

Vermont Clean Water Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Clean Water Board Members/Designees:

Susanne Young, Agency of Administration (AoA) Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair
Chris Cochran on behalf of Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) Secretary
Lindsay Kurrle
Bob Flint, public member
Joe Flynn, Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Secretary
Jim Giffin, public member
Christopher 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

- 1. Welcome, Overview of Agenda 1:00-1:05 pm**
Agency of Administration Secretary Young reviewed the agenda. No action taken.
Board member Bob Flint requested that the draft minutes be revised to reflect that Jim Giffin asked to expand the selection committee for the Clean Water Service Provider RFP to include Board members. Secretary Young responded saying Emily Bird will amend the draft minutes for adoption at the next meeting.
- 2. Review Updated Clean Water Fund Revenue Projections for SFY20 and 21 1:05-1:15 pm**
Agency of Natural Resources Director of Finance and Administration Emily Byrne presented the Clean Water Fund SFY20 Supplemental Budget Adjustment Request to align spending authority with reduced revenue in light of COVID-19. Estimated SFY21 revenues should be coming out within 1-2 weeks. Discussion was held around the escheats revenue projection. No action taken.
- 3. Review Updated SFY20 Clean Water Fund Budget 1:15-1:20 pm**
Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore presented the updated SFY20 budget that aligns with reduced revenue by utilizing unobligated/uncommitted funds and shifting some commitments to SFY21. Secretary Moore recommends not utilizing the Clean Water Fund \$500,000 contingency reserve to meet SFY20 revenue reductions, as the reserve may be needed in SFY21. No action taken.
- 4. Establish Process and Timeline for Revising SFY21 Clean Water Fund Budget 1:20-1:40 pm**
Secretary Young discussed revising the SFY21 budget on a quarterly basis due to uncertainty in short-term and long-term revenue estimates. The Board will review the proposed SFY21 Quarter 1 budget and timeline for revising the SFY21 Quarter 2-4 budget at its next meeting. Secretary Moore and Emily Bird described how ANR has engaged the Interagency Clean Water Initiative Finance and Reporting Subcommittee to evaluate revenue scenarios and spending authority needs to run funding programs on a quarterly basis for SFY21. Discussion was held around ensuring public comments in this expedited timeframe. No action taken.
- 5. Update on Clean Water Fund Program Audit due January 15, 2021 1:40-1:45 pm**
Secretary Young informed the Board that no bids were received on the Clean Water Fund Program Audit RFP. AoA will discuss extending the audit deadline and potentially clarifying the Audit scope with the Legislature. No action taken.

6. Public Comments

1:45-1:55 pm

Secretary Young welcomed input from the public.

- Comment from Jill Arace: Thank you to the agencies for preserving the funds committed to implementors. There were approximately \$1 million in grants to Natural Resources Conservation Districts on hold due to budget uncertainties that are now moving forward. We would like to echo comments about keeping the seasonality of implementation in mind when developing budget since there are short construction/field season timeframes in Vermont.

7. Next Steps, Closing Remarks

1:55-2:00 pm

Secretary Young discussed hosting another Board meeting next week to discuss the proposed SFY21 Quarter 1 clean water budget and proposed process for developing the SFY21 Quarter 2-4 budget.

8. Adjourn

2:00 pm

Supporting Materials:

1. February 21, 2020 Draft Clean Water Board Meeting Minutes
2. Clean Water Fund SFY20 Supplemental Budget Adjustment Request
3. Clean Water Fund Program Audit Request for Proposals