

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission Clean Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes, February 23, 2017
Northwest Counseling & Support Services, Mabel Conference Room, St. Albans, VT**

NRPC CWAC Committee Members (1. Primary, 2. Alternate)					
Municipality, Organization	Representative	Municipality, Organization	Representative	Municipality, Organization	Representative
Alburgh (T)		Alburgh (V)		Bakersfield	
Berkshire	1. Jason Doe <input type="checkbox"/>	Enosburg Falls		Enosburgh	
Fairfax		Fairfield	1. Jaime Tibbits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Adrian Forbes <input type="checkbox"/>	Fletcher	
Franklin	1 – Yvon Dandurand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Georgia	1. Kent Henderson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Michael McCarthy <input type="checkbox"/>	Grand Isle	1 – David Leslie <input type="checkbox"/>
Highgate		Isle La Motte	1. Rusty Spaulding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Deb Spaulding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montgomery	
North Hero		Richford		Sheldon	
South Hero	1. Richard Goggin <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Bob Buermann <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	St. Albans (C)	1. Chip Sawyer <input type="checkbox"/> 2. David Southwick <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	St. Albans (T)	1. Albin Voegele <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Swanton (V)		Swanton (T)	1. David Jescavage <input type="checkbox"/>	FNLC	1. Denise Smith <input type="checkbox"/>
FWA		FWC	1. Jean Elizabeth Shockley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Jeff Teitelbaum <input type="checkbox"/>	MRBA	1. Lindsay Wight <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Brodie Haenke <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SAAWA					
Other Attendees					
Karen Bates, ANR					
NRPC Staff: Amanda Holland					

Adjustments to Agenda

A. Holland asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda, none were made.

Welcome & Introductions

A. Holland welcomed Committee members and the public to the meeting and began introductions.

Open Comment

B. Buermann provided an update on the status of the remaining funds from the construction of the new bridge in 2007 connecting Alburgh and Swanton. VTTrans must decide whether or not the funds remaining from the earmark should be used to remove more of the causeway or be repurposed for investment in other transportation system programming. A study on this question was requested by the Vermont Legislature in Act 40 of 2015 and a report was released in Fall 2016 that recommended using the funds to remove an additional 330 feet of causeway. At the February 22nd meeting, NRPC Board of Directors had voted to recommend that remaining construction funds from the Missisquoi Bridge project set aside for potential causeway removal be reallocated to other transportation-water quality

projects that would reduce phosphorus inputs into Missisquoi Bay. The Commission does continue to support the removal of Missisquoi and Carry Bay causeways in the long term.

Project Implementation

NRPC Letter of Intent to High Meadows Fund

NRPC submitted a LOI to look at the issue of erosion in the municipal right-of-way due to drainage conflicts with private driveways or agricultural fields. In these instances the municipality is able to mitigate the erosion in their jurisdiction but does not have a mechanism for addressing the source. This project concept aims to identify where these conflicts exist and to develop a process for municipalities to work collaboratively with private landowners on identifying solutions. NRPC will plan to partner with regional groups to foster these conversations and disseminate the message.

Vermont Clean Water Act

Water Quality Financing

A. Holland gave a summary of the State Treasurer's Clean Water Report noting that the recommendation was a per parcel fee funding structure to fund statewide water quality initiatives. The legislature will be taking action on the report this session. VAPDA, the association of Vermont RPCs has submitted comments to the legislature in support of developing a long-term funding system. VAPDA also outlines a regional role that RPCs can play to aid in project implementation region-wide.

Municipal Roads General Permit – Update on early compliance in region

A. Holland reviewed the status of road erosion inventories in the northwest region to get a sense of municipal preparedness for the 2018 Municipal Roads General Permit, see map. Thirteen municipalities have completed an inventory or have funding to do so. Four municipalities are applying for funding and NRPC is reaching out to the remaining municipalities to work on next steps.

These inventories are identifying hydrologically connected roads, meaning those that bisect waterway or are close laterally. These areas are then evaluated to identify if erosion is present. For areas with erosion, the municipality will need to develop a Road Stormwater Management Plan that provides an inventory of sites, prioritization of projects, implementation plan and schedule for completing the projects.

For a sense of the magnitude of this endeavor, the Town of Grand Isle had 170 segments of roadway (100 meter sections) classified as connected roads. Of these segments, 98 already met current best management practice standards. These segments had ditches that were grass or stoned, stabilized areas around culverts, properly graded and crowned roads, etc. Fifty-four did not meet the standard and should be prioritized in the permit. The remaining 18 did not meet best practices, but no erosion was present at the site.

Tracking & Prioritizing Tactical Basin Plan Projects

Karen Bates from ANR gave a first look at ARK, the state's online database for collecting, monitoring and tracking watershed projects statewide. This database is still under development to both populate it with existing information and build in different functions for tracking the development of projects and prioritization. There will also be a function to calculate the estimated pollution removal of a project which can then play into its prioritization.

The public interface of the database can be accessed at
<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IWIS/ARK/ProjectSearch.aspx>

How projects are prioritized locally will be a future topic for the Committee.

Future Agenda Topics

March 23rd – Ryan Patch from Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets will join meeting to discuss the recommendations in the Vermont's Subsurface Tile Drainage Report submitted to the legislature January 31, 2017.

- <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality> under Research & Reports

April 27th – Jim Ryan from Agency of Natural Resources to review draft Municipal Roads General Permit