

Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission Clean Water Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:00 AM -12:00 PM

TRORC Office, 128 King Farm Road, Woodstock, Vermont

Attendees:

Mark Lembke	Chelsea
Marie Caduto	DEC
Danielle Owczarski	DEC
Matt Osborn	Hartford
Ron Rhodes	CRWC
Jeff Masterson	Braintree
Sandy Stephen	Braintree
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich
Mardee Sanchez	Randolph
Pete Fellows	TRORC
Michael Storace	TRORC

Minutes:

1. **Introductions:** Michael Storace introduced himself and asked attendees to introduce themselves.
2. **Municipal Roads General Permit Update:**
 - Schedule: Michael Storace outlined the current schedule for the Municipal Roads General Permit. The draft Permit is currently available, and Summer/Fall of 2017 will feature extensive public hearing and commenting opportunities. The final permit will be issued in December 2017, Permit coverage will be phased in from 2019=2021; and road erosion inventories and Road Implementation Plans are due Fall 2020.
 - Basics: the permit applies to Priority Road Segments that are hydrologically connected (surface water bisects or parallels the road), will apply to drainage culverts not in-stream culverts; now require stone-lined ditches for gradients of 8% or greater; and require road erosion inventories for all towns.
 - Road Stormwater Management Plans: projects and priorities (based on inventories) to be implemented in the next 5 years. This document will look a lot like Better Roads applications.
 - Fees: \$400 application fee; \$240 administrative fee (every 5 years); and \$2,000 annual fee.
 - See attached TRORC comments.
 - TRORC Better Roads Efforts: 35 total grants submitted including 11 Road Erosion Inventories.
3. **Water Quality Funding: Treasurer Report:**
 - The Treasurer's report identifies a \$62.4 million annual funding gap for clean water work. The report identifies several strategies to address that gap. It identifies the need for Stormwater Utilities, either on a local or regional scale.

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William B. Emmons, III, Chair
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director

RPCs can possibly play a role in the managing of stormwater utilities. The report also identifies a parcel and/or impervious surface fee to generate revenue with several different types of fee structures with varying ease of administration. Several members in attendance voiced that such a fee would be difficult to implement by municipalities. An idea posed was to join this fee in with existing fees or permitting processes, which would reduce the burden of new administrative implementation.

- VAPDA: RPCs have taken several positions including, that this should be a statewide approach to address water quality problems statewide; that administration of funds should be cost-effective; that there is a funding gap for municipalities to do water quality work; that RPCS overall support a parcel fee; and that there should be a nexus of funding to water quality.

4. Connecticut River Dam Relicensing Process and Update:

- Relicensing process continues through April when TransCanada submits its Final License Application on 4/30/2017. This will open a 30 day commenting period with which TRORC plans to submit formal comments that address recreational needs based on goals, policies, and recommendations in our regional plan and in town plans of municipalities that abut the Connecticut River. The recently released erosion study, conducted on behalf of TransCanada for the relicensing project, found that although project operations and changes in water surface elevations contribute to erosion, they are not a major cause and that erosion levels around the dams were similar to free-flowing northern reaches of the River.

5. Ecosystem Restoration Program Grants in TRORC Region:

- Randolph Stormwater Master Plan, with specific focus on Randolph Village and East Randolph by TRORC;
- Ayers Brook River Corridor Easement Outreach project by TRORC, WRP, WNRCD, and VRC;
- River Corridor Easement of 9 acres in Stockbridge by WRP;
- Riparian buffer planting on White River by YVCC;
- Class 4 road work in White River Basin by VYCC.

6. Tactical Basin Plan: White and Ottauquechee Rivers: Danielle Owczarski and Marie Caduto overviewed the tactical basin planning process and provided the opportunity for individuals to get involved. Future Clean Water Advisory Committee meetings will address tactical basin planning in more detail.

7. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM