



South Lake and Lake Champlain Direct Basin Water Quality Council Meeting
February 9, 2023, 12:00 pm
Virtual meeting/Microsoft Teams and In-Person at RRPC Office

Members present: Erin Rodgers, Don Campbell, Shayne Jaquith, Katy Crumley, Paul Donaldson, Mike Winslow, Bob Richards, Joe Gunter
Staff present: Hilary Solomon, Barbara Noyes Pulling, Devon Neary
Basin Planner/Other DEC: Chris Rottler
Public: None

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order by BWQC Chair Erin Rodgers at 12:06 PM. Shayne Jaquith of TNC was introduced and will replace Murray McHugh as the lead watershed representative from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Murray will now serve as TNC's alternate member.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was altered to move items around so that items started at the last meeting would be discussed before newer items. Motion by Mike Winslow to alter the order of Agenda items, seconded by Don Campbell. Unanimously approved by voice or raised hand vote. Motion by Katy Crumley to approve amended Agenda, seconded by Don Campbell. Unanimously approved by voice or raised hand vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Erin Rodgers indicated that her last name was spelled incorrectly; staff will make corrections. Motion by Don Campbell to approve the Minutes as presented, seconded by Mike Winslow. Unanimously approved by voice or hand raised vote. Shayne Jaquith abstained.

4. VICE CHAIR OPENING

The current Vice Chair, Murray McHugh, has requested to be an alternate and that Shayne Jaquith become the new regular member representing watershed groups. Following a discussion on whether he might fill the role, it was decided to table the Vice Chair selection and place it on the next meeting's Agenda giving time for Shayne to understand the position's responsibilities and confer with TNC leadership about the time commitment.

5. FINALIZE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR SUBGRANTEES

Staff reviewed the latest draft of the RFQ. Chair Erin Rodgers requested that the wording regarding disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) may not be relevant and asked for staff to look into alternative language. Katy Crumley pointed out a typo; staff has made the change. Staff explained how the RFQ can help streamline subsequent project applications and will help the CWSP justify selecting entities for funding. Group discussed many points including: the need for all of the financial information required (take out the P&L for non-profits), the confusing language about sole sourcing and when to get three bids when procuring projects, whether this RFQ was too onerous or not, using 'project applicant' throughout the RFQ, clarifying language regarding DBE, potential for any funds that might require the Davis-Bacon Act rules, and changing language around annual check-ins for qualified partners. Staff will make changes and put the RFQ out for potential project managers to respond to (as the changes will be minor, folks can also use this version to present their qualifications).

6. REVIEW DRAFT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR SUBCONTRACTORS

Chair Erin Rodgers and Shayne Jaquith indicated that no changes were necessary other than those discussed for Subgrantee RFQ and the P&L and DBE language can remain. Staff will make changes and post the RFQ.

7. REVIEW PROJECT SCORING TEMPLATE

Staff thoroughly reviewed a draft template for scoring projects which is based on the requirements found in DEC's chapter 6 guidance.

The scoring includes 50 points for cost efficiency (cost per kg) as related to the formula grant targets and ten points each for project longevity, doable O&M requirements, and being listed in local assessments. The final 20 points would be for the co-benefits.

Discussion ensued about DEC's current criteria for project/design life, tracking and scoring Phosphorous (P) reductions following project life, how project life affects Operations & Maintenance requirements and vice versa, , how best to check the veracity of information on project applications especially for more technical projects, and if more emphasis should be placed on the longevity of projects.

Specifically, Shayne Jaquith suggested that the 'design life' concept is from a graywater/engineered perspective and is being 'forced' on natural systems, which are based on an ecosystem equilibrium perspective. Bob Richards suggested that P reductions be monitored for projects' functioning lifetime (the phosphorus will be counted for the functioning lifetime and the project will be maintained, so hopefully the phosphorus mitigation will be retained).

Shayne Jaquith questioned the math used in DEC's formula, specifically the use of 'yrs' in the equation, which at its heart is a simple cost per kilogram equation, and said that the BWQC needs to know how to explain the equation to others. Staff will ask DEC to come to a future meeting to explain the additive math.

Don Campbell suggested that emphasis be placed on longevity of projects. Mike Winslow agreed that projects with long lifetimes should be awarded more points and suggested adding a point per year for those projects that are functioning for longer than 15 years. Shayne Jaquith suggested that the language around O&M score be refined to better quantify it. Mike Winslow suggested for projects.

Staff indicated that the applications would be set up to give the information the CWSP needs for its scoring and for the BWQC's input on co-benefits. Erin Rodgers asked about managing risks of some

projects especially those that rely on technology. Shayne Jaquith suggested that there be a schedule of project types with expected O&M expenses rather than relying exclusively on applicant information. Mike Winslow concurred that was a great idea and DEC should put this together for CWSPs/BWQCs. I think they are putting this together....

8. REVIEW CO-BENEFITS TEMPLATE

Staff quickly reviewed the weighting system built into the draft template. Further discussion will be postponed until the next meeting. Mike Winslow asked about the timeline going forward. Staff hopes to have a Request for Projects (RFP) out by March or April once the scoring procedure is in place and that there would be a quarterly release of RFPs, in other words, rolling submissions by CWSP and quarterly review by the BWQC, after that.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present.

10. NEXT MEETINGS(S)

Chair Erin Rodgers suggested that the scoring metrics be made final at the next meeting so that RFP can get out soon afterwards. Mike Winslow suggested that a Request for Information could be used for projects if we weren't ready for a full RFP. Shayne Jaquith and Mike Winslow both expressed concerns about possible risks of failed projects and not being able to approve projects and get them out the door. Staff suggested one more special meeting in mid-March and quarterly meetings after that on designated days. A poll for both of those will be sent out after the meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 1:38 am, Mike Winslow moved to adjourn; seconded by Katy Crumley.

Respectfully submitted by Hilary Solomon and Barbara Noyes Pulling