



# OTTER CREEK BASIN

clean water service provider

## 2022-08-24 Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council Minutes

BWQC members: Nanci McGuire  
Ellen Cronan  
Arabella Holzappel  
Barbara Noyes-Pulling  
Gioia Kuss  
Kate Kelly  
Steve Libby  
Pam Stefanek

Staff: Mike Winslow, Adam Lougee

Public: Matt Witten (ACRWC), Angie Allen (DEC)

1. Amendments to the Agenda. Add approving the minutes, otherwise all approved the agenda.
2. Minutes: Arabella Moved to approve the minutes. Barbara Noyes Pulling seconded the motion, which passes, with Kate Kelly abstaining.
3. Welcome and Introductions. All members introduced themselves and their organizations
4. Finalize By-laws. Mike introduced the bylaws and asked for comments. Ellen asked whether committee meetings are public meetings? Adam answered this meeting is a public meeting. We should also treat sub-committee meetings as public meetings even though they are advisory only and only the BWQC can vote. **Adam and Mike will look up the specific requirements the BWQC and its subcommittees will need to follow and bring it back at the next meeting.**

Kate Kelly shared some concerns/suggestions she had regarding the voting procedures for projects. The BWQC discussed the proposed changes, and also discussed if a more generalized description of project evaluation should be in the bylaws with specific procedures relegated to a policy. Gioia moved to table the discussion of the Bylaws until



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guidance is developed by DEC. Barbara seconded the motion, all approved. We will bring it back at the next meeting.

5. Discussion of officers - Mike noted he had reached out to all members of the council and asked for officers. No one had responded. Mike noted he felt the BWQC needed one of its members to lead the meeting. **Staff will outline the expectations of officers and share with the group.**
6. Overview of Tactical Basin Planning - Angie Allen the Basin Planner for the Otter Creek Basin discussed the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan and how that serves as a reference for our action. The Otter Creek Basin plan is due to be rewritten in 2023. As she writes that she intends to include more information relevant to the CWSP process. Angie presented the Basin 3 webpage at DEC. It highlights the Otter Creek Basin Plan, a story map presentation and a project finder highlighting projects in the Otter Creek Basin. [here](#).

What Watersheds should we focus on? - Angie recommended looking at Chapter 3 of the Tactical Basin Plan which shows the list of impaired waters in basin 3. She felt this would be beneficial for identifying potential co-benefits. She noted Chapter 4 of the Basin Plan should help with identifying resources in sectors and that Chapter 5 Strategies also contains good information for how to address areas with impairments. Chapter 5 includes links to the [Watershed Projects Database](#) which contains information on potential projects.

She also shared the weblink to the Phosphorus calculator tool [here](#)

Matt noted that while the Basin Plan is helpful, we need to look beyond it and find cooperative landowners and look at data showing where within the Basin problems exist. He noted Muddy Branch and Prickly Ash Brook are examples of two small sub-watersheds with significant Phosphorus loading problems. He noted willing landowners are also needed, especially in this program since all projects will be voluntary.

Matt also asked whether the BWQC will serve as a forum for collaboration to create projects. Mike pointed out that this group can help with that, but that the focus of this group needs to be on choosing projects.



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7. Next Meeting - Mike suggested that the next meeting should be set for Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in the last week of September and if there is no business we will cancel the meeting.
8. Adjournment: Mike adjourned the meeting at noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Lougee