



2026-07-22 Otter Creek Basin Water Quality Council Agenda

Present: Ellen Cronan (ACRWC), Gioia Kuss (Weybridge), Adam Piper (VLT), Kate Kelly (LCA), Devon Neary (RRPC), Jon Roberts (OCNRCD), Katie Stiles (RNRCD - Vice-Chair)

Absent: Arabella Holzapfel (ACRPC - Chair), Hilda Haines (Danby)

Public: Matt Witten (ACRWC), Angie Allen (VTDEC), Chris Rottler (VTDEC), Rory Malone (OCNRCD)

Staff: Mike Winslow, Andrew L'Roe

1. Amendments to the Agenda - none
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Approve Minutes of [April meeting](#) - Moved by Kate. Second by Devon. Katie asked that item #7 be rephrased to be clearer. Kate and Devon accepted the clarification. All in favor.
4. Review of Project Proposals
 - a. RNRCD – Clarendon Ave. Stormwater Final Design
 - i. Kate asked about costs of stormwater designs and the potential for increasing costs. Higher implementation costs will affect the phosphorous score
 - ii. M. Winslow noted that he also had concerns and invited the BWQC to discuss what thresholds should be use
 - iii. Katie Stiles noted that it is increasingly difficult to get funding. From the project implementor side it's challenging to deal with shifting cost benefit equations. And the BWQC has more money than it's spending.
 - iv. Chris Rottler noted that DEC is looking at revising targets due to costs and inflation- targets. He observed that the formula grant costs were based on a median cost and half of funded projects might be expected to be higher and half lower. Funding expensive projects early means the BWQC would need to be more conservative later.
 - v. Ellen Cronan suggested noting that we have concerns and need to set a maximum threshold for cost efficiency in the future



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- vi. Gioia- it's helpful to have projects happen and be visible so that people can learn from them- and she's okay with having more latitude
- b. RNRCD – Youngs Brook Dam planting
 - i. Katie noted that the project request came from VNRC after the dam had been removed
 - ii. Mike reported on the relationship with the existing Dam removal project. The BWQC has already awarded the Town of West Rutland \$304,000 for the dam removal and they have \$103,000 left of that budget. Known outstanding invoices and work will not use the entire \$103k. The CWSP can reduce the award to West Rutland and redirect funds to RNRCD to allow the planting to move forward without the need to approve a new project. The action depends on first determining whether the West Rutland project can be closed prior to the four years of monitoring required by permit.
 - iii. Katie asked about clarification on plantings as VNRC and the town are required to plant on the location where fill was taken, but that's separate from the current request to the BWQC. Mike confirmed that the existing budget has sufficient capacity for both plantings based on his conversation with VNRC and West Rutland.
- c. Ellen moved to vote yes on both projects, Kate Kelly seconded, All in Favor (with Katie abstaining)
- 5. DEC Training – Hydrology and Hydraulics.
 - a. When: Wednesday, September 23, 2026 - 12pm to 1pm
 - b. Where: Online - Teams
(<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/218034334001662?p=IFWB3dEETYPIC6j7RI>)
 - c. Who: Andrew Sampsell, Dam Safety Engineer (VTDEC) and Kyle Medash, River Engineer (VTDEC)
 - d. What: A training/discussion on H&H topics as they relate to clean water projects in Vermont by engineers for non-engineers
- 6. Funded Projects Status update
 - a. Mike reported on existing projects. Five projects closed out this quarter: three plantings from OCNRC, a forest road repair at the Watershed Center, and a lakeshore/riparian restoration on Lake Dunmore
 - b. Actual estimated Phosphorous reductions weren't included in the BWQC memo as those numbers are dependent on DEC acceptance of projects which can be



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slow. However, it does appear that we have exceeded our target (if funded projects meet what they said they would)

c. No additional questions on existing projects.

7. Motion to adjourn from Ellen, second by Kate. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 14:37.

Next Meeting - October 28, 2026 at 2PM