

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Clean Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes, February 22, 2016
Northwest Medical Center, Conference Center, St. Albans, VT

NRPC CWAC Committee Members (1. Primary, 2. Alternate)					
Municipality, Organization	Representative	Municipality, Organization	Representative	Municipality, Organization	Representative
Alburgh (T)	1 - Vacant	Alburgh (V)	1 - Vacant	Bakersfield	1 - Vacant
Berkshire	1. Jason Doe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enosburg Falls	1 - Vacant	Enosburgh	1 - Vacant
Fairfax	1 - Vacant	Fairfield	1. Jaime Tibbits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fletcher	1 - Vacant
Franklin	1 - Vacant	Georgia	1. Kent Henderson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Michael McCarthy <input type="checkbox"/>	Grand Isle	1 - Vacant
Highgate	1 - Vacant	Isle La Motte	1. Rusty Spaulding <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Deb Spaulding <input type="checkbox"/>	Montgomery	1 - Vacant
North Hero	1 - Vacant	Richford	1 - Vacant	Sheldon	1 - Vacant
South Hero	1. Richard Goggin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Bob Buermann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	St. Albans (C)	1. Chip Sawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Alan Robtoy <input type="checkbox"/>	St. Albans (T)	1. Albin Voegele <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 -
Swanton (V)	1 - Vacant	Swanton (T)	1. David Jescavage <input type="checkbox"/>	FNLC	1. Denise Smith <input type="checkbox"/>
FWA	1 - Vacant	FWC	1. Jessica Draper <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Jeff Teitelbaum <input type="checkbox"/>	MRBA	1. Jimmy Young <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Lindsay Wight <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SAAWA	1 - Vacant				
Other Attendees					
Marli Rupe, ANR		David Leslie, Grand Isle		Yvon Dandurand, Franklin	
Richard Noel, Highgate		Jeff Young, City of St Albans			
NRPC Staff: Amanda Holland, Catherine Dimitruk					

Welcome, Introductions and Role of Committee

Dimitruk welcomed Committee members and the public to the meeting and began introductions.

Dimitruk provided background on the formation of this Committee as approved by the NRPC Board of Directors at their December 16, 2015 meeting. NRPC views this Committee as an advisory body to the regional planning commission on water quality issues in the region and serves as a source of community input to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. This Committee will provide assistance to NRPC and the State as we take steps towards addressing some of the new requirements that are coming to the region from the Vermont Clean Water Act.

Lake Champlain TMDL & Vermont Clean Water Act (VCWA), Municipal Requirements

ANR staff, Marli Rupe recapped the various requirements involving municipalities as a result of the passage of Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act (VCWA) this past spring including: Municipal Roads General Permit, Developed Lands (3 acre plus) permit, Agricultural Water Quality, and Tactical Basin Planning. Rupe also mentioned the plans for funding for these projects through the Clean Water Fund

and the sector and agency that will be providing funding. Many of these elements are currently being developed; more detail will be available as they progress as well as opportunity for public comment.

A couple of interesting facts from the presentation included:

- Fixing point sources, such as wastewater treatment, would only fix about 3% of the issue
- There are just over 14,000 miles of roads around the state and the majority are municipally owned.

Questions and discussion among Committee members, NRPC staff and ANR staff focused on a variety of issues such as:

- Would the new agricultural practices impact Maple sugaring operations? It was noted that they would have to meet the RAPS but they current are not allowed to discharge based on the Accepted Management Practices (http://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/vermonts_forests/amps)
- The cover cropping criteria are not specific to a watershed based on impairment; there will be specific recommendations for areas in floodplains.
- All requirements are statewide but there will be priority areas that may have target dates for implementation earlier such as the Lake Champlain Basin watershed.
- The Clean Water Fund is initially funded 0.2 percent surcharge on all property transfers for two years. Based on projections, it was expected to raise \$5.2 million a year. The Committee was interested in knowing if we are projected to be on target for this fiscal year.
- Given this is a 20-year plan and we have already spent millions towards the goal of clean water. Is there more we could be doing to make changes now such as address the sale of fertilizer for residential use? While a law was passed in 2012 to require retailers to display information about the purchase and use of fertilizer containing phosphorus and prohibiting the applying phosphorus on turf unless necessary as documented by a soil test or on newly established lawns. However this is not enforces and most retailers do not have this information posted. (<http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/047/01266b>)
- The buildup of sediment in streams and waterbodies was also discussed in terms of why this practice is no longer recommended and the impacts that can occur from dredging areas. Impacts can include the release of phosphorus currently buried in the sediment into the water column and creating a eutrophic system as well as impacts to geomorphology and the way the river moves upstream and downstream of that location.
- It was noted that Farms are exempt from operating permits and therefore do not need a stormwater permit but the RAPs include substantial guidelines about agriculture construction (Section 9 and Appendix A). Farms are required to get a construction permit if they disturb more than 1 acre. http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/pdf/water_quality/RAP/Draft-2-Required-Agricultural-Practices-Regulations-02232016.pdf

