



## **South Lake Champlain Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)**

**May 25, 2023, 11:00 am**

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

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting called to order 11:17

Council Members present: Shayne Jaquith, acting chair (TNC); Erin Rodgers, (TU); Adam Piper (VLT); Katy Crumley (PMNRCD); Mike Winslow (ACRPC); Paul Donaldson (Town of Poultney); and Murray McHugh (alternate, TNC).

Partners present: Lindsey Waterhouse and Liz Bird, LBA.

Staff present: Barbara Noyes-Pulling, RRPC/CWSP; Devon Neary, RRPC/CWSP, Hilary Solomon; PMNRCD/CWSP.

### **APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion to approve agenda made Mike Winslow, seconded by Katy Crumley. Motion carried.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes as written from April 28, 2023, made by Mike Winslow, seconded by Adam Piper. Motion carried.

### **FINAL LIST OF SUBGRANTEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

Staff member Barbara Noyes Pulling announced the list of pre-qualified entities:

- Subgrantees: Lake Bomoseen Association, Lake St. Catherine Association, Trout Unlimited
- Subcontractors: Aldrich & Elliott, Dubois & King, East Engineering, Engineering Ventures, Fitzgerald Environmental, Otter Creek Engineering, Redstart, Stone Environmental, SWCA, Watershed Consulting.

There was a short discussion about the advantages of pre-qualification and potential sole sourcing opportunities.

### **REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSALS**

1. LAKE BOMOSEEN WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

Hilary Solomon led a discussion explaining that the project is a Lake Watershed Action Plan that would build on an existing stormwater master plan, would update the project information from the SWMP, identify new projects, include explorations into tributaries and forested areas in the watershed, and create five or six new conceptual designs ready for implementation. The staff review comments included that: the project is in the process of acquiring a WPD ID, proposes water quality monitoring and a QAPP that might not be needed for our purposes (or a good use of formula grant funds), and that CWSP staff and the LBA would need to stay on top of policy developments relating to shoreline, roadway, and stream guidelines.

Lindsey Waterhouse explained the proposal in more detail and answered questions. He said it would be an interactive activity with stakeholders, homeowners, the Lake Wise Program, and LBA. He argued that if the monitoring component was removed that would handicap the risk assessment. Hilary Solomon said Ben Copans at VT DEC recommends that water monitoring be funded by the LaRosa Program instead. Mike Winslow asked if projects in the SWMP were implemented and concurred that this funding should not be used for water monitoring and wondered if this would lead to more projects that are not easily implemented. Shayne Jaquith indicated that he understands the VT DEC is willing to risk that because of how it allotted 7% of total project funds (\$64,813) to be for project ID and development.

There was some discussion of tabling this project to save funding for projects in forests and streams. Lindsey Waterhouse responded that this is important work, fundable, and has taken a lot of effort on his group's part. Shayne Jaquith asked if this LWAP would lead to actionable projects. Lindsey Waterhouse indicated he thought there would be projects at Sucker Brook, the wetland at the north end of the lake, and potential road projects to benefit the Town of Castleton.

Mike Winslow moved to approve the project with two qualifications: remove the water monitoring component and stipulate that any projects that go to conceptual stage be eligible for CWSP funding. Katy Crumley suggested that landowners' approval for projects be required, and Mike Winslow amended his motion to include that provision. The final motion was to approve the LWAP project without the water quality monitoring or the QAPP and that projects moved to conceptual design be chosen in consultation with DEC and the CWSP and have the related landowner approval. The motion passed unanimously. It was subsequently decided that scoring the LWAP's co-benefits was not necessary.

## 2. SUGAR HOUSE LANE FISH PASSAGE BARRIER REMOVAL AND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Due to time constraints, Barbara Noyes Pulling presented the BWQC with an abbreviated overview of the staff recommendations for this project indicating that landowner permission and permitting were in progress. Erin Rodgers of Trout Unlimited presented the project, which includes removing a concrete sill and replacing a bridge over the Mettowee River in Dorset, VT to reduce erosion and flood hazards and to improve fish passage in the river. Project partners, which include PMNRCD, are asking for \$15,000, which reflects the sector averaged cost of removing 1.5 kg of phosphorus that will be reduced by the project per the FFI algorithms.

Shayne Jaquith asked about the impact of delaying this project. Erin Rodgers said the partners all hoped to start construction this summer.

Mike Winslow moved to approve the project contingent on all permitting and landowner agreements being finalized.

Mike Winslow inquired about the concerns VT DEC River Scientist Shannon Pitlik had about the project. Barbara Noyes Pulling indicated that following a discussion between Pitlik and Watershed Planner Angie Allen that those concerns were dropped in deference to Allen's support for the project.

Erin Rodgers and Katy Crumley recused themselves from voting since their organizations are partners in this project proposal, resulting in a lack of a quorum to act on the original motion. Mike Winslow then moved to table further discussion until a special meeting; Shayne Jaquith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staff will send out a poll to schedule a special meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:32 PM

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Noyes Pulling & Hilary Solomon