



South Lake Champlain Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

May 29, 2024, 3:00 pm

Online and in-person at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission offices.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order 3:06 PM

Council Members present: Erin Rodgers, chair (TU); Adam Piper (VLT); Mike Winslow (ACRPC); Katy Crumley (PMNRCD), Dan Redondo (Town of Orwell), Paul Donaldson (Town of Poultney)

Staff present: Hilary Solomon (PMNRCD/CWSP) and Devon Near and Barbara Noyes Pulling (RRPC/CWSP)

VTDEC present: Angie Allen, Basin Planner, Alison Marchione, Lakes & Ponds

Public present: Kerrie Garvey, Watershed Consulting and Traci May, Echo Lake Association

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 pm by Mike Winslow who was instated as the temporary chair due to the absence of both the regular chair and vice chair.

APPROVE AGENDA

The motion to approve the agenda was made by unanimous consent.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from February 28, 2024, was made by Mike Winslow and seconded by Adam Piper. The minutes were approved.

REVIEW of RFP ROUND FIVE PROJECTS

Addison Gully, Addison and Butler Gully, Fair Haven

These two similar gully projects, both of which received assistance from Watershed Consulting Associates, which had staff present at the meeting, were considered together. The project site in Addison consists of two drainage areas, two gullies, and a wetland. The request is for \$27,840 for a 30% design of sand filters upstream of the cross culverts on Lake Street and to stabilize the gullies to protect against further erosion. The estimated P reduction would be 35.3 kg/yr.

Kerrie Garvey told the BWQC that the source of water is related to a road culvert and nearby developed lands and that it is not a MRGP situation. Angie Allen stated that the project was not eligible under CWIP policy and that there could be other sources of funding (such as Marli's RCPP funds – which are run through NRCS EQIP). Adam Piper indicated that he has seen a lot of improper culvert installations, some exacerbated by ag field drainage issues, so it is an important problem without a clear solution. Mike Winslow said to be eligible the upstream problem should be addressed. He also questioned whether the project type is ineligible because DEC does not have a method for figuring out the phosphorus reduction, and if so, if that work at DEC would be happening soon. Angie Allen said that she gave extra consideration as road ditches and culverts are involved, but w/o addressing the source, which is ag runoff, the project isn't eligible. She also cautioned against using the entire gully feature when calculating P reduction estimates as they lead to overestimates and a segmented approach by condition may be more realistic.

Kerie Garvey reported that her company has had many conversations with DEC about P reduction estimates that some have eventually resulted in DEC agreeing with Watershed Associates. There is also some question about whether ag is the source of the stormwater or just the land type across which it flows.

The BWQC had related questions about the Butler Gully project site which consists of three small drainage areas, a large gully, and a wetland. The total watershed area is large, encompassing a hillside and cross culverts in multiple locations on Route 22A. The request is for \$41,400 for a 30% design to utilize an existing wetland and partially reroute a small drainage into a nearby drainage (which appears to already share flow at high water events) that both outlet into the Poultney River. The estimated P reduction is in the 34-793 kg/yr range.

Mike Winslow suggested that the BWQC spend up to \$80,000 on conceptual designs for the two projects. Katie Crumley made that suggestion a motion and Adam Piper seconded. It passed unanimously.

Macomber Gullies, Fair Haven

This project site consists of four drainage areas and four gullies. The total watershed area contains nearly five acres which drains to four gullies that flow to tributaries of Mud Brook and the Castleton River. The request is for \$30,500 for construction to stabilize the four gullies. The estimated P reduction is 156 kg/yr. However, the site is in agricultural use and more DEC and VAAF review is needed. Adam Piper suggested that the group do everything possible to put the issue of gully remediation in front of DEC. He moved that the BWQC authorize the CWSP to move forward with the project if those contingencies work out. Dan Redondo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Macomber Stream Restoration, Fair Haven

This project site consists of a large agricultural area (nearly 60 acres) and a stream with erosion, incision, and head cuts. The BWQC is being asked to spend \$34,075 on a conceptual stream restoration design to stabilize a small ephemeral stream channel and its banks, mitigate erosion and high velocity flows, and reconnect to its floodplain. The initial P treatment estimates are 156 kg/yr.

Angie Allen indicated that this is an eligible use of CWIP funds. She suggested it be run by DEC's MRGP rivers scientist, and wetlands staff for input and to check the P reduction estimate. Specifically, Shannon Pytlik wants to visit the site.

Katie Crumley moved to move the project forward the project contingent on DEC approval. Dan Redondo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

West Crystal Haven, Castleton

Staff proposed that that this stormwater outfall is a potential location to site multiple stormwater remediation projects to intercept polluted water draining from roads and other impervious surfaces and into Lake Bomoseen. The request is for \$27,000 for a 30% design that would result in 5.55 kg/yr. reduction in P.

Angie Allen indicated this is an eligible project but suggested that there be further review by DEC MRGP and CWSP staff check to make sure there aren't issues to be addressed through MRGP first. Adam Piper moved that the project go forward contingent on DEC input on whether it is covered by MRGP. Katie Crumley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

133 On the Green, East Poultney

This potential stormwater treatment site is in the heart of historic East Poultney and will treat runoff from approximately an acre of mostly impervious, developed lands. The request is for \$5,000 for the construction of a simple rain garden with no underdrain. The estimated P reduction is 0.26 kg/yr.

Mike Winslow asked if most of the runoff is coming from the street; Hilary said most of it is from a church rooftop and not the street. Town Manager Paul Donaldson said the road segment meets MRGP standards.

Angie Allen indicated the project is eligible.

Adam Piper moved to approve the project contingent on a final determination that is eligible, and the project does not fall under the MRGP, which would make it ineligible. Kate Crumley seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ROLLING RFPS FOR PROJECTS AND ROLLING RFQS FOR PRE-QUALIFIED SUBGRANTEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS

Staff asked the BWQC for its thoughts about making both the Request for Projects (RFP) process and the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process for pre-qualifying subgrantees and subcontractors on a rolling basis. There were some questions about adequately getting the word out, especially for RFPs. The group consensus was for hybrid rolling periods for RFPs that were longer in length. RFPs are currently posted several times a year and for about a month each. Katie Crumley suggested that the changes be adopted contingent on increased outreach.

BWQC TERM RENEWALS

CWSP staff mentioned that BWQC terms were ending and that we would email members with more information about re-upping for new terms.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE TRAINING

Staff encouraged the BWQC to check out the DEC first two O&M trainings posted online. The link was included in the agenda or can be obtained from staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING

Hilary told the group she had attended a forestland projects related training and she suggested that there be a similar presentation at the BWQC's next meeting.

The next meeting will be in early to mid-September. A poll will be sent out to schedule the date and time.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Noyes Pulling & Hilary Solomon