

Natural Resources Committee

DRAFT Minutes

June 13, 2018

Committee Members: Barrie Bailey, Colin Davis, Peter Grant, Stan Grzyb, Wendy Sue Harper (Chair), Arabella Holzpfel, Ed Payne, Ron Payne, Jim Pulver, Susan Smiley, Paul Wagner, Kent Wright

Present: Wendy Sue Harper (Chair), Peter Grant, Ed Payne, Ron Payne, Paul Wagner, Kent Wright

Staff: Kevin Behm

Guests:

Wendy Sue opened the meeting at 6:03. The Apr 11th minutes were moved for approval. (Kent motion, Paul 2nd). Minutes accepted.

Otter Creek Basin Plan update

Wendy Sue mentioned that the upcoming Otter Creek Basin Plan was primarily a surface water planning document. Groundwater and well water quality are not its main focus. Monkton has recently had a groundwater and surficial geology study undertaken by the Vermont Geological Survey to identify aquifer recharge areas and areas of high water yield. The aquifer recharge areas need to be protected from high density development and potentially polluting land uses so that residential groundwater wells are not put at risk. She encouraged other rural towns that are dependent on groundwater to obtain a similar study. She mentioned that the groundwater is mostly good quality, but it has excessive hardness.

Peter mentioned that some wastewater treatment ideas have been suggested for improving Lake Champlain. Kevin stated that a ‘treatment train’ approach has been suggested for highly polluted rivers to essentially divert a stream into a constructed wetland complex and let any pollutants settle-out before continuing on to the lake. A pilot study has been suggested to review all the possible concerns. Paul mentioned that the soils with a high clay content will bind the phosphorus and keep it from entering the lake. He mentioned the Miner Institute in Chazy, NY as an agricultural research center studying phosphorus removal. Kevin had heard that Castleton uses a constructed wetland for a portion of its wastewater treatment. Paul (?) mentioned that the Shoreham sand-filter had removed over 400lbs of phosphorous.

Kevin said that he and Nikki attended the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan kick-off meeting in Brandon on the 7th. The meeting had about 15-20 attendees and Angie Allen, Otter Creek Basin Planner, and Ethan Swift, DEC, presented the goals of the plan and a general outline of the planning process. We will invite Angie to a future meeting to discuss the plan. He reminded the Committee that their role will be to review the Otter Creek TBP, to provide comments and determine if it conforms with the goals and

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objectives of the Regional Plan. He handed out the Surface and Groundwater Resources section of the Regional Plan and directed members to review the Goals and Objectives and Recommended Actions since these will be the primary guidance for determining conformance.

The Committee adjourned at 7:00