



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

**September 21, 2023, 1:00 pm**

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

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting called to order 1:04 PM

Council Members present: Erin Rodgers, chair (TU); Shayne Jaquith (TNC); Adam Piper (VLT); Mike Winslow (ACRPC); Rob Terry (BCCD/Merck), and Bob Richards (Town of Fair Haven)

Staff present: Barbara Noyes Pulling, RRPC/CWSP and Hilary Solomon; PMNRCD/CWSP

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

Partners/public present: Andy Sharp, Otter Creek Engineering

### **APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Winslow and seconded by Shayne Jacquith. The agenda was approved as written with the exception of the order of Round 2 project discussions which will be changed.

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes from June 15, 2023, and July 27, 2023, by unanimous consent was made by Mike Winslow and seconded by Shayne Jacquith. Minutes from the August 17, 2023, meeting were tabled, as there was no quorum at that meeting.

### **REVIEW and VOTE ON PROJECTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE JULY 20 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

#### **Merck Forest and Farmland Project: Wetland Restoration at the Mettowee Community School**

This project is a conceptual design of a wetland, and potentially stream, restoration project behind the Mettowee Community School. The BWQC members reviewed the co-benefits as listed by the CWSP staff but felt that it was potentially not necessary to do a full co-benefit analysis at this early stage in project development. They advocated for a full co-benefit analysis after the project was designed. Shayne Jacquith advocated for a larger project scope that included a stream restoration, if appropriate, and Mike Winslow warned that while the BWQC can make recommendations, it's the partners that

determine the scope of the projects that they bring to the table. Andy responded that the project was a conceptual design and so they would explore the feasibility of including the stream restoration in the final project (there are potential constraints related to the property boundaries).

Mike Winslow made a motion to approve the staff recommendation and award the request for \$6,000 to create a conceptual wetland restoration design as described in the staff review and application documents with the recommendation to expand the scope of the project to include the stream restoration if feasible. The motion was seconded by Shayne Jacquith. The project was approved. Rob Terry abstained from voting.

Mike requested that the CWSP staff add a line to our review that makes clear whether we support or do not support a project.

### **Addison County Regional Planning Commission: Arnold Bay Boat Launch**

This project is a final design of stormwater infiltration projects and improvements to a public boat launch on Lake Champlain in the Town of Pantou. ACRPC plans to hire a consultant to carry out the design work.

The BWQC members discussed the fact that this project is approved for 30% and 100% designs and is supposed to come back to the BWQC members for approval once the phosphorus reduction is determined at 30% design. The BWQC members prefer to avoid multiple rounds of approvals, if possible, in the future.

Shayne Jacquith made a motion to approve the request for \$19,287.61 to design improvements to the Arnold Bay Boat Launch as proposed. Bob Richards seconded the motion. The project was approved. Mike Winslow abstained from voting.

### **Early-Stage Project Development**

This project is intended to make funds available for projects that have been identified, but there is not yet much information about their value and/or how they might qualify for future funding.

Erin Rodgers commented that this project could include provisions for environmental justice and/or providing funds that are targeted to low-income areas. Mike Winslow was worried about limiting the potential usability of the funds and recommended a reporting out of how/where the funds were used to include an analysis of EJ benefits. The BWQC discussed adding an EJ provision to the next round of this funding, should it proceed into future rounds.

Mike Winslow made a motion to authorize \$35,294 for early-stage development funds as described, with the caveat that the South Lake CWSP would report back to the BWQC about how the funds were used to include an analysis of spending as related to environmental justice/low-income areas. Shayne Jacquith seconded the motion.

Once the motion was brought up for comment, there were a number of comments. Mike Winslow noted that he had been unsure of this project in the beginning but was happy to see that DEC supported it and thinks it's a reasonable use of funds. Shayne Jacquith noted that he had been unsure about the CWSP having authority for project development, but had found that in the rule, it states that the CWSP is

in fact responsible for the oversight of project development, design, implementation, etc., and as the funder, seems to have the authority to both fund and oversee projects. Bob Richards noted that as a Select Board member, he didn't have the time to explore projects fully, but that this funding mechanism would help them engage with contractors who could help them. Erin Rodgers thought that we need to make sure to get information about these funds out to towns so they can participate in the program. The project was approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be on November 21 at 2:30. If needed, a follow-up meeting will be on December 13 at 3:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:10 PM

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Noyes Pulling & Hilary Solomon