

Meeting to Receive Public Comments on Petitions Submitted by the Ripton Conservation Commission

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

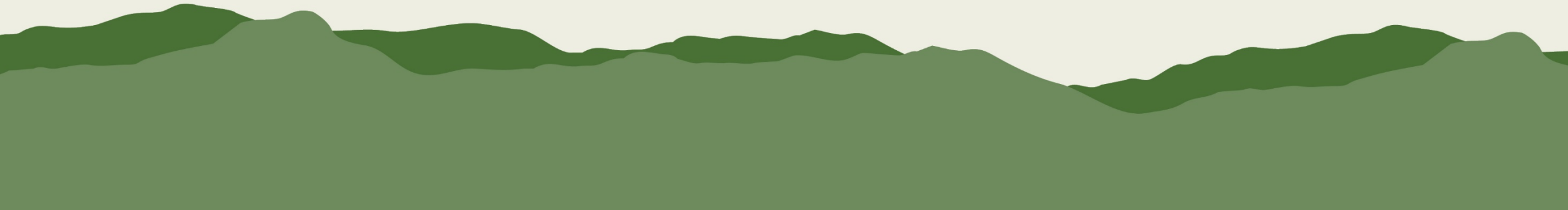
Watershed Management Division

October 7, 2021, 5:30 – 7:30 pm



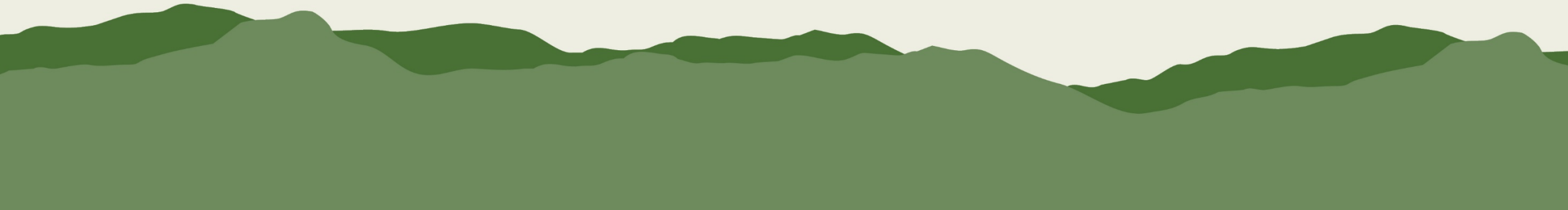
Agenda

1. Meeting Purpose
2. Vermont Water Quality Standards and Surface Water Classification
3. Overview of Petitions
4. Reclassification process
5. Petition Development Process and Motivation
6. Public Questions and Comments



Vermont Water Quality Standards

- Establish designated uses, management objectives, and minimum criteria that all surface waters must meet.
- Designated uses:
 - Aquatic biota and wildlife
 - Aquatic habitat
 - Swimming
 - Boating
 - Fishing
 - Aesthetic conditions
 - Public water source
 - Irrigation



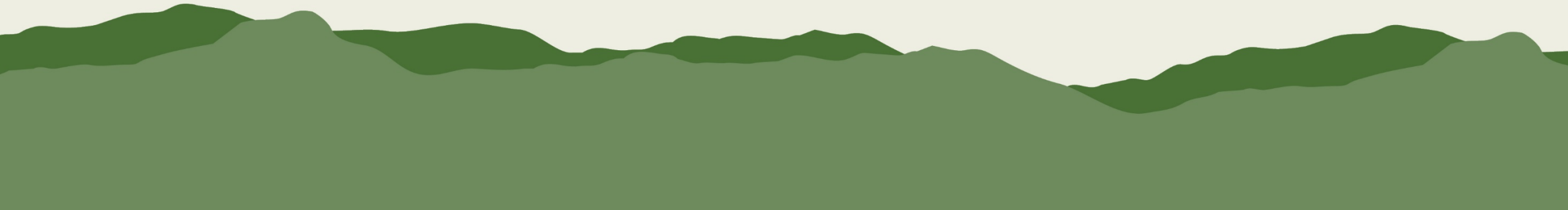
Surface Water Classifications

- The classification structure for all surface waters is established by the legislature.
- Four possible classifications:
 - B(2) – Good
 - B(1) – Very Good
 - A(2) – Public Water Source
 - A(1) – Excellent
- Surface waters are classified independently for each designated use (Appendix F of the Vermont Water Quality Standards)
- All waters at or below 2,500 feet are designated Class B(2) for all uses, unless specifically designated as Class A(1), A(2), or B(1) for any use.
- All waters above 2,500 feet are A(1) for all uses unless A(2) for use as a public water source



Overview of Petitions

- Three petitions submitted by the Ripton Conservation Commission:
 - Alder Brook in Ripton and Lincoln
 - Blue Bank Brook in Ripton and Lincoln
 - Goshen Brook in Goshen, Hancock, and Ripton
- Per the Water Quality Standards, the petitions propose reclassification from B(2) to A(1) for three designated uses: aquatic biota, aquatic habitat, and aesthetics.



Reclassification Process

- The public may petition the Agency to reclassify a waterbody for any of the designated uses.
- The Agency solicits public comments on petitions received.
 - Public comment meeting was held March 30, 2021, with written comments accepted through April 9th.
 - Based on comments received, a second public comment meeting is being held this evening, with written comments accepted through October 18th.
- Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1253, the Agency of Natural Resources Secretary determines whether to initiate rulemaking to reclassify, and the reaches to be reclassified, based on the technical evaluation and public comments received.
- Rulemaking for reclassifications occurs as part of the Vermont Water Quality Standards, Appendix F.



Public Comments

- Those who requested in advance to comment will comment first.
- For others who would like make an oral statement, please put your name in the chat box and indicate you would like to comment.
- We will not be responding to comments this evening. We will prepare a response to comments at the conclusion of the comment period that we will share with commenters and post online.
- Written comments will be accepted through October 18th by email to bethany.sargent@vermont.gov or mail to:

Attn: Bethany Sargent
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