

Natural Resources Committee

DRAFT Minutes

Nov 11, 2020

Committee Members: Barrie Bailey, Don Burns, Peter Grant, Arabella Holzpfel (Chair), Ed Payne, Ron Payne, Jim Pulver, Stan Grzyb, Paul Wagner

Present: Ed Payne, Ron Payne, Jim Pulver, Paul Wagner, Don Burns

Staff: Kevin Behm

Guests:

Kevin opened the meeting at 6:00 and noted that Arabella had a meeting conflict.

Discussion of Clean Water Service Provider Organizations

Kevin hosted the meeting in Arabella's absence. Primarily the meeting consisted of a walk-thru of the current version of the Clean Water Service Provider Rule. The draft rule is provided here - [Draft CWSP Rule 10.2.2020 PUBLIC](#)

Kevin noted that a group of approximately 25 stakeholders have been meeting, usually weekly, with DEC staff to work on the Rule. DEC staff reviews the group comments and offers updates for the next meeting. At this point the Rule is considered mostly complete and is expected to start the formal rulemaking process soon and be presented for public comment.

Jim had reviewed the document and had a question on defaults (p. 17) It appears if a CWSP defaults on its ability to meet the phosphorus reduction targets, the CWSP role could be removed and reassigned to a 'Back-Up' CWSP. This CWSP is designated as the Chittenden County RPC. He was concerned about the ongoing financial commitments of completed or partially completed projects. Kevin noted that a non-performing CWSP could be issued a Corrective Action Plan prior to the extreme step of reassigning the CWSP role. Ed again referred to his experience with residential food waste collections that has made him very skeptical of the use of local projects to meet a regional target

Paul pointed out that the bulk of the water quality funding is coming from Rooms & Meals taxes and these are likely to be severely diminished this year and possibly next. Kevin added that the RPC has seen that the state budget is currently in good shape with only small funding reductions, but next years budget may be different. The Addison County River Watch Collaborative has had their sampling funds rescinded for 2020.

Ed questioned the current state parcel mapping program and its ability to track parcel lineage. He has used the Map ID to track a parent parcel and its subdivided siblings. Similar to Map ID 5-27 is the parent parcel of 5-27.1. His concern is that the State SPAN number is unique for new parcels and doesn't reflect parcel lineage. Kevin said that there is a provision to track a ParentSPAN in the mapping database, but Kevin is unsure how it

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is linked with subsequent subdivisions. He also mentioned that it may be easier to track lineage in the Grand List. The town's mapping contractor may have some clarification.

Kevin returned to the draft CWSP Rule to mention that an area of significant discussion was concerning a conflict of interest policy. Since the Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) will be the entity prioritizing projects, there is the opportunity for members to be biased during project selection. The members represent groups that all have a stake in water quality improvement and a policy will need to address the point at which a member recuses themselves from a discussion or vote. Some work group stakeholders were in favor of a specific state policy in the rule and other members recommended that each BWQC establish their own procedural rules. This discussion is continuing.

The Committee adjourned at 6:50