

1 **NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting**
2 **September 30, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.**
3 **Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and NRPC Office)**
4 **75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, VT 05478**
5

6 **Board Member Attendance:** See attached. A quorum was present.
7

8 **Staff:** Catherine Dimitruk, Dean Pierce, Emily Klofft
9

10 **Public & Guests:** Karen Bates (DEC), Michael Miller, Matthew LeFleur (Vermont Climate Council
11 member), Brian Connelly
12

13 **Adjustments to the Agenda**
14 None.
15

16 **Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks**
17 E. Nance called the meeting to order at 6:30 and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
18

19 **Opportunity for Public Comment**
20 None.
21

22 **Speaker/Public Meeting: Missisquoi and Lamoille River Basin Plans**
23 *Speaker:* Karen Bates, Watershed Planner, VT Department of Environmental Conservation
24

25 K. Bates presented on the updated draft Missisquoi and Lamoille River Tactical Basin Plan. The
26 Basin Plan studies the watersheds surface waters to protect and restore their quality. Basin 6
27 applies to the Missisquoi Bay watershed which covers most of Franklin County and Basin 7 covers
28 the Lamoille River Basin which includes parts in Franklin County. The basin plans are on a 5-year
29 cycle.
30

31 The Missisquoi Basin plan identifies 3 impaired ponds/lakes and 21 impaired river sections. There
32 are also several impaired lakes/ponds and 10 impaired river sections in the Lamoille Basin. The
33 focus of the plan is to reduce phosphorous and address unstable river systems. The plan
34 coordinates regulatory actions, non-regulatory actions and state funding opportunities. The plan
35 identifies strategies by sector: agriculture, developed lands (stormwater), roads, forestry, rivers,
36 lakes and wetlands.
37

38 The plan also identifies areas with better than average water quality which should be classified to
39 protect that higher quality. Many of these areas are river spans which support brook trout.
40

41 Formal comments on the plan are due October 29th by 4:30, K. Bates also stated she was available
42 for informal comments and questions.
43

44 H. Demars asked if there had been studies of a large wetland complex in Grand Isle. K. Bates said
45 she would look into it.
46

B. Irwin asked why King's Hill Pond was identified as impaired. K. Bates stated it was due to high levels of acid. B. Irwin asked what the cause was and if could be remedied locally. K. Bates said it was acid rain due to out-of-state industry and therefore could not be locally remedied.

B. Morris asked if there had been studies of how much phosphorous exits the Lake via the Richelieu. K. Bates stated it was included in the TMDL calculations, but it is not sufficient to remove the amount of phosphorous needed to avoid algae blooms.

B. Connelly, a member of the public asked if the proposed Class I candidacy for the Missisquoi Delta would apply to the whole area or only part. K. Bates stated it was still being determined if there would be a Class I application but it would only be part of the area. B. Connelly had follow-up questions about funding options and black tern populations.

B. Irwin asked if the Franklin County Natural Resource Conservation worked with local municipal conservation commissions. K. Bates stated that they do but are always looking for more collaboration.

Extended Introductions

J. Pelkey and M. Scholten provided extended introductions to the Commission.

Minutes of the July Meeting

H. Britch-Valenta noted that Marlana Valenta and Sarah Hadd were missing from the attendees list. She noted a correction on Page #4, Brigham Academy was mis-named.

E. Nance noted a correction on Page #1, line 31 where FCIDC was mis-named.

B. Murphy motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. L. McCall seconded. The motion carried.

Commission Reports

- *Finance/Operations* – Did not meet.
- *Personnel* – Did not meet.
- *Executive Committee* – C. Dimitruk noted the Committee had discussed options for stabilizing the building's stone foundation.
- *Project Review Committee* – B. Irwin reviewed the two projects on the Business Report. No Commission action is necessary.
- *Plan and Policy Committee* – Did not meet.
- *Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)* – Did not meet.
- *Brownfields Committee* – C. Sawyer stated the committee met in August and approved work on the former Messenger building and an increase in scope for the Bridge Street project in Sheldon.
- *Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC)* – B. Murphy noted the annual retreat is coming up. The first proposed CHIP project, located in Middlebury, is under review.
- *Rural Community Transit* – C. Dimitruk noted the draft transit plan will be completed in a month.
- *Healthy Roots Advisory Committee* – M. Scholten stated the committee met August 6th. Healthy Roots hired a new food access/gleaning coordinator and provided updates on gleaning, CSA and farm to school programs.

- Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation – No updates.
- Office - None.

Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP)- Endorse CWSP Renewal Request

C. Dimitruk stated that one of the ways non-regulatory water quality projects are funded is through Clean Water Service Providers. NRPC has served as the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for the Missisquoi and Lamoille Basins for the last 4 years and is currently in the process of requesting another 5 years of being the CWSP. While not required by the process, staff felt it was appropriate to get a vote of the Board prior to the renewal request.

D. Pierce presented on the CWSP work and renewal request. The renewal process includes extensive internal and external assessment of the work completed over the past 4 years, with the hope of being reappointed CWSP in January. Over the last 4 years the Missisquoi CWSP has invested \$2.3 million and reduced phosphorous by 182.80 kg/year (estimated). The Lamoille CWSP has invested \$350,000 and reduced phosphorous by 32.82 kg/year (estimated).

C. Dimitruk note that CWSP is one portion of non-regulatory projects and part of a much larger phosphorous reduction effort.

B. Morris motioned to endorse the request for re-appointment to be the Missisquoi and Lamoille Clean Water Service Provider. H. Demars seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Announcements

H. Demars thanked Dean for his work on the Clean Water Service Provider role.

B. Morris noted that the Executive Committee had discussed a few new grants the Commission had received. C. Dimitruk noted that NRPC is working with the Railroad on a major project to look at repair/replacement of the Alburgh/Swanton Trestle. C. Dimitruk also noted that the Commission received a grant from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to provide technical assistance to small water systems.

B. Irwin thanked Luke for his work on the Bakersfield Town Plan.

Y. Dandurand asked what the future held for the Highgate project after the water source issue and if the Federal Street Connector project had changed with the idling of the DFA plant.

C. Dimitruk noted that Cathedral Square is not able to continue with the senior housing project at this time but would be open to working with the Town of Highgate in the future. J. Pelkey stated the Town is looking at other options for water on the site but all are costly.

C. Sawyer was not available to answer the question about the Federal Street Connector project.

Adjournment

H. Demars motioned to adjourn. B. Murphy seconded. Motion carried. The Commission adjourned at 7:50.

FY27 NPRC Board of Commissioners- Meeting Attendance														
Municipality	Board Member	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	
		7/29/26	No Meeting	9/30/26	10/28/26	No Meeting	TBD	1/27/27	2/24/27	3/31/27	4/28/27	5/26/27	6/30/27	
Frklin Cty Youth	Vacant													
GI Cty Youth	Vacant													
Alburg Town	Alex McCracken													
Alburg Town	Danielle Choiniere	X		X										
Alburg Village	Vacant													
Alburg Village	Vacant													
Bakersfield	William Irwin	X		X										
Bakersfield	Linda McCall	X		X										
Berkshire	Walter Elander	E		X										
Berkshire	Claude Charron													
Enosburg Falls	Leonard Charron													
Enosburg Falls	Vacant													
Enosburgh Town	Jesse Woods													
Enosburgh Town	James Oullette													
Fairfax	Barbara Murphy	X		X										
Fairfax	Mike Bishop	E												
Fairfield	Julia Callan	X		X										
Fairfield	Chuck Verderber	X												
Fletcher	Michelle Frennier	E		X										
Fletcher	Lori Ruple	X		X										
Franklin	Yvon Dandurand	X		X										
Franklin	vacant													
Geogia	Doug Bergstrom	X												
Georgia	Kirk Waite	X		X										
Grand Isle	Barclay Morris	X		X										
Grand Isle	Howard Demars	X		X										
Highgate	Jack Pelkey	X		X										
Highgate	Anna Comiskey	X		X										
Isle La Motte	Sylvia Jensen	X												
Isle La Motte	Mary-Catherine Graziano	E												
Montgomery	Vacant													
Montgomery	Mark Brouillette													
North Hero	Andy Alling	X		X										
North Hero	Vacant													
Richford	Marissa Tessier													
Richford	Vacant													
Sheldon	Vacant													
Sheldon	Mathew Stebbins	X		X										
South Hero	Peter Zamore	X												
South Hero	Bob Buermann	X												
St. Albans City	Elisabeth Nance	X		X										
St. Albans City	Chip Sawyer	E		X										
St. Albans Town	Marietta Scholten	E		X										
St. Albans Town	Jonathan Giroux	E		X										
Swanton Town	Nicole Draper	X												
Swanton Town	Nicholas Brosseau	X												
Swanton Village	Heidi Britch-Valenta	X		X										
Swanton Village	Damon Broderick	X		X										
	# Municipalities	16												

QUORUM = 12

E= Excused ; X=Present