CRJC Riverbend Subcommittee

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Littleton Community Center

Minutes

Present
Jan Edick, Littleton
Michael Nocky, guest, Littleton
Rick Walling, Bath
Mary Dole, Ryegate
Bill Graves, Barnet
Jim Sherrard, Littleton
Kari Dolan, ANR
Ken Hunter, Monroe

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Vice Chairman Walling and introductions made.

2. Program Manager Kari Dolan gave a presentation on the Vermont Clean Water Initiative Program. She explained that the emphasis is on involving people in water quality issues. She noted that 95% of Vermont is in either the Long Island Sound TMDL (Connecticut River watershed) or the Lake Champlain TMDL. Ms. Dolan summarized the key components as follows: The new program is based on the understanding that the clean environment is the state's economic base. The program implements Act 64, the Vermont Clean water Act passed in 2015. MS4s will have to be updated with the new requirements. The new law enabled managing previously grandfathered large impervious surfaces. All state highways will be under one permit. Next year they will release a municipal roads general permit. Eighty-five percent of the road miles in the state are municipal and over half are gravel. Bill Graves made the point that unless road aid is linked to training requirements town road crews won't change their management habits. Ms. Dolan said that there are learning opportunities built into bridge and culvert grant money.

Ms. Dolan explained that the Agency of Agriculture has been working with large and medium farms in the past but now Accepted Agricultural Practices will apply to all farms. They are now becoming Required APs. She explained that Lake Champlain TMDLs drive the development of the statewide approach.

Ms. Dolan explained that there is increasing linkage between basin plans and implementation. She said this is going to be accomplished with additional resources to existing programs. The State Treasurer and legislature are looking at options for how to

fund this. Stakeholders were involved in coming up with ideas for paying for natural resource restoration, stormwater management, agriculture and municipal road drainage improvements. The idea is that funding sources should be connected to the water quality increase. There will be a public meeting in November on the report. One question is how much should the state subsidize. It needs to be multiple funding sources. The program is funded for now with a surcharge on the property transfer tax.

In January there will be an annual report on clean water including what each agency did, what was invested, what was completed. ANR's program staff was kept level during budget cuts by raising fees. They also have increased their ability with new hires, e.g., a model developer, and Jim Ryan as a roads technician (was basin planner).

Ms. Dolan noted that in agriculture the trend is to shift away from complaint-based and work with farmers to provide education up-front, but that in forestry it is still complaint-based. The Agency of Agriculture increased fees and added 13 staff. For the work with local roads ANR will be relying heavily on VTrans resources, the Local Roads Program and RPCs. UVM has a Sea Grant that enables working statewide on green infrastructure. Some issues that still need to be addressed are CSOs; 17 Vermont communities still have them including St. Johnsbury. Also, only 15-20% of hard surfaces fall into TMDLs. Homeowner information will be online, including a handbook next year. **>>>It was agreed that Subcommittee members representing Vermont towns should bring it to town halls, realtors, libraries, and town boards.<<<** It was agreed that hard copies of the handbook will be important to the education effort.

It was discussed that the benefits of culvert upsizing include wildlife passage and improved water quality by reducing scouring and sedimentation. Ms. Dolan reported that 90% of culverts are undersized but VTrans funds will only pay for the hydraulic size. The Better Roads Program has some money from ANR for culverts. Some are also done with the help of Fish & Wildlife money and other partners. For Vermont towns that adopt the new road and bridge standards, have a no-build floodplain ordinance, are in the NFIP, have an EOP, and have an HMP, the state will pay 17.5% instead of 7.5% match to reduce the FEMA match required from the town from 17.5% to 7.5%.

3. The minutes of April 28, 2016 were approved by motion of Edick/Sherrard. There were no changes to the July 28, 2016 meeting summary.

4. Permit Reviews

a. There were no permits between meetings.

b. Current applications

N. Haverhill Convenience - UST - They are closing 3 existing tanks, keeping others and adding new. Tara explained that DES had the permit on hold until they heard from the Subcommittee. Consensus was that she should thank DES for the opportunity to review the application and let them know there are no concerns of specific comments.

NEPCO Shoreland permit amendment, Littleton & Monroe - The application will result in a reduction in the impact above Comerford vs the previously

approved permit. Consensus was to thank the applicant for reducing the impacts and the opportunity to comment.

5. Updates - CRJC - Rick and Tara reported that the main focus of the work of the CRJC this year has been on the FERC relicensing process of the Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon Dams.
- SB325 Pipeline Facility Response Plan Workgroup - Tara reported that she hasn't seen any draft rules yet.

6. Housekeeping- Annual Report - Tara will circulate a draft for comment.

The Ammonoosuc culvert inventory was suggested as a future program topic.

The 2017 meeting schedule was set as quarterly on the 4th Thursday: Jan. 26, April 27, July 27 and October 26.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tara Bamford