

**Draft MINUTES February 19, 2015**

Main Conference Room CCRPC, 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202, Winooski, VT

**RSEP MEETING**

<b>Member</b>	<b>in Attendance</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>in Attendance</b>
Burlington	<i>Megan Moir</i>	Burlington Airport	<i>Jon Leinwohl, Stantec</i>
Essex	<i>Annie Costandi</i>	Essex Junction	<i>Chelsea Mandigo, Jim Jutras, CHAIR</i>
Milton		Shelburne	
South Burlington	<i>Tom DiPietro</i>	UVM	<i>Lani Ravin</i>
Williston	<i>James Sherrard, Lisa Sheltra</i>	Winooski	<i>Peter Wernsdofer</i>
VTrans	<i>Jennifer Callahan</i>	Colchester	<i>Bryan Osborne, arr. 11:35</i>
<b>Ex-Officio Member</b>	<b>in Attendance</b>	<b>Ex-Officio Member</b>	<b>in Attendance</b>
CCRPC	<i>Dan Albrecht, Charlie Baker</i>	ANR	<i>Jim Pease Pete LaFlamme, arr. 12:15 DEC Commissioner David Mears. arr. 12:15</i>
<b>Others</b>	<b>in Attendance</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>in Attendance</b>
WNRCD	<i>Laura Dlugolecki</i>	Northwest RPC	<i>Amanda Holland</i>
J. Andrews Marketing	<i>Julia Andrews</i>	Hoyle-Tanner	<i>David Wheeler</i>

**1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. Albrecht asked that a review of the draft Program Year report be added to the agenda. The request was granted.

**2. Review and Action on minutes of October 16, 2014 meeting**  
On a motion by Jutras with a second by DiPietro, the minutes for the October 16, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved.

**3. – Review of update to FY15 Communication Campaign**  
Andrews noted that the report documents that the shift to increased online advertising had lead to a strong increase in traffic to the website. For the spring campaign, she recommends a continuation of that approach along with a new exploratory effort with YouTube and xxxxxx...  
Members agreed with the recommendations but asked that the document be edited to remove the use of the first person, that the report cover calendar year 2014 rather than March 2014 – February 2015 and also suggested other minor edits. Members were given a deadline of February 26<sup>th</sup> to provide any additional comments

**4. – Review of draft Annual Report**  
Andrews recapped the highlights of the draft report. In addition to minor edits, members asked the report be reformatted to cover the 2014 Calendar Year as opposed to the March-Feb program year so as to be consistent with their own MS-4 reports. Members were asked to provide any other comments to Julia by February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**5. – Consideration of application for EPA Environmental Education Grant**  
After a brief discussion which noted the highly competitive nature of these grants and that they are primarily geared toward educational institutions, the Committee declined to authorize pursuit of such a grant application at this time.

## **6. – Discussion of Winooski Basin Planning Progress**

The Committee discussed the relationship between the Basin Plan actions/projects, the Ecosystem Restoration Program and the emerging plan Lake Champlain TMDL Phase I Implementation Plan. Some members noted the need to have one model such as the Soil and Water Assessment Tool to assure consistency in calculating phosphorus.

## **7. – update on ANR Facilities Engineering Division direction of large stormwater projects**

Pease noted that the Agency would soon be publishing details on how MS-4s can use ERP funds for projects. Grants would be capped at \$250,000. Stormwater treatment category projects requesting more than \$100,000 will also have to submit their proposal to the DEC Facilities Engineering Division (FED) and be placed on the 2016 Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) priority list. The deadline for this application is May 8. For any size stormwater treatment projects there will be a substantial match requirement which can be met with cash, in-kind or a low interest loan thru FED. The projects over \$100,000 would be managed by FED similar to the way they administered the EPA's STAG program but without the federal grant requirements. This will be clarified in the RFP.

## **8. – Statewide Stormwater Utility**

Members noted that if the Clean Water Fund and Board concept in the current bills before the legislature come to fruition that in some respects this takes on the form of a statewide utility. With regards to MM-1 and MM-2, Albrecht noted that there are now 3 such regional efforts underway and with RPCs potentially becoming more involved in the Basin Planning process, regional efforts as opposed to Statewide efforts would likely continue as each region likes to tailor its outreach to their unique circumstances.

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Albrecht asked if the members would like CCRPC's assistance in drafting a formal letter on behalf of the Chittenden MS-4s concerning the legislation. Members declined, noting that the legislation keeps changing too rapidly and that it might be difficult to achieve 100% consensus on the details.

**The meeting recessed from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 12:15 p.m.**

VTDEC Commissioner David Mears and ANR Watershed Management Division Director Pete LaFlamme engaged in a discussion with those in attendance. Key points made by Commissioner Mears and Director LaFlamme were as follows:

- The MS-4 fee is being proposed to apply to the entire municipality ( not just the census tracts within the original MS-4 designation) as it all drains to Lake Champlain.
- We'll work with municipalities to make sure the details of how the acreage is calculated is known and state and federally-owned impervious acreage and RDA acreage will be subtracted out of the calculation.

- They feel that there is broad-based support for a statewide fee to fund the Water Quality fund. If the fees are below \$100-\$150 per parcel, then towns would lose money in the process of collecting and transmitting the fees to the fund.
- The increase in the various fees is sorely needed at ANR. General funds for ANR have been declining. The fees will collect approximately \$2.5 million which will fund \$1.5 million to hire 13 new staff and make up for about \$1 million in cuts over recent years.
- The Soil and Water Assessment Tool will be the most likely tool used to assess the effectiveness of projects.
- Clean Water Fund dollars could be used to fund projects recommended in the various Flow Restoration Plans
- The EPA will access what the Legislature approves and then if all goes smoothly and there are no legal challenges, the Restoration Plan would be approved in June.
- In response to a comment that the current MS-4 permits run through December 2017, Director LaFlamme indicated that ANR is open to considering delaying implementation of the new elements regarding MS-4s until then.
- Commissioner Mears concluded his remarks that you MS-4s are the “boots on the ground.” Good stormwater management is not rocket science. The best way to make progress is through conversations such as these. He extended an invitation to email questions directly to him, to Pete LaFlamme and to Matt Chapman here at ANR.

RSEP Chair Jutras thanked the Commissioner and the Director for taking the time to come address the group.

**The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.**