

Vermont Clean Water Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, October 9, 2023, 3:00-4:30 pm

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>

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 (Present)

Bob Flint, public member (Present)

Joe Flynn, Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Secretary (Present)

Jim Giffin, public member (Absent)

Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Secretary (Present)

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

Chad Tyler, public member (Present)

1. Welcome

Recording Time Stamp 2:10¹

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

The Chair, AoA Deputy Secretary Douglas Farnham convened the meeting at 3:00 pm and invited any edits to the February 22, 2023 meeting minutes. No edits were offered, and minutes were adopted through consent.

2. Review State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Clean Water Budget process

Recording Time Stamp 4:48

Gianna Petito, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) Grants Supervisor

Gianna Petito presented the budgeting timeline and highlighted key dates for public comment and future Clean Water Board meetings.

3. Review Clean Water Fund operating statement

Recording Time Stamp 9:16

Nick Kramer, Department of Finance and Management Budget Analyst

Nick Kramer provided an overview of the Clean Water Fund operating statement, including actuals for State Fiscal Year 2023, and updated forecasts for State Fiscal Year 2024, 2025, and 2026. He also gave an overview of an updated escheats, or unreturned bottle deposits, revenue projection methodology. The Clean Water Fund operating statement, including the updated revenue projection approach for escheats, will be added to the consent agenda for the December Board meeting.

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=IS02CxI43Pw&t=1913s>

4. Review draft SFY 2025 Clean Water Budget recommendation **Recording Time Stamp 34:00**
Gianna Petito, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) Grants Supervisor

Gianna Petito presented the draft budget recommendation and budget drafting approach. Dan Albrecht asked how the funds for road erosion will be allocated. Emily Bird answered that the dollars will be appropriated through the Agency of Transportation and administered as grants to municipalities through the municipal Mitigation Assistance Program. Angie Englehart asked if the funds budgeted for the alum treatment will be used exclusively for Lake Carmi. This was confirmed by Secretary Moore. Peter Lafley asked if the Clean Water Board has any legislative protection to the unallocated surplus from one year to the next. AoA Deputy Secretary Douglas Farnham acknowledged some risk in leaving unallocated funds on the bottom line.

5. SFY 2025 Clean Water Budget public comment communications plan **Recording Time Stamp 56:45**
Colleen Miller, DEC CWIP American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coordinator

Colleen Miller highlighted public comment period dates and opportunities for the public to provide feedback on the draft SFY 2025 Clean Water Budget. This includes a Story Map to introduce an interactive learning element and updates to the Public Comment Questionnaire to reflect feedback on SFY 2024's questionnaire. The November 2nd Public Hearing will begin with a showing of a pre-recorded presentation of the Clean Water Budget line-items developed by Agency partners before a live session to hear public comment.

6. Update on availability of federal funds for water quality work in Vermont
Neil Kamman, DEC Water Investment Division Director

Item addressed offline by emailing the report to the Board. See supporting materials #8 listed below for link to report.

7. Public comment **Recording Time Stamp 1:03:07**

- Lake Carmi Campers Association –
 - Ernie Englehart – Expressed concerns for Lake Carmi. See meeting recording.
 - Pete Benevento – Expressed concerns for Lake Carmi. See meeting recording.
 - John Costa – Expressed concerns for Lake Carmi. See meeting recording.
 - Bruce McGurk – Expressed concerns for Lake Carmi. See meeting recording.
- Dan Albrecht – Commented about Municipal Roads Grants in Aid Program and Water Quality Restoration Formula Grant Program. See meeting recording.
- Marguerite Adelman – Expressed concerns about PFOAs. See meeting recording.
- Lindsey Waterhouse – Commented on overall budget approach and data analysis. See meeting recording.
- Jill Arace from chat - Expressed a question about return on investment on Clean Water projects.
- See attached for public comment submitted via email.

8. Discuss and approve draft SFY 2025 Clean Water Budget **Recording Time Stamp 1:24:12**
Full Board

Bob Flint moved to pass the draft SFY 2025 Clean Water Budget for public comment as presented today. VTrans Secretary Joe Flynn seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed.

9. Adjourn **Recording Time Stamp 1:27:27**
Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Attached Materials:

- Public comment received via email from Sylvia Knight, October 2
- Public comment received via email from Bruce McGurk, October 5

- Public comment received via email from Lindsey Waterhouse, October 9