

# Natural Resources Committee

## DRAFT Minutes

*Nov 14, 2018*

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<b>Committee Members:</b>	Barrie Bailey, Peter Grant, Stan Grzyb, Wendy Sue Harper (Chair), Arabella Holzpfel, Ashley Laux, Ed Payne, Ron Payne, Jim Pulver, Paul Wagner, Kent Wright
<b>Present:</b>	Peter Grant, Stan Grzyb, Wendy Sue Harper (Chair), Arabella Holzpfel, Ed Payne, Ron Payne, Jim Pulver, Paul Wagner, Kent Wright
<b>Staff:</b>	Kevin Behm, Allie Dinwiddie
<b>Guests:</b>	Angie Allen, DEC Basin Planner

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Wendy Sue opened the meeting at 6:05. The Jun 13th minutes were moved for approval. (Stan motion, Ed 2<sup>nd</sup>). Arabella and Jim abstained. Minutes accepted.

### Otter Creek Basin Plan update

Kevin provided a brief introduction to Angie Allen, DEC Basin Planner, who will be overseeing the re-write of the 2012 Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan. The Natural Resource Committee will review the draft plan when it is available and provide comments to Angie and make a recommendation to the ACRPC with regard to its conformance with the Regional Plan.

Angie stated that the basic goal of the state's basin plans was to "Protect the Best and Restore the Rest". In terms of her timeline with the Otter Creek Plan she hoped to have an internal draft completed this winter and be able to provide a draft to partners, including ACRPC, by August 2019. A revised draft would be available for public comment in October with a final document available for ANR approval in December, 2019. Jim asked about the ACRPC review process. Kevin stated that the NRC would review the 'partner' draft and provide comments and then invite Angie to present a revised version to the Commission during the public comment period to obtain feedback from municipalities. The 'final' draft would be provided to the Commission for a determination of conformance. Paul noted that this is an update of the 2012 Plan. Angie stated that the tactical basin plans have been completely redesigned in this revision cycle to focus on an implementation table that tracks individual projects and their respective phosphorus reductions from Best Management Practices (BMPs). Wendy Sue noted that tracking the actual phosphorus reductions would be a long-term effort, most likely over several versions of the plan and the results might be different than the BMP models. Angie said that the BMP models are the same ones that were developed by the EPA for the Lake Champlain TMDL (Total Daily Maximum Load) and the EPA and the State have agreed to review the tracking every five years.

Angie reviewed each of the proposed chapters and their likely content. The Chapter list follows:

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Chapter 1 – Basin Description and Existing Condition of Surface Water

Chapter 2 – Priority Areas for Surface Water Protection

Chapter 3 – Priority Areas for Surface Water Restoration

Chapter 4 – Water Quality Regulations and Strategies

Chapter 5 - Monitoring Strategies and Implementation Tables

Wendy Sue asked about reclassification of surface water. Angie responded that Vermont has recently adopted new Water Quality Standards and the tactical basin plans are the vehicle used to identify those waters that qualify for a higher level of protection. These high quality waters would typically be identified in Chapter 2 and recommended for increased protection. Currently the Town of Ripton is requesting reclassification of three small streams from Class B(2) to Class A(1). Class A(1) is the highest quality classification and previously it was primarily for waters above 2,500 feet in elevation. However the new Standards allow for additional very high quality water to also be classified as A(1) if the quality is consistently of higher quality than class B(2). Development activities in A(1) watersheds must be carried out in such a way as to maintain the excellent water quality. In terms of residential development in A(1) watersheds the major requirements are a 1000 gallon limitation on the size of a septic system and an increase in the stream buffer distance from 50 feet to 100 feet. Additional guidelines may also apply.

Peter asked if there were additional BMPs required for forestland. Angie replied that ANR's Forest, Parks and Recreation Dept is updating their Acceptable Management Practices to limit sedimentation and to better design stream crossings of logging roads. On agricultural land Paul understood that some recent studies have shown that tile-draining actually reduced phosphorus run-off. Wendy Sue felt that this most likely depended on the soil type of the field.

The Committee thanked Angie for her presentation and encouraged her to provide drafts of the Basin Plan when it was ready for review.

The Committee adjourned at 7:00