

**Lamoille County Planning Commission: Clean Water Advisory & Regional Plan Committee
Meeting Draft Minutes
November 21, 2022**

Members present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Leven	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marina Meerburg	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riki French
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linda Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol Caldwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trevor Braun
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rich Pearson		Edmonds		

Guests: Karen Bates, Michele Braun, Bob Cook, Peter Danforth, Adelaide Dumm, Catherine Gott, Keith Fritschie, Katie Kain, Carolyn Loeb, Sara Lourie, Duncan Murdoch, Phil Wilson, Ira Shadis, Lindsey Wight, Brian Voigt

Staff: Salvador Morales, Meghan Rodier

Brian Leven called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

Call to order; Agenda Changes

No agenda changes

Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 17th, 2022

Trevor Braun moved to approve the October 17, 2022, minutes. Carol Caldwell-Edmonds seconded. All were in favor.

Presentation on Knotweed Control/Techniques for Successful Stream Buffers

Presentations on knotweed control and techniques for successful stream buffers were presented by Katherine Kain (USFWS), Phillip Wilson (VT AAFM), and Peter Danforth (Lamoille NRCD). Highlights from presentations/ discussion are as follows. Meghan Rodier offered to share the presentations with all attendees.

Katie noted some of the issues they face with stream buffers are canary grass that outcompetes native plants, deer brose, and of course the spread of invasive species. Things you can control when considering stream buffer plantings include:

- Fall before planting visit the site to get a sense of the competition of plants
- Check to see if the soils are dry and may experience drought conditions
- Establish a plan for site follow-up after planting
- Select species that will be more resistant to deer browsing and flooding (early succession plants have a highest survival rate in stream buffers like Willows and Speckled Alder)
- When dealing with bare root trees minimize the tree planting shock by keep the roots moist until planting
- Establish a site preparations plan and plan for maintenance (Ex: weed whacking/pulling vines off young plantings)

Phil highlighted how targeted treatments of herbicide that has been approved for riparian areas can be effective in knocking down Knotweed and giving native plantings a chance to survive. This approach kills 75-90% of the Knotweed after the first treatment.

Funding Options:

- The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) can help pay for site preparation and stream buffer plantings on private agricultural lands.
- USFWS is a potential funder for stream buffers and invasive control on non-agricultural lands.
- The Natural Resources Conservation Districts have access to funding through the Trees for Streams Program (this program does not pay for invasive control) and can work with private landowners and municipalities.

Other manual options for Knotweed control may include:

- Mowing it down twice a month during the growing season (maybe an option for small areas)
- Using goats or pigs to mow for you (please note this approach requires fencing out livestock from the stream and bank to avoid erosion. Goats will eat everything including native plants. This approach may work for site preparation, but will not ensure the survival of stream buffer plantings.)
- Tarping is an option for small areas
- Wire mesh and rubber lining may work in small areas and give the trees a chance to grow
- Stem injection may work for a manageable area (herbicide or diluting vinegar down with water.) If using vinegar applicators must be wearing proper PEE and ideally not using more than 11% vinegar to reduce risk of burning the skin or potential blindness. Herbicide treatment should be applied by a licensed applicator.

Peter presented on the Conservation Districts experiments with using rubber matting to curtail Knotweed. Peter has a site near Lake Elmore where this technique is being tested. The Conservation District is working with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to help cut back the Knotweed and lay the rubber matting in this location. They plant directly into the rubber matting. While the Knotweed pokes through, this approach has help keep it at bay and allow for plantings to grow.

Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan Strategy Discussion

Watershed partners present discussed strategies for the Basin Plan concerning Knotweed including the following:

- Mapping (through remote sensing) the extent of the Knotweed cover along Vermont's waterways.
- Hosting public information sessions on why you would want to remove Knotweed (Ex: reduce competition for native plants to survive and provide shade along the river for aquatic species and insects.)
- More educational outreach and information on what landowners can do to treat small areas of Knotweed
- Identify funding to address gaps such as funding for invasive control on public/municipal land.

Regional Plan Update

Salvador Morales, LCPC Planner, guided the Committee through the Regional Plan, Working Lands Strategy and Background and Inventory.

The Regional Plan Committee recommended the following changes to these sections:

Working Lands: Background and Inventory

Page 191:

- The committee asked LCPC to investigate adding a sub section focused on CBD and Cannabis.

Page 192:

- Under agriculture header, remove “today” and put the year the data is from. Update data as possible.

Page 193

- Fix formatting on graph, add CBD sales if possible and saffron sales.
- Update text and data above figure 4-2.

Page 194

- Update paragraph that begins with “In 2007.”
- Mention the growing of new agricultural products such as saffron and hemp.

Page 195

- Mention number of dairy farms and sales.
- Reference the diversity of farm types we see today.

Page 196

- Add a data reference (USDA) for the “56 years old” stat (average age of a farmer) and put what year the report is from.

Page 197

- Under Forestry, third paragraph, add what year the data is from and remove “today”.
- Define what “forested” means
- Mention old growth forests values/benefits and its relationship to climate change (carbon sequestration, flood reduction, provides critical habitat/shade, reduces erosion, improves water quality etc.)

Page 198

- Find data for sawlog in Lamoille County in 2015.
- Update 2010 stat about hardwood harvest.

Page 199

- Delete sentence that mentions the recession.

Page 201

- Define Lamoille maple syrup taps.

Page 202

- Update school data
- Mention emerald ash borer is becoming a concern as an invasive species.
- Mention how newer wood burning systems have become more efficient.

Pages 204-211

- Currently under review and will be updated as information becomes available (Ex: VFW data, updated maps etc..).

What’s next?

Water Resources: Strategy

Water Resources: Background and Inventory

Flood Resilience: Strategy

Meeting adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm. *Motion made by Marina Meerburg and seconded by Rich Pearson.*