

Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

Thursday, May 28, 2026

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

Meeting video posted at https://youtu.be/RymO_YaKvGw

**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), Brad Holden (Q), Kristen Leahy (Q), Richard Goff (Q), Remy Crettol (Q), Dan Koenemann (q), Mel Auffredou (q), Joann Hanowski (q), Emily Lugthart (q), Clarice Cutler (q), Emily Finnegan (q) Dorothy Kinney-Landis (q)

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

Staff: Dean Pierce, Nora Brown

Others present: Chris Rottler (DEC), Silas Rainville (FPR)

1. Welcome and introductions

Meghan Rodier opened the meeting at 9:02am 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

No conflict of interest declarations were made.

4. Review/adjust and approve agenda

Brad Holden motioned to change the order so Silas Rainville's presentation would be moved ahead of application review. He then motioned to approve the agenda with that change.

Meghan Rodier seconded. Motion carried.

5. Approval of minutes

Meghan Rodier noted a spelling error on page 3. Brad Holden motioned to approve the minutes with that change. Kristen Leahy seconded. Motion carried.

6. Public comment not related to items on agenda

No public comments were made.

7. Budget adjustment requests (if any)

No budget adjustments were reported.

8. Recognition of New Reps/Alternates

Dean Pierce announced that Remy Crettol has been promoted to voting member as the watershed sector representative, with WUV's approval. He is replacing Erin De Vries.

9. Election of Vice Chair

Dean clarified that this term will run through the annual meeting at the end of July, at which point membership renewals will take effect. Erin De Vries was elected at the last meeting, but she has since left the BWQC.

Mel Auffredou volunteered to serve as Vice Chair.

Meghan Rodier motioned to approve Mel as a voting member in Lauren Weston's place, pending confirmation from the conservation district sector. Remy Crettol seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Brad Holden motioned to approve Mel as Vice Chair. Remy Crettol seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Nominating Committee Item

Dean Pierce noted that the BWQC bylaws call for the Chair to convene a nominating committee at the meeting prior to the annual meeting, where annual elections take place. The Council may also forgo this procedure.

Brad Holden motioned to forgo the nominating committee. Remy Crettol seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Forest Roads and Trails: Presentation by Silas Rainville

Silas Rainville, Watershed Forestry Specialist with FPR, presented on behalf of himself and Karen Bates regarding forest road and skid trail improvements for phosphorus reduction credit. He described the new Road and Trails Erosion Inventory (RTEI) tool in Survey123, which applies

MRGP frameworks to hydrologically connected skid trails and forest truck roads. Roads are evaluated in 100-meter segments using Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs), with phosphorus reductions calculated through the CWIP phosphorus calculator. Silas explained that CWIP projects must address non-regulatory, legacy erosion issues outside the three-year post-harvest regulatory window and must remain tied to forestry uses rather than recreation. He reviewed differences between forest truck roads and skid trails, as well as common improvement practices including water diversion structures, grading, culvert stabilization, stream crossing removal, and reclamation work.

Mel Auffredou asked whether the three-year regulatory window differs for commercial versus non-commercial harvesting activities. Silas Rainville responded that any AMP concern within the three-year active harvest period remains regulated regardless of who conducts the harvest and would therefore be ineligible. Remy Crettol asked how legacy issues are distinguished from active harvest impacts, and Silas reiterated that the distinction is based on the three-year window. Joann questioned the basis for defining legacy issues using only a three-year period, and Silas stated that DEC established the parameters and likely tied them to the regulatory definition of an active harvest window.

Dean Pierce asked about the distinction between meeting AMP standards and permanently closing a road or trail segment. Silas Rainville explained that standards for permanent closure and naturalization are still being developed, and that AMP implementation is generally intensified multiple times before closure is recommended. Dean Pierce noted that secondary recreational uses can complicate assumptions about permanent closure and create uncertainty for project implementers. Silas agreed that recreational use can significantly affect AMP effectiveness and stated that further clarification from DEC is needed.

12. Application Review

One application was reviewed, as a second application had been withdrawn. Emily Lugthart presented the Wolcott Town Forest forest trails implementation project, which would address erosion and sediment runoff from old logging roads within the watershed. The project proposes bringing approximately 5,800 feet of roads and trails up to AMP standards through grading, shaping, coarse woody material removal, reseeding, stream crossing removal, mulching, and reclamation work. Emily Lugthart stated that the project is expected to achieve approximately 3 kg/year of phosphorus reduction at a total cost of approximately \$41,000, with implementation planned for this year.

Dean Pierce commented that the project demonstrated relatively strong cost-effectiveness at approximately \$13,000 per kilogram of phosphorus reduction. Remy Crettol asked whether the project emphasized closure or improvement of trail segments, and Emily Lugthart responded that it includes a combination of reclamation, closure, and recreational use, with some reclaimed segments closed to forestry activities for three years. Meghan asked whether the accelerated timeline posed any risk to implementation this year, and Emily stated that while some regulatory approvals are still pending, stakeholders remain confident the work can

proceed as proposed. Brad Holden asked about evidence of town support, and Emily confirmed that the project is on town land and had received town Forest Stewardship Committee approval. Dean Pierce clarified that a formal site access agreement from the Selectboard Chair would still be required before implementation. Kristen Leahy noted that the support letter mentions that the Selectboard has affirmed support and referenced similar stewardship committee arrangements used in Hardwick. Joann asked whether the conservation easement with Northern Rivers Land Trust required additional approval, and Kristen Leahy stated that the support letter also confirmed the Land Trust's approval.

Dean Pierce stated that BWQC plans to more regularly share information on previously funded projects, including projects with high anticipated implementation costs, to provide additional context for future decisions.

Dorothy Kinney-Landis joined the meeting at 10:33 a.m., replacing Mel Auffredou as a voting member.

Remy Crettol motioned to approve the project, Kristen Leahy seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

13. Updates

Nora Brown gave overview of the project tracking dashboard, which includes projects funded to date and estimated P credits throughout the basin. She offered to follow up with a link to the dashboard.

Dean Pierce reminded members that the next meeting is annual meeting, which will occur in-person and include elections of officers as well as a potential site visit. He may reschedule to the 5th Thursday in July and will send out a poll to determine the best time.

14. Conclusion

Brad Holden motioned to adjourn. Kristen Leahy seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:58am.