

Vermont Clean Water Board Working Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Friday, February 21, 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location: National Life Davis Building – 1 National Life Drive, The Catamount Room (N215)

Clean Water Board Members/Designees:

Susanne Young, Agency of Administration (AoA) Secretary and Clean Water Board Chair
Ted Brady, Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) Deputy Secretary on behalf of
Lindsay Kurrle ACCD Secretary
Bob Flint, public member
Joe Flynn, Agency of Transportation (VTrans) Secretary
Jim Giffin, public member
Christopher Louras, public member (absent)
Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Secretary
Anson Tebbetts, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (AAFM) Secretary
Chad Tyler, public member

Attendees:

Jill Arace, Vermont Association of Conservation Districts	Emily Byrne, ANR
Charlie Baker, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	Jeff Cook, AAFM
Geoff Batista, Office of the State Auditor	Jennifer Hollar, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Emily Bird, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)	Neil Kamman, DEC
Eric Blatt, DEC	Robert Lehmert
Katelyn Bockwoltdt, DEC	Robert Mann
	Michael Middleman, AoA
	Mary Russ, White River Partnership

1. Welcome, Overview of Agenda

Secretary Young reviewed the agenda. No action taken.

2. Clean Water Fund Operating Statement

Secretary Moore presented the Clean Water Fund Operating Statement for the Board's information and input. No action taken.

3. SFY 2021 Clean Water Budget

Secretary Moore presented the final SFY 2021 Governor's recommended clean water budget and summary of the SFY 2018-2021 clean water budget. No action taken.

4. Clean Water Service Provider Selection Process Update (Act 76 of 2019)

Department of Environmental Conservation Water Investment Division Director Neil Kamman presented the request for proposals for the Selection of Clean Water Service Providers for Seven Vermont Watershed Basins per Act 76 of 2019. No action taken.

- Jim Giffin commented that a lot of clean water funding flows through AAFM and VTrans, but the RFP says proposals will only be evaluated by three or more DEC staff members. Jim Giffin recommended broader representation on the selection committee and asked if it should be broadened to include people from other agencies and a public member from this Board. Secretary Young requested ANR broaden representation on the selection committee.

5. SFY 2022 Clean Water Budget

Department of Environmental Conservation Clean Water Initiative Program Manager Emily Bird proposed a clean water budget process for the FY22 budget and further updated the budget priorities

for FY22 established by the legislature in Act 76 of 2019. No action taken.

6. Clean Water Fund Program Audit due January 15, 2021

Secretary Young updated the board on the status of the Clean Water Fund Program Audit RFP and indicated it is in the final review stage, with a goal to release next week and proposals submitted in the following 3-5 weeks. No action taken.

7. Vermont Clean Water Initiative 2019 Performance Report

Program Manager Emily Bird presented the Vermont Clean Water Initiative Performance Report, a results-based accountability report for Vermont's clean water funding that fulfills both state and federal reporting requirements. No action taken.

8. Public Comments

Secretary Young welcomed input from the public.

- Comment from Jill Arace: Thank you to DEC (Neil Kamman, Chris Rottler, Ethan Swift) for the open, collegial, and free-flowing dialogue within Act 76 Advisory Committee. We also want to express appreciation for the stellar Performance Report. Reporting structures among agencies are becoming more consistent, which is appreciated by external organizations. Also, please be aware of the Vermont Agricultural Water Quality Partnership (VAWQP) meeting on March 10. VAWQP plays a large role in agricultural efforts at the state and local level.
- Question from Robert Lehmert: There are 54,000 tons of commercial fertilizers imported to Vermont, and I presume a significant amount is phosphorus. Is this counterproductive to our efforts here, and should the Legislature be encouraged to look at this? Additionally, he asked if innovative techniques for capturing phosphorus from sewage/septic emerge, will they be considered?
 - Secretary Moore responded describing the Phosphorus Innovation Challenge. Further she indicated that there is one wastewater project part of the Phosphorus Innovation Challenge in Essex Junction that is looking at bio-sludge.

9. Next Steps, Closing Remarks

Secretary Young welcomed the Board's input and suggestions for making the FY22 budget more transparent and accessible, including what information is needed to better understand the process. Board members were encouraged to reach out to Secretary Young with suggestions or Emily Bird with questions.

10. Adjourn

Supporting Materials:

1. October 22, 2019 Draft Clean Water Board Meeting Minutes
2. Clean Water Fund Operating Statement
3. SFY 2021 Clean Water Budget (January 21, 2020 Governor Recommended)
4. SFY 2018-2021 Clean Water Budget Summary
5. Request for Proposals: Selection of Clean Water Service Providers for Seven Vermont Watershed Basins, per Act 76 of 2019
6. DRAFT SFY 2022 Clean Water Budget Process
7. Act 76 of 2019 Updated Clean Water Budget Priorities
8. Vermont Clean Water Initiative 2019 Performance Report
9. Clean Water Project Explorer Factsheet