

Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission Clean Water Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 7, 2017 9:30 AM -11:30 PM
TRORC Office, 128 King Farm Road, Woodstock, Vermont

Attendees:

Steve Libby	Vermont River Conservancy
Jeff Goodrich	Town of Norwich
Jon Kahl	Hartford Conservation Commission
Marie Caduto	Vermont DEC
Mardee Sanchez	Town of Randolph
Todd Menees	Vermont DEC
Bill Emmons	Pomfret, TRORC Chair, CRWFA
Ron Rhodes	CRC
Sandy Stephen	Braintree
Mark Lembke	Chelsea
Danielle Owczarski	Vermont DEC
Pete Fellows	TRORC
Michael Storace	TRORC

Minutes:

1. Basin 10 Tactical Basin Plan:

- Michael Storace introduced the Ottauquechee, Black, and direct Connecticut River drainage watersheds. The Ottauquechee watershed consists of the following Towns in the TRORC region: Barnard, Bridgewater, Hartford, Hartland, Plymouth, Pomfret, Woodstock, and Stockbridge (as well as the Towns of Killington, Reading, Shrewsbury, and Mendon outside of the region). The Black River consists of the Town of Plymouth in the TRORC region as well as the Towns of Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Reading, Shrewsbury, Springfield, Weathersfield, and West Windsor outside of the region. The Basin 10 Plan also includes direct tributaries to the Connecticut River, which include the Towns of Hartford and Hartland, as well as the Towns of Reading, West Windsor and Windsor. Marie Caduto, of the DEC Watershed Management Division, is currently drafting the Basin 10 Tactical Basin Plan, a planning document that addresses water stressors and includes a list of projects whose implementation will improve water quality.

2. Watershed Projects Database:

- The Basin 10 Plan, which previously included a static implementation table as an appendix, now includes a dynamic implementation table that can be accessed online at the following link (<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IWIS/ARK/ProjectSearch.aspx>).

This database consists of a wide range of projects, contains projects at different stages of development and will be updated continuously. If any municipality, private landowner, or other organization knows of additional

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

projects that are not currently included in the database, please get into contact with either Michael Storace (mstorace@trorc.org), Marie Caduto (marie.caduto@vermont.gov), or Danielle Owczarski (dowczarski@vermont.gov). Additionally water quality remediation projects should *not* be discouraged, especially those with willing and eager landowners, because they are not ranked highly on the Watershed Projects Database. However, in order for a project to be funded by DEC's Clean Water Fund, it must have an identification number on the Watershed Projects Database. Note that additional funding sources outside of DEC do exist to implement projects. Present CWAC members identified the need for the database to be easily accessible where interested parties can contribute and pursue projects.

- Tactical Basin Plans and DEC identify water quality pollutants that pose harm to the surface water quality in a specific watershed. There are over 400 projects included for Basin 10 alone. For this reason implementation of projects should address water quality stressors and effectively reduce pollutants. DEC water quality stressors include stream channel erosion, floodplain encroachment, flow alteration, land erosion, non-erosion nutrient loading, thermal stress, and toxic substances.
- TRORC engaged in an initial prioritization, based on weighted criteria of which RPCs have specific knowledge and expertise. These criteria included hazard mitigation benefit, transportation benefit, socio-economic benefit, identification in a municipal plan, addressing a permit requirement, and community support.

3. Water Quality Reclassification Opportunities:

- The Basin 10 Tactical Basin Plan also includes candidates for reclassification to a higher water quality standard. In January, DEC adopted a new B1 class, which indicates very high water. The highest class, A1, indicates excellent quality of water, or ecological waters. The Basin 10 Plan will include the following waters for reclassification to A1 or B1 for aquatic biota and fisheries: Main Stem of the Ottauquechee River, North Branch of the Ottauquechee River, Lulls Brook, Great Roaring Brook, Great Brook, Black River Tributary #9, Tiny Pond, Tiny Pond Stream, Springfield Reservoir Brook, Barnard Brook Tributary #6 (near Wild Apple Road), and Kilburn Brook.
- The reclassification process can be lengthy and consists of three steps: assessment of whether surface water meets standards for a specific use, landowner outreach and engagement, and legislative rulemaking.

4. DEC's Clean Water Fund: Funding Opportunities for FY18 (July 2017-July 2017):

http://www.trorc.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/20170616_MunicipalWQGrants.pdf

- Better Roads: \$3 million
- Municipal Highway & Stormwater Mitigation: \$5.9 M
- Transportation Alternative Program: \$2.2 million
- Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid: \$2.1 million
- Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program: \$3 million
- Clean Water Block Grant: \$1.5 million
- Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund: \$87 million

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM