

Vermont Clean Water Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Friday, December 21, 2018, 2:00-4:00 pm

Location: Agency of Transportation, Dill Building, 2178 Airport Road, Berlin VT

Clean Water Board Members/Designees:

Susanne Young, Agency of Administration (AoA) Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair

Ted Brady, Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) Deputy Secretary (filling in for Michael Schirling)

Bob Flint, public member

Joe Flynn, Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Secretary

Jim Giffin, public member

Chris Louras, public member (absent)

Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Secretary

Anson Tebbetts, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) Secretary

Chad Tyler, public member

Attendees:

Diane Bothfeld (on phone), AAFM

Rebecca Ellis, DEC

Ernie and Andrea Englehardt, Lake Carmi
Camper's Association (LCCA)

Jordyn Geller, DEC

Peter Gregory, Two River-Ottawaquechee Regional
Commission (TRORC)

Allison Lewis, DEC

Marli Rupe, DEC

Sue Scribner, VTrans

I. Review of Agenda, Approval of Minutes (2:03 pm)

Agency of Administration Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair, Susanne Young

- 10/31/2018 Meeting minutes approved
- 11/30/2018 Meeting minutes approved by Joe Flynn, Julie Moore seconds

II. Property Transfer Tax Surcharge Receipts Revenue Projection

Agency of Administration Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair, Susanne Young

- See supporting materials: *Property Transfer Tax Surcharge Receipts Revenue Projections, Email 12/4/2018*
- No action required
- Question raised by James Giffin on revising estimated funds available for next FY20
- Motion suggested by James Giffin for a \$1 million placeholder for FY20 for any additional revenue above the current budgeted amount
- Julie Moore seconds, all in favor

III. Review FY2020 Draft Budget (2:20 pm)

Agency of Natural Resources Secretary, Julie Moore and DEC Deputy Secretary, Rebecca Ellis

- See supporting materials: *FY20 DRAFT Clean Water Budget 12/13/2018*
- Line Item #19 (Program Audit): The \$100,000 is a place holder, open to discussion
- Line Item #5: Previously labeled as Agriculture, changed to Natural Resources as a reflection of VHCB's work and the breakdown of project

- The Board discussed the statute on Page 11, Susanne Young questioned if the audit will be before January 2021; Julie Moore noted that members may want to make further adjustments based on the SurveyMonkey results

FY16-20 Summary

- See supporting materials: *FY16-FY20, 5-year comparison, 12/13/2018*
- Line Item #3: Why is agriculture increasing their staff allocation by 33% covered by the Clean Water Fund? Are staff increasing by 33%? It seems like a cost shift from the general fund to the Clean Water Fund (James Giffin); Marcie Hodgdon explained that there was prior carryover and not an increase in staff
- Updated Page 21: Combined clean water bill and capital state fund revenues; Rebecca Ellis explained that in the capital bill section, those numbers are still showing FY19 capital numbers, which will drop out

IV. Review Survey Monkey Results on FY20 Draft Budget (2:45 pm)

DEC Deputy Secretary, Rebecca Ellis

- See supporting materials: *FY2020 Clean Water Fund Budget Survey Monkey Results (November-December 2018)*
- Received multiple comments from the audience as well as in emails that the survey was confusing; suggestion from Rebecca Ellis to use a different platform than Survey Monkey in the future; Board members discussed the possibility of hosting a couple of public hearings around the state, in addition to the survey
- Survey monkey comments included:
 - Focus on 1 or 2 areas rather than spread funds around; discussion detailed how the amount of funding is based on the TMDL and Act 73 priorities
 - When is the EPA going to say we have enough revenues? Response from Secretary Young: The Administration is working on the budget at this time and the next report will have further information; last year's EPA "report card" indicated that the State had achieved 25 of 28 items, and we are hoping all will be met by July (including developing long-term funding)

V. Public and General Comments (3:03 pm)

- Ernie Englehardt (LCCA) curious about the evaluation of projects to achieve water quality benefits; he questioned if the audit looked at phosphorus reduction or if it is an evaluation on the number of projects; Susanne Young clarified that the audit looks at how valuable and effective the projects have been; Rebecca Ellis commented that the Investment Report will answer this and it is clearly intended to be an analysis of our effectiveness and if investments are making water quality improvements
- Andrea Englehardt (LCCA) commented on the units used in the survey, people had to figure units out on their own because there weren't units on a vertical scale; she noted that the information given in the survey was helpful but didn't match up with the questions; Andrea raised concerns on the Act 73 recommendation to spend more money on municipal than agriculture; Rebecca Ellis explained that it is the amount of state funding recommended for municipalities and there is a lot packed into that municipal line, which is why those numbers are so high; Angela then questioned if the municipal overflow was more of a problem for the lake than agriculture; Julie Moore clarified it is an all-in approach, and it just so happens municipal investments are more expensive; the combination of expense and timeline makes the municipal bar so high
- Peter Gregory (TRORC) requested that we further invest in basin planning, to create better projects moving forward; he commented that investing in the foundation of basin planning is the best bang for the buck; he also noted that not all organizations in the state are given funding to support their participation

(for example, watershed groups cannot access funding provided to Regional Planning Commissions and Natural Resources Conservation Districts to assist in basin planning)

- Peter Gregory also commented that the funding to the Better Connections program is not the best use of dollars; VTrans could use other funds for this effort

VI. Discuss and Finalize FY20 Budget (3:17 pm)

Agency of Administration Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair, Susanne Young

- Susanne Young entertained a motion to approve the budget as submitted on Page 11.
 - Julie Moore approved, Joe Flynn seconds
- The board discussed an amendment to drop the line audit from \$125,000 to \$25,000.
- Move to amend the budget as follows:
 - Line Item #6: \$2,555,000
 - Line Item #19: \$25,000
 - Line Item #21: \$6,000,000
 - Line Item #22: FY19 carry over up to \$1,100,000 (new line)
- Total anticipated revenues are \$7.1 million with the two lines added, as of December 21st.
- Motion to approve the budget
 - So, moved, Julie Moore, Joe Flynn seconds move, all in favor

VII. Closing Remarks (3:42 pm)

Agency of Administration Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair, Susanne Young

- For next meeting in January, there will be update of governor's budget, take the approved FY20 budget and work it into the big bill. This can be a conference call.
- The week after January 24, there will be a presentation on Clean Water Initiative Investment Report with Q&A. Melissa will be in touch with a January date.

Adjourn (3:47)