

**Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee Meeting
Pursuant to Act 57 of 2023**

**September 18, 2023
10:00 am – 11:30 am**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chris Bray, Dr. William Bress, Kim Jensen, Pete LaFlamme, Dr. Ellen Marsden, Sarah Owen, Eric Palmer, Bethany Sargeant, Amy Sheldon, Hannah Smith, and Olin Reed.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Designated Members of Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee

- a) Amy Sheldon, Addison-1, Chair - House Committee on Environment and Energy (appointed by the Speaker of the House)
- b) Chris Bray, Addison District, Chair - Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy (appointed by the Committee on Committees)
- c) Sarah Owen, PhD, State Toxicologist (appointed by the Commissioner of Health or designee)
- d) Eric Palmer, Fisheries Division Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife (appointed by the Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife)
- e) Kim Jensen, Aquatic Biologist and Aquatic Nuisance Control Program/Aquatic Invasive Species Program Section Lead, Department of Environmental Conservation (appointed by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation) and Olin Reed, Aquatic Biologist & Permit Specialist, Administrative / Technical Support
- f) Dr. William Bress, Assistant Professor, Environmental Public Health, Toxicology, Occupational Health and Dr. Ellen Marsden, Professor, Fisheries (appointed by the President of the University of Vermont)

Also Present: Pete LaFlamme, (Director Watershed Management Division), Bethany Sargeant (Deputy Director Watershed Management Division), Hannah Smith (Staff Attorney Watershed Management Division)

2. Overview of Act 57 of 2023 An Act Relating to Aquatic Nuisance Control

- a) Overview of the Powers, Duties and Recommendations outlined in Act 57 (c) required by the Study Committee Members.

- b) Report due on or before Dec 15, 2023 (in 12 weeks), that reviews the use of pesticides, chemicals other than pesticides, and biological controls for aquatic nuisance control in Vermont bodies of water since January 1, 2000.
3. Initial Business
- a. Election of Committee Chair – A motion was made by Amy Sheldon and seconded by Dr. William Bress, all were in favor, to elect Kim Jensen as Committee Chair. A motion was made by Amy Sheldon and seconded by Eric Palmer, all were in favor, to elect Sarah Owen as Committee Vice-Chair.
 - b. Public Engagement
Due to the quick deadline for the Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee Meeting Report due to House Committee on Environment and Energy and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy with its findings and recommendations on or before Dec 15, 2023, the Committee decided to engage the public through these opportunities:
 - 1) Agendas, Meeting Minutes, Meeting Links, and Presentations will be posted on the [DEC Act 57 \(2023\) Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee webpage](#).
 - 2) The online meetings will be able to be observed by the public and will be recorded.
 - c. Administrative Support Roles and Responsibilities
 - 1) Robert’s Rules of Order adopted by Committee.
 - a. Meetings are set to be biweekly on Fridays at 8:30-10:30 am. September 29, 2023 was selected as the first date. In November the meeting will switch to avoid Holidays, and end on December 15, 2023. (The dates are 9/29/23; 10/13/23; 10/27/23; 11/3/23; 11/17/23; 12/1/23; 12/15/23)
 - 2) Future Meeting Agendas will be decided with input from Committee Members at the end of the meeting and posted at least a week prior so that the public may be aware of what will be discussed.
 - 3) Meeting Minutes will be developed by the Chair. Minutes and Meeting Presentations will be posted on the [DEC Act 57 \(2023\) Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee webpage](#).
4. Overview of Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) in Vermont (Kim Jensen, DEC)
The Committee approved to add this to the next Agenda in lieu of time.
5. Discussion of 10 V.S.A. § 1455 and Areas of Concern (Kim Jensen, DEC)
The Committee approved to add this to the next Agenda in lieu of time.
6. Meeting Wrap-up, Schedule Next Meeting (Kim Jensen, DEC)
- a. Agenda Items for September 29, 2023
 - 1) Overview of Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) in Vermont
 - a. Presentation of ANC Permits and History of Herbicide Use in Vermont

- b. Overview of [ANC Pre-Rulemaking Group](#)
 - c. Overview of [ANC Individual Permit Application Internal Review Procedure](#)
- 2) Discussion of [10 V.S.A. § 1455](#) and Areas of Concern
 - 3) Assign Committee Tasks Based on Recommendations from Committee Members
 - 4) Public Comment Period
- b. The next Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 13, 2023. The Agenda and meeting link will be available on the [DEC Act 57 \(2023\) Aquatic Nuisance Control Study Committee webpage](#).