

Basin 11/13 Draft Public Meeting

August 17, 2021

Meeting started at: 6:00pm

Attendees

In-Person: Marie Lavesque Caduto (VT DEC, Presenter), Margo Ghia (WRC), Rick Cowen, Peter Bergstrom, Bob DeS. (?)

On-Line: Cory Ross (WCNRCD), David Wein, Brett Morrison, Cheryl Joy Lipton, Chris Yurek (MARC), John Bennett (WRC), Leih Dakin, Liisa Kissel, Mike Ghia

Program

Presentation on the West, Williams and Saxtons Rivers & Lower Connecticut River Basin 11/13 Tactical Basin Plan by Marie Caduto, Vermont DEC Watershed Planner

Question & Answer Period

Slide 11 on hazard dams doesn't reflect dam conditions nor relative value of dam removals. Do you have maps that do?

- Vermont Dams task force has a map of all dams removed and ones being discussed. Marie can put a link onto the Basin11 webpage.

I have a question about the span of Crosby Brook that is impaired.

- Crosby Brook is impaired for sediment from the mouth to just over the Dummerston Line. The upper Crosby Brook is in good condition, as well as the south reach.

Can you explain what RBC, SBR, etc under Wastewater Treatment Chart means?

- It is the type of system that a particular plant has for treating wastewater. Marie can put the descriptions (or a link to the descriptions) in the plan.

Does a list of towns in the basin that have riparian bylaws exist?

- In the Appendix, there is a table called the Municipal Protection Matrix that will let you see a general overview of if a town has riparian bylaws or not. Or you can go to Flood Ready Vermont. You can put your town of interest into the site and find out more details on flood resiliency for that community.

slide 24 - Q. Why are fisheries wanting Brown instead of Brook trout since brook is native and brown isn't, and they take the brook habitat...?

- Brook trout is the only native trout to Vermont. Rainbow and Brown are introduced species, but they are very important recreational/fishing species. Marie will let the Fisheries Biologist answer this question for the formal response.

Slide 27 or 28: What is the status of the wastewater projects for the 5 or 6 listed towns?

- Grafton is actively studying different wastewater options for their community. Londonderry is also underway. The rest of the communities are just being contacted

The Assessment was said to be complete, did this include the Corp of Engineers assessment of Ball Mountain Dam sediment releases done several years ago (1993?)? A request was made that this be included in the plan.

- John Bennett at WRC will send the link to the report to Marie.

How are failed septic systems identified?

- A failed septic system has to be reported and then the state will work with the landowner to get it repaired.

The Saxtons River has been armored through Grafton in recent days. What happens downstream from the armoring?

- Yes, riprap helps protect structures however, it can cause issues downstream. It is not often allowed, but for specific projects it can be permitted.

Where use develops cuts/access paths to swimming or fishing areas, do you or another agency have interest in shoring-up for safety and/or prevent erosion? Ex. the southern swim access point on West River north (maybe southern end) of the steel bridge. Access points are an important area for erosion problems and should be addressed.

- We have funding available to help public access points. If you know of specific points that need attention, please contact Marie. Marie will look into putting this into the recreation portion of the plan.

What about culverts, they don't seem to be addressed as much as they were.

- The reason you don't see as much about culverts in the plan is that culvert assessment and replacement has been transferred from the purview of ANR to VTRANS.

Are there any systematic evaluations on where septic problems are? Are there any ongoing discussions about how to address individual septic systems? Are there programs to help low income, mobile home owners, etc. upgrade their systems?

- The new ARPA funding will help provide assistance in this area. They specifically highlight mobile home parks. The state has a low interest loan for a private homeowner. Marie can provide a link to the low income loan assistance in a follow up.

Does knotweed fall under this plan? The Saxtons River is overrun with it.

- Please report communities of knotweed on VT Invasives or I Naturalist. If it is a small community then there is a chance to stop it, but once it gets large scale, it is very hard to deal with.

Will this plan include direct suggestions for riparian buffers?

- We have buffer laws for pretty much everything but rivers. It is local zoning that covers buffers. Work with your local community about identifying and putting in buffer requirements. There are best management practices related to buffers for forestry and agriculture.

Chat Recorded from On-line

18:03:25 From Cheryl Joy Lipton to Everyone:

Thanks, Cory. Got it, but it was kind of hard to hear.

18:04:06 From Cory Ross to Everyone:

Please place questions and comments into the chat box here during the program. Marie will address them during the presentation.

18:15:14 From Mike Ghia to Margo Ghia(Direct Message):

Is there anyone actually at Main St Arts?

18:17:20 From Margo Ghia to Mike Ghia(Direct Message):

besides me and marie, there are 3 people. rick cowen, peter bergstrom and a David S. (I don't know him)

18:23:17 From Brett Morrison to Everyone:

I have a question about the span of Crosby Brook that is impaired.

18:24:47 From Cory Ross to Everyone:

Hi Brett. Can you please type your question into the chat box?

18:25:21 From Brett Morrison to Everyone:

Slide 11 on hazard dams doesn't reflect dam conditions nor relative value of dam removals. Do you have maps that do?

18:26:37 From Brett Morrison to Everyone:

Yes.

18:37:15 From David Wein to Everyone:

Does a list of towns in the basin are their riparian bylaws exist?

18:37:24 From Cheryl Joy Lipton to Everyone:

slide 24 - Q. Why are fisheries wanting Brown instead of Brook trout since brook is native and brown isn't, and they take the brook habitat...?

18:43:55 From Liisa Kissel to Everyone:

Slide 27 or 28: What is the status of the wastewater projects for the 5 or 6 listed towns?

18:48:26 From Brett Morrison to Everyone:

Where use develops cuts/access paths to swimming or fishing areas, do you or another agency have interest in shoring-up for safety and/or prevent erosion? Ex. the southern swim access point on WEst River north of the steel bridge.

18:49:23 From Leigh Dakin to Everyone:

Thanks Marie for this information. Very informative.

18:50:21 From John Bennett to Margo Ghia(Direct Message):

Who was that talking about sediment releases and what was he talking about? Couldn't hear him for anything.

18:50:29 From David Wein to Everyone:

Thanks Marie!

18:54:35 From Margo Ghia to John Bennett(Direct Message):

His name is John S. (can't read his last name). He was mentioning that along the west river a sediment report was done by WRC?

18:57:22 From John Bennett to Margo Ghia(Direct Message):

Suspect he may have been referring to the Corps of Engineers report about Ball mtn. sediment releases and continued accumulation. Is he still there? I'd be glad to try to respond if he could restate the question so I could hear it.

19:10:39 From Brett Morrison to Everyone:

Thank you, Everyone.

19:10:55 From Liisa Kissel to Everyone:

Thanks for a great presentation Marie!

19:13:26 From John Bennett to Margo Ghia(Direct Message):

BTW, love your mask, or at least that you're wearingit!

19:13:58 From Margo Ghia to John Bennett(Direct Message):

I almost forgot it, but remembered last minute our new policy

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