

# Natural Resources Committee

## DRAFT Minutes

*Dec 13, 2017*

---

**Committee Members:** Barrie Bailey, Colin Davis, Peter Grant, Stan Grzyb, Wendy Sue Harper (Chair), Arabella Holzpfel, Ed Payne, Ron Payne, Jim Pulver, Paul Wagner, Kent Wright

**Present:** Barrie Bailey, Arabella Holzpfel (acting Chair), Ed Payne, Ron Payne, Jim Pulver, Stan Grzyb

**Staff:** Kevin Behm

Guests:

---

In Wendy Sue's absence Arabella opened the meeting at 6:05. The Nov 8th minutes were moved for approval. (Stan motion, Barrie 2<sup>nd</sup>). Minutes accepted.

### **DRAFT South Lake Champlain Tactical Basin Plan –**

The Committee members noted that the Plan was very technical in its discussion of the Lake Champlain TMDL and phosphorus loading. Kevin agreed that most readers would find it daunting to read without some scientific background. This will not be a document that will find a large regional audience. The members did go through the document and identify errors and omissions in the citations, tables and references. Jim, in particular, was very thorough in identifying errors. He felt that the errors and some of the poor graphics contributed to the difficulty in reading the document. The version of the Plan the Committee reviewed was an October version and some of the issues were cleared-up in the November release. Jim's marked-up copy will be provided to the DEC to ensure all the errors are corrected.

Barrie reviewed the technical explanations, but she was looking for some solutions or programs that municipalities could adopt to increase the awareness of the problems and offer homeowner solutions. She thought the Lake Wise program looked interesting, but was not aware that if it had been offered to any lakeshore towns in Addison County. Kevin offered to see if a Lake Wise workshop could be offered. Barrie was also concerned that goals of the Plan are not stated very strongly. One goal is stated as "The goal is to carry out as many of these actions as possible over the next five years, to bring improvements and protections to the regions surface water." (pg 11, October ver) This is a practical statement, but falls far short as an overarching goal of the document. It's also stated that "The TBP does not preclude any development that is consistent with municipal zoning, regional and municipal plans and with applicable State and federal regulations." (pg 15, October ver) This statement seems to accept the status quo and allow development to proceed under regulations that created the problems we have today. Existing regulations do need to be followed, but new, better regulations must be required and enforced to protect and improve water quality. Better policies need to be addressed at

## Natural Resources Committee

### DRAFT Minutes

*Dec 13, 2017*

every level of government. Ed noted that improved municipal plans and rules can be adopted, but they can be superseded by outdated agency rules.

Jim also pointed out that while the nutrient loading is broken-out by land use categories and new regulations will be enacted to improve water quality, it is the residents, landowners and businesses that will need to accept responsibility and costs.

Arabella noted that the only discussion of costs or budgeting is on page 110 (Oct ver) with the relative cost of reducing phosphorus for four different practices. Implementation costs need to be discussed if this plan is to be honestly adopted by municipalities and landowners. The Implementation Tables could categorize projects by their priority and costs.

Kevin also pointed-out that the Surface Water Management chapter could be updated to include a discussion of the new water quality rules.

The Committee adjourned at 7:00