



# OTTER CREEK BASIN

## clean water service provider

### 2026-01-28 Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council Minutes

**Present:** Ellen Cronan (ACRWC), Arabella Holzapfel (ACRPC - Chair), Kate Kelly (LCA), Gioia Kuss (Weybridge), Devon Neary (RRPC), Adam Piper (VLT), Pam Stefanek (OCNRCD), Katie Stiles (RNRC - Vice-Chair),

**Absent:** Hilda Haines (Danby)

**Public:** Matt Witten (ACRWC), Rory Malone (NRCS)

**Staff:** Mike Winslow, Danelle Birong

1. Amendments to the Agenda - none
2. Approve [Minutes](#) of October meeting. **Moved by Ellen, Second by Kate. All in favor.**  
**Arabella abstained.**
3. Review New Project Proposals
  - a. OCNRCD – Corcoran & Roleau – **Ellen moved to accept both projects from OCNRCD. Kate seconded. All in favor with abstentions by Pam and Adam.**
  - b. ACRWC – Sheldon
    - i. Katie asked about which invasive species were being removed and what methods would be used, as some removal methods require permitting and may substantially drive up the cost. Matt has conducted one field visit and recalls there may have been some honeysuckle. ACRWC was focused more on the need for riparian planting. ACRWC is familiar with dealing with invasives including parsnip, reed canary grass, and purple loosestrife. In short, actual methods of invasive management will be developed as part of the project design.
    - ii. Gioia is an upstream neighbor and is aware that honeysuckle is present. She shared that she is the Weybridge Conservation Committee chair
    - iii. Katie asked about the process for additional funding. Mike explained the CWSP additional funding policy and suggested reducing the “likelihood of success” score to account for the questions Katie is raising. Matt clarified that ACRWC will not be trying to eradicate AIS but managing them such that the plantings will survive.
    - iv. Kate asked if ACRWC uses herbicides. Matt confirmed that they do not.



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- v. **Kate moved to approve the project for funding. Gioia seconded. All in favor. Ellen abstained.**
- 4. Update budget for Middlebury College project.
  - a. Ellen noted that it's a substantial budget increase and that much of it looked as if it had been poorly budgeted. Mike noted that the project had originally been approved as a Design/Implementation. Had it come in as separate Design and Implementation phases, some of the additional costs would have been caught there.
  - b. Gioia remembers many moving pieces with the project when initially reviewed. She suggested the increase makes sense. Kate also expressed that the changes were within reason given the amount of earthwork involved.
  - c. **Kate moved to approve the budget increase. Katie seconded All in favor no abstentions.**
- 5. Change April meeting date
  - a. Mike proposed changing the date of the April meeting to April 15<sup>th</sup>, one week earlier. The April meeting will include election of officers, and Arabella is term limited as chair.
  - b. Katie offered to remain as vice-chair. She is not confident she would be able to make an April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting as she will be on maternity leave. She may not be available at all until May.
  - c. BWQC members agreed to change the meeting to April 15th
- 6. Funded Projects Status update
  - a. One project closed out this quarter – Mendon Forest Roads
  - b. One project cancelled this quarter – Tups Crossing riparian planting. The landowner backed out
  - c. Mike needs to follow up about quarterly reports with a handful of projects.
  - d. Ellen asked for some clarification about Table 2 in the memo that accompanied the agenda. Mike explained that Table 2 covered all projects, not just projects with actions in the last quarter.
- 7. Next Meeting – April 15, 2026
- 8. Adjourn 14:34