

Vermont Clean Water Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Friday, February 14, 2025, 8:00–9:30 AM

Virtual Option to Attend: [Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Physical Location to Attend In-Person: Agency of Natural Resources, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05620-3510 in the Catamount Room (Davis Building, 2nd Floor, Room D215).

Meeting details, materials, and recordings available at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/board/meetings>

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- Present - Douglas Farnham, Agency of Administration (AoA) Chief Recovery Officer and Designated Clean Water Board Chair
 - Absent - Tayt Brooks, Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) Deputy Secretary
 - Present - Bob Flint, public member
 - Absent - Joe Flynn, Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Secretary
 - Present - Jim Giffin, public member
 - Present - Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Secretary
 - Present - Anson Tebbetts, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFMM) Secretary
 - Absent - Chad Tyler, public member
 - Present - Jeanne Voorhees, public member
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1. Welcome Recording Time Stamp 00:00¹

Douglas Farnham, Agency of Administration Chief Recovery Officer and Clean Water Board Chair

There was no discussion on the minutes from the December 3, 2024 meeting and minutes were adopted through the consent agenda.

2. Review Clean Water Fund Operating Statement Recording Time Stamp 2:00

Nick Kramer, Agency of Administration Chief Operating Officer

Nick Kramer provided an overview of the updated Clean Water Budget operating statement. The Emergency Board downgraded their revenue projections for both State Fiscal Year 2025 and State Fiscal Year 2026, which created a \$120,000 deficit the Board was encouraged to address. Nick also introduced Tim Metayer who will take on the role of providing financial support to the Clean Water Board from the Agency of Administration in the future.

¹ Please refer to the available meeting recording to learn more about discussion content under each agenda item. Recording Time Stamps are highlighted to direct focus on the recording. Recording can be directly accessed here: <https://youtu.be/FKrOVtcrvdl?si=d7DtykOwMnQsqB7m>

3. Review proposed adjusted State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 Clean Water Budget recommendation **Recording Time Stamp 14:15**

Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources Secretary

Secretary Moore reviewed a proposed update to SFY 2026 Clean Water Budget based on the recent changes in the Clean Water Fund operating statement. The proposal reduced the Non-Federal Match line-item in the proposed SFY 26 Clean Water Budget by \$120,000, making the new line-item amount \$730,000.

- a. Secretary Moore made a motion to accept this proposal.
- b. Bob Flint, public member of the Board seconded this motion.
- c. No discussion, the motion passed without opposition.

4. Overview of legislative session priorities **Recording Time Stamp 18:20**

Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources Secretary

Secretary Moore provided an overview of bills that have been proposed to the Legislature during this legislative session that are related to the Clean Water Board's work. These bills include:

1. Appropriations Bill (AKA "Big Bill")
2. Capital Bill
3. S.24, An act relating to stormwater management
4. H.146, An act relating to administration and enforcement of agricultural water quality requirements in the state
5. H.162, An act relating to repealing the three-acre stormwater permit (Please see pages 9-11 in the meeting materials for more information on these proposed bills).
 - Neil Kamman, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, shared that there will likely be a movement to change the three-acre program in some capacity, as there has been much discussion around this program.
 - Secretary Moore added that these bills will move between legislative bodies about four weeks from the day of this meeting, and it may be important to reconvene the Clean Water Board in light of any changes to the Budget as a result of the Legislative decision making.

5. Preview SFY 2027 Clean Water Budget process **Recording Time Stamp 31:08**

Emily Bird, Dept. of Environmental Conservation Clean Water Initiative Program Manager

- Emily shared the proposed Clean Water Budget timeline for SFY 2027, including the addition of a fifth Board Meeting in the summer to set the strategy for upcoming Budget development work.
- Chair Farnham added that it is likely that the Board will need to make some adjustments at the state level based on federal level changes. If necessary, the Board can meet sooner than outlined in the timeline.

6. Public comment

Led by Emily Bird

Recording Time Stamp 40:50

- Liz Curry, Common Land Solutions, shared thoughts on the relationship between mobile home communities and the 3-acre program and expressed concern for potential debt load required to take on stormwater infrastructure. She shared a desire to work with the Agency of Natural Resources on this issue as a Technical Service Provider to these types of sites.
- Clare Ireland, Vermont Association of Conservation Districts, shared an update on the impact of the federal funding freeze on clean water in Vermont. Her concern is that if these federal funds are not released, the number of clean water projects that are implemented may slow down. She also shared a concern about the ability of implementers to pay for staff time.
 - Chair Farnham added that it is possible that the Board will need to activate the contingency reserve or make proposals to the Budget Adjustment Act to account for activities at the federal level.

7. Wrap-up, summarize next steps, announcements/reminders

Chair Farnham and Emily Bird

Recording Time Stamp 57:17

Emily provided an overview of the following clean water resources:

- [Vermont Clean Water Initiative 2024 Performance Report](#) is submitted to the Legislature and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Explore Performance Report data on the [Clean Water Interactive Dashboard](#)
 - Watch the January 23rd [Clean Water Conversation](#) public presentation on the Report and Dashboard
- 2025 Clean Water Conversation Series is launched; [register and find more information](#)
- Reminder to [subscribe to the Clean Water Stakeholder Listserv](#) to be notified of upcoming Clean Water Board meetings, Clean Water Conversation Series talks, and more

Emily also provided the update that Neil Kamman (former Water Investment Division Director) has started in a new role as the Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Conservation.

8. Adjourn

Recording Time Stamp 1:03:23

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 AM.

Supporting Materials:

1. December 3, 2024 Clean Water Board draft meeting minutes
2. Clean Water Fund Operating Statement (January 31, 2025)
3. Proposed adjusted SFY 2026 Clean Water Budget recommendation (February 14, 2025)
4. 2025-2026 Legislative Session Summary of Bills Related to the Clean Water Budget (current as of February 7, 2025)
5. Draft SFY 2027 Clean Water Budget process