Natural Resources Committee  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 2:00 pm  
In the WRC Conference Room  
Meeting Minutes

Attendance  
*Natural Resources Committee present:* Maggie Bartenhagen, Chair, Nick Bartenhagen, John Whitman, Bob Anderson  
*Staff present:* Kim Smith

The meeting was called to order at 2:10pm with a quorum present and led by M. Bartenhagen.

Minutes  
- The minutes of August 12, 2015 Natural Resources Committee were approved unanimously (motion by J. Whitman, seconded by B. Anderson)

Saxtons River Watershed Collaborative  
- K. Smith distributed a draft public workshop agenda that was developed based on feedback received at the August meeting and from the Saxtons River Watershed Collaborative. Committee members mentioned that the workshop sought to cover a lot of information and that four full hours should be dedicated to instruction (tightening lunch and transit and extending until 3pm with two afternoon breakout sessions. It was suggested that there could be significant interest in the workshop and that attendance numbers or deadlines for RSVPing could be needed. Logistics for parking at the field site will need to be worked out. It was suggested that loggers, excavators, and other working lands professional be targeted in addition to landowners and foresters.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure Initiative  
- K. Smith shared that two GI workshops focusing on zoning bylaw and planning updates had been scheduled on September 15 and 16 with outreach specifically to municipalities. It was shared that the grant has been extended to mid-November. Coincidently, a two-day GSI workshop sponsored by the EPA was scheduled for the 17th and 18th in Hinsdale, NH. With a low RSVP response, K. Smith sought Committee feedback. The Committee suggested postponing the workshops into October, distinguishing it from the EPA workshop through VT-specific information and redesigning the presentation to speak more broadly on water conservation issues, thereby reaching a broader professional and landowner audience. The Committee also suggested targeting conservation commissions, partnering with another entity such as the Bennington County RC or EPA, and addressing the situation with the grant funders.

Flow Device Installation Initiative
The Committee suggested that we need additional time to review and process the existing resources to determine how the Committee can support the initiative...

Update on recent projects/programs

- **ECO AmeriCorp Member:** The Committee was informed that the new ECO AmeriCorp member would be starting on September 14th with orientation and training and would be available soon thereafter to assist with implementation of the Saxtons River Watershed Collaborative Grant and the Clean Water Act implementation, the scope of work.

Other business

- **Deerfield Watershed Collaborative:** K. Smith shared that she had attended a two-day Deerfield Watershed Collaborative workshop following a workshop last February. The Collaborative seeks opportunities for landscape-scale, multi-agency/organization management partnerships to improve stream ecosystem health and the resiliency of human and natural communities. For the next 5 years, the Collaborative will focus on the North River as a pilot project.

- **Solar Siting:** A Committee member shared that the Project Review Committee has seen a recent surge in solar farm proposals and that there is little discussion of impact to natural resources or appropriate siting. He suggested that the Committee could address best management practices for solar installations. The Committee asked that K. Smith find out the status of Chris’ involvement with Board issues relating to solar siting and discuss if this is an issue that the WRC should weigh in on.

- **Bumblebee Talk:** Sara Zahendra with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies will be speaking on bumblebees on August 18 from 7-8:30 at the Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro.

Next meeting

- The next Natural Resources Committee meeting will be **Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 2:00pm** or as otherwise determined.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm

Respectfully submitted, Kim Smith