

## Vermont Clean Water Board Special Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Wednesday, June 30, 2021, 9:30-10:00 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 (NL D215)

Meeting agenda, materials, minutes, and recording are posted online at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/cwi/board/meetings>.

### Clean Water Board Members/Designees:

Susanne Young, Agency of Administration (AoA) Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair (Present)  
Tayt Brooks, Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) Deputy Secretary (Present)  
Alison Conant (Present)  
Bob Flint, public member (Present)  
Joe Flynn, Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Secretary (Present)  
James Giffin, public member (Absent)  
Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Secretary (Present)  
Anson Tebbetts, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) Secretary (Present)  
Chad Tyler, public member (Present)

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#### 1. Welcome

*Susanne Young, Secretary of Administration and Clean Water Board Chair*

The Chair, AoA Secretary Susanne Young convened the meeting at 9:30 am and reviewed the agenda. No action taken.

#### 2. Review Clean Water Fund operating statement (January 21, 2021)

*Julie Moore, Secretary of Natural Resources*

ANR Secretary Julie Moore reviewed the Clean Water Fund Operating Statement as of January 21, 2021 and highlighted that the Fund has \$1,442,457 in unallocated/unreserved dollars (Attachment 1). Based on preliminary discussions with the Tax Department, Secretary Moore indicated this number is likely closer to \$3,000,000 in unallocated/unreserved dollars for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 22. Secretary Moore further explained these unallocated dollars typically get rolled into a future fiscal year budget (these would typically go to SFY23) but that the meeting today is for Clean Water Board approval to allocate a portion of those unallocated dollars to SFY22 to support agricultural best management practices.

#### 3. Discussion of agricultural best management practices cost share demand

*Anson Tebbetts, Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets*

AAFM Secretary Tebbetts reviewed a memorandum (Attachment 2) and emphasized that the Agency's Best Management Practice (BMP) Program has received roughly \$2,000,000 more in requests than the Program can support. Secretary Tebbetts requested approval from the Clean Water Board to use the \$1,442,457 in unallocated/unreserved dollars from the Clean Water Fund in SFY22 to help these BMP projects move forward without delay.

*Questions/Discussion on Proposal:*

- Are the AAFM match commitments already allocated to projects up and running? Some are in the planning stages but this money would also help move forward new projects in the pipeline.
- Support expressed to AAFM for their hard work moving these projects along.
- Confirmation that if these funds were to be obligated under SFY22 then this would require a legislatively-approved budget adjustment.
- Public comment from Vermont Association of Conservation Districts Executive Director Jill Arace in strong support of this proposal. Director Arace explained there is strong coordination between U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, AAFM, and the Conservation Districts and that farmers typically look toward the BMP Program when they need money more urgently, so it fills an important gap.

**4. Adopt recommendation to program FY21 Clean Water Fund unallocated/unreserved revenue in FY22 clean water budget**

*Full Board*

- a. Approval of revised FY22 clean water budget recommendation
- b. Secretary Young entertained a motion to approve recommendation to add \$1.4 million in FY21 Clean Water Fund unallocated/unreserved revenue to the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets' line item "Water Quality Grants to Partners and Farmers" in the FY22 clean water budget. Motion was made by Chad Tyler, seconded by ACCD Deputy Secretary Tayt Brooks. Motion to approve the budget change passed.

**5. Public Comment**

No further public comment offered.

**6. Adjourn**

**10:00 am**

Secretary Young entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by VTrans Secretary Flynn, seconded by Chad Tyler. Motion to adjourn passed at 9:51 am.

Supporting Materials:

1. Clean Water Fund operating statement (January 21, 2021)
2. Memorandum: Agricultural Water Quality BMP Financial Request
3. Draft Revised SFY 2022 Clean Water Budget