NRPC Contract with ANR for VCWA outreach and basin planning

Holland recapped the various elements of NRPC's new Water Quality Outreach contract with ANR. The areas of focus include:

- Providing outreach and education to municipalities on the Clean Water Act

- Providing Municipal Planning Assistance on River Corridors, Stormwater Master Planning, Municipal Plans, Bylaws and Ordinances, Road Inventory, and Developed Lands
- Gather recommendations on Water Quality Monitoring locations
- Participate in Tactical Basin Planning
- Gather support for designation of Outstanding Resource waters or the reclassification of Class A(1) waters.

It was noted that the Missisquoi and Lamoille Tactical Basin Plan are currently being updated in 2016, the RPC will work to ensure municipal involvement in the development of these Plans.

Future Meeting Date and Topic(s)

The Committee discussed potential meeting times for future meetings and whether the 5:00-6:30pm time would work for future meetings. There was not a consensus on whether to keep or move the time, it was noted that Mondays were not good days given it is when Selectboards typically meet. NRPC will also ensure that it is not conflicting with other standing Committees of the Commission. It was decided that NRPC would send out a Doodle Poll with some options and we would select the date and time that worked with the majority of participants.

It was noted that if we continue to meet at this space we could try and get Channel 15 to record the meetings and put the video on YouTube.

Topics that the Committee is interested in hearing more about include:

- Tiling, ditching and manure injection
- Understand the Committee role, and the role of municipalities and the state
- Provide a list of the ways to get funding to municipalities (grants, loans, etc.) and submission schedules
- Draft Stormwater manual

Resources and Events

- On February 15th the Vermont's Secretary of Agriculture and Vermont's Secretary of Natural Resources submitted an **Interim Report on Vermont's Subsurface Tile Drainage**. The Interim Report provides context regarding the use of subsurface agricultural tile drainage in Vermont, outlines changes in the practice over time, summarizes the benefits and impacts of tile drainage, and outlines management strategies currently available and being researched. A final report on tile drainage is due to the Legislature in January, 2017. The Interim Report can be viewed at <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/news-events/tile-drainage>.
- The Agency of Agriculture released the **second draft of the Required Agricultural Practices** on February 23rd. Act 64 specifies that the RAP rules will be finalized before July 1, 2016. In March, the Agency intends to begin formal rulemaking to meet this deadline. The public will again have the opportunity to attend public hearings and provide written comment on the RAPs during the formal public hearing and comment period, tentatively scheduled to begin in May. <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations/rap#Q5>

- **Vermont Stormwater Management Manual** is schedule to be released for public comment on March 1st. Information is available at http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/stormwater/htm/sw_manualrevision.htm

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ANR is holding a series of Brown Bag lunches there are two more coming up in March and April. <http://anr.vermont.gov/sites/anr/files/Events/documents/CWI%20Brown%20Bag%20Flyer.pdf>. Past webinars can be found on YouTube.
 - Thursday, March 10, 2016 11AM-Noon, Clean Water State Revolving Fund Long-term, Financing of Water Quality
 - Thursday, April 14, 2016 11AM—Noon, Agricultural Tile Drainage
- **May 2016** – Public meeting on the Lake Champlain TMDL. Date/Location TBD
- **June/July 2016** – Public meetings on the Vermont Clean Water Fund. Date/Location TBD