

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes - Unapproved

June 18, 2025 – 8:30 am

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87661939646?pwd=VXpMYkRJSUtGYjRuTFJTa041bWMYUT09>

Agenda

1. Welcome (Rick)
2. Review and approve May 21 meeting minutes (Rick)
3. Review and approve minutes of the May 16 special meeting (Rick)
4. Grant Proposals, Approvals, and Updates
 - Trees for Streams/Woody Buffer Block Grant - Grant Application Approval (Jess)
 - Tactical Basin Planning - FY26 Proposed Workplans & Budgets (Jess)
 - Enhancement Design & Implementation Block Grant – Subagreement Approval (Lina)
 - Other grants updates, as needed
5. Legislative Update (Clare and Michelle)
 - Clean Water Fund FY27 budget engagement (Clare)
 - Core Services Budget Request for FY27 (Clare)
6. Other business, as required

Attendance

Voting Members: Rick Hopkins, Richard Noel, and Bill Manner and Kate Willard

Other attendees (non-voting):

Michelle Monroe, VACD Executive

Clare Ireland, Administrator

Jessica Miller, Grants & Finance Manager

Lina Smith, Grants & Finance Manager

Welcome

Rick welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Approve Minutes of May 21 Meeting

Bill made the motion, seconded by Kate to approve the minutes of May 21, 2025. Upon a call for a vote, all voted in favor. Kate noted Bill's name was not capitalized in one instance.

Review and approve minutes of the May 16 special meeting

Kate made the motion, seconded by Bill to approve the minutes of May 16, 2025. Upon a call for a vote, all voted in favor.

Grant Proposals, Approvals, and Updates

○ Trees for Streams/Woody Buffer Block Grant - Grant Application Approval

Jess requested board approval for the application for a Woody Buffer Block Grant. She noted that this grant was first received in 2019 and the current award is closing.

Clare noted that Tress for Streams had gone from 4 funding sources down to 2. LCBP and this second funding source is needed to cover through 2031.

Bill made the motion, seconded by Richard to apply for the Woody Buffer Block grant. Upon a call for a vote, all were in favor.

○ Tactical Basin Planning - FY26 Proposed Workplans & Budgets

Clare explained this funding is in the statutes and is to support the tactical basin process. \$285,179 was awarded and divided as follows:

FY26 Tactical Basin Planning Awards		
NRCD	Final	Quarterly payment
Bennington NRCD	\$26,722.00	\$6,680.50
Caledonia NRCD	\$18,920.00	\$4,730.00
Essex NRCD	\$19,650.00	\$4,912.50
Franklin County NRCD	\$25,398.00	\$6,349.50
Grand Isle County NRCD	\$15,144.00	\$3,786.00
Lamoille NRCD	\$19,265.00	\$4,816.25
Orleans NRCD	\$27,040.00	\$6,760.00
Ottawaquechee NRCD	\$10,300.00	\$2,575.00
Otter Creek NRCD	\$3,500.00	\$875.00
Poultney Mettowee NRCD	\$26,892.00	\$6,723.00
Rutland NRCD	\$17,202.00	\$4,300.50
White River NRCD/NA	NA	
Windham NRCD	\$27,775.00	\$6,943.75
Winooski NRCD	\$23,726.00	\$5,931.50
Total	\$261,534.00	\$65,383.50
Admin	\$23,645.00	\$5,911.25
Total	\$285,179.00	\$71,294.75

○ Enhancement Design & Implementation Block Grant – Subagreement Approval

Richard made the motion, seconded by Bill to approve subagreements for Orleans NRCD and Essex NRCD as presented. Upon a call for a vote, all were in favor.

- **Other grants updates, as needed**

Clare reported that core services may shift in the deliverables in the coming year. Because of late reporting by some districts, money made be held until deadlines have been met.

Legislative Update

- **Clean Water Fund FY27 budget engagement**

Clare reported the Clean water board will begin developing the Clean Water Strategy in July. She noted that in the past, she has been involved by advocating for Enhancement and Formula grants as well as for increased funding for districts to keep up with inflation.

- **Core Services Budget Request for FY27**

Michelle and Clare suggested that with possible cuts to federal funding, the legislature may be more cautious in FY27 and face stronger pressure for budget cuts. There is also a threat of callback of FY26 funds.

Getting funding out the door to districts will be a priority and given the additional pressures on State with cuts to federal funding it might be strategic to reduce the request. \$3M may be a non-starter and instead seek to preserve our Core Services currently at \$612,000 with the \$250,000 of one-time funds converted to base funding.

A request will be developed and brought to the board in August.

Other Business

Richard noted that Franklin County will have their own vehicle.

Richard made the motion, seconded by Bill to adjourn the meeting. Upon a call for a vote, all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

The next finance committee is scheduled for July 16, 2025 at 8:30 am.