



# OTTER CREEK BASIN

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## 2024-10-22 Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council

**Present:** Ellen Cronan (ACRWC), Arabella Holzapfel (ACRPC-chair), Kate Kelly (LCA), Barbara Noyes-Pulling (RRPC)

*There were not enough members present to form a quorum*

**Absent:** Hilda Haines (Danby), Gioia Kuss (Weybridge), Nanci McGuire (RNCD), Adam Piper (VLT), Pam Stefanek (OCNRCD - vice chair)

**Public:** Angie Allen (DEC), Chris Robbins (ACRWC)

**Staff:** Mike Winslow

1. Amendments to the Agenda
2. Approve [Minutes](#) of July - there was no quorum, so minutes were deferred to the next meeting.
3. Announcements
  - a. Staffing Changes - Deron has moved on from ACRPC. We are in the process of filling two positions, and hope that one of the two hires can contribute to the CWSP. In the meantime, Leander Ruhl started in September as the new Eco Americorp. He will be assisting with project applications for the next round
  - b. Rutland NRCD - Barbara reported that Nanci is leaving next month.
  - c. Reappointment status - DEC has received the CWSP's request for reappointment and is reviewing the files from our completed projects. A survey has gone out to BWQC members and various partners in the community to allow feedback about the CWSP. If you did not receive an invitation to participate in the survey please let the CWSP or DEC know. Determination on reappointment will be made by the end of the year at the latest.
    - i. Ellen asked if DEC follows up with those who have not responded to the survey. Angie said response is not mandatory, so there isn't follow-up.
4. Tactical Basin Plan - Angie Allen, DEC
  - a. Due to be finalized by the end of the year. Timeline is driven by EPA requirements to comply with the Lake Champlain TMDL



# OTTER CREEK BASIN

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- b. Tomorrow is the last day of the official 30 day comment period. Unofficial feedback is welcome anytime.
  - c. Angie shared a link to the [Story Map](#) and a link [to the draft plan](#), and walked through the Story Map.
  - d. Ellen asked if the comment document from the last round reviewed and included for this plan, as many of the responses suggested inclusion in the updated plan? Angied did look at those, but can't confirm that all elements were added to the new plan. Between that version and this one, the plans have a new template. Angie asked if there were specific comments to address. Ellen will review.
  - e. Have the Basin Plans changed at all with the creation of the CWSPs? There's a section in the plan (pg. 69) about the CWSP that should be close to what's in the CWSP reporting.
  - f. Ellen asked about roads in Lincoln and Goshen and coordination with USFS. Those roads are owned and managed by the Forest Service. Implementation projects beyond USFS's scope create potential collaborative projects. CWSP related projects would need to be driven by the USFS. USFS roads are not subject to the MRGP; the roads are mapped. Ellen is concerned that USFS roads have erosion problems; she's also concerned that road ownership is often not understood between municipalities and USFS.
  - g. Arabella asked for clarification about "CWIP" funding (Clean Water Initiative Program). CWIP are clean water monies allocated annually by the Clean Water Board ([a process that is happening right now](#)). That is the source of funds for CWSPs, and for Tactical Basin Plan work.
  - h. Chris asked if the Clean Water Board comment period and the Tactical Basin Plan comment period were integrated. The strongest point of connection is that the Tactical Basin Plans are within CWB plans.
5. CWSP Process Check in
- a. Review Draft RFP
    - i. The only change compared to the previous RFP is the due date
    - ii. Ellen reiterated support for numbering applications in a way that coincides with the application requirements to facilitate review.
    - iii. There were no other requested changes to the RFP
  - b. Potential applicants
    - i. Mendon forest road project. Vermont Forest Parks and Rec. (VFPR) is interested in improvements on a privately owned logging road that they need to use to access a proposed timber sale. Mike went out to the site



# OTTER CREEK BASIN

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earlier in the week with VFPR to review the forest road scoring tool and discuss a potential application. The project is complicated because it's not clear who could or would apply, and because the landowner is interested in doing the work himself.

- ii. Shrewsbury Dam - Mike has met with Nancy Bell about a potential dam removal. The project is not ready for an application at this time. Preliminary work needs to be completed before the P reduction elements of the project move forward.
- iii. [Smokey House Center](#) - before he left, Deron met with the manager of the center, a non-profit agricultural and forest entity in Danby. They may have interest in future projects.

## 6. Funded Projects Status update

- a. New Haven River - There were delays in getting a fully executed contract, but they are now looking to schedule a kickoff meeting.
- b. Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association
  - i. Westside Drive - Two of three landowners have agreed on the revised license agreement. The third landowner is under contract for sale. The new landowner has expressed support for the project, but LDFLA needs to wait for the sale to be completed before proceeding.
  - ii. Lake shore stabilization - neither lake encroachment nor stream alteration permits are needed. The Department of Historic Preservation is still assessing the design.
  - iii. Silver Lake trail - a concept design has been submitted, but a further site visit is needed to resolve some questions.
- c. Middlebury College - conceptual plan being reviewed by College. The contractor is awaiting input from regulators including Historic Preservation.
- d. Sargent Brook - A hydraulics and alternatives analysis has been completed. They anticipate having a stakeholder meeting and a 30% design and report by the end of the year.
- e. Baker Brook - Initial site visits with state entities have been completed, and explored restoration options with the landowner. They will be collecting field data (i.e. topographic survey, wetland delineation) in this quarter.
- f. West Rutland Project ID - Project prioritization is on-going.
- g. Shoreham Project ID - Projects have been identified, but the town needs to prioritize and approve projects for further concept development.



# OTTER CREEK BASIN

clean water service provider

- h. Vergennes Project ID - Projects have been identified, but the town needs to prioritize and approve projects for further concept development.
  - i. Vermont Family Forest - Forest road improvements have been completed, and was the subject of an open house held by VFF. We anticipate this project will lead to 14.9 kg/yr P reduction based on DEC models. The CWSP anticipates a final report before the end of the year.
  - j. Youngs Brook Dam - The changes in the access road and stockpile for sediment disposal have been approved by DEC, but still need to be approved by the FEMA consultant. Implementation work can not occur after October 1, so the project sponsor now anticipates a April 1 completion date for permits, and an October 1, 2025 completion date for project implementation.
  - k. Wyman & Wales riparian planting - The CWSP conducted a joint site visit/verification visit with Vermont Land Trust, and was pleased with the results. The CWSP is reviewing the final report.
  - l. West Rutland wetland restoration - A final design plan has been submitted to the town for review and approval.
  - m. Common Grounds road repair - Lewis Creek Association has hired an engineer for design work. A kick off meeting and draft final design plan are anticipated before the end of the year.
  - n. Addison County River Watch project development - contract has been signed. Work still to begin.
7. Next Meeting - January 22, 2025 at 2PM