

Vermont Clean Water Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 8:30–10:00 am

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

Physical Location to Attend In-Person: Agency of Natural Resources, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602 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>

Clean Water Board Members/Designees:

Douglas Farnham, Agency of Administration (AoA) Deputy Secretary and Designated Clean Water Board Chair (Present)
Tayt Brooks, Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) Deputy Secretary (Present)
Alison Conant, public member (Absent)
Bob Flint, public member (Present)
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 (AAFM) Secretary (Absent) – *Laura DiPietro, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) Director of Water Quality* (Present as designee)
Chad Tyler, public member (Present)

1. Welcome

Recording Time Stamp: 00:00¹

Douglas Farnham, Agency of Administration Deputy Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair

- Welcome and review of agenda
- Review of meeting minutes for October 18 and November 2. No comments. Minutes adopted through consent.

2. Review summary of public comment on draft SFY 2024 Clean Water Budget

Recording Time Stamp: 01:35

- Rachel Wood, Dept. of Environmental Conservation Clean Water Initiative Program, provided an overview of the public comment process and level of engagement. No questions from the Clean Water Board.

Recording Time Stamp: 05:31

- Gianna Petito, Dept. of Environmental Conservation Clean Water Initiative Program, provided an overview of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR)'s approach to developing the Public Comment Responsiveness Summary and then walked through each public comment theme and ANR's response. Overall, no edits were proposed to the draft SFY 2024 Clean Water Budget.

Recording Time Stamp: 23:33

- Emily Bird, Dept. of Environmental Conservation Clean Water Initiative Program, provided a summary on ANR's response to public comment Theme 1, in which a cohort of organizations indicated their intent to request a revenue increase for the Clean Water Fund (CWF) during the next legislative session and requested support from the Clean Water Board. In the absence of more accurate

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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNoOS0So1P8>

estimates for overall funding need, and factoring the demands of the current, unprecedented federal funding on agency and partner capacity, ANR/DEC feels it is imprudent to recommend a specific increase in CWF revenue.

3. Board discussion of public comment on SFY 2024 Clean Water Budget

All, led by Douglas Farnham

Recording Time Stamp: 30:00

- Clean Water Board dialogue focused on public comment responsiveness summary theme #1 and request for Board support raising Clean Water Fund revenue (see Clean Water Board's authorizing statute [10 V.S.A. § 1389 \(d\)\(3\)\(C\)](#)). Clean Water Board discussed uncertainties in revenue projections and project cost estimates and expressed interest in repealing the Property Transfer Tax Surcharge sunset at some point. Clean Water Board made no formal decision to support a specific revenue ask from the legislature. Please see available recording for more details.

4. Public comment

Led by Douglas Farnham

Recording Time Stamp: 56:22

- Andrea Englehardt (**Recording Time Stamp: 57:11**)—Asked agencies and professionals to re-assess assumptions that inform their decisions on which projects to fund for phosphorus reduction and encouraged the Clean Water Board to fund new thinking that will lead to different types of actions.
- Danielle Jepson (**Recording Time Stamp: 1:01:08**)—Expressed concern about longevity of funding.
- Peter Benevento (**Recording Time Stamp: 1:01:55**)—Thanked Clean Water Board for this inclusive budgeting process.
- Diane Larose (**Recording Time Stamp: 1:03:47**)—Expressed concern about health implications of cyanobacteria blooms.
- John Hale (**Recording Time Stamp: 1:05:15**)—Highlighted a study on Lake Bomoseen demonstrating Eurasian Milfoil harvesting as a cheaper alternative to alum in reducing in-lake phosphorus loading and as a reason why aquatic nuisance control work should be supported with Clean Water Funds.
- Jennifer Andrews (**Recording Time Stamp: 1:11:50**)—Asked for funding to address aquatic nuisance species in vector lakes.

5. Adoption of the SFY 2024 Clean Water Budget for recommendation to Governor Scott

Douglas Farnham

Recording Time Stamp: 1:17:31

- VTrans Secretary Flynn made a motion to approve adoption of SFY 2024 Clean Water Budget recommendation. ANR Secretary Moore seconded. Motion passed.

6. Other business, determine next steps, closing remarks

Douglas Farnham and Emily Bird

Recording Time Stamp: 1:19:33

- Emily Bird provided some information to the Clean Water Board on next steps and previewed agenda items for the February meeting. Chair Farnham requested to add a placeholder for the Property Transfer Tax Surcharge sunset on the February agenda.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 9:59 am