultural uses would be happening in the future given this is no longer a dairy farm; it would likely be used as a diversified vegetable farm. **Lauren moved to approve. Ted seconded. Allaire/Tucker abstained. Motion passed.**

Kerry presented on the **Trout River Tributary Forest Road Project**. The project aims to ensure that the trailside ditches have adequate capacity and reduce erosion along the trail. The waterbars and ditches on the trail already are in need of repair and not working as planned. The cost of this phase is about \$21,000 with about \$50,000 for the total project. Karen asked for clarification on the road attributes and whether or not a culvert is necessary. Mel clarified that the waterbars would be sufficient given the changes suggested. Karen also clarified that flat areas get less P-credit than sloped areas. Dean added to Karen’s point of removing the alternatives analysis. Dean asked about the history of the site and reminded the group that projects are non-regulatory only when that have not been used for logging or agriculture in the past 3 years. **Sarah moved to approve. Ted seconded. Lauren abstained. Motion passed.**

Mel presented on the **Sandy Bay Stream Restoration Project**. The goal is to install beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures along the tributary and replace an undersized culvert on Sandy Bay Road and review permitting needs. Budget for final design was \$26,563 with an estimated total cost of \$100,000 and a P-reduction of 2.2kg/yr. The project will include about \$5,000 of volunteer help. Dean clarified that the cost effectiveness threshold for stormwater projects is \$30,000. He encourage Mel to describe co-benefits/justification for funding this project given cost effectiveness does not meet the policy threshold. Mel shared that the project's location in the Lake Carmi watershed and involvement of community members make it an important project, regardless of the cost effectiveness being high. Karen asked if a stream assessment had been done; Mel shared that a Lakewise/Streamwise assessment and an existing conditions analysis have been done. Karen asked about the incision of the stream, Mel said that it was about 1.5 ft incised. Ted commented on other ways to improve the cost-effectiveness, and Mel explained that the high costs were from engineering analyses. Lauren emphasized that the overall cost of the project is pretty low, and that there are not many BDA projects in the Missisquoi Basin. **Sarah moved to approve. Ted seconded. Lauren abstained. Motion passed.**

#### **10. Problem solving-focused updates for selected projects**

Lindsey shared that there will be a presentation on this next meeting.

#### **11. Updates**

Dean mentioned that there will be a dedicated nomination for projects soon and that Catherine at NRPC was actively looking for funding for a river modeling project for the Missisquoi like what had been done with the Lamoille. A call might go out for a legislative representative to give a testimonial soon. New DEC policies are being explored, including herbicide use, updates to the natural resource screening tool, and historic preservation review.

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

Dean shared that the next meeting will be April 1.

Meeting adjourned at 1:04.

- Public comment not related to items on agenda
- Seating of members/alternates -- Biennial renewal

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Missisquoi Basin Water Quality Council members

FR: CWSP Staff

RE: Seating of New members / Membership Renewal

DA: March 19, 2026

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### Seating of new members

To the best of my knowledge, there will be no new representatives or alternates to be seated at the next meeting of the Missisquoi Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC). However, it is that time again where staff must explain the need for a renewal of those who currently serve as representatives or alternates.

### Biennial membership renewal

According to [DEC guidance](#), Basin Water Quality Council representatives and alternates are appointed for two-year terms. DEC guidance also notes that when there is a vacancy during that period, those who fill a vacant seat are doing so for the unexpired portion of the term of the person being replaced. A current roster of members and alternates is provided below.

MISSISQUOI BAY BASIN	NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE	ORGANIZATION	NAME OF ALTERNATE*(S), IF ANY	ORGANIZATION
Natural Resources Conservation Districts	<a href="#">Lauren Weston</a>	Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District	<a href="#">Mel Auffredou</a> <a href="#">Dorothy Kinney-Landis</a>	FCNRCD FCNRCD
Natural Resources Conservation Districts	<a href="#">Ted Sedell</a>	Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District	<a href="#">Sarah Damsell</a>	Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District
Regional Planning Commissions	<a href="#">Heidi Britch-Valenta</a>	Northwest Regional Planning Commission	vacant	
Regional Planning Commissions	<a href="#">Beth Torpey</a>	Northeast Vermont Development Association	vacant	
Watershed Protection Organizations	<a href="#">Kent Henderson</a>	Friends of Northern Lake Champlain	<a href="#">Bridget Butler</a>	Friends of Northern Lake Champlain
Watershed Protection Organizations	<a href="#">Lindsey Wight</a>	Missisquoi River Basin Association	<a href="#">Ellen Fox</a>	Missisquoi River Basin Association
Land Conservation Organization	<a href="#">Allaire Diamond</a>	Vermont Land Trust	<a href="#">Remy Crettol</a> <a href="#">Tucker Malone</a>	VT River Conservancy Vermont Land Trust
Municipalities	<a href="#">Sarah Downes</a>	Town of Enosburgh	<a href="#">Dave Allerton</a>	St. Albans Town
Municipalities	<a href="#">Daniel Seeley</a>	Town of Richford	<a href="#">Abbey Miller</a>	Village of Enosburg Falls

In years when this renewal process occurs, CWSP must notify DEC in writing who will continue as a BWQC member and who new BWQC members will be. (The deadline is April.) That is the reason CWSP staff have polled members and alternates regarding their interest in serving another term.

Preliminary results of that polling are attached, and an updated version will be shared at the meeting.

## Missisquoi Basin Water Quality Council Membership Renewal

Status of interest as of March 26, 2026

Statutory Category	Rep or Alt	Name of Rep	Organization of Rep	Name of Alternate	Organization of Alt	StayorGo	notes
Natural Resources Conservation District	Representative	Ted Sedell	Orleans County Natural Resources			Wish to renew	
Natural Resources Conservation District	Representative	Lauren Weston	Franklin County Natural Resources			Wish to renew	
Regional Planning Commissions	Representative	Beth Torpey	Northeast Vermont Development			Wish to renew	
Regional Planning Commissions	Representative	Heidi Britch-Valenta	Northwest Regional Planning			Wish to renew	via email
Watershed Protection Organizations	Representative	Lindsey Wight	Missisquoi River Basin			Wish to renew	
Watershed Protection Organizations	Representative	Kent Henderson	Friends of Northern Lake Champlain			Wish to renew	
Land Conservation Organization	Representative	Allaire Diamond	Vermont Land Trust			Wish to renew	
Municipalities	Representative	Daniel Seeley	Town of Richford			Wish to renew	
Municipalities	Representative	Sarah Downes	Town of Enosburgh			Wish to renew	via email
Natural Resources Conservation District	Alternate			Dorothy Kinney-Landis	Franklin County Natural Resources	Wish to renew	
Natural Resources Conservation District	Alternate			Mel Auffredou	Franklin County Natural Resources	Wish to renew	
Watershed Protection Organizations	Alternate			Ellen Fox	Missisquoi River Basin	Wish to renew	
Watershed Protection Organizations	Alternate			Bridget Butler	Friends of Northern Lake Champlain	Wish to renew	
Land Conservation Organization	Alternate			Remy Crettol	VT River Conservancy	Wish to renew	
Municipalities	Alternate	Dave Allerton	Town of St. Albans				Status uncertain
Municipalities	Alternate			Abbey Miller	Village of Enosburgh Falls	Wish to renew	per John <a href="#">Dasaro</a> email

## Regarding all positions

### **Qualifications/ Standards of expertise and conduct for all members:**

- **Required to be "knowledgeable on clean water topics" relevant to the basin.**
- **Required mandated to act in "good faith" at all times while discharging duties.**
- **Members are expected to conduct themselves professionally, which includes respecting others' points of view.**

## Regarding Vacancies, specifically NRPC vacancies

**RPCs with territory in the basin are to coordinate to identify eligible candidates.**

**The guidance establishes clear rules regarding whether staff members of the RPC can serve on the council:**

- **BWQC members cannot be staff members of the CWSP host organization who are already providing staff support to the BWQC.**
- **Other staff members of the RPC who are not involved in CWSP management are eligible to serve as members or alternates for the basin in which their organization serves as the CWSP**

- Report on budget adjustments

**MEMO**

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

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As of this writing, staff will not have any budget adjustments to report at the meeting. (Initially, I thought we might, but I was mistaken.)

Reports on budget adjustments are provided in accordance with the Basin Council’s adopted policy regarding administrative approval of modest changes in project costs.

- **Presentation on Lake Carmi Alum Treatment**

**MEMO**

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: LAKE CARMİ ALUM TREATMENT PRESENTATION  
DA: MARCH 26, 2026

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At the BWQC’s meeting in December, member Heidi Britch-Valenta asked if the Council could receive more information on the Lake Carmi alum treatment project at a future meeting. At the time, Pete Benevento (Vice President of the Franklin Watershed Committee board) responded that he could provide a more formal update at the BWQC’s meeting in February. However, he later developed a scheduling conflict, so his presentation was scheduled for the meeting on April 1.

At the time of the request, Mr. Benevento reported that eyewitness accounts suggest the water is the cleanest it has been for a very long time. He also reported in December that Ava Walsh had been taking post-treatment samples, and the results seen were within the permit requirements.

Franklin Watershed Committee Board President Rob Evans hopes to join Pete Benevento in delivering the presentation to the BWQC.

A recent relevant article produced by Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program is attached.

[OUTREACH \(/SEAGRANT/OUTREACH\)](#)  
[EDUCATION \(/SEAGRANT/EDUCATION\)](#)  
[RESEARCH \(/SEAGRANT/RESEARCH\)](#)  
[PROGRAMS \(/SEAGRANT/PROGRAMS\)](#)  
[RESOURCES \(/SEAGRANT/RESOURCES\)](#)  
[OPPORTUNITIES \(/SEAGRANT/OPPORTUNITIES\)](#)  
[NEWS \(/SEAGRANT/NEWS\)](#)  
[EVENTS \(/SEAGRANT/EVENTS/UPCOMING-EVENTS\)](#)



# Lake Carmi Water Quality Expected to Improve After Alum Treatment

**By Anna Marchessault**

November 05, 2025

Lake Carmi, a 1,375-acre lake in the northwest corner of Vermont, has been plagued by cyanobacteria blooms for decades. These blooms reduce water clarity, often have a foul odor, and can turn toxic, forcing the closure of swimming beaches and preventing recreation. Cyanobacteria blooms have had a significant impact on the local Lake Carmi community and economy. This fall, the lake is undergoing an aluminum sulfate (alum) treatment to address persistent internal phosphorus loading, which continues to cause cyanobacteria blooms.

“We expect this treatment to be effective in limiting internal phosphorus loading and cyanobacteria blooms for at least a decade on this lake,” said Mark Mitchell, Lay Monitoring Coordinator at LCSG and the Vermont DEC. “The results are almost immediate, so by next summer we should be seeing a much healthier lake for swimming and recreation.”

# History of Water Quality Work on Lake Carmi

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has listed Lake Carmi as impaired for phosphorus since 2008. Large amounts of phosphorus have accumulated in the lake bottom sediments, due to decades of runoff and erosion from agriculture, shoreland development, roads, and other land uses in the watershed. During warmer months, temperature and density differences between water layers in the lake become more distinct, forming layers of water that don't mix together. The lower layers can become deprived of oxygen because they do not mix with the atmosphere. When the lakebed becomes deprived of oxygen (anoxic), phosphorus is released from the sediments, allowing phosphate to disperse into the water column. This phosphate feeds cyanobacteria blooms, particularly in late summer and fall.

Significant effort has been devoted to reducing phosphorus inputs into Lake Carmi from multiple sources within the watershed. Typically, land-based watershed management techniques are considered the best practice to improve water quality in a lake or pond. However, because of the persistent algae blooms that occur in Lake Carmi and their associated health risks, in-lake management techniques were explored and used to address the built up phosphorus in the lakebed sediments.

The Vermont DEC funded the installation of an aeration system in 2019 in an attempt to eliminate those anoxic conditions and reduce cyanobacteria blooms. Ultimately, the aeration system was unsuccessful at consistently oxygenating the lake bottom sediments to limit phosphorus release and cyanobacteria blooms. However, residents and the Vermont DEC remained resilient. With federal funding available through Vermont's Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program, they began considering an alum treatment. In 2024, the Vermont DEC contracted Barr Engineering to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study to evaluate the expected water quality benefits and costs of an in-lake alum treatment to control internal phosphorus loading from anoxic sediments in Lake Carmi. Alum has been used successfully in lakes for decades, including twice for Lake Morey in Vermont, where it has significantly improved water quality after treatments in 1986 and 2024.

## What Is an Alum Treatment?

When applied to a lake, alum binds with existing phosphate, which then precipitates into a solid in what's called a "floc" that settles on the lake bottom. This process immobilizes phosphorus release from the sediment regardless of oxygen levels, making

it unavailable to cyanobacteria. The treatment is paired with an ambitious Watershed Action Plan in the Lake Carmi watershed to minimize incoming phosphorus runoff in addition to addressing legacy phosphorus.

The alum treatment will take about three weeks to complete. During this time, five tanker trucks carrying liquid alum and sodium aluminate arrive daily from Maine, and the team treats the lake from a barge with tanks and about 20 delivery hoses positioned to inject the chemicals about one meter below the water's surface. The lake is divided into seven zones, each with its own alum concentration requirements. Treatment for each zone takes approximately 90 minutes and must be completed three times in total.

One potential challenge associated with alum treatments is a drop in pH levels in lake water, which could be harmful to aquatic life. To prevent this, a buffering agent (sodium aluminate) is applied simultaneously with the alum, and rigorous testing of any water quality changes is conducted consistently throughout the process. To determine the appropriate levels of alum and sodium aluminate to use during the treatment process, the project relied on water monitoring data from the Vermont DEC (including the Lakes Lay Monitoring Program) and the Barr Engineering feasibility study.

"There has been really great community involvement in this project," said Kate Lucas, Water Resources Scientist at Barr Engineering Co. "Everyone seems to be supportive of this effort and is excited for the benefits we expect to see next summer." In fact, community interest has been so strong that most residents voluntarily pulled their docks and boats out of the water, even though treatment takes place only in deeper



*Photo of floc formation by Barr Engineering and the Town of Franklin*

waters, meaning that boating infrastructure would not have impeded the alum treatment barge or the pontoon boat that conducts water monitoring during treatment.

This project has been decades in the making. It represents a huge step forward for the Lake Carmi community and economy to mitigate chronic cyanobacteria blooms caused by excess phosphorus. Monitoring will continue throughout the process to track how this treatment impacts the lake, with results available on the Vermont DEC webpages for [Restoring Lake Carmi](https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/restoring/carmi) (<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/restoring/carmi>), and the [Lakes Lay Monitoring](https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/monitor/lay-monitoring-program) (<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/monitor/lay-monitoring-program>).

While the alum treatment is anticipated to mitigate cyanobacteria blooms for an extended time period, it is essential that phosphorus runoff to the lake is minimized over time. It is imperative that landowners, businesses, and visitors to the Lake Carmi watershed (or any watershed for that matter) understand that while the alum treatment helps to immobilize phosphorus within the lake, phosphorus entering the lake from across the landscape can reduce the effectiveness of the alum treatment. Everyone must take action to limit phosphorus runoff to the lake. Projects that prevent erosion from agricultural lands and from streambanks, and that minimize stormwater runoff to the lake's tributaries and the lake itself can help reduce how much phosphorus enters the lake moving forward. We all have a role to play to help that to happen.

- **Updates on selected projects (focus on problem-solving)**

**MEMO**

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: PROJECT SHARING  
DA: MARCH 26, 2026

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We did not manage to reach this agenda item at our last gathering due to the numerous applications up for review. So, we are trying again. 😊

Featured projects will include the following: flood resilience efforts in the Town of Montgomery ([12355](#)) ; project development work within the Fairfield Pond watershed (funded as part of the expedited project funding initiative); and the Sleeper Pond dam removal project over the mountains in Newport ([12698](#)) .

Presentations are intended to highlight insights of implementers and their navigation of unique project challenges.

- **Updates/In brief**
  - **DEC policy update overview/ Funding outlook**
  - **Introduction of online invoicing and reporting and deliverables**

# MEMO

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: UPDATE ITEMS  
DA: MARCH 26, 2026

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Updates on at least two topics will be provided at the end of the meeting on April 1, as time allows. The first is DEC policy development, and the second is the CWSP’s newly-launched invoice/reporting and deliverables-uploading system.

## DEC policy development

Recently, the comment period ended for a wide range of DEC policy proposals affecting the work of the CWSP, BWQC members, and partner organizations. The “Batch 2” updates propose a series of refinements intended to improve consistency, accountability, and efficiency in Clean Water Initiative Program implementation.

Key elements include **clarification of co-funding practices**, most notably allowing Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs) to claim full phosphorus reduction credit for projects supported with multiple funding sources, provided documentation requirements are met.

The proposals also seek to better define “**regulatory**” versus “**non-regulatory**” activities to ensure appropriate use of public funds.

Operational updates include expanded **guidance on Operation and Maintenance (O&M)** eligibility, including invasive species management and survivorship considerations. Revisions to project development processes include **minor updates to the Project Development Findings Report Form** and new **eligibility for River Corridor and Wetland Easement (RCWE) project development funding**.

The package also introduces more **formalized use of screening and compliance tools**, including the ANR Natural Resources Atlas and **updates to State Historic Preservation review requirements and forms**.

## Invoice and report uploading

The CWSP has developed two online submission forms to standardize and streamline partner reporting and documentation. The primary form is the **Invoice and Progress Reporting Tool**, which allows subgrantees to submit invoices and, when applicable, accompanying progress reports . This form can also be used to submit standalone progress reports in cases where no invoice is being requested.

A second, complementary form has been developed for **Project Deliverables Upload** . A link to this deliverables form is embedded within the primary form and is provided to respondents when submission of deliverables is indicated.

Both forms use conditional logic to tailor questions based on user responses. As a result, not all fields are visible at all times, and the attached PDF versions do not display the full range of possible fields or pathways. These tools are intended to improve consistency, reduce administrative back-and-forth, and ensure that required documentation is collected in a structured and auditable manner. Staff will demonstrate the forms and would be happy to conduct one on one sessions/tutorials.

# CWSP prototype invoice uploading and progress reporting tool

If your organization is a subgrantee, this form should be used to submit your invoices (requests for reimbursement) for CWSP funded projects. When all items are in order, the review and approval of your invoices will proceed.

You may also use this tool if you are reporting progress without submitting an invoice for the reporting period.

## Date \*

Please enter today's date



## Name of Person \*

Name of Person completing this form

## Organization \*

Name of Organization that will be seeking reimbursement under a subgrant from the CWSP.

## WPD ID number \*

What is the Watershed Project ID for the project for which you be seeking reimbursement? (If you have multiple projects, each project must be invoiced separately.)

The ID must match the one assigned to your Task Award. (Note, a hint may be provided via the dropdown menu in the Project Name question below.)

## Project Name \*

Provide the name of your project using the items on the dropdown menu below. The projects are listed in WPD ID order.

Note: some IDs have more than one Project associated with them ("Block grant lite" project development). Be sure to select the correct one.

## Start of Period Covered by Invoice/report \*

What date marks the beginning of the period that will be covered by the invoice you will prepare?

Please note: if the period of performance (i.e., when the work was done) for a subcontract spans more than one fiscal year, you will need to submit separate invoices for expenses in different fiscal years.

In general this should be avoided by submitting "end of fiscal year" reimbursement requests for each project you manage.



## End of Period Covered by Invoice/report \*

What date marks the beginning of the period covered by the invoice you will prepare?

Please note: Except in rare circumstances, you will need use date that coincides with end of Quarter, ie, March 30, June 30, September 30, and December 31.

For an end of Fiscal Year invoice, you will use June 30 or earlier date but not date July 1 or later.



## Are you submitting a report only, documentation without an invoice for the period referenced above? \*

Send me a copy of my responses

Submit

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# Prototype Deliverables Uploading tool

Name \*

Date \*

 

WPD ID \*

Project Type \*

Deliverables \*

Is this all of the deliverables required for this phase of the project?

Send me a copy of my responses

Submit

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- Future Meeting topics /Conclusion

**MEMO**

TO: MISSISQUOI BASIN WATER QUALITY COUNCIL (BWQC)  
FR: MISSISQUOI BASIN CLEAN WATER SERVICE PROVIDER (CWSP) STAFF  
RE: CONCLUSION  
DA: MARCH 26, 2026

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The next funding round will open on April 15, with a deadline of May 20.

The next BWQC meeting after the one on April 1<sup>st</sup> will take place on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and will include review of applications for funding. It should also include a vote on whether or not to create a nominating committee.

Please suggest additional agenda item ideas if you have them.