

Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC)

Thursday, May 23, 2024

9:00 -11:00 AM

**Virtual Meeting/Held Via Zoom*
(computer/smartphone/tablet etc.)**

Meeting video posted at <https://youtu.be/B8S0EM2OAnE>

**A VIDEO RECORDING OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE
NRPC YOUTUBE CHANNEL (Link above).**

**THE WRITTEN MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING.
MOTIONS ARE AS STATED. MINUTES WILL BE SUBJECT TO CORRECTION BY THE
COUNCIL. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Council Members: Kent Henderson (Q), Brad Holden (Q), Peter Danforth (Q), Erin De Vries (Q), Jed Feffer (Q), Katherine Sonnick, Sarah Hadd (Q), Meghan Rodier (Q), Dorothy Kinney-Landis (Q)

Q= towards quorum unless otherwise indicated

Staff: Dean Pierce, Sara Gratz

Others present: Karen Bates, Ted Sedell, 'Peter's Otter Pilot'

1. Welcome and introductions

Peter Danforth opened the meeting as Chair at 9:03 am.

2. Meeting protocols

Meeting protocols were reviewed.

3. Conflict of interest declarations, if any

No conflicts of interest were made.

4. Review/adjust and approve agenda

It was suggested to add a section on Operations and Maintenance if time allows. Sarah Hadd motioned to approve the agenda and Erin de Vries seconded. Motion carried.

5. Approval of minutes

Kent Henderson motioned to approve the minutes and Jed Feffer seconded. Motion carried.

6. Public comment not related to items on agenda

No comments were made by the public.

7. Seating of any new reps or alternate(s)

Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District requested that Dorothy Kinney-Landis be appointed as an Alternate for Lauren Weston. Meghan Rodier requested that she and Richard Goff switch roles, placing her as a Representative and Richard Goff as an Alternate.

Erin De Vries motioned to approve Dorothy Kinney-Landis being seated as an Alternate, and for Meghan Rodier and Richard Goff to switch their roles as Representative and Alternate, respectively. Kent Henderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. Report on budget adjustments, if any

None were reported.

9. Review of application filed in response to round 5 "Call for Projects"

Ted Sedell shared a project near Caspian Lake that he is applying to move to 100% design. The project includes revegetating a wetland, adding beaver dam analogs and log jams, and increasing a riparian buffer around Cemetery Brook. Discussion about addressing erosion concerns from a nearby private road followed, which Ted clarified should not have been included on the application because it is a different project from what he is seeking funds for today.

Jed Feffer asked about the size of the trees that will be planted in the riparian areas. Ted explained that it depends on what is available, but most trees will be between 2 and 3 feet in height when planted.

Karen Bates asked about planting density in the riparian buffer, which Ted confirmed will be 400 trees per acre.

Dean Pierce shared that the phosphorus reduction estimate for the project is slightly different than what was shared in the meeting materials because of needing to remove the private road erosion work, but that the project still has high reduction estimates and is still being recommended for funding.

Kent Henderson asked about land-use in the immediate area, noting that the project is located near agricultural fields. Ted clarified that the fields closest to the project site are hay fields, while the headwaters of Cemetery Brook are in a forested area and surrounded by fallow fields.

Kent also asked if the project's budget included extra anticipated costs, such as the need for an archeological assessment. Ted verified that the budget anticipates such costs, including necessary permitting.

Jed Feffer motioned to approve the project for funding and Erin De Vries seconded. Motion carried.

10. Discussion of proposed increase in Project Development funding allocation

Dean Pierce presented information regarding an increase in funds that can be used for Project Development. This money is intended to help support partner organization's capacity to identify more clean water projects. He also shared that the availability of these funds will likely include an extra call for applications.

Peter Danforth shared that in some other BWQC's, funding rounds occur more often, and that method works well for many organizations. Dean confirmed that it may be an option to start accepting applications on a more frequent basis in the Lamoille BWQC.

Some discussion followed concerning the amount of extra funds that would be made available for Project Development and whether it's enough to help an organization's capacity.

11. Solicitation / Appointment of BWQC Member and Alternates

Dean shared a new process for appointing BWQC Representatives and Alternates. It requires Council members to be reappointed 4 months before the end of the term, which follows the Fiscal Year.

Dean also shared that the Chair and Vice Chair positions could go through a nomination process at the next meeting unless the Council voted to defer forming a nomination committee. Peter asked the Council for their thoughts on the matter. Brad Holden motioned to defer forming a nomination committee and Kent seconded. Motion carried.

12. Future meetings, including annual meeting and hybrid meetings

Dean gave an update on the bill, S. 55, which has not yet been signed or vetoed. If it is signed into law, it will require public meetings to provide a physical location so that participants have the option to attend in-person or remotely.

13. Operations and Maintenance

The Council discussed Operations and Maintenance of CWSP-funded or CWSP-adopted projects, including the need for a landowner agreement form.

14. Updates and conclusion

Kent motioned to adjourn the meeting and Meghan seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.