

**Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee RPC Clean Water Advisory Committee**

Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 1:30 – 3:00 PM

King Farm Conference Room

128 King Farm Rd, Woodstock, VT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Town/Organization</u>
Ron Rhodes	CRC
Jeff Goodrich	Norwich
Paul Doton	CRWFA
Danielle Owczarski	VT DEC
Peter Gregory	TRORC
Bill Emmons	CRWFA
Matt Osborn	Hartford
Jennifer Byrne	WRNRCD
Jess Richter	TRORC

**Meeting Minutes**

- Update on Act 76/Clean Water Service Providers (CWSPs)

Peter Gregory gave an update on the Act 76 Steering Committee that is working with ANR on the details of the CWSP selection criteria and what the draft RFP structure will look like. DEC and the Committee want to ensure that those taking on the role will have the technical capacity to manage funds efficiently and effectively and so this is being integrated into the RFP.

- Basin 14 Tactical Basin Plan – Updates, Discussion & Feedback

Danielle Owczarski, the State Watershed Planner for Basin 14, presented on the updates that are occurring in regards to the Basin 14 Plan. This Plan covers the Stevens, Waits, Wells, and Ompompanoosuc River watersheds as well as Connecticut River direct tributaries. She is currently working with partners to collect information on what has been accomplished in the watershed over the past 5 years as well as feedback on trends or particular spots that are causes for concern. Overall, the Basin 14 watershed has good water quality but there are a few hot spots that have been noted. These include the lower half of the Waits River that has unusually high water temperatures, Ticklenaked Pond which has its own Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and parts of the Ompompanoosuc River that have high levels of *E. coli*. Danielle has been reaching out to organizations, towns, etc. to inform them of the Plan update via presentations, an online survey and through the creation of an online Story Map, among other things. She plans to have an internal draft of the Plan towards the end of January and can come

back to the next CWAC meeting to present this draft. The CWAC can then begin to review and provide comments on the draft Plan.

Ron Rhodes mentioned that the mainstem of the Connecticut River is technically not covered within the Basin 14 Plan – only those tributaries to the Connecticut River. Therefore, many issues, strategies and projects can easily get overlooked if they are along the mainstem rather than one of the tributaries. This is also a concern in relation to the proposed CWSP/Basin Council structure in Act 76 as these basin plans would be used to inform the projects that are selected for funding within each respective basin. Incorporating new actions and strategies specifically related to monitoring and protecting the mainstem of the Connecticut River would be a way to ensure that projects and protections along the mainstem are not overlooked in regards to future funding.

Jennifer Byrne also suggested looking into strategic water quality monitoring related to specific projects (culvert upgrades, etc.) and where funding could be pursued to cover these costs, as this is something that is currently lacking in some areas of Basin 14. This may be something that the Plan can address within the implementation table and/or through proposed actions.

- Next Meeting

The next meeting will likely be held in early February in coordination with the release of the internal draft of the Basin 14 Tactical Basin Plan. Committee members suggested holding the next meeting in Bradford or a nearby town in the Basin 14 watershed.

- Other business

Draft 3-Acre Stormwater Permit –

Jess Richter brought up DEC's Draft 3-Acre Stormwater Permit for which the comment period just ended. Of note, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) submitted a comment letter to the Stormwater Division outlining their concerns regarding the Permit. This letter was shared and discussed with the CWAC. Although properties in the CT River Watershed will not be addressed first in this Permit, TRORC will be closely following the changes made to the draft.

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:45pm.**