

Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

Thursday, July 30, 2026

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

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

**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), Ken Minck (Q), Brad Holden (Q),
Chris Steel (Q), Emily Lughart (q), Kristen Leahy (Q). Fiona McMurtrie (Q) Remy Crettol (Q)

Richard Goff (q), Dan Koenemanne (q)

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

Staff: Dean Pierce, Nora Brown, Lorna Peters

Others present:, Chris Rottler (DEC), Karen Bates (DEC), Tori Hellwig (LCPC)

1. Welcome and introductions

Meghan Rodier opened the meeting at 10:01am 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 stated that she will abstain from voting in the Chair election.

4. Review/adjust and approve agenda

No changes to the agenda were made. Kristen motioned to approve. Mel seconded. Motion carried.

5. Approval of minutes

It was noted that Richard Goff is an alternate and should not be noted as counting for quorum at the May meeting since Meghan was present.

Kristen motioned to approve the minutes with these changes. Emily seconded. Motion carried.

6. Public comment not related to items on agenda

No public comments were made.

7. Budget adjustment requests (if any)

No adjustments were made.

8. Seating of Members/Alternates

Dean explained that this is a standing agenda item to announce representation changes. He shared the requirements for representatives and that this meeting is the start of a two-year term.

9. Election of Officers

Meghan shared that council members serve a two-year term and officers serve a one-year term, with elections at the annual meeting. Meghan temporarily 'relinquished the gavel' for the duration of the Chair election and allowed CWSP staff to preside.

Dean asked for nominations for Chair. Kristen nominated Meghan Rodier to serve as Chair. No other nominations were made. By unanimous vote Meghan was elected Chair. Meghan resumed her role running the meeting.

Meghan called for nominations for Vice Chair. Meghan motioned that Mel Auffredou be appointed Vice Chair. Kristen seconded. No other nominations were made. Mel was elected Vice Chair.

10. CWSP reappointment process overview

Dean provided an introductory presentation, explaining it is now time for the Lamoille Basin's CWSP to seek reappointment. A CWSP's term lasts 5 years. NRPC's term as the CWSP expires June 30th, 2027. To be reappointed by DEC CWSPs must show adequate progress towards pollution reduction targets, adequate maintenance of existing projects, and effective BWQC coordination. Compliance with open meeting law and future pipeline of progress is also assessed. NRPC has submitted a letter of request for reappointment, which starts the process.

A public opinion survey will be released by DEC between September and October. The CWSP will also complete a self-assessment, which will be reviewed by DEC in November and December with a determination in January.

Dean outlined potential issues, including target shortfalls, governance failures, and negative stakeholder feedback.

Ken asked what methods would be used to notify the public of this reappointment process. Dean shared that the NRPC newsletter has included an article on this process but has not yet been shared to other RPCs. NRPC has also considered notifying local newspapers for coverage.

Richard asked about the status of the Missisquoi targets since the Lamoille Basin is not meeting targets. Dean clarified that neither basin is meeting targets with projects currently “in the ground” but that the forecasted targets are good for both basins. The Missisquoi also has a significantly larger target. Nora shared some of the numbers for the Lamoille targets.

Richard also asked for the Missisquoi numbers, and Nora shared that the two basins are in similar places with their respective targets. Mel asked if there was an estimate for when the target will be reached if all of the current design projects go to implementation, to which Nora did not have an estimate, noting that the P-credits for projects can change. Mel also asked when O&M credits get awarded. The numbers are estimated at the start of the project, but become official when the project completion data are reviewed and approved by DEC. Nora added that numbers can fluctuate upon verifications. Richard asked if there was a termination time for the CWSP program. Dean explained that the CWSP is designed to target the TMDL, which gets reassessed in 2036, so the CWSP program won’t “terminate” necessarily.

11. Project Legal Expenses

Dean shared that DEC policy requires a site access easement for projects over \$200,000. This easement “runs with the land” as it is sold, whereas site access license does not. This easement process can be expensive with legal fees, and NRPC has come to the CWSP previously to request funding to cover these costs. Dean explained that when a project over \$200,000 comes to the BWQC, the BWQC should understand that this project will incur legal fees which will be added to the overall project cost.

Dean shared some previous examples of projects and the legal fees they incurred, with an overall average of about \$2,500 spent on legal fees per parcel. Dean showed the portion of the project application form that outlines legal expenses for implementation projects, which will add about \$2,500 per parcel to the overall project costs. Dean clarified that the cost will go on top of the project budget, not into the project budget and that the legal process will still be managed by the CWSP, not the project implementer. Mel asked whether the \$200,000 amount

applies to the total project cost or implementation phase. Dean explained that this amount is in regards to the implementation costs.

Ken asked whether this amount changes if projects cross the town lines. Dean shared that no projects crossing town lines have come up in either the Missisquoi or Lamoille Basins. But he understands the potential to be higher when two sets of deed research must be carried out.

12. Updates

Dean shared the possible topics for next meeting: progress towards P targets, update on “Year 5” CWSP contract, and proposed changes to DEC policies.

13. Recess or Adjourn to visit projects

Site locations were included in the meeting packet. Brad and Ken could not attend the site visits, so quorum was not maintained for site visits. Meghan motioned to adjourn at 10:54. Mel seconded. Motion adjourned.