



OTTER CREEK BASIN

clean water service provider

2024-07-24 Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council Agenda

Present: Ellen Cronan (ACRWC), Arabella Holzapfel (ACRPC-chair), Kate Kelly (LCA), Gioia Kuss (Weybridge), Nanci McGuire (RNCD), Adam Piper (VLT), Barbara Noyes-Pulling (RRPC), Pam Stefanek (OCNRCD - vice chair)

Absent: Hilda Haines (Danby)

Public: Angie Allen (DEC)

Staff: Mike Winslow, Deron Rixon

1. Amendments to the Agenda - none
2. Approve [Minutes](#) of April meeting. Moved by Gioia. Second by Kate. All in favor.
3. Review role of BWQC with regard to Open Meeting Law
 - a. Advisory or Non-advisory? The answer hinges on if the body has supervision, control, or jurisdiction over legislative, quasi judicial, tax or budgetary matters. If yes, then non-advisory and meetings must be recorded.
 - b. Kate believes we are non-advisory because we deal with money. Barbara and Arabella agree.
 - c. RPC also believes that the committee is non advisory.
4. Review Project Proposals ([memo](#))
 - a. [Lewis Creek Association](#) - Common Ground Center road project
 - i. [Revised budget](#)
 - ii. Kate gave an introduction to the project. This is a private road project in Starksboro adjacent to Lewis Creek. LCA proposed engineering work for road improvements. LCA's "Ahead of the Storm" program showcases projects that go above and beyond requirements and the project would be highlighted as part of that. LCA recognized concerns with engineering costs. After some back and forth with the engineers led to the revised number. The project would need to go to bid.
 - iii. Gioia appreciates the addition of the education component. Ellen agreed.
 - iv. Pam asked about the age of the driveway. It's not new.
 - v. Ellen moved to approve; Barbara seconded. All in favor. Kate abstained.
 - b. [ACRWC](#) - project development



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- i. Deron noted it's a continuation of other funding River Watch has received. Focus would begin with the New Haven River. Ellen added that some of the sites they're working on have proven problematic with pollutant loads.
 - ii. Kate mentioned that one of the landowners was not interested in government funding. Ellen responded that there's still hope as long as the approach does not come from the state which is why River Watch would be making the approach
 - iii. Barbara asked how many projects ACRWC is considering? Deron wasn't clear if there's a specific number of projects. Mike noted that the proposal was a result of changes in DEC policy toward CWSP funding that encouraged more expenditures toward development. Barbara suggested their be guidance on how many projects should be developed per project
 - iv. Adam noted that one of the proposed projects is close to moving forward, but they're not interested in VLT easements. Adam offered to help with some other project development
 - v. Gioia asked about the history and reputation of the organization. Mike observed that ACRWC is one of two watershed organizations in the Otter Creek Basin, and they are represented on the BWQC. Historically they have focused on water testing, but the CWSP has asked them to be more involved in project development. The proposal under consideration reflects their movement in that direction.
 - vi. Gioia asked why not on the main stem of Otter Creek. Ellen, because they have a history of water quality testing in the tributaries but not the main stem. Gioia - does that mean there is potential for work along Otter Creek? Perhaps, but they're taking advantage of the relationships they've established.
 - vii. Kate asked about project development deliverables. Angie noted that the requirements in Appendix B would guide the deliverables. In this case an upload of all deliverables associated with projects developed.
 - viii. Barbara asked if the project would get a WPD-ID. Angie - yes it would.
 - ix. Barbara moved to approve. Gioia seconded. All in favor. Ellen abstained.
5. Funded Projects Status update
- a. New Haven River - contractor hired and work beginning
 - b. Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association
 - i. Westside Drive - project design has been updated based on landowner input. Still working on securing landowner access license agreement



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- ii. Lake shore stabilization - design sent to regulators to determine permit needs
 - iii. Silver Lake trail - field survey and mapping completed. Design anticipated
 - c. Middlebury College - conceptual plan being reviewed by College.
 - d. Sargent Brook - Kick off meeting completed; field survey completed. Anticipating alternatives analysis and stakeholder meeting this quarter
 - e. Baker Brook - Initial site visits with state entities anticipated in this quarter
 - f. West Rutland Project ID - Field surveys completed; anticipating 30% design on three projects in the next quarter
 - g. Shoreham Project ID - Identification and initial scoring of projects completed; field assessments anticipated
 - h. Vergennes Project ID - Identification and initial scoring of projects completed; field assessments anticipated
 - i. Vermont Family Forest - project scaled back to deal with just forest access roads following a site visit from the CWSP and FPR. Deron will be finalizing pre-construction review soon.
 - j. Youngs Brook Dam - Project alterations occurring with regard to the access road, and the stockpile area. Alterations triggered a Phase 1 archeological survey which they hope to complete in August.
 - k. Vermont Land Trust - Plantings are completed and close out is anticipated.
 - l. West Rutland wetland restoration - Report not received
6. O&M training status
- a. The three required verification trainings (O&M, Verification Tools, and Verification Process) have been developed and posted to the [DEC Verification Website](#).
7. Reappointment update
- a. The term for the Otter Creek CWSP expires at the end of 2025. The CWSP is required to inform DEC of its intent to be reappointed by the end of July the preceding year. ACRPC will be seeking reappointment. The BWQC can anticipate that DEC, as part of the reappointment process, will be communicating with BWQC members.
8. Next Meeting - October 23, 2024 at 2PM.

Ellen moved to adjourn. Adjourn 14:41 PM