Meeting convened at 5:05 p.m.

Meeting Minutes:
- Minutes from the September 2017 meeting were approved on a motion by Everett Wilson, seconded by Kevin, by a unanimous vote with one abstentions from Gabby C.
- Minutes from the February 2018 meeting were approved on a motion by Susan, seconded by Everett, and by a unanimous vote with four abstentions (John W., Kevin S., Andrew T., and Bob A.)

Review Revised WRC Natural Resources Committee Purpose & Objectives Statement: A draft of the changes made during the February 22nd meeting, with additional edits from Chris Campany, were provided to the Commissioners for discussion. The general feedback of the change of this statement was that the new language had too many run-on sentences, and often hard to understand or follow.

Some edits were proposed in the language that helped to break up longer sentences and make the intent of the Committee more accessible. Gabby had advised that Commissioners provide direct language edits and suggestions to Emily before next meeting, where she would gather all the suggestions and develop a final Purpose and Objectives statement. This draft would be ready for a vote at the next meeting in April 2018.

Tactical Basin Plan Review: Marie Caduto, Basin Planner / Watershed Coordinator from the VT DEC’s Watershed Management Division, gave a presentation on the Basin 12 Tactical Basin Plan (TBP) update, since that plan is currently renewing its 5-year cycle for review and update.

Marie started by reviewing a new set of maps that were developed of the Basin 12 that showed the existing data around water quality and habitat monitoring at study areas (and other areas of interest) in this Basin, which includes the entire Vermont portion of the Deerfield Basin, the Green River, the Whetstone, Broad Brook, and the Fall River. Commissioners were asking clarifying questions around the “impaired” status of the water around the Somerset and Harriman Reservoir, and Marie explained that that was mainly due to impacts on the water quality from the flow impairment and alteration from the hydro dams that are in place.

Overall, she also identifies that the Deerfield Basin had some of the highest water quality ratings in the state, and that it is remarkably undeveloped, receiving one of the highest ratings in the state. While

NOTE: These are draft minutes, which are subject to change during final review and approval.
there are certainly impairments in the basin, she preliminarily identified that protection is of importance in this area.

Also of note was the prevalence of acidity and mercury in the waters of Basin 12, and this is predominantly caused by atmospheric deposition. Marie explained that Basin 12 is the first basin in Vermont that receives this high volume of contaminant deposition, due to its geographic location and to larger regional weather patterns.

Finally, Marie explained the process by which projects are identified in the Tactical Basin Plans, and the way in which the NRC can play an advisory role as these plans are developed, both to Marie and to their respective towns or communities. Marie had encouraged the Commissioners to let her know if they think that there is a site worthy of further study, restoration, or protection due to its relatively high quality.

**TBP Project Prioritization:** Emily had continued the discussion of Tactical Basin Plan work by reviewing the process by which projects are fed into the TBP, and how they are identified. Emily and Marie explained that the RPC’s (and by extension this Committee), will be using a RPC-specific prioritization matrix that will be considered along with other prioritization scores to be included in a state-wide database for identifying projects that should be funded through the Clean Water Initiative.

Just prior to this meeting, Emily had run some of the current clean water projects that the WRC is involved with through the matrix to see how they would score. These were projects familiar to most members of the NRC. She noted that the projects scored remarkably low, and did not feel that the current process (which is not finalized, and can potentially be amended), did not completely encompass the nature of the work that is being done by this CWAC and NRC. She said that she would continue to participate in state-wide conversations about project prioritization, and work to create a matrix that is more reflective of Windham priorities. Marie agreed that the current process is not perfect, and that there could be room for improvement.

**Other Business:**
- Gabby had encouraged the other Commissioners to fill out a guest speaker survey that was distributed to all of the members, and hand it back to Emily. This would help her and Emily arrange for guest speakers in the future that would be of interest to the group, and work towards informing them of relevant issues and topics.
- Emily had also reminded the NRC that there is an upcoming workshop on conservation easements, and this is part of the public events series put on by the Green River Watershed Alliance. It would be held on March 24th, 9:00-12:30 at the Marlboro College Library.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 pm